



Please ask for Charlotte Kearsey  
Direct Line: 01246 34 5236  
Email: [committee.services@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@chesterfield.gov.uk)

The Chair and Members of Cabinet

14 February 2022

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the CABINET to be held on TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2022 at 10.30 am in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chesterfield, the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests relating to items on the Agenda
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 February, 2022.

4. Forward Plan

Please follow the link below to view the latest Forward Plan.

[Forward Plan](#)

Items Recommended to Cabinet via Cabinet Members

Deputy Leader

Chesterfield Borough Council, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP

Telephone: 01246 345 345, Text: 07960 910 264, Email: [info@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:info@chesterfield.gov.uk)

[www.chesterfield.gov.uk](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk)

5. Approval of Staveley Town Deal projects (Pages 9 - 32)
6. Council Plan Delivery Plan 2022/23 (Pages 33 - 46)
7. General Fund Capital programme (Pages 47 - 60)
8. 2022-23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (Pages 61 - 92)

Cabinet Member for Governance

9. Senior Pay Policy (Pages 93 - 110)
10. Civic Arrangements 2022/23 (Pages 111 - 114)

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

11. Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (Pages 115 - 254)
12. Play Strategy (Pages 255 - 378)

Cabinet Member for Housing

13. HRA Housing Capital Programme 2021/22 (Pages 379 - 428)
14. HRA Budget 2021/22 (Pages 429 - 440)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sandy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager and Monitoring Officer

## CABINET

Tuesday, 8th February, 2022

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Blank  
D Collins  
Holmes  
J Innes

Councillors Ludlow  
Mannion-Brunt  
Sarvent  
Serjeant

Non Voting P Innes  
Members

\*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

79 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS  
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

80 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

81 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18 January, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

82 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four month period March to June, 2022 was reported for information.

**\*RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

**83**      **DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during December, 2021 and January, 2022 were reported.

**\*RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

**84**      **SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUP REPORT ON THE VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGY**

The Chair of the Scrutiny Project Group, Councillor Caulfield, presented the report and recommendations of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee on the development of the council's new visitor economy strategy.

The full report of the Scrutiny Project Group was attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

The Group's report and recommendations had been considered, approved and adopted by the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee. The Committee's report and recommendations were now required to be considered by Cabinet and a formal response provided to the Committee, in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure rules.

**\*RESOLVED –**

1. That the report outlining the findings of the scrutiny project group be noted.
2. That, subject to the approval of the strategy and action plan by Full Council on 23 February, 2022, an update on the delivery of the action plan be reported to the Community, Customer and Organisation Scrutiny Committee after the strategy has been in place for 12 months to allow scrutiny to review the progress made.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

1. To contribute to the development of a vision that will provide beneficial and sustainable growth of the town as a destination and establish priorities for marketing, investment, product development and training through constructive 'critical friend' participation.
2. To monitor progress against the implementation of the strategy and action plan during the initial stages of the plan to understand its effectiveness.

## 85 **CHESTERFIELD VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGY 2022-27**

The Senior Economic Development Officer presented a report recommending for approval a new Chesterfield Visitor Economy Strategy for the period 2022 through 2027.

The overall aims of the new Visitor Economy Strategy were to attract more visitors to Chesterfield to support existing retail, leisure, and hospitality businesses through generating additional footfall and spend, and to create new jobs in the local economy.

An online public consultation on the draft Strategy had been held for a four-week period. This had closed on 8 December, 2021. A summary of the consultation responses was attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report. Alongside the online consultation, presentations on the strategy were also made to the Visitor Economy Strategy Scrutiny Project Group and at a Destination Chesterfield meeting of Chesterfield Champions.

A copy of the proposed Visitor Economy Strategy for the period 2022 through 2027 was attached at Appendix 2 of the officer's report.

### **\*RESOLVED –**

That the Chesterfield Visitor Economy Strategy (2022-27) be recommended to Council for approval.

### **REASON FOR DECISIONS**

To secure the adoption of the Chesterfield Visitor Economy Strategy (2022-27).

## 86 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED –**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**87 PEAK GATEWAY – REQUEST FOR LOAN ASSISTANCE**

The Service Director – Economic Growth presented a report recommending for approval a request for a loan from Chesterfield Borough Council to support the next phase of development activity at Peak Gateway.

The overarching aim of the requested funding would be to support the owners and their development partners to carry out the necessary ground investigations and next phase of detailed design ahead of encouraging investors to fund construction of the Peak Gateway project.

A summary of the business case, which included a breakdown of costs and timescales, was attached at Appendix 2 of the officer's report.

**\*RESOLVED –**

1. That Chesterfield Borough Council provide a loan to Baylight Properties to support the next phase of development activity for the Peak Gateway project as set out in section 4 of the officer's report.
2. That the loan be approved on the terms set out in section 5 of the officer's report.
3. That the Service Director for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and in conjunction with the Service Director for Finance and the Procurement and Contract Law Manager, be granted delegated authority to finalise the terms of the Peak Gateway project loan arrangement between Chesterfield Borough Council and Baylight Properties.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

1. In December 2019 the council gave approval as part of a report on Business Rates policy for Markham Vale Enterprise Zone for

investment in three key programme areas: key projects delivery, economic growth activities and skills activities; and for the funding to be particularly targeted at unlocking and accelerating key developments and sites and delivering better outcomes for local communities.

2. The successful development of Peak Resort is highlighted as one of several key developments under the Council Plan 2019-23 priority “to make Chesterfield a thriving Borough”. The Plan states that the council has been “working with Peak Resort and other businesses to maximise employment opportunities for local people. The Peak Resort will provide 1,300 jobs when it opens, and hundreds more during the construction phase”.

This page is intentionally left blank



## For publication

### Staveley Town Deal projects

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Leader Deputy Leader Economic Growth
<b>Directorate:</b>	Economic Growth

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The report sets out the role proposed for the council as sponsor for three of the projects included within the Staveley Town Deal and the implications of this role, together with further detail on one of the three projects.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 This report recommends that Cabinet:

- i. Approves the role that the council is taking as the lead for three of the Staveley Town Deal projects.
- ii. Approves the Construction Skills Hub project, accepting the Towns Fund grant and giving authority to move to delivery.
- iii. Delegates authority to the Service Director for Economic Growth in consultation with the Deputy Leader to finalise lease arrangements with the landowner for the site upon which the Construction Skills Hub is to be situated.
- iv. Approves commencing procurement for a delivery partner for the Construction Skills Hub.
- v. Provisionally approves the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle and Staveley 21 projects, subject to the full business cases for each being approved through the Staveley Town Deal governance.

- vi. Agrees to receive further reports on the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle and Staveley 21 projects prior to delivery commencing.
- vii. Agrees to include all three projects within the Capital Programme to go before Full Council for approval.

### **3.0 Reason for recommendations**

- 3.1 The recommendations are made to ensure that Cabinet has clarity regarding the project sponsorship role that the council will undertake and is able to approve three projects within the Staveley Town Deal and enable delivery of each to commence.

### **4.0 Report details**

#### **Background – Staveley Town Deal**

- 4.1 In October 2019, Staveley was one of 101 locations invited to bid into the Towns Fund. In March 2021, the Town Investment Plan for Staveley was approved by Government, securing funding of £25.2m to deliver a range of projects that will have a transformational impact on Staveley, driving economic growth, offering quality skills and employment opportunities, and improving the Town Centre, green spaces and canal network around Staveley.
- 4.2 Previous reports have come to Cabinet to seek approval for the Staveley Town Investment Plan (December 2020), resources for programme management of the Deal (April 2021) and approval of an assurance framework (May 2021). These previous reports have all set out the role that the council is playing as the Accountable Body for the Town Deal Programme and the implications of that role.
- 4.3 The Town Investment Plan included 11 projects and whilst the total funding requested was slightly above that approved by government, the Staveley Town Deal Board agreed that all 11 projects should be developed as part of the next stage of the process. This requires a full business case for each of the projects which will be subject to local approval (from both the Town Deal Board and the council as the Accountable Body) and sign-off from central government. All projects are expected to have a full business case approved locally by 18<sup>th</sup> March in order to meet the government's deadline for submitting all projects within 12 months of the Deal receiving approval.

- 4.4 At present, the focus of Town Deal activity is therefore on project sponsors finalising and submitting business cases. Across the 11 projects there are 8 different sponsor organisations, a far greater diversity than is typically the case for other Town Deals. The council is the sponsor organisation for 3 of the projects and is playing a dual role of sponsor and Accountable Body in each case.

### **Chesterfield Borough Council led projects**

- 4.5 The three projects on which the council is leading are briefly described below.
- 4.6 Construction Skills Hub. The hub is an on-site construction training facility that will serve to develop a pipeline of skilled construction workers through a complete pathway of on-site training interventions. The facility will consist of a number of semi-covered workshops that will sit in a compound of 3150 sqm within an existing development site. The facility will provide a platform for construction related careers activity and practical training and work experience for over 5,000 learners over 10 years with access to employers across a wide range of construction related occupations. Provision will include joinery, brickwork, groundworks, roofing, electrical installation and will incorporate green technologies and modern methods of construction.
- 4.7 Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle (DRIIVe). This rail innovation and training centre will enhance an already thriving centre of railway maintenance and engineering at Barrow Hill and be a vital component in securing the further flourishing of rail related activity in the Staveley and Chesterfield area. DRIIVe will provide a suite of specialist rail research development laboratories, training and education facilities and commercial rail engineering workshop spaces to facilitate growth in training and jobs across the wider rail sector. Partners in the project, including Chesterfield College, the University of Derby and Newcastle University will ensure that training is available at every level, from entry level to PhD.
- 4.8 Staveley 21. A series of interventions to deliver the first phase of the emerging town centre masterplan. The project will include transformation of the market square, a new public sector hub, renewal of the High Street and improved connectivity to the canal, signage and digital provision. The project will drive a greater mix of uses to ensure an increase in footfall, provide spaces for events to drive vibrancy and support existing businesses

to recover and flourish. The emerging masterplan has been developed to consider the future communities of the area who will look to the town centre for services, facilities and reasons to visit, as well as responding directly to the views expressed by current residents.

- 4.9 Of the three projects above, the Construction Skills Hub has already received approval by the Staveley Town Deal board and been signed off by government, the first full Town Deal project to meet this milestone. The other two projects are both due to be considered by the Town Deal Board on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 4.10 In order to get to the point of the Staveley Town Deal Board considering projects for approval, there will already have been consideration of a draft business case by the council's Internal Programme Board, external assessment of the full business case by appointed specialists Thomas Lister and a recommendation made by the Internal Programme Board in light of the external assessment.
- 4.11 Resources to deliver each of the above projects have been built into the business cases, including provision for contingencies. Current officer teams are set to lead on each of the projects with specialist advice included within the cost plans that have been developed. Procurement will take place in line with council processes, with a strong emphasis on local labour requirements (in common with all 11 Town Deal projects).
- 4.12 More detail is provided in appendix one regarding the Construction Skills Hub, drawn from the approved business case. Whilst this project is the lowest financial value of the three being led by the council, it is an important and innovative approach to improving skills in the area and could reach a large number of learners over the project lifetime. With funding for the project secure, and taking account of the extensive process for assessing projects outlined in 4. 10, **it is recommended that Cabinet approve this project**, noting the role that the council will play as the lead sponsor, as set out in the following section.
- 4.13 For the other two projects – DRIIVE and Staveley 21 – business cases are still being finalised prior to submission to the Staveley Town Deal Board for approval. Once the full business cases have been prepared, and subject to a positive outcome in terms of approval at the Town Deal Board, **it is recommended that Cabinet receive further reports on both projects** in order to provide early visibility and allow for Cabinet scrutiny prior to delivery commencing. In the meantime, in order to provide assurance to

the Town Deal board of the council's commitment, **it is recommended that Cabinet provisionally approve both projects**, again noting the requirements on the council as the lead sponsor as set out below.

### **Project sponsorship responsibilities**

- 4.14 For most Town Deal projects, the council will act as the Accountable Body (a role described in detail in previous Cabinet reports) with other parties acting as the lead sponsor organisation, responsible for developing and delivering each project. However, for the three projects described in this report, the council will play both roles – as the Accountable Body and the lead project sponsor.
- 4.15 In cases where external organisations are the project sponsor, the council's role as the Accountable Body includes issuing a grant agreement, a contractual document that sets out the terms and conditions that the project sponsor is expected to fulfil in return for receiving the Town Deal funding that the council will hold and manage on behalf of central government.
- 4.16 For the three projects where the council plays both roles, it will not issue a grant agreement to itself. However, it will be expected to fulfil the same requirements and obligations as external sponsors, and lead officers for each project have been made aware of these through the process of project development. Many of the requirements in the grant agreement are those that already apply to all of the council's activities, for example compliance with data protection regulations and financial propriety. However, in its role as project sponsor for the three projects, it is worth highlighting that the council will:
- Assume responsibility for delivery of the outputs set out in the summary document submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
  - Ensure the Towns Fund grant is only used for eligible expenditure in connection with delivery of the project and that procurement takes place in line with all relevant public procurement regulations.
  - Ensure any conditions applied by the Staveley Town Deal to the approval of the funding are met.
  - Take responsibility for any cost overruns.
  - Be responsible for ensuring the project delivery is carried out in line with all relevant planning, statutory and legal requirements, including health and safety.

- Maintain accurate records to ensure a robust audit trail, and fulfil all the reporting requirements set out in the Town Deal Monitoring and Evaluation plan.

4.17 The Assurance Framework previously approved by Cabinet includes measures to ensure an appropriate separation between the roles of the council as project sponsor and Accountable Body. These are already being implemented as the process of business case development continues, with steps being taken at both the Internal Programme Board and Staveley Town Deal Board to avoid any conflict between the two roles.

### **Construction Skills Hub next steps**

4.18 As noted above, more detail is provided in appendix one for the Construction Skills Hub as this project now has an approved full business case. In order to move ahead into project delivery, there are some important next steps for which Cabinet approval is sought.

4.19 Lease arrangements relating to the land on which the Hub will initially be sited are still to be finalised. The site will be on the Mastin Moor housing site being taken forward by the Devonshire Group, with the Hub situated here for the first 7 years of its life. The Devonshire Group is fully supportive of the project and now that Town Deal funding is approved there is a need to finalise the lease arrangements. In order to enable this **it is recommended that Cabinet approve delegation of authority to the Service Director for Economic Growth in consultation with the Deputy Leader to finalise the lease arrangements.**

4.20 With project funding now confirmed, it is important that a delivery partner to take on the operation of the Construction Skills Hub is secured. **It is therefore recommended that Cabinet approve commencing procurement for a delivery partner for the Construction Skills Hub.**

## **5.0 Alternative options**

5.1 The projects described in this report have been developed by the council and were included in the Staveley Town Investment Plan approved by Cabinet in December 2020. Alternative options would include:

- Removing one or more of the projects from the Town Investment Plan. This would mean that the opportunity to secure Town Deal funding would be lost and the outcomes of those projects would

either not be delivered or would have to await future funding opportunities. There would be reputational implications for the council in having put forward projects within the approved Town Investment Plan that it was then unable to deliver.

- Passing development of the projects to another organisation. It is not clear that any partner organisation would be well placed to take on any of the three projects, particularly given the capacity issues that have faced a number of partners in taking on their own Town Deal projects.
- Developing the projects but passing responsibility for delivery to one or more other organisations. Again, it is not clear that capacity would be available nor that the projects would necessarily align well with other partners. It would also be difficult to ask an organisation to take the delivery responsibilities for a project for which it has not been involved during the development.

5.2 The preferred option is therefore for the council to continue to develop and deliver the three projects in line with the Town Investment Plan and working through the Assurance Framework, both of which have been previously approved by Cabinet.

5.3 Appendix one includes more detail on the alternative options considered as part of the development of the Construction Skills Hub project.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

6.1 All Town Deal projects will include both an economic and financial case within the full business case that comes through the approval process outlined above. These cases set out both the value for money (economic case) and affordability (financial case) for each project. Further information on the financial and value for money considerations for the Construction Skills Hub project is set out in appendix one.

6.2 As outlined at 4.10, before funding is released, each project will have all elements of the business case (including financial and economic cases) assessed and tested through:

- Review of draft cases by the council's Internal Programme Board, attendees of which include the council's section 151 officer.
- External assessment by appointed specialists Thomas Lister, Edge and Amion (for the economic case). A full report of compliance with each element of the business case is provided for each project.

- Further review at the Internal Programme Board in light of the Thomas Lister assessment, from which a recommendation for approval (or rejection) is made to the Staveley Town Deal Board.
- Consideration for approval at the Staveley Town Deal Board, including partner representatives from a range of organisations, many with extensive experience of developing and considering business cases. Approval then requires a further sign-off from the council's section 151 officer.
- Review by government of the project summary and assurance process to date prior to any funding being released.

6.3 Whilst the above process can never guarantee a project will deliver good value for money and sound financial management, it does show the extensive process in place to test these elements and reduce the risks to both the Accountable Body and the project sponsor.

6.4 A summary of the funding involved in each project is set out below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Towns Fund</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Match funding</b>
Construction Skills Hub	£467,000 (£260,000 revenue and £207,000 capital)	Approved	Land value plus Education and Skills Funding Agency funding to be brought to the project by the provider.
DRIIVe	£3,735,000 (all capital)	Allocation subject to approval	Land value
Staveley 21	£4,856,000 (all capital)	Allocation subject to approval	Primarily land value; potential for business match for shop front scheme

6.5 Each project has been developed with contingencies built into the project costs. This has been particularly important given the current risks of cost inflation relating to materials and labour. Each business case also includes sensitivity analysis to consider the impact of cost increases and sets out mitigation of the consequences. The council's established procurement process will also be an important step in ensuring that value for money is maintained as projects move into delivery and the Town Deal team and



project leads have been working closely with procurement officers throughout the process.

- 6.6 In terms of operational costs and any ongoing revenue implications for the council, the model in place for the Construction Skills Hub means that a provider for the learning at the hub will be procured early in the process. This delivery partner will then be responsible for the operation of the Skills Hub and managing income and expenditure. Early market testing has demonstrated that there is an appetite from providers to become the delivery partner based on this model and the financial case developed for the project shows it is financially viable and self-supporting after the initial Towns Fund investment has been made.
- 6.7 The operational cost considerations for DRIVE and Staveley 21 are being finalised as part of the full business case development and will be set out in the subsequent report to Cabinet. In both cases, the financial case will consider the affordability of the proposals on the basis that there should be no call on future council revenue expenditure.
- 6.8 Once approval of the projects is confirmed by central government, payments will be made to the council on an annual basis as the Accountable Body (this will be the case for all 11 projects). For the 3 projects being led by the council, **it is recommended that the projects are added to the capital programme that will go to Full Council** for consideration as part of the budget setting process.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration - Legal**

- 7.1 As with the financial implications, the legal implications of each project are set out and assessed as part of the business case process described above. Following a compliant procurement exercise, contracts for delivery of the various elements of each project will be put in place and managed by the project lead. Representatives from the council's legal service are part of the Internal Programme Board and already closely involved in the three projects that form the subject of this report. The in-house service will be used in the first instance to contract with external delivery partners, though the Town Deal resources approved by Cabinet in April 2021 also make provision for external legal support should this be required for contracting.
- 7.2 As noted above, for the Construction Skills Hub there is a requirement to secure a site for the Hub for the first 7 years of its operation and

negotiations are well advanced with the Devonshire Group to locate it within the Mastin Moor housing development site. A lease agreement between the council and the Devonshire Group has been prepared and can now be finalised and signed following approval of the funding for the project, subject to Cabinet approval as recommended at 4.19 above.

- 7.3 Advice on subsidy control (formerly State Aid) has also been sought for each project; this will ensure that a key condition of Towns Fund approval can be discharged in line with the assurance framework.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

- 8.1 Provision for project management has been made within the business cases for each project, including where specialist advice and contractors may be required to deliver the projects. The main resource for project leadership will come from existing council resources, primarily those within the Economic Growth directorate.

- 8.2 A number of other key teams are represented at the Internal Programme Board and have been involved in developing each of the projects. The wider resource implications moving into delivery will be kept under review through the project and programme management governance in place.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan**

- 9.1 As set out in previous Cabinet papers, the Staveley Town Deal will contribute positively to a number of priorities within the Council Plan. In particular the Deal aligns well with the following Council Plan objectives:

- Chesterfield Borough – a great place to live, work and visit
- Vibrant town centres
- Build a stronger business base
- Develop an inclusive and environmentally sustainable approach to growth
- Improve our environment and enhance community safety for all our communities and future generations
- Help our communities to improve their health and wellbeing
- Reduce inequality and provide support to vulnerable people

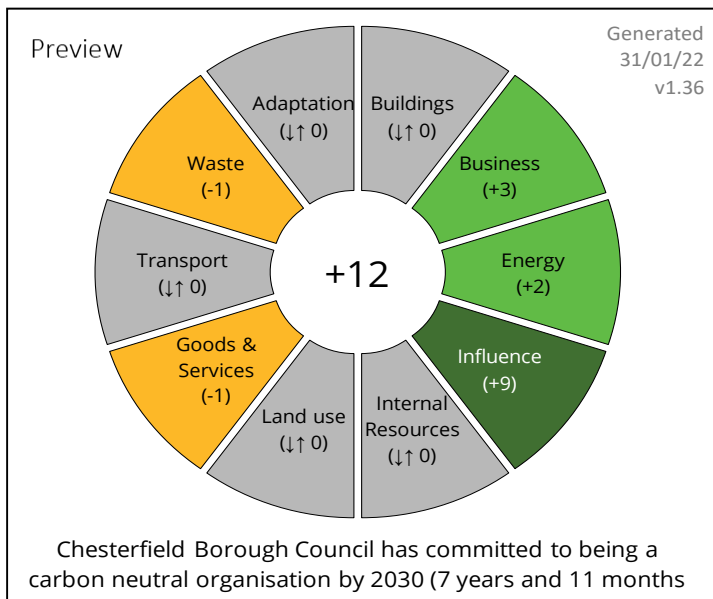
- 9.2 In turn, each of the three projects described in this report form an important part of the Staveley Town Deal and delivery of the Staveley Town Investment Plan and its objectives, as shown below.



9.3 Each of the projects will also contribute positively to the council’s Growth Strategy and Covid Recovery Plan. The Construction Skills Hub will also make a significant contribution to community wellbeing as it will target young people in the Staveley area to come and train at the site, thereby investing in young people’s skills and future and the wider transformation of the Staveley area.

## 10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

- 10.1 A climate change impact assessment has been completed for the Construction Skills Hub project with the results summarised below. Assessments will be carried out for DRIIVe and Staveley 21 prior to those projects coming to Cabinet once the business cases are complete.
- 10.2 The Construction Skills Hub has an overall climate impact score of +12, scoring particularly well in the business and influence categories to reflect the scope to raise awareness of positive action towards climate change through work with partners, careers engagement and training. It also reflects the ambitions of the project to focus on green technologies and modern methods of construction and our ability through the procurement process to specify actions and provision that will support these. It scores less well in areas of resource, transport and waste, recognising that the location of the facility and that this is a new facility and therefore there will be an increase in these areas. A summary of the impact is set out in the diagram below.



## 11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

- 11.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken at the programme level for the Town Deal and a draft version of this was noted at Cabinet in May 2021.
- 11.2 The business case for the Construction Skills Hub includes the requirement for equality and diversity considerations to be built into the procurement of a delivery partner, ensuring that this project will support the councils' commitment to equality and diversity.

## 12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

- 12.1 Risk management is a key component of the business case development process for all of the Town Deal projects and the risk analysis for the three council led projects has and is being tested through the process in line with 4.10 above.
- 12.2 Project and programme management arrangements in place will ensure that risk is regularly reviewed for each project and that risk escalation, where necessary, takes place both within the council and within the Town Deal governance structure. In terms of the general risks associated with the council undertaking the lead sponsor role for the three projects, the main ones identified are set out in the table below. These relate back to the responsibilities for the council as project sponsor as set out above at 4.16.

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The projected outputs for one or more project are not delivered within the available time and/or budget.	Medium	Medium	Ensure strong project and programme management; maintain open dialogue with government; consider alternative outputs at an early stage and use the change request process to seek approval if required	Medium	Low
The council fails to procure and/or account for eligible expenditure in line with Town Deal requirements	High	Medium	Ensure strong project and programme management; use existing and well tested council processes to ensure compliance; continue close working with relevant teams and officers able to provide advice; maintain the three lines of defence set out in the Assurance Framework	High	Low
The costs for one or more project increase beyond the available Town Deal funding	High	Medium	Utilise the alternative scenarios developed within each project business case to mitigate cost rises;	Medium	Medium

			review project and consider delivery of reduced outputs and/or seeking match funding		
The council is unable to fulfil reporting requirements and/or maintain an adequate audit trail	High	Medium	Ensure strong and regular liaison between lead officers for each project and the Town Deal team so that reporting requirements are understood and supported; build on the positive audit findings to date to ensure that project delivery is well documented and auditable through sound governance	High	Low
Delivery partners procured for one or more projects fail to deliver in line with project requirements	High	Medium	Ensure procurement exercises are thorough and robust with well tested specifications; put in place strong contract management with a focus on critical project elements and compliance with statutory requirements	Medium	Low

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	1087
----------------------------	------

<b>Wards affected</b>	Lowgates & Woodthorpe, Middlecroft & Poolsbrook, Hollingwood & Inkersall, Barrow Hill & New Whittington
-----------------------	---

## Document information

<b>Report author</b>	
Michael Rich, Interim Director (Projects) Emily Williams, Skills Delivery Officer	
<b>Background documents</b>	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
Business case for Construction Skills Hub, November 21 (Nth consulting) Assurance Framework for Staveley Town Deal Climate Change Impact Assessment for Construction Skills Hub	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix 1	Project detail - Construction Skills Hub

This page is intentionally left blank



## Appendix One – Construction Skills Hub project details

### 1. Project overview

- 1.1 The Construction Skills Hub is an on-site construction training facility that will serve to develop a pipeline of skilled construction workers through a complete pathway of on-site training interventions. The facility will consist of a number of semi-covered workshops that will sit in a compound of 3150sqm within an existing development site.
- 1.2 The facility will provide a platform for construction related careers activity and practical training and work experience for over 5,000 learners over 10 years with access to employers across a wide range of construction related occupations. Provision will include joinery, brickwork, groundworks, roofing, electrical installation and will incorporate green technologies and modern methods of construction.
- 1.3 The intention is for the hub to build on the Council's existing 'local labour' activity to provide the means for all sites subject to major planning applications to be able to deliver meaningful skills and employment outcomes that are aligned with local need. The vision is that the hub will deliver a facility that provides opportunities for practical skills development that meets employer needs by:
  - **Enhancing existing construction training provision** by providing students with practical training and experience with direct access to employers
  - **Increasing engagement with the sector** to develop a pipeline of skilled workers to meet increasing demand as a result of significant investment and housing growth.
  - **Acting as a Focus for sector specific careers engagement**, raising awareness of the breadth of training and careers pathways available across the sector in a real-life setting
  - **Providing a hub** from which to channel training, employment and supply chain outputs secured via 'Local Labour' planning Conditions.
- 1.4 A preferred site for the construction skills hub has been identified; it will initially be situated at the Devonshire Group's Mastin Moor site which has planning permission for 650 homes, a care facility, local centre, and extensive parkland and expected to take 6 to 10 years to complete the development.

- 1.5 Following funding approval, Chesterfield Borough Council will seek to procure an education provider with view to commencing the provision of training from September 2023. The education provider will work in conjunction with the council to establish the compound and will be responsible for designing the curriculum and delivering training outputs.
- 1.6 The Feasibility Study, which was completed in August 2021, supported the need for investing in a relocatable Construction Skills Hub in Staveley. The study provides a clear and compelling argument across national, sub-regional and local policies to support investment in construction skills, with the construction industry being a focal point for accelerating the growth of the economy post the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, it supports the objective within the Chesterfield Borough Council Growth Strategy (2019-2023) and the Covid Recovery Plan (2020) to ***'Secure the long-term growth of the borough, supporting new job creation and ensuring local people have the right skills to access future employment opportunities'***
- 1.7 The Feasibility Study supported the development of a green book compliant business case which was submitted to Staveley Town Deal Board for approval in November 2021. In line with the Staveley Town Deal Assurance Framework, the business case was externally appraised in December 2021. The external appraisal found that the Construction Skills Hub provides an important element of supporting the wider regeneration of Staveley and surrounding areas by supporting the delivery of skills required to deliver major new projects including housing, commercial and infrastructure works. A summary of the findings under each of the five business case elements is set out in the table below.

Strategic Case	It is considered that there is strong alignment with the objectives of the Towns Fund and given the wider development proposals across the area it is recognised that there is inadequate capacity within the construction industry to support this programme to deliver these objectives without the additional capacity provided by the proposed skills hub. The Strategic Case also identifies issues with unemployment levels and the impact of COVID which confirms the availability of a supply of potential learners to the proposed scheme
Economic Case	The economic case identifies three alternative options including the 'do nothing' option. The preferred option comprising of a partnership between a local college,

	private provider and a university provides a Net Present Value of £5.8 million and a Benefit Cost Ratio of 12.96;1 which is considered high and also note that our assessment suggests that these figures may not take account of the full benefits of the scheme.
Commercial Case	The commercial case is focussed around the interest from education providers in the delivery of the project and this is supported specifically by a consultation exercise undertaken as well as analysis of education providers delivering construction related courses across Derbyshire and within Sheffield. This includes experienced parties who have expressed interest in tendering to operate and manage the proposed construction skills hub.
Financial Case	The financial case identifies estimates both the costs and revenues relating to the project over a 10-year programme. However, it is noted that the Full Business Plan does not provide any plans or cost plan to support the proposals and it is recognised that the revenue is dependent upon the maintenance of existing funding programmes for learners over the period of the project.
Management Case	The management case recognises the experience of the project promoter, CBC in managing a large portfolio of projects – both residential and commercial and the reporting procedures and responsible parties require to monitor the project and report to the Towns Fund Board. This provides clear roles and responsibilities moving forward working in conjunction with the education provider moving forward.

- 1.8 Based on the findings from the external appraisal and a clear recommendation from the council’s Internal Programme Board, the project was approved by the Staveley Town Deal Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.
- 1.9 Reflecting the stage of the project development, the funding approval is subject to a number of conditions which are summarised in the table below.

Condition	Response/ Mitigation
Suitable advice confirming the proposed investment is compliant	It is not likely that this project will have subsidy control implications

<p>with public subsidy requirements.</p>	<p>as it is public funding to public organisation. We will be undertaking a tender exercise for the for the operation of the hub which will avoid any direct subsidy.</p> <p>The Town Deal is commissioning subsidy control advice.</p>
<p>A binding agreement for the site of the Construction Skills Hub over the initial period of 7 years prior to relocation and agreement to provide as replacement site</p>	<p>The Devonshire Group are fully committed to supporting facility with the Mastin Moor site for the first 5 years of the programme and have identified other sites within the development pipeline for years 5 to 10. A serviced compound site within site will be provided at a peppercorn rent. Now funding has been approved we seek to finalise lease arrangements with the landowner.</p>
<p>Approval of the training provider following the procurement exercise such that they have the necessary skills, capacity, and resources to deliver the courses and secure the EFSA support required to deliver the training programmes.</p>	<p>We are seeking to commence a competitive tender process as detailed in section 15 of the business case. We are seeking permission from cabinet to proceed with procurement which will ensure that this condition is fully met. Subject to Cabinet approval the procurement process is expected to commence in March 2022.</p>
<p>Evidence of all necessary approvals for the project including planning and building regulations approvals where required.</p>	<p>Devonshire group have existing outline planning permission and the training compound sits within the red line of the existing planning permission. The Devonshire Group have undergone a tender and selection process for their preferred house builder partner. Reserved matters for phase 1 infrastructure and phase 1</p>

	<p> dwellings are being prepared and details of the training compound will be included within the Infrastructure Plan. Reserved Matters are expected to be submitted by June 2022.</p>
<p>Evidence of a tender for the construction of the new facility in accordance with the assessment of costs provided.</p>	<p>This will be provided following the procurement exercise.</p>

## 2. Alternative options

2.1 The full business case considered three options from the shortlisting process detailed in section 7 of the feasibility study. The options analysis focussed on the education delivery model. The shortlisted options are set out below:

- i. **Do Nothing (or Do Minimum)** – This option would result in not going ahead with the project there are no project outcomes, and no intervention funding is expended. As set out in the table below, in this option no learners would be assisted into employment and local construction business may have a shortage of trained workers, especially as older workers retire over the next 10 years. What is clear is that the area will be further impacted by a ‘do nothing’ scenario which can only result in a downward trend in hardship and unemployment in the area.
- ii. **Alternative Option** – a Partnership between an FE college and a university; and
- iii. **Preferred Option** – a Partnership between an FE college, private provider, and a university.

2.2 Both the alternative option and preferred option offer a partnership arrangement, recognising that one single provider is unlikely to be able to offer the broad range of provision required. Both options that reduce project risk and enhance the education that will be delivered through the facility.

2.3 The key difference between the alternative option (partnership between a local college and a university) and preferred option (partnership between a local college, private provider and a university) is the recruitment of learners will be lower for the alternative option as including a private training provider is likely to increase the scope for engagement across a broader demographic of learners. As part of the feasibility study a learner focus group highlighted that learners were more likely to be attracted to learning at a facility that was less traditional but where there was a clear link to employers with a focus on practical skills development and clear pathways to employment. Therefore, a reduction of a learner per group has been factored in the alternative case option. The associated impact on costs is included for those costs that vary directly with learner numbers. This is detailed in the table below:

**Figure 1: Analysis of Options**

Metric	Do Nothing	Alternative Option	Preferred Option	Best Outcome
Net Present Value (NPV)	£0	£78,477 <sup>(1)</sup>	£500,093	Preferred Option
NPV exceeds Grant Cost	N/A	No <sup>(1)</sup>	Yes	Preferred Option only
Revenue Generated by Year 10	£0	£6,939,033 <sup>(1)</sup>	£7,535,000	Preferred Option
Capital Investment (not grant funded)	£0	£124k <sup>(2)</sup>	£194k	Preferred Option
Qualified Learners by Year 10	£0	773 <sup>(2)</sup>	897	Preferred Option
Build Up Programme Learners by Year 10	0	380	380	Alternative & Preferred Option
Schools Tasters by Year 10	0	4,026	4,026	Alternative & Preferred Option
Staff employed (FTE Years of employment)	0	107 <sup>(1)</sup>	125	Preferred Option
<b>Outputs Ranking</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Preferred Option</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> figures from the Financial Case for alternative option, which assumes growth in year 7

<sup>(2)</sup> figures assume no growth at year 7 as alternative option is unable to fund the expansion.

2.4 Whilst these are presented as separate options the process recommended is to invite individual education providers as well as consortium proposals as part of a procurement process to explore what the best possible partnership would be. The process will look at proposals that have development opportunities to see how the partnership may mature over time dealing with today's immediate issues and looking to the near future and the challenges facing our communities for tomorrow.

2.5 There are interdependencies within the Town Investment Plan itself. The project portfolio will be controlled to ensure maximum benefits are realised through the interdependencies of other construction projects within the Town Investment Plan which can support the in-take of learners and provide additional sites/ locations for the compound over time.

### 3. Financial considerations

3.1 Following approval at the Town Deal Board in December and submission of the associated summary document to government (signed by the council's s 151 officer), funding for the project is now secure.

3.2 A summary of the costs is provided below.

<b>Grant Funding</b>	<b>2022-23 (£)</b>	<b>2023-24 (£)</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
Capital Grant Funding	179,317	27,000	206,317
Revenue Grant Funding	138,825	90,226	229,051
Sub-total	318,142	117,226	435,368
Contingency (revenue)			31,632
Total Allocation			<b>467,000</b>

3.3 All Town Deal projects have been asked to find a reduction of c. 7% in funding ask in order to fit within the overall allocation provided for Staveley (£25.2m) and allowing for programme management costs. The Construction Skills Hub costs reflect this reduction. A contingency has been included for revenue costs as a mitigation of the financial risk associated with mobilisation of the project.

3.4 As set out in the main report, procuring a delivery partner for the Hub will reduce to a minimum any ongoing financial risk to the council. Further mitigations of financial risk as the project is procured and delivered are also set out in detail in the full business case which has also been appraised by external experts.

This page is intentionally left blank



## For publication

### Council Plan Delivery Plan – 2022/23 (DL040)

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Deputy Leader
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate
<b>For publication</b>	

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

1.1 To present for approval the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23 is recommended to Council for approval.

2.2 That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Deputy Leader is given delegated authority to make amendments to the Delivery Plan for 2022/23 should risk assessments and changes to guidance require further amendments to be made.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

3.1 To provide a clear statement of the delivery milestones and measures required to maintain progress on our strategic priorities for 2019 – 2023.

#### **4.0 Report details**

4.1 Background

The Council Plan for 2019 – 2023 was approved by Council in February 2019. The Council Plan defines the Council's key priorities, objectives and

commitments over the four year period. The plan is aimed at providing focus, setting out priorities that will require collected corporate effort during the period. It is not an attempt to describe every service that the Council will provide; this will be covered by service plans on an annual basis.

4.2 Alongside the four year Council Plan there was also a commitment to develop annual delivery plans. These plans set out the key milestones and measures required to keep the Council Plan on target for delivery.

4.3 A new performance management framework was also developed to accompany the Council Plan and Delivery Plans. This framework underpins the Council Plan, measures and demonstrates our success in terms of milestones, outputs, outcomes and measures and effectively reviews and challenges performance.

4.4 Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23

The Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 1. This document sets out the key milestones, inputs, outputs and measures we will need to deliver during the final year of the four year Council Plan. The Delivery Plan has been produced through a series of discussions and workshops. Our evidence base includes performance information, demographic trends and forecasts and intelligence from our community engagement programme. Horizon scanning techniques were also used to consider key emerging issues including the current and potential future impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.5 All activities will need to be frequently risk assessed against the latest Covid-19 guidance. Changes may be required to ensure safety and we may also become aware of additional challenges emerging as a result of the pandemic requiring further prioritisation activity. We are therefore seeking delegated authority for the Deputy Leader to approve further changes should these circumstances emerge.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

5.1 None, the Council Plan, Performance Management Framework and arrangements for approving annual delivery plans were approved by Council in February 2019 and will run until April 2023.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

6.1 Providing value for money services continues to be one of three priority areas – underpinning the entire plan. Milestones within the plan have been assessed alongside the budget and Medium-term financial plan. This will however be kept under review due to the ongoing uncertainty around organisational, economic and community pressures emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

7.1 Legal implications for all milestones are assessed on an ongoing basis.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

8.1 Milestones within the plan have been assessed alongside the human resources required. This will however be kept under review due to the ongoing uncertainty around organisational, economic and community pressures emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.

8.2 A number of milestones and measures within the Value for Money priority area relate specifically to organisational development and investing in the Council’s human resources.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan**

9.1 The 2022/23 Delivery Plan sets out clear milestones and measures to progress key priority areas. The plan alongside Council Plan commitments also reflect the short and medium term position and priorities emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change**

10.1 A number of milestones and measures within the plan relate specifically to climate change, for example completion of the third year of the Climate Change action plan and developing a new plan for 2023 – 2030. As programmes and projects are developed climate change assessment will be undertaken.

## **11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

11.1 Equality, diversity and social inclusion have been key considerations during the development of the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23. As

programmes and projects are developed the appropriate level of equality analysis and community engagement will be undertaken. Overall the plan is considered to have a positive equality impact contributing to increasing the proceeds of economic growth, improving quality of life including health and wellbeing.

- 11.2 A number of specific commitments have been made within the quality of life priority which will enhance our Equality and Diversity commitments and increase our knowledge to inform future decision making and priority areas.

## 12.0 Implications for consideration - Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Failure to make sufficient progress on plan delivery	H	M	Priorities, aims and projects are challenging but realistic. They provide a focus for the use of resources during the period	M	L
Failure to complete projects on time/budget/to quality standards.	H	M	Performance management framework developed to challenge projects and activities and develop mitigation where necessary.	M	L
Core services unable to identify contribution to the corporate priorities	M	M	Performance management framework clearly identifies the role of members, managers and staff. Service plans and Personal Development Plans are used to make the link between the contribution of teams and individual members of staff, and the Council Plan.	L	L
Failure to resource priorities in the plan	M	M	The Council Plan 2023 commitments and year 1, 2 and 3 delivery plans have been developed alongside the budget and medium term financial forecast to minimise this risk.	M	L

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1073</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### Document information

<b>Report author</b>
----------------------

Donna Reddish – Service Director Corporate
--

<b>Appendices to the report</b>
---------------------------------

Appendix 1 – Council Plan Delivery Plan 2022 - 23
---

This page is intentionally left blank

## Council Plan 2019 – 2023: Year 4 Delivery Plan 2022/23

Our Vision:	Putting our communities first
Our Values:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer focused – delivering great customer service, meeting customer needs</li> <li>• Can do – striving to make a difference by adopting a positive attitude</li> <li>• One council, one team –proud of what we do, working together for the greater good</li> <li>• Honesty and respect – embracing diversity and treating everyone fairly</li> </ul>
Review:	All activities will be risk assessed against the latest Covid-19 guidance. Changes may be required to ensure safety.

### Priority – Making Chesterfield a thriving borough

Objectives for 2019 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chesterfield Borough – A great place to live, work and visit</li> <li>• Vibrant town centres</li> <li>• Build a stronger business base</li> <li>• Develop an inclusive and environmentally sustainable approach to growth</li> </ul>
Overall Council Plan Commitments 2019/20 – 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable the completion of 1000 new homes</li> <li>• Deliver the Northern Gateway project to provide:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 510 jobs</li> <li>○ 20,000 sq feet space for businesses to grow at a new enterprise centre</li> <li>○ 530 car parking spaces at the new multi-storey car park</li> <li>○ Environmental improvements</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As a partner in Chesterfield Waterside Ltd enable:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refresh of masterplan</li> <li>○ 314 new apartments</li> <li>○ 30,000 sq.m of space for business and commercial use</li> <li>○ 300 jobs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bring in a minimum of £2 million in external funding to enable housing, business and commercial space which will maximise the benefits of HS2</li> <li>• Support Peak Resort in delivering the first phase of the development providing 400 jobs and maximising the benefit for the wider economy</li> <li>• Encourage a co-ordinated approach to the regeneration of the Staveley works Corridor (including the Staveley HS2 infrastructure)</li> </ul>

	<p>maintenance depot) by working closely with the landowners and partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of residents living and working in our town centres by enabling residential conversions and developing town centre sites which will reduce commuter carbon emissions</li> <li>• Support economic recovery within our town centres with a range of events, specialist markets and public realm improvements</li> <li>• Develop an annual spend local awareness campaign to support our independent traders to encourage residents to shop locally and reduce shopping related carbon emissions</li> <li>• Maintain safety within Chesterfield town centre by continuing to enforce the Public Spaces Protection Order</li> <li>• Encourage inward investment and business expansion by providing accommodation advice and support to over 150 businesses</li> <li>• Increase the number of business start-ups, improve local competitiveness and encourage inward investment by providing business support and key account management</li> <li>• Enable 350 apprenticeships via the apprentice town initiative</li> <li>• Provide a range of opportunities for children and young people to engage with industry to prepare for future job opportunities.</li> <li>• Develop improved skills, education and apprenticeships programmes to engage more businesses, employees and young people entering work</li> <li>• Enable local businesses and employees to access a wide range of skills and education opportunities and work with the Chamber of Commerce to support businesses dealing with impacts of Covid-19</li> <li>• Deliver 100% local labour clauses on eligible developments and maximise local supply chain opportunities reducing commuter and supply chain carbon emissions</li> </ul>
Key activities for 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress the Covid-19 economic recovery plan</li> <li>• Review and Refresh the Chesterfield Growth Strategy</li> <li>• Develop action plan for implementation of the wider Northern Gateway Vision</li> <li>• Open and operate new Northern Gateway Enterprise</li> <li>• Continue to support the delivery of Chesterfield Waterside including review of the masterplan and opening of One Waterside Place.</li> <li>• Deliver first phase of station masterplan including the delivery of the Station Link Road (first phase) and demolition of Chesterfield Hotel</li> <li>• Deliver year 1 of the visitor economy strategy and action plan</li> <li>• Deliver and support a programme of borough wide events</li> <li>• Support the development of Peak Resort and Gateway, maximising the benefit for Chesterfield's economy</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levelling Up – Commence delivery of George Stephenson Memorial Hall and Town Centre Transformation Programme</li> <li>• Commence the delivery of the Staveley Town Deal Investment Plan projects</li> <li>• Develop a strategic approach, with Derbyshire County Council, landowners and key stakeholders, for the development of the Staveley Works Corridor</li> <li>• Refresh the Chesterfield Skills Action Plan</li> <li>• Support business growth and investment through the provision of Enterprise Chesterfield, delivering Innovation Support, Business Enquiry Service and Key Account Management and Inward investment Service</li> </ul>
Key measures for 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new homes in the borough</li> <li>• Number of new homes in the town centre</li> <li>• Planning applications processed within approved timescales</li> <li>• Planning application decisions – quality standards met</li> <li>• Amount of external funding accessed for Economic Growth Programme</li> <li>• Town centre occupancy rates</li> <li>• Enterprise Chesterfield occupancy and performance</li> <li>• Number of businesses supported</li> <li>• Number of business start-ups in the borough</li> <li>• Number of businesses supported to find accommodation</li> <li>• % local labour clauses</li> <li>• % jobs secured by local people on developments with local labour clauses</li> <li>• Number of businesses, learners engaged in skills programmes and external funding levied</li> </ul>
Additional data we will be using in 2022/23 to inform decision making and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment rates</li> <li>• Number of young people not in work, education or training</li> <li>• Key economic Census data</li> <li>• Indices of multiple deprivation</li> <li>• Businesses supported in partnership with Chamber of Commerce as part of a resilience programme</li> <li>• Are You Being Served measures</li> </ul>

### Priority – Improving quality of life for local people

Objectives for 2019 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide quality housing and improve housing conditions across the borough</li> </ul>
----------------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve our environment and enhance community safety for our communities and future generations</li> <li>• Help our communities to improve their health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Reduce inequality and provide support to vulnerable people</li> </ul>
<p>Overall Council Plan Commitments 2019/20 – 2022/23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build or acquire a minimum of 100 new Council homes built or refitted to a high environmental standard</li> <li>• Ensure 100% of our Council homes meet the decent homes standard</li> <li>• Invest in over 1350 major improvements in our council homes including new kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems, windows and rewiring contributing towards reduced energy usage and costs</li> <li>• Improve the quality of private sector housing</li> <li>• Improve access to and the quality of public spaces and parking through the completion estate improvements at Barrow Hill and Grangewood</li> <li>• Have developed a costed climate change action plan for Chesterfield Borough Council and Chesterfield Borough and delivered up to year three of the plan</li> <li>• Maintain high standards by investing in key parks, open spaces and play facilities including increasing biodiversity and carbon capture</li> <li>• Maintain focus on the quality of our parks and open spaces with the development of five year delivery plans for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Play Strategy</li> <li>• Put health and wellbeing at the heart of our decision making</li> <li>• Maintain independent living through the continued support of vulnerable people</li> <li>• Continue to provide advice and support to ensure our residents are accessing the benefits they are entitled to</li> <li>• Develop key partnership activity to support individuals and families that are feeling the effects of material insecurities, such as food, housing, financial hardship</li> <li>• Continue to work with partners to tackle homelessness</li> <li>• Develop and support a range of partnership initiatives to reduce social isolation and improve social connectedness</li> <li>• Enable people to access our leisure and cultural services by maintaining our commitment to a fair and transparent concessions policy</li> <li>• Encourage our young people to become active citizens by engaging over 500 young people in our local democracy programme</li> <li>• Improve community cohesion, raise awareness of equality issues and celebrate our diverse communities through the delivery of a minimum of four events each year with the Chesterfield Equality and Diversity Forum</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support community engagement and development activities through the allocation of 15% of the community infrastructure levy</li> </ul>
Key activities for 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build upon our Covid-19 community recovery approach by embarking on the development of a social investment plan. Key initiatives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social value in procurement</li> <li>○ Localism rights</li> <li>○ Community development and delivery approach</li> <li>○ Community and voluntary support and funding</li> <li>○ Community Infrastructure Levy neighbourhood portion review</li> <li>○ Maximising benefits from community partnership arrangements including integrated care systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Focus on private sector housing including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bringing empty homes back into use</li> <li>○ Development and implementation of private sector housing standards</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Delivering the Rough Sleeper Strategy to build on the Homelessness Covid-19 response and recovery. Working with key partners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Derbyshire wide Homelessness Strategy</li> <li>• Review supported accommodation and increase the supply of targeted accommodation units for vulnerable people with improved 'move-on' services</li> <li>• Increase focus on homelessness prevention via the Rough Sleeper action plan</li> <li>• Developing a multi-agency/ multi-disciplined team with the health sector to improve support available to rough sleepers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Development of the Holme Hall estate improvement plan</li> <li>• Complete the next phase of Council Housing refurbishment and new builds including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £7.1 million refurbishment at Pullman Close – Pullman Court, Mallard Court and Leander Court</li> <li>○ £7 million refurbishment of Dixon/Brierley Court, Tansley/ Birchover Court and Newland Dale</li> <li>○ £1.6 million new build developments at Middlecroft - Court Place, Paisley Close, Rowsley Crescent and Wensley Way</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Deliver year 3 of the climate change plan</li> <li>• Development of the new Climate Change action plan for 2023 – 2030</li> <li>• Deliver the 2022/23 local democracy campaign – Climate Change theme</li> <li>• Development of costed 5-year delivery plans in line with the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Play Strategy</li> <li>• Deliver customer service improvements in Sports Centres through the introduction of new software and operational improvements</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch new health and wellbeing campaign showcasing health and wellbeing opportunities and volunteering</li> <li>• Focus on community safety including the strengthening of anti-social behaviour prevention and response, developing a domestic abuse policy and safe space refuge accommodation</li> <li>• Plan and deliver with the Equality and Diversity Forum four equality and diversity events</li> <li>• Deliver the LGBT+ research project to coincide with Census 2021 delivery and develop key actions for service improvement and engagement</li> </ul>
Key measures for 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new Council homes developed</li> <li>• Percentage of Council Homes meeting decent homes standard</li> <li>• Average SAP rating for CBC properties</li> <li>• Number of people supported via Careline and Neighbourhoods teams</li> <li>• Number of homeless preventions per annum</li> <li>• Number and amount spent on disabled facilities grants and adaptations</li> <li>• Additional amount of benefits claimed due to Council support</li> <li>• Number of green flag rated parks and open spaces</li> <li>• Number of people in learn to swim programmes</li> <li>• Number of memberships in sports centres</li> <li>• Number of people engaged in health and wellbeing referrals into sports centres</li> <li>• Number of children engaged in local democracy and civic activity</li> </ul>
Additional data we will be using in 2022/23 to inform decision making and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census data</li> <li>• Indices of multiple deprivation</li> <li>• Health profile</li> <li>• Child poverty measures</li> <li>• Welfare and benefits data</li> <li>• Corporate parenting board data – care leavers</li> <li>• Armed Forces research project (Derbyshire Armed Forces Partnership)</li> <li>• Equality and Diversity public sector duty data</li> <li>• LGBT+ research project</li> <li>• Active lives survey</li> <li>• Sport and leisure surveys</li> <li>• Findings from community and voluntary engagement activity</li> <li>• Are You Being Served measures</li> <li>• STAR measures</li> </ul>

## Priority – Providing value for money services

Objectives for 2019 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become and stay financially self sufficient</li> <li>• Make our services easier to access, deliver savings and reduce our environmental impact through the use of technology</li> <li>• Improve services and customer interaction by investing in our staff</li> </ul>
Overall Council Plan Commitments 2019/20 – 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver high quality, value for money services and maintain customer satisfaction ratings</li> <li>• Ensure that social value including maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits forms a key part of our procurement and commissioning arrangements</li> <li>• Maximise value for money and social value from property portfolio, facilities, services, grants and tax collection</li> <li>• Revitalise our leisure and cultural provision to build confidence, provide value for money and increase health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Successfully manage the public private partnership services transition and maintain service standards.</li> <li>• Work with partners to enable more efficient use of the Council's properties and land</li> <li>• Design services so they are available online with an improved customer service offer and support for people who cannot access online services</li> <li>• Using technology, intelligence and customer feedback to have better conversations and engagement with our customers</li> <li>• Achieve £900,000 of savings and reduce our environmental impact through improved use of technology</li> <li>• Maintain our Investor in people status</li> <li>• Invest in a highly skilled workforce to increase productivity</li> <li>• Help to develop the careers of over 90 apprentices across the Council by ensuring that we provide opportunities for people to develop qualifications, vocational skills and increase employability</li> </ul>
Key activities for 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and actions for 2022/23</li> <li>• Progress the Council's Organisational Development programme to maximise delivery of the Council Plan and key functions – establishing a medium-term plan, which will deliver improvements to the Council's capability and service delivery, while delivering efficiency savings.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer services transformation – developing the customer experience and accessibility strategy</li> <li>• New ways of working - re-thinking and modernising our services so that we become more efficient, including maximising the benefits of the new and agile working practises that have been introduced throughout the Covid-19 pandemic</li> <li>• ICT/ transformation programme - continuing to deliver the final year of our ICT Improvement Programme so that we can strengthen our ICT infrastructure, cyber security and digital skills and implement our digital platform</li> <li>• Asset Management Strategy – establishing both the new Asset Management Strategy and the supporting delivery plan to manage our land &amp; property estate efficiently, effectively and in support of the delivery of the Councils vision and priorities</li> <li>• Through our new approach to procurement activity with procurement teams and services working collaboratively to maximise outcomes for the Council</li> <li>• Maximising value for money and social value via the new waste and recycling contract</li> </ul>
Key measures for 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfactory opinion from external auditor re VFM conclusion</li> <li>• Void levels on commercial properties</li> <li>• IIP Scores</li> <li>• Number of CBC apprentices</li> <li>• Council tax, rent and NNDR collection rates</li> <li>• MyChesterfield take up</li> <li>• Website hits</li> <li>• Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, You Tube and Instagram numbers</li> <li>• Average call response times</li> <li>• Net promoter scores for theatres and leisure (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)</li> </ul>
Additional data we will be using in 2022/23 to inform decision making and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trend information from complaints</li> <li>• Service level consultation information</li> <li>• Employee survey</li> <li>• Customer service excellence data</li> <li>• Are You Being Served measures</li> <li>• STAR measures</li> </ul>

## For publication

### General Fund Capital Programme 2022/23

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Council
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022 23 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Deputy Leader
<b>Directorate:</b>	Finance

#### **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To approve the General Fund Capital Programme for the financial year 2022/23.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

That the Cabinet recommends to the full Council that:

- 2.1 The updated General Fund Capital Programme expenditure and financing be approved (**Appendix A**).
- 2.2 The Town Centre Transformation project (part of the Levelling Up Fund programme) be included in the Capital Programme.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 To keep Members informed about the council's current General Fund Capital Programme expenditure and financing.

#### **4.0 Report Details**

- 4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 This report sets out the draft General Fund Capital Programme, incorporating capital expenditure and financing arrangements for the financial years 2021/22 through 2025/26. The Capital Programme is aligned to the Capital Strategy and presents, in financial terms, the Council's plan for investment related purchasing, building and improvement of capital assets.
- 4.1.2 The council's Capital Programme is an ambitious one evidencing investment of £42.8m in 21/22 and plans for a further £42.6m from 2022/23 through 2025/26, enabling substantial regeneration to take place in and around the Borough and allowing the council to meet all necessary capital expenditure requirements to support delivery of the council's vision and priorities.
- 4.1.3 The Capital Programme for 2021/22 was approved as part of the budget setting process in February 2021. An update to the Programme was included in the budget monitoring report to the full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.
- 4.1.4 Due to a reduction in the level of capital receipts generated the council's Capital Programme is increasingly dependent on financing from borrowing. The revenue implications of any such borrowing are considered before schemes are included in the Capital Programme.

#### 4.2 Updated Expenditure Forecasts

- 4.2.1 **Updated Programme** - An updated Capital Programme forecast (expenditure and financing) is included at Appendix A. The Programme covers the current financial year and the following four financial years ahead. A commentary on the most significant schemes in the Programme is provided below.
- 4.2.2 **New Schemes** - the updated programme includes the following schemes that have been approved by the full Council or Cabinet and added to the Capital Programme during the year, except for the Town Centre Transformation scheme which is expected to be approved by cabinet in the forthcoming weeks:
- In October 2021 Chesterfield Borough Council secured £20m towards 2no. town centre development schemes after bidding for money from the Government's Levelling Up Fund. The funding was confirmed in



the Autumn Budget and Spending Review, and will be split between two projects:

- Stephenson Memorial Hall, £17.2m approved Dec 2021. This scheme is partly funded from the Levelling Up Fund
- Town Centre Transformation, £10.3m. This scheme is also partly funded from the Levelling Up Fund. It has been included in the Capital Programme on the proviso that a full report on the scheme will be presented to Cabinet for approval in the forthcoming weeks. The Town Centre Transformation scheme now also incorporates the Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield – Town Centre scheme, £1.3m of which has been included in previously approved capital programmes. Full details on this amalgamation of schemes will be included in the upcoming Cabinet report.
- Staveley Town Deal CBC lead schemes, £8.5m funded by DLUHC Towns Deals grant. A full report on these schemes will be presented to Cabinet for approval on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. Although CBC is acting as the accountable body for the full £25.2m programme, only those schemes where CBC are the project sponsor (DRIVE, Construction Skills Hub and Staveley 21) are to be included in the Capital Programme. All other non-CBC schemes will be accounted for outside of the General Fund Capital Programme.

#### 4.2.3 Other fully funded schemes that have been added to the Capital Programme include:

- Green Homes Grants, an additional allocation of £465k funded by Department of Business, Energy and Industry grant.
- Badger recreation ground, £48k funded by Viridor grant.
- Brushfield recreation ground, £50k funded by Viridor grant.
- CIL capital schemes, £50k funded by a contribution from the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Safer Streets CCTV scheme, £368k funded by Home Office grant.

#### 4.3 Progress on Current Major Schemes

- 4.3.1 **Northern Gateway** – Construction of the Enterprise Centre is scheduled to be completed late February /early March 2022. The public realm works at Elder Way were completed during the summer of 2021.

- 4.3.2 **Waterside Basin Square Development** – Construction of One Waterside Place is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2022.
- 4.3.3 **HS2 Strategic Sites** – The former Chesterfield Hotel site was acquired in November 2020 and work to clear out the interior of the building has been completed. Demolition is due to take place in Spring 2022.
- 4.3.4 **Hollis Lane Link Road** – Construction of the new Jewson depot on Sheffield Road is almost complete and Jewson's are due to take ownership in Spring 2022.
- 4.3.5 **Acquisition of Leasehold Interest** – The Council completed the purchase of the Pavements shopping centre in July 2021.

#### 4.4 Recurring Schemes

- 4.4.1 **Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's)** – Derbyshire County Council (DCC), who holds the Better Care Fund, confirmed an allocation of £1.4m for the 2021/22 financial year, of which £300k will be used to fund Home Repairs Assistance Grants. In addition, the Capital Programme includes further DFG expenditure of £2.5m to be financed from allocations carried forward from previous financial years. This carry forward has arisen due to delays in the DFG processing system which are outside of the council's control and is reflected across all other districts within Derbyshire. The council is working closely with DCC to resolve the issue.

#### 4.5 Capital Financing

- 4.5.1 Financing Resources – The main sources of capital finance and how they are being used to fund the current Capital Programme are shown in Appendix A and summarised below:

- **Borrowing** – capital expenditure can be financed from borrowing provided the borrowing is deemed value for money and meets the criteria set out in the Prudential Code i.e., affordable, prudent and sustainable. The current Capital Programme includes borrowing that the Council has previously approved of £36.2m. In addition, a further £4.0m of borrowing will be required in 2024/25. This is due to the ongoing challenges of identifying and realising capital receipts and the need for the council to match fund investment from other sources, primarily in the Stephenson Memorial Hall project.

- **Grants and contributions** – External funds that are either provided by the Government and ring-fenced for specific activities or secured from other sources to deliver specific projects. Grant funding, of £38.7m, is a significant element of how the General Fund Capital Programme is resourced. Further details are set out below:
  - 2021/22 - £5.9m in total including £1.8m DFG's, £796k Business Rates Growth grant, £1.5m Green Homes grants, £825k Levelling Up Fund funding, £368k Safer Streets grant, £453k Staveley Town Deal grant and a number of other grants and contributions towards play area schemes.
  - 2022/23 - £9.3m in total including £2.7m Levelling Up Fund funding, £3.7m Staveley Town Deal grant and £2.8m DFG's including underspends from previous financial years.
  - 2023/24 - £14.5m in total including £10.6m Levelling Up Fund funding, £3.1m Staveley Town Deal grant and £0.8m DFG's.
  - 2024/25 - £7.9m in total including £5.8m Levelling Up Fund funding, £1.3m Staveley Town Deal grant and £0.8m DFG's.
  - 2025/26 - £1.1m in total including £0.3m Staveley Town Deal grant and £0.8m DFG's
- **Reserves** - contributions from earmarked reserves towards vehicle and plant replacements and match funding contributions towards other grant funded schemes.

4.5.2 Capital Receipts Flexibility – the general rule is that capital receipts can only be used either to repay debt or to finance new capital expenditure. However, in the Local Government Grant Settlement 2015 the Government included a new flexibility to allow the use of capital receipts from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and then again from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to fund revenue expenditure, provided that the expenditure is on transformation projects which are designed to deliver on-going savings. The Government has indicated that this flexibility will be extended for a further three years through to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

4.5.3 To take advantage of this flexibility, the full Council must first approve a strategy setting out details of any projects to be funded in this manner, the level of revenue savings expected and the impact of the use of such

receipts on our prudential indicators. All spend would have to be incurred by 31st March 2025.

- 4.5.4 The council is currently using capital receipts flexibility to fund part of the ICT Transformation programme. A further £1.1m of capital receipts received in 2020/21 have also been set aside to fund the council's Organisational Development (OD) programme.

Further information on the emerging OD programme can be found in the 2022/23 general Fund Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan report.

- 4.5.5 Capital receipts – These are only included once potential disposals have been identified and the assets concerned are being actively marketed. When identifying potential assets for disposal, priority is given to disposing of land and property that are surplus to requirements and/or from which the council is unable to achieve a reliable and sustainable revenue stream.

The capital receipts included in the Programme at Appendix A are:

- 2021-22 – this mainly comprises the receipt in respect of land at Sheffield Road. Total forecast receipts for 2021/22 are £0.5m.
- 2022-23 – receipts of £1.6m have been assumed.
- 2023/24 – receipts of £1.5m have been assumed.
- 2024/25 – receipts of £1.5m have been assumed.
- 2025/26 – receipts of £1.5m have been assumed.

- 4.5.6 Capital receipts forecasts are continually changing as delays are encountered on some disposals whilst opportunities arise to accelerate others.

#### 4.6 Net Financing Position and Revenue Implications

- 4.6.1 The funding surpluses / (deficits) for each of the financial years covered by the updated Capital Programme are summarised in the table below:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
--	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

In year surplus/(deficit)	0	22	371	(393)	1,425
---------------------------	---	----	-----	-------	-------

- 2021/22 – an in- year break even position is forecast based on a prudent level of capital receipts (£0.5m) and prudential borrowing of £36.9m.
- 2022/23 – an in- year surplus of 22k is forecast based on a prudent level of capital receipts (£1.6m).
- 2023/24 – an in- year surplus of £371k is forecast based on a prudent level of capital receipts (£1.5m).
- 2024/25 – an in-year deficit of £393k is forecast after assuming capital receipts of £1.5m and prudential borrowing of £3.3m.
- 2025/26 – an in-year surplus of £1,425m is forecast based on a prudent level of capital receipts (£1.5m).

4.6.2 All capital expenditure which is not financed through grants, capital receipts or revenue contributions will need to be financed over time by making a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). A MRP is a revenue cost to the General Fund budget.

4.6.3 MRP contributions generally commence from the financial year after the asset becomes operational. The additional MRP required in respect of the Stephenson Memorial Hall project will commence in 2024/25.

4.6.4 The revenue implications for the General Fund budget of any additional MRP are considered before schemes are included in the Capital Programme.

4.6.5 Further information on matters relating to the MRP can be found in the Treasury Management Strategy Report 2022/23.

4.6.6 Starts on any scheme to be included in the Capital Programme will not be made until the council's Cabinet has approved the detailed business case.

## **5 Alternative options**

5.1 The option exists to decommission one or more of the schemes included within the proposed Capital Programme. However, this is not recommended on the basis that all align with Council Plan 2019-23

priorities and sources of funding have been identified to support delivery.

## **6 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

6.1 The relationship of schemes to the Council Plan priorities are considered in detail at the individual project appraisal stage.

## **7 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

7.1 The financial and value for money implications of the council’s capital Programme are considered in section 4.

## **8 Implications for consideration – Legal**

8.1 There is a legal requirement for the Council to set a balanced budget before the start of each financial year. The recommended Capital Programme does not fetter the council’s ability to comply with this legal obligation.

## **9 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

9.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

## **10 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

10.1 The risks relating to the overall Capital Programme are set out in the table below. For individual capital schemes the risks are considered in detail at the project appraisal stage.

<b>Description of the Risk</b>	<b>Current Risk</b>		<b>Mitigating Action</b>	<b>Target Risk</b>	
	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>		<b>Impact</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>
Overspends on schemes	Medium (3)	Possible (3)	Effective planning & monitoring	Medium (3)	Unlikely (2)
Slippage on schemes	Medium (3)	Likely (4)	Regular and effective monitoring	Medium (3)	Unlikely (2)
Capital receipts – disposals delayed or	Very High (5)	Likely (4)	Control starts on uncommitted schemes until	High (4)	Possible (3)

unable to complete			finance in place. Include only planned disposals in resources forecast. Borrow internally from reserves or take out short- term prudential borrowing.		
Reductions in Government Grants	High (4)	Possible (3)	Pursue other external funding options. Look to generate capital receipts.	Medium (3)	Possible (3)
Lack of capacity to deliver several major schemes / projects at the same time	High (4)	Likely (4)	Carefully manage the number of schemes and hence risks in play at any one time.	Medium (3)	Unlikely (2)
Ongoing Covid-19 Implications – Increased material costs, increased interest rates and the risk that pre-pandemic business case assumptions may not be realised.	High (4)	Likely (4)	Ensure adequate contingency sums included within business cases. Regular and effective monitoring.	Medium (3)	Possible (3)

Exempt VAT recovery – a number of current schemes / projects have exempt VAT implications.	V. High (5)	Possible (3)	Starts on schemes delayed until VAT issues resolved.  In-year monitoring.  VAT planning for several years ahead.  Obtain expert external advice.	V. High (5)	Unlikely (2)
--	----------------	-----------------	--	----------------	-----------------

## **11 Implications for consideration – Community wellbeing**

11.1 Although there are no direct community wellbeing implications to consider in this report, the ability for the council to appropriately manage and fund its Capital Programme is critical to the continued delivery of the full range of council facilities and services, with many targeted at supporting community wellbeing across the borough.

## **12 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills**

12.1 Although there are no direct economy and skills implications to consider in this report, the ability for the council to appropriately manage and fund its Capital Programme is critical to the continued delivery of the full range of council facilities and services, with many targeted at supporting the economy and the skills and employability of the borough’s population.

## **13 Implications for consideration – Climate Change**

13.1 Individual climate change impact assessments are not required for the overall Capital Programme. These are included at the individual project appraisal stage. prior to inclusion in the Capital Programme and will differ from scheme to scheme.

## **14 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**



- 14.1 Individual equality and diversity impact assessments are not required for the overall Capital Programme. These are included at the individual project appraisal stage prior to inclusion in the Capital Programme and will differ from scheme to scheme.

**Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1081</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

**Document information**

<b>Report author</b>	<b>Contact number/email</b>
Karen Ludditt	01246 936276 Karen.ludditt@chesterfield.gov.uk
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A	Capital Programme 2022/23

This page is intentionally left blank

## GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

Code	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Original 21/22	Revised Jan 21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
8295	Home Repairs Assistance	450	300	554	275	275	275
8292	Disabled Facilities Grants	2,600	1,500	2,256	475	475	475
8296	Green Homes Grants		1,465				
8968	Waterside Office Space	4,830	5,329	720			
8973	Northern Gateway - Public Realm	431	435				
8974	Northern Gateway - Enterprise Centre	1,568	2,208				
8998	Stand Road Bowls Pavilion		67				
8985	Badger Recreation Ground		48				
8670	Brushfield Recreation Ground			50			
8819	Safer Streets Scheme - CCTV		368				
8700	CIL Capital Schemes		50				
8991	IT Project	26	724	276	1,028	180	75
8971	Tatpton Terrace Flood Resilience Work		33				
8744	Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield - Public Realm	600	721				
8745	Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield - Town Centre (Now included within TCT below)	800	0				
8969	Hollis Lane Link Road Phase 1	5,000	4,692				
8530	Stephenson Memorial Hall		710	2,457	8,934	5,052	
8531	Staveley Town Deal - DRIIVE		187	3,100	448		
8532	Staveley Town Deal - Construction Skills Hub		23	65	67	52	
8533	Staveley Town Deal - Staveley 21 (Town Centre)		243	500	2,557	1,300	256
8534	Town Centre Transformation		461	359	2,815	6,647	
8957	Acquisition of Leasehold Interest		22,732				
8995	Calow Lane Industrial Units	367	50	312			
8678	HS2 Station Masterplan	500	250	280			
8513	Electric Charging Points		104				
8965	Car Parking Machines		69				
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>17,172</b>	<b>42,769</b>	<b>10,929</b>	<b>16,599</b>	<b>13,981</b>	<b>1,081</b>
		<b>Original 21/22</b>	<b>Revised Jan 2021/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>	<b>23/24</b>	<b>24/25</b>	<b>25/26</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	<b>CAPITAL FINANCING</b>						
	Borrowing - general	11,212	36,199	0	0	3,994	0
	Grants & Contributions - see below	4,350	5,940	9,341	14,470	7,945	1,006
	Capital Receipts	1,610	521	1,610	1,500	1,500	1,500
	CIL Contribution		50				
	Contribution from EZ Business Rates				1,000		
	Contribution from Northern Gateway Reserve					149	
	Flood Reserve		12				
	Vehicle and Plant Reserve		47				
	<b>Total resources available in year</b>	<b>17,172</b>	<b>42,769</b>	<b>10,951</b>	<b>16,970</b>	<b>13,588</b>	<b>2,506</b>
	Less total expenditure in year	17,172	42,769	10,929	16,599	13,981	1,081
	<b>Net in-year surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>-393</b>	<b>1,425</b>
	Surplus / (deficit) b/f from prev yr	0	1,077	1,077	1,099	1,470	1,077
	<b>Cum surplus / (deficit) c/f</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>2,502</b>
		<b>Original 21/22</b>	<b>Revised Jan 2021/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>	<b>23/24</b>	<b>24/25</b>	<b>25/26</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	<b>CAPITAL GRANTS ETC (Accruals Basis)</b>						
	Flood Risk Management Grant - EA		21				
	Disabled Facilities Grants (BCF / Derbys PCT)	3,050	1,800	2,810	750	750	750
	Green Homes Grants		1,465				
	Business Rate Growth Grant - Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield/Town Centre Transformation		796	150			
	Level Up Funding (Stephenson Memorial Hall)		710	2,457	7,833		
	Level Up Funding (Town Centre Transformation)		115	209	2,815	5,843	
	Staveley Town Deal Funding		453	3,665	3,072	1,352	256
	Safer Streets - Home Office		368				
	Hollis Lane Link Road - DCC	1,300					
	Badger Paly Area - Viridor		48				
	Brushfield Recreation Ground - Viridor			50			
	Stand Road Bowls Pavilion - DCC		27				
	Stand Road Bowls Pavilion - Sport England		40				
	Electric Charging Points - OZEV		55				
	Electric Charging Points - BP Pulse		42				
	<b>Grants Total</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>5,940</b>	<b>9,341</b>	<b>14,470</b>	<b>7,945</b>	<b>1,006</b>

This page is intentionally left blank

## For publication

### 2022/23 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Council
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022 23 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Directorate:</b>	Finance

#### 1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To consider the General Fund revenue budget report for the financial year 2022/23 and the medium term 2023/24 to 2025/26 and to make recommendations to full Council on the budget allocations and Council Tax level.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

Cabinet recommends to Council that it:

- 2.1 Notes the updated forecast outturn for 2021/22 which presents a small surplus **(section 4.9)**.
- 2.2 Notes that any under spend in respect of 2021/22 is used to supplement the Budget Risk reserve **(section 4.10)**.
- 2.3 Approves the overall revenue budget summary for 2022/23 **(Appendix A)**.
- 2.4 Approves the 2022/23 Council Tax Requirement and financing **(Appendix D)**.
- 2.5 Increases the Council's share of Council Tax for properties in each band, **£5** increase for a Band 'D' property, in 2022/23 to **£179.89 (section 4.46)**.

- 2.6 Notes that all Band A to D Council Taxpayers will receive a payment of **£150.00** towards the cost of their Council Tax bills and that a discretionary amount of funding will also be available to support some Council Taxpayers living in Band E to H properties, for which the details of the scheme are yet to be finalised (**sections 4.51 and 4.52**).
- 2.7 Approves the Local Council Tax Support scheme which remains unchanged for 2022/23 (**section 4.50**).
- 2.8 Approves the use of the capital receipts flexibility to fund the costs of the Organisational Development programme, subject to finalising the terms of the OD programme (**section 4.58**).
- 2.9 Notes the Collection Fund and the Tax Base forecasts (**sections 4.48 and 4.49**).
- 2.10 Notes the financial projections in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 to 2025/26 (**section 4.53**).
- 2.11 Approves the estimates of reserves including maintaining the General Working Balance at **£1.5m** (**sections 4.63- 4.65 and Appendix B**)
- 2.12 Approve the extension to the scope of the Service Redesign Reserve to support future service improvements promoted through the Organisational Development programme (**section 4.60**).
- 2.13 Notes the budget risks and sensitivity analysis (**Appendix C**) and the Chief Finance Officer's assurances (**sections 4.66 – 4.78**).

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 For the Council to meet the statutory requirements relating to setting the General Fund revenue budget and the level of Council Tax for 2022/23.

### **4.0 Report Details**

#### **Background**

- 4.1 This report covers the General Fund revenue budget and is one part of a suite of budget reports which together make up the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The other budget related reports include the

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget, HRA Capital Programme, General Fund Capital Programme and Treasury Management reports.

- 4.2 The General Fund includes all revenue income and expenditure, including day to day running costs, financed from Council Tax, Business Rates, government grants and fees and charges. It excludes any income and costs related to council housing.
- 4.3 The MTFP has been produced against the backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and supports the Council in setting out new ways of working. The Council is committed to making the changes needed in response to the costs of Covid-19 and demand on local services, and to maintain the stability of services needed in extremely difficult circumstances by the careful management of the Council's finances and the strengthening of financial resilience. The ambition of the Council remains consistent in producing a robust MTFP that demonstrates financial sustainability.
- 4.4 The first draft of the MTFP was presented to Cabinet in December and at that point some elements of the budget were still to be confirmed. Several government policy announcements and decisions were still awaited that created significant uncertainty over forecasting the level of resources over the medium term. The 2022/23 budget was unbalanced at that stage.
- 4.5 As part of the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS), published on 7 February 2022, the Government confirmed 2022/23 grant funding. As a result, the Council has been allocated additional funding over and above the level prudently assumed within the first draft. The final Settlement has confirmed funding for one year only and has not projected indicative numbers for the remainder of the spending review period. Priority in the Settlement was 'stability in the immediate term' as the pandemic continues to bring challenges and associated financial pressures on councils. Further details of the allocations are set out later in this report.

### **Policy & Financial Planning Framework**

- 4.6 The 2022/23 budget is based on the need to find deliverable cost reductions and additional income to set a balanced budget. The budget is aligned to the delivery of the Council Plan and the strategic principles, set out below, aim to establish a framework for aligning the revenue and capital spending proposals with the Council's strategic priorities:

- That the Council will set a budget that is balanced and sustainable over the medium term that is policy led and aligned with the Council Plan.
- That the Council's medium and long-term financial health is built on solid foundations.
- That risks are identified and managed effectively, and an adequate level of reserves maintained in line with the risks and to protect service delivery.
- That income streams from fees and charges are maximised and increased, where appropriate, based on an assessment of market conditions.
- That, where possible, efficiencies are delivered through organisational development and service transformation.

### **2021/22 Forecast Outturn**

- 4.7 The Council approved the original budget for 2021/22 on 24 February 2021 with a forecast deficit of **£188k**. It was also agreed that the Council Tax be increased by £5 to £174.89 for a Band 'D' property.
- 4.8 The monitoring reports throughout the financial year have set out the impact the coronavirus pandemic has continued to have on the Council's financial position. Income from fees and charges, for sports centres, venues, and car parking, is forecast to be **£1.757m** lower than that forecast in the original estimates. Although the Covid19 Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme was extended until 30 June 2021, it fell significantly short of compensating for lost income. The scheme only allows for 75% of lost income to be claimed after applying a 5% deductible charge based on the approved budget for 2020/21.
- 4.9 The Council has been committed to delivering services within its approved budget and has been working collectively through budget managers to agree clear, robust, and immediate management action plans to address any adverse forecasts. Measures have included the review of non-essential spending, maximising grant opportunities, appropriate charging to other funds and general efficiencies. The latest forecast for 2021/22 shows a small surplus of **£128k**.
- 4.10 Strict budgetary control will continue to the end of the financial year and any surplus at outturn will be used to supplement the Budget Risk reserve.

### **Settlement Funding**



- 4.11 The Local Government Finance Settlement was published on 7 February 2022 and provided further detail to the announcements made in the Spending Review 2021.
- 4.12 To prioritise certainty and stability for 2022/23, the Government has opted for another one year rather than a multiyear settlement. This is the fourth one-year settlement for councils and continues to hamper the ability of councils to undertake effective financial planning and ensure financial sustainability.
- 4.13 The announcement reflected a net increase of **£1.279m** in settlement funding over and above that assumed in the first draft of the budget. The following paragraphs set out the allocations of government funding for 2022/23 and the assumptions we have had to make for future financial years in the absence of further information.
- 4.14 Revenue Support Grant - Authorities will continue to receive Revenue Support grant (RSG) and this has been confirmed at **£458k** for 2022/23. In the absence of further information, our working assumption is that this will continue in some form for the life of the MTFP.
- 4.15 Lower Tier Service Grant - This grant was introduced in 2021/22 to provide damping to authorities with cash-terms reductions in Core Spending Power. We had assumed no further allocation for 2022/23 but this has now been confirmed at **£154k**. Nothing has been included for future financial years.
- 4.16 Service Grant - This is a new, one-off, grant for 2022/23 only and the allocation for Chesterfield has been confirmed as **£233k**. It has been provided in recognition of the vital services delivered by local government and includes funding to cover the increase in employer National Insurance Contributions. The Government has stated a clear intention for this grant to be one-off for 2022/23 but intends to work closely with local government on how to best use this funding from 2023/24 onwards. Nothing has been included for future financial years.
- 4.17 New Homes Bonus (NHB) - The scheme was first introduced in 2011/12 to help address the national housing shortage. The scheme was designed to reward those authorities that increased their housing stock either through new build or by bringing empty properties back into use. Historically, this source of funding has been relatively low for Chesterfield.

- 4.18 A consultation was launched after the 2021/22 settlement on the future of NHB and it was expected that this funding would not continue in its current form, as such, no additional assumption for funding from this source had been included in the first draft of the budget. The Settlement has confirmed a delay to the abolition of this funding and a new allocation for the Council, of **£434k**, based on the numbers of net additional homes delivered, has been confirmed for 2022/23. The Secretary of State for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has stated that the Government's response to the consultation will be published in early 2022. Nothing has been included for future financial years.
- 4.19 Council Tax Referendum Threshold - The Settlement has confirmed referendum levels for 2022/23. District Councils are permitted to increase their share of the Council Tax by the greater of up to 1.99% or £5 without triggering the need to hold a referendum. It is important to note that the Government assumes in the Core Spending Power calculation that councils will increase Council Tax at the maximum allowed level. If the Council, therefore, does not implement at the maximum level, then its spending power would be reduced going forward with no funding from government to mitigate this.

### **Business Rates**

- 4.20 The estimate of business rates income for 2022/23 was approved by the Employment & General Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The estimated level of business rates income is **£36.0m** and the Council's 40% share **£14.415m**. Under the retained Business Rates system any authority whose Business Rates income is more than their initial 'baseline' funding level, as is the case for Chesterfield, will pay the balance in the form of a tariff to the Government and this is used to fund other local authorities where their Business Rates are disproportionately low. The final estimate of business rates income, after the tariff payment to the Government, is **£5.102m** for 2022/23.
- 4.21 The business rates baseline was due to be reset in 2022/23, however this has been delayed until at least 2023/24. The current business rates system allows councils to retain a proportion of the growth in the local business rates tax base, however this will be lost during any baseline resetting exercise. The proposed reset represents a significant funding risk to the Council that hinders its ability to plan over the Medium Term.
- 4.22 To help mitigate against these losses we have assumed no further growth in business rates income after the financial year 2022/23.

- 4.23 Chesterfield is a member of the Derbyshire Business Rates Pool and the MTFP assumes a return of **£300k** from the pool in all financial years.
- 4.24 The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on 2021/22 business rates income through revaluations, other changes to the rating list and a reduction in collection rates. Additional provision of **£849k** has been made in relation to these elements.
- 4.25 Each financial year we are required to calculate the surplus/deficit on the business rates element of the Collection Fund. Due to in-year changes in the business rates relief scheme and the timing of government announcements, a deficit of £7.05m is forecast at the end of March 2022. The Council's share is **£2.8m** and this has been included in the MTFP.
- 4.26 The Government, however, has provided compensation to local authorities to mitigate the impact of this in the form of a Section 31 grant in 2021/22 and this grant has been transferred to the business rates reserve to help reduce the deficit on the Collection Fund in 2022/23. The Business Rates reserve has also been utilised to smooth the impact on the MTFP over the next 2 financial years.
- 4.27 Markham Vale Enterprise Zone - Annual business rates generated from the Enterprise Zone can be retained by the Council for a period of 25 years after the formation of the Zone. The Council is estimated to receive **£1.9m** in 2022/23 and for all years of the MTFP. In December 2019 the Council gave approval as part of a report on Business Rates policy for Markham Vale Enterprise Zone for three key programme areas for investment: key projects delivery, economic growth activities, and skills activities; and that the funding should be particularly targeted at unlocking and accelerating key developments and sites and delivering better outcomes for local communities.

### **Fair Funding Review**

- 4.28 There are now very strong expectations that changes to local government funding will be implemented in 2023/24. These reforms have been delayed from 2019 due to Brexit and the pandemic. A consultation on potential reforms is expected in the Spring of 2022, the scope of which is still unclear, and this was reflected in the one-year finance settlement. This means that funding levels over the medium term continue to remain speculative beyond the next financial year.

## Budget 2022/23 and Updated Medium Term Plans

- 4.29 The first draft of the budget was presented to Cabinet on 14 December and the report set out gaps of **£584k** in 2022/23 rising to **£992k** in 2025/26. This section provides an update to the first draft of the budget and reflects the latest assumptions, government announcements and final settlement.
- 4.30 The budget has been constructed in accordance with the budget principles and is **balanced for the first 2 financial years** with an expectation that savings delivered through the Council's emerging Organisational Development Programme will play a key role in balancing the latter 2 financial years of the MTFP. The budget has been risk assessed and reflects the current Council Plan 2019-23 priorities.
- 4.31 The approved budget for 2021/22 included approved savings proposals for future years; these have been reviewed and Table 1 sets out the savings proposals that remain included in the 2022/23 to 2025/26 proposals. This includes savings of **£660k** in 2022/23, the most significant of which is the saving to be delivered through the ICT improvement programme. The delivery of these savings is actively monitored to ensure cashable, ongoing savings are achieved.

Table 1: Approved Savings Proposals (cumulative)

Approved Savings	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Vat cultural exemption from venues	(100)	(103)	(106)	(109)
Procurement	(116)	(118)	(120)	(122)
ICT Savings (balance)	(444)	(631)	(815)	(830)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(660)</b>	<b>(852)</b>	<b>(1,041)</b>	<b>(1,061)</b>

### Cost Pressures

- 4.32 The first draft of the budget identified new cost pressures of **£1.6m** in 2022/23 rising to **£1.7m** by 2025/26. The details are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: New Cost Pressures

Cost Pressure	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Recycling Contract	886	904	922	941

Vicar Lane Shopping Centre	142	142	142	142
Reduced Fees and Charges (Sports)	240	0	0	0
Additional Pay inflation	132	129	142	142
Removal of redundancy savings	200	300	400	500
<b>Total Cost Pressures</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>1,725</b>

4.33 Recycling Contract - Additional costs following the existing contractor entering administration and appointment of an alternative provider of this service.

4.34 Vicar Lane Shopping Centre – Reduced rental income.

4.35 Additional Pay Inflation - the original budget assumed a pay award of **1%** for 2021/22 and **2%** across all years of the MTFP. At the time of writing the report the national pay offer for 2021/22 has yet to be agreed. The additional sums reflect the impact of a potential additional pay offer of up to **1.75%** in 2021/22.

4.36 Reduced Fees and Charges - the medium-term forecast assumes that levels of expenditure and income will return to normal from 2022/23 except for sports centre income which we anticipate will take one year longer to recover.

4.37 Removal of Voluntary Redundancy Savings – the original budget included a voluntary redundancy target saving of **£200k** rising to **£500k** in 2025/26. This saving has been removed as it is unlikely to be achieved in addition to the voluntary redundancy/voluntary early retirement savings that are being delivered through the ICT improvement programme and the yet to be approved Organisation Development programme.

### Other Adjustments

4.38 There are several other adjustments that have been made to the base estimate and these are set out in table 3 below:

Other Adjustments	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Pavements Shopping Centre (net)	(592)	(584)	(577)	(569)
Other movements @ December	115	123	(19)	(26)
Further movements	13	29	46	8
Housing Reshape (net cost) - Strategic and Statutory Housing Functions	44	45	47	48

<b>Total</b>	<b>(420)</b>	<b>(387)</b>	<b>(503)</b>	<b>(539)</b>
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

- 4.39 Pavements Shopping Centre – the buyout of the superior landlord’s interest in the Pavements Shopping Centre was legally completed on 7 July 2021. This will achieve a budget saving of **£723k** in 21/22. The position will change in future financial years as the saving to the Council of not having to meet the contractual annual minimum rent payment of **£963k** will be offset by the annual cost of borrowing to fund the acquisition of **c£380k**.
- 4.40 Other net movements- this includes the impact of changes in budget assumptions, for example on CPI/RPI rates, which inevitably change from one budget cycle to the next.
- 4.41 Further net movements are those budget changes which have taken place to finalise the budget and include a contribution from reserves to fund the tier 4 posts through 2023/24, updated income projections and funding assumptions.
- 4.42 The Housing Directorate Reshape sets out the rational and vision for reshaping the Directorate in a phased approach. It establishes a new staffing structure and ways of working that provide leadership, operational capacity to deliver cohesive proactive customer focused services. The additional cost is for the provision of key statutory functions including homelessness and private sector housing which are General Fund Services.

### **Savings and Efficiency Proposals**

- 4.43 The first draft of the budget set out several new savings and efficiency proposals to address the budget gaps and these are set out below. Some of these proposals are one off and, as such, will fall out in future financial years. A one-off ICT saving, linked to bringing forward savings as part of a service re-shape in revenues and benefits service, has been removed from 2022/23 due to the additional work now being undertaken in relation to the distribution of rates reliefs and small business grants to businesses.

Proposal	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Crematorium Surplus	(110)	(55)	(55)	(55)
Local Government Boundary Review	0	(49)	(49)	(49)
Posts charged to Economic Development activity	(40)	(40)	(40)	(5)

Flexible use of capital receipts to fund business transformation	(117)	(119)	(121)	0
Economic Development Costs funded from Markham Vale Business Rates Retention Reserve	(55)	(55)	(55)	0
Review of funding for Events and Festivals	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Recharging running costs of depot to HRA	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)
Organisational Development Initial Proposals				
• Review of sports centre customer service offer	0	(30)	(30)	(30)
• Review of the provision of the Visitor Information Service	(15)	(40)	(40)	(40)
<b>Total proposals</b>	<b>(477)</b>	<b>(528)</b>	<b>(530)</b>	<b>(319)</b>

4.44 Further details relating to the new proposals are set out below:

- **Surplus on Crematorium** – additional fees and charges income from the crematorium and a one-off allocation from the Crematorium Reserve following a review of the adequacy of reserves.
- **Local Government Boundary Review** – reduction in costs associated with the number of councillors falling from 48 to 40 from May 2023 based on the outcome of the review.
- **Effective and appropriate charging of General Fund revenue activities** – This includes the use of Enterprise Zone funds to fund economic development activity, ensuring the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is appropriately charged for asset use i.e., Depot and, flexible use of capital receipts to fund transformation activity. This is subject to the confirmation of the previously announced capital receipts flexibility being extended to 2024/25. £117k contribution from the Budget Risk reserve will be required in 2022/23 to offset this saving if the flexibility is not extended.
- **Organisational Development Initial Proposals**
  - **Review of the provision of the Visitor Information Service** – this proposal is informed by the draft Visitor Economy Strategy and our existing ICT improvement programme and aims to align service provision with customer needs and expectations. This proposal will be subject to further work and appropriate consultation.

- **Review of Sports Centre customer service offer** – this proposal is aligned with the customer relationship management changes that will be made through the implementation of a new leisure management system (Gladstone) which will offer enhanced end to end customer experience.

## Council Tax & Collection Fund

4.45 The overall Council Tax base for 2022/23 has been calculated and set at 29,858, an increase of just over 2% from 2021/22. This provides an additional **£79k** pa for the MTFP. The Tax Base provides an estimate of how much each £1 of Council Tax would raise and is expressed in terms of an equivalent number of Band 'D' dwellings in the borough. The Employment and General Committee approved the Tax Base on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 as set out in Table 5. The MTFP assumes 0.5% growth for future financial years.

Table 5: Tax Base – number of band 'D' equivalent properties				
Area	2021/22	2022/23	Increase / (Decrease)	
			No.	%
Brimington Parish	2,408.75	2,405.15	(3.60)	(0.1)
Staveley Town	4,243.38	4,378.04	134.66	3.2
Chesterfield Area	22,616.83	23,074.93	458.10	2.0
<b>Total</b>	29,268.96	29,858.12	589.16	2.0

4.46 To help maintain and protect current levels of service provision the budget forecasts assume a Council Tax increase of £5 in line with the referendum limit set by the Government. The referendum threshold was confirmed by government as part of the Local Government Financial Settlement. The limit for 2022/23 has been set at 1.99% but with an additional concession for district councils, which allows them to increase their Council Tax by a maximum of £5 or 1.99%, whichever is the higher. The £5 increase is equivalent to an increase of 2.86% and would have the following impact on local taxpayers:

- For a Band 'A' property (more than half the properties in the Borough), the increase is equivalent to an extra **£3.33** per annum or **6.4** pence per week
- For a Band 'D' property, the increase is equivalent to an extra **£5.00** per annum or **9.6** pence per week



- 4.47 A £5 Council Tax increase will contribute an additional **£149k** per annum to be invested in local service provision. The Council's share of the overall Council Tax bill is approximately 10%.
- 4.48 Collection Fund Balance – The estimated year-end balance is a surplus of £600k, as reported to Cabinet on 18th January 2022. This surplus is shared amongst the major precepting authorities; the Borough's share is **£60,490** (10.08%).
- 4.49 The forecast position last financial year was for an increase in the level of arrears due to the impact of the pandemic on household's disposable income. To help spread the impact of the deficits the Government announced legislation to enable the 2020/21 deficits to be repaid over three financial years. The MTFP therefore includes the second year's share of the 2020/21 Council Tax Collection Fund deficit of **£22,383**.
- 4.50 Local Council Tax Support Scheme - Since 2013/14, the Council has operated a local scheme which requires property occupiers of working age to pay at least the first 8.5% of the Council Tax liability for their property. The 'taper', i.e., the rate at which support is withdrawn as income increases, is set at 20%. Those of pensionable age continue to receive up to 100% support. The scheme is to remain unchanged for 2022/23. The Council will continue to work with individuals and the local advice agencies to ensure that those experiencing difficulties paying their Council Tax bills will receive appropriate advice and support.
- 4.51 Council Tax Rebate - On 3 February, in response to increasing energy costs, the Government announced that properties in Bands A to D would be eligible for a **£150** payment towards their Council Tax bills in April 2022. Full details of how the payment will be administered are awaited from the Government. It is however known that payments will be made outside the council tax system and will not affect either Council Tax setting or the Collection Fund. The Government has also stated that local authorities would be refunded for the cost of the rebate, plus funding to help with the administrative costs.
- 4.52 In addition, **£144m** of funding is being provided to local authorities nationally to provide support to eligible households living in Band E- H properties. The level of the Council's allocation is yet to be confirmed.

### **Balancing the budget**

4.53 Table 6 sets out the latest budget position, taking account of the original budget estimates from February 2021 and all the changes referenced in this report. The first two financial years of the MTFP are balanced but there are gaps still to be closed in years 3 and 4. It is however recognised that the yet to be finalised savings which are to be delivered through the Council's emerging Organisational Development programme will play a key role in covering these gaps.

Table 6: Updated budget				
Gap	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Existing MTFP gaps @ Feb 2021	12	292	77	181
New Cost Pressures	1,600	1,475	1,606	1,725
Other adjustments	(420)	(387)	(503)	(539)
Savings and Efficiency Proposals	(477)	(528)	(530)	(319)
Business rates reserve	749	(267)	0	0
Council Tax base and increase	(185)	(127)	(131)	(137)
Impact of LGFS	(1,279)	(458)	(458)	(458)
<b>Budget Gaps</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>453</b>

4.54 The Organisational Development (OD) Strategy has been adopted with the aim of achieving “a joined-up approach to aligning resources, working practices and performance with the strategic ambition of the Council; shaping capability and culture to enable resilient delivery of our priorities”. This approach will support the development of our MTFP.

4.55 Work is now underway to finalise the OD Programme to give effect to the Strategy. Preliminary analysis suggests that further savings will be achievable, more significantly in the latter years of the MTFP, estimated at up to **c£800k** by 2025/26 for projects in development. It is however, only when detailed business cases have been completed that savings from these projects will be included within the MTFP.

4.56 It is envisaged that additional investment will be required to support the delivery of the OD Programme and further work is ongoing to identify the level and nature of resources required.

4.57 All project proposals will be assessed against a clear set of design principles that describe the way the Council will operate in the future, to ensure they produce any forecast savings, continue to modernise the operation of the Council, and deliver better facilities and services and outcomes for our communities.

- 4.58 Subject to confirmation by the Government, the Council intends to utilise capital receipts flexibility to part fund the OD Programme, the principles of which were approved by Council on 28th April 2021. At this stage, **£500k** will be ringfenced to fund programme support and pump priming to ensure that we have the appropriate skills and resources to deliver change. The use of £357k of this funding flexibility is proposed to be allocated against existing dedicated business transformation staff resources, who will support the delivery of the OD programme. The Council's flexible use of capital receipts to fund transformation projects will continue to be subject to development and approval of robust business cases. The business cases will need to demonstrate that: the initiative will transform services, generate future savings or reduce future costs, and the costs being funded are implementation or set up costs and not on-going operational costs. Drawdown will be subject to Cabinet approval. Further details in relation to the flexible use of capital receipts are set out in section **4.61**.
- 4.59 A separate report will be presented to a future Cabinet, setting out the approach that the Council will take to the delivery of the OD Programme, including the proposed governance arrangements, the development and design principles, the aims, objectives and forecast outcomes for the strategic delivery areas and details of the initial projects to be brought forward within the programme.
- 4.60 Service Improvements and Redesign – The OD programme is part of the process of changing the Council's approach to service delivery by focusing on the outcomes that we are seeking to achieve and undertaking the essential service redesign to ensure that these are achieved in a more effective and efficient manner. Whilst the Programme will inevitably focus on cost reduction and achieving value for money, there are other service outcomes that are equally important. The service redesign reserve was initially set up to support ICT improvements as part of the ICT programme. It is recommended that the scope of this reserve is extended to support future service improvements promoted through the OD programme.

### **Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy**

- 4.61 As part of the November 2015 Spending Review, the Government announced that it would introduce flexibility for local authorities to use capital receipts from the sale of non-housing assets to fund the revenue costs of service reform and transformation on condition that these activities would generate ongoing savings to an authority's net service expenditure. Guidance on the use of this flexibility was issued in March

2016 which applied to the financial years 2016/17 to 2018/19. In December 2017 the Government confirmed that this flexibility would be extended for a further three years to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and in December 2020 announced a possible further extension to March 2025.

- 4.62 The Government has also provided a definition of expenditure which qualifies to be funded from capital receipts. This is:

*“Qualifying expenditure is expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services in future years for any of the public sector delivery partners. Within this definition, it is for individual local authorities to decide whether or not a project qualifies for the flexibility.”*

### Reserves

- 4.63 General Fund Balance – The General Fund working balance has been set at **£1.5m**, equivalent to **c17%** of the Council’s budget requirement, and has been informed by the detailed risk assessment undertaken as part of the budget process. The on-going financial risks associated with the impact of Covid19 on the Council’s financial position, the business rates retention scheme and other funding sources would suggest that it imprudent to consider reducing this amount. Details of the updated assessment of financial risks and uncertainties is provided in **Appendix C**.
- 4.64 Earmarked Reserves - In addition to the General Working Balance the Council maintains several other reserves. Earmarked reserves, by their very nature, are set aside and committed for specific purposes, such as property repairs and vehicle & plant replacements.
- 4.65 Table 7 below shows a summary projection of the General Fund Reserves at 1 April 2022. The summary of useable reserves excludes the General Working Balance of **£1.5m**, S106 and Community Infrastructure sums.

Type	Balance @ April 2022 £000
Budget Risk Reserve	1,355
Business Rates Reserve	4,418
Insurance Reserve/ Provision	923

Repairs and Maintenance - various	1,691
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	852
Service Redesign/ service improvement	765
Other - various	1,640
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>11,644</b>

## Risks and Uncertainties

4.66 The budget estimates are based on the best available information but inevitably there is a degree of risk and uncertainty in some of the assumptions made. Details of the most significant risks and uncertainties are provided in **Appendix C** and set out below:

- Inflation - CPI Inflation rose to above 3% from September 2021 and the increase is expected to persist to the end of the 2021/22 financial year, driven largely by energy and goods prices. This will impact on Council budgets in the form of higher operational costs, and potentially lower income as households face 'cost of living' pressures.
- Covid-19 Pandemic - the scarring costs include increased demands on services and loss of income e.g., Business Rates and Council Tax collection.
- Revenue implications of capital schemes - a refresh of business cases relating to the council's growth agenda will be needed to assess the impact of the pandemic on pre-pandemic forecasts e.g., the financing costs of borrowing.
- The Government's Fair Funding Review (review of relative needs and resources)
- The planned Business Rates baseline reset in 2023/24
- The level and nature of Business Rates appeals/valuation changes
- Impact of the recent Levelling up White Paper and any emerging devolution framework
- Non achievement of savings plans i.e., ICT Improvement Programme and other savings action plans
- The Government's flexible use of capital receipts policy currently ends in March 2022 but is expected to be extended.
- Financing the 10-year property maintenance programme – A new Asset Management Plan with up-to-date condition survey is currently being drafted
- Fully funding the next iteration of the climate change strategy and action plan

## Financial Stability and Resilience

- 4.67 The Local Government Act 2003 (section 25) requires the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to report on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of financial reserves when the statutory calculations to determine the Council Tax are reported. The CFO is the officer responsible for administration of the Council's financial affairs for the purposes of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.68 Robustness of estimates – subject to the risks and uncertainties highlighted elsewhere in this report and in **Appendix C**, the CFO is satisfied that the estimates are based on the best available information and that procedures are in place to ensure the estimates are accurate and reliable. Budget responsibility is devolved to service managers supported by finance colleagues. A robust approach to risk management minimises the inherent risks and uncertainties in the forecasting process.
- 4.69 The Council recognises the importance of individual and collective accountability and requires managers to actively manage and monitor their budgets throughout the financial year and to undertake any required corrective action at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.70 Levels of reserves - details of the Council's reserves are provided in **sections 4.63 – 4.65** above and in **Appendix B**. The General Fund minimum working balance is being maintained at **£1.5m** to recognise the financial risks the Council currently faces particularly in relation to Business Rates income and the Council's continuing response to the Covid19 pandemic. The updated Budget Risk and Sensitivity Analysis in **Appendix C** also supports the General Fund minimum working balance being maintained at this level.
- 4.71 Housing Revenue Account reserves – The HRA budget is set out in a separate report to this Cabinet. The working balance levels allow sufficient monies for the funding of future years' Capital Programme, the repayment of the debt, as well as an amount of **£3.4m** as being the minimum required to cover unexpected events such as falling investment income or increased costs.
- 4.72 The Council's policy on the use of reserves remains to use earmarked reserves for their intended purposes and to defray any surplus reserves for investment in the Council's priorities and/or in improvement / transformation programmes which are designed to produce on-going revenue budget savings.

- 4.73 The Council's reserves are considered adequate for 2022/23. The position in future financial years will depend on the Council's success in delivering planned budget savings and its ability to apply surpluses to maintain and bolster the levels of both earmarked and unearmarked reserves.
- 4.74 Whilst legislation requires that the CFO comments on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves, good practice requires consideration of two further matters.
- 4.75 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has developed a **Financial Resilience Index** which is a comparative analytical tool to support good financial management. The index illustrates a range of measures associated with financial risk including levels of reserves as a proportion of the Council's overall budget.
- 4.76 CIPFA has also produced a **Financial Management Code** to support good financial management and demonstrate a local authority's financial sustainability, giving assurance that an authority is managing its resources effectively. Compliance with this Code will help strengthen the framework that surrounds the Council's financial decision making.
- 4.77 The Code is based on a set of principles supported by specific standards and statements which are considered necessary to help councils manage their finances in the short and medium term and demonstrate financial resilience to meet unforeseen demands on services and unexpected challenges in their financial circumstances.
- 4.78 Compliance with the Code is required for 2021/22. To demonstrate the Council's compliance with the Code, an audit of our procedures was undertaken by the Head of Internal Audit in January 2021. The audit delivered a 'Substantial' assurance rating with just one medium priority recommendation made.

### **Consultation**

- 4.79 The consultation meeting with the business ratepayers' representatives took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. Issues discussed included current business rates relief schemes, the Council's administration of Covid19 business grant schemes, planned changes to the business rates system, the Council's budget forecasts and the Council's options with regards increasing Council Tax in the coming financial year.

### **Other Local Council Taxes**

- 4.80 The special items to be added to the tax in **parished areas** are:
- **Staveley Town Council** – Band ‘D’ tax increased by 2.5% to £101.53 (£99.05 in 2021/22); &
  - **Brimington Parish Council** – Band ‘D’ tax increased by 2.18% to £22.92 (£22.43 in 2021/22).
- 4.81 Derbyshire County Council resolved on 24th January 2022 to increase its Council Tax by 3.0% to £1,424.56 for a Band ‘D’ Taxpayer (£1,383.07 in 2021/22).
- 4.82 Derbyshire’s Police & Crime Commissioner set the Constabulary’s precept and Council Tax on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – the Band ‘D’ tax will be £251.60, an increase of £10 (4.1%) (£241.60 in 2021/22).
- 4.83 The Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority set its precept and Council Tax on 10th February 2022 – the Band ‘D’ tax will be £80.84, an increase of 1.98% (£79.27 in 2021/22).
- 4.84 Details of the Council Taxes for each major preceptor and by each tax band are shown in **Appendix E** (to follow)

### **Calculation of Expenditure**

- 4.85 The calculation of expenditure required under Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 is shown at **Appendix D**.

## **5 Alternative options**

- 5.1 There are other options in terms of increasing Council Tax by a lesser amount, but this would put pressure on already stretched Council resources. The Council is facing a number of future risks and uncertainties, and these are set out in the body of the report and within **section 4.66**. This is the fourth one-year settlement for councils and continues to hamper the ability to undertake effective financial planning and ensure financial sustainability.
- 5.2 A £5 Council Tax increase will contribute an additional **£149k** per annum to be invested in local service provision. Chesterfield is a relatively low tax-base council with most properties in band A and B. Any increase in Council Tax will raise less additional revenues than higher tax-base authorities.



- 5.3 It is important to note that the Government assumes in the Core Spending Power calculation that councils will increase Council Tax at the maximum allowed level. If the Council, therefore, does not implement at the maximum level, then its spending power would be reduced going forward with no funding from Government to mitigate this.

## **6 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

- 6.1 In preparing the budget estimates for the coming financial year and updating the MTFP, detailed consideration has been given to the need for the Council's finances to be at levels appropriate to enable the Council to deliver in full on the priorities and objectives that it has set itself for the remaining term of the Council Plan through March 2023.
- 6.2 The preparation of sustainable and balanced budgets over the medium term is also a key activity in contributing to delivery of the third Council Plan priority 'delivering value for money services.

## **7 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

- 7.1 The report in its entirety deals with financial and value for money implications.

## **8 Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 8.1 It is a statutory requirement under Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for the Council to produce a balanced budget. Before setting the level of the Council Tax the Council must have agreed a balanced budget, differentiated by services, which is sufficient to meet estimated revenue expenditure, levies, contingencies, any deficit estimate brought forward from previous financial years, and any amounts required to be transferred between funds. The Council Tax itself must be sufficient to cover the difference between the agreed budget less government grants credited to the income and expenditure account, and any other expenditure which must be met from the Collection Fund, less any surplus (or plus any deficit) brought forward from previous financial years.

## **9 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

- 9.1 There are no human resource implications to consider in this report.

## **10 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

10.1 There are a number of significant risks inherent in any budget forecasting exercise and these risks increase as the period covered increases. The most significant budget risks have already been referenced, in summary form, at **section 4.66** and a more detailed budget risks and sensitivity analysis is included at **Appendix C**.

## **11 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing**

11.1 Although there are no direct community wellbeing implications to consider in this report, the ability for the Council to appropriately manage its day-to-day finances and to be able to achieve a balanced budget position is critical to the continued delivery of the full range of council services that are targeted at supporting community wellbeing across the borough.

## **12 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills**

12.1 Although there are no direct economy and skills implications to consider in this report, the ability for the Council to appropriately manage its day-to-day finances and to be able to achieve a balanced budget position is critical to the continued delivery of the full range of council services that are targeted at supporting the economy and skills and employability across the borough.

## **13 Implications for consideration – Climate Change**

13.1 Individual climate change impact assessments are not required for the budget process. These are included as part of the decision-making processes for specific spending options.

## **14 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

14.1 Individual equality and diversity impact assessments are not required for the budget process. These are included as part of the decision-making processes for specific spending options.

### **Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1082</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### **Document information**

<b>Report author</b>	<b>Contact number/email</b>
Theresa Channell	Theresa.channell@chesterfield.gov.uk
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A	General Fund Revenue Budget Summary
Appendix B	Reserves & Balances
Appendix C	Budget Risks & Sensitivity Analysis
Appendix D	Section 32 Statement
Appendix E	Council Taxes – marked to follow

This page is intentionally left blank

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE ESTIMATES SUMMARY

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£	£	£	£
Leader of the Council	34,050	34,440	34,240	34,700
Deputy Leader of the Council	1,220,680	1,183,210	1,161,120	1,154,960
Cabinet Member for Economic Growth	(392,540)	(416,810)	(341,820)	(313,050)
Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Visitor Economy	21,220	224,720	54,430	5,300
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	8,818,890	8,496,040	8,499,220	8,539,820
Cabinet Member for Housing (GF)	882,630	902,020	994,450	1,019,170
Cabinet Member for Governance	2,635,680	2,855,170	2,776,160	2,816,310
Cabinet Member for Business Transformation	2,705,664	2,712,161	2,718,016	2,760,723
<b>Portfolios Total</b>	<b>15,926,274</b>	<b>15,990,951</b>	<b>15,895,816</b>	<b>16,017,933</b>
Crematorium surplus	(275,000)	(275,000)	(275,000)	(275,000)
<b>ICT Digital Innovation Savings Target</b>	<b>(825,023)</b>	<b>(1,022,997)</b>	<b>(1,216,071)</b>	<b>(1,240,393)</b>
<b>ICT Digital Innovation Savings Achieved</b>	<b>380,820</b>	<b>391,840</b>	<b>400,730</b>	<b>409,880</b>
<b>Balanced Budget - Savings Plans</b>	<b>(693,253)</b>	<b>(749,093)</b>	<b>(756,053)</b>	<b>(550,700)</b>
MHCLG Covid19 Grant	0	0	0	0
MHCLG Covid19 Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation	0	0	0	0
CJRS Grant	0	0	0	0
Local Council Tax Compensation Grant	0	0	0	0
Staff vacancy / attendance allowance	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)
<b>Total Service Expenditure</b>	<b>14,263,818</b>	<b>14,085,701</b>	<b>13,799,422</b>	<b>14,111,721</b>
Interest & capital charges	(2,299,165)	(1,885,252)	(1,815,201)	(1,495,902)
Contrib to/(from) Digital Innovation Reserve	0	0	0	0
Contrib to/(from) Service Improve't Reserve	(124,280)	(36,000)	0	0
Contrib to/(from) Revenue Risk Reserve	(97,020)	0	0	0
Contrib to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(711,997)	(753,178)	(528,432)	(532,744)
Contrib to/(from) Business Rate Reserve	(1,889,465)	(394,772)	(96,828)	(64,975)
Council tax support grants to parishes	6,611	0	0	0
Contribution to Vehicle & Plant Fund	106,000	106,000	106,000	106,000
Lower Tier Services grant	(154,329)	0	0	0
Services Grant	(232,562)	0	0	0
New Homes Bonus	(439,671)	0	0	0
Bad debt provision	50,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Other Income	(30,500)	(30,500)	(30,500)	(30,500)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) - savings target</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(60,577)</b>	<b>(453,807)</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,447,439</b>	<b>11,116,999</b>	<b>11,398,884</b>	<b>11,664,793</b>

<b>Total Savings Target</b>	<b>(1,137,456)</b>	<b>(1,380,250)</b>	<b>(1,631,971)</b>	<b>(1,835,020)</b>
-----------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

<b>Financed By:</b>				
RSG	457,937	457,937	457,937	457,937
Business Rates Baseline	3,373,521	3,457,859	3,544,306	3,632,913
<b>Settlement Funding</b>	<b>3,831,458</b>	<b>3,915,796</b>	<b>4,002,243</b>	<b>4,090,850</b>
Retained Business Rates	1,561,523	1,261,717	1,293,260	1,325,591
Retained Business Rates Growth	166,959	156,409	160,319	164,327
Business Rates pooling	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
NNDR Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,821,785)	0	0	0
Council Tax Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	38,107	(22,383)	0	0
Council Tax (taxbase x tax below)	5,371,177	5,505,460	5,643,062	5,784,025
<b>TOTAL FINANCING</b>	<b>8,447,439</b>	<b>11,116,999</b>	<b>11,398,884</b>	<b>11,664,793</b>

This page is intentionally left blank

**MOVEMENTS ON RESERVES**

Appendix B

Reserves	Purpose	B/Fwd	2021/22	B/Fwd	2022/23	B/Fwd	2023/24	B/Fwd	2024/25	B/Fwd	2025/26	B/Fwd	2026/27	B/Fwd
		1st Apr 21 £'000	In /(out) £'000	1st Apr 22 £'000	In /(out) £'000	1st Apr 23 £'000	In /(out) £'000	1st Apr 24 £'000	In /(out) £'000	1st Apr 25 £'000	In /(out) £'000	1st Apr 26 £'000	In /(out) £'000	1st Apr 27 £'000
Vehicles & Plant	Replacement fund	644	477 (731)	390	477 (550)	317	477 (550)	244	477 (550)	171	477 (550)	98	477 (550)	25
Wheeled Bins Replacement Fund	Replacement fund	87	95 (100)	82	95 (100)	77	95 (100)	72	95 (100)	67	95 (100)	62	95 (100)	57
Property Repairs	Even-out 10 year repairs programme	688	1,244 (1,200)	732	1,244 (1,200)	776	1,244 (1,200)	820	1,244 (1,200)	864	1,244 (1,200)	908	1,244 (1,200)	952
ICT Reserve	Replacement fund	514	200 (400)	314	200 (400)	114	200 (314)	0	200 (200)	0	200 (200)	0	200 (200)	0
DLO/DSO Reserve	Provision for improvements	560	- (22)	538	-	538	-	538	-	538	-	538	-	538
General	Transferred to reserves (repurposed OSD remedial provision)	0	789 (48)	741	(129)	612	(81)	531		531		531		531
Museum Exhibits	Opportunity purchases fund	25	-	25	-	25	-	25	-	25	-	25	-	25
Theatre Restoration	Improvements to theatre/WW from levy on ticket sales	105	25	130	50	180	50	230	90	320	150 (150)	320	150 (150)	320
Insurance Reserve - claims not yet reported	Self insurance element claims not yet reported	920	(150)	770	(150)	620	(150)	470		470		470		470
MMI - Insurance Reserve	To fund liability of claims unpaid due to MMI insolvency	153		153	-	153	-	153	-	153	-	153	-	153
Repaid Improvement Grants	Private sector grants clawed back from recipients	153	70 (92)	131	70 (43)	158	70 (44)	184	70 (45)	209	70 (46)	233	70 (47)	256
Planning LDF Review	Provision for cost of LDF review	66	15 0	81	15 0	96	15 -	111	15 -	126	15 (120)	21	15 -	36
Flood Restoration	Flood defence/prevention	51	- (33)	18	-	18	-	18	-	18	-	18	-	18
New Home Bonus		0	15 (15)	0	440 (440)	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	- -	0
Service Redesign		676	- (79)	597	- (42)	555	-	555	-	555	-	555	-	555
Business Rate Reserve		9,500	2,080 (7,162)	4,418	0 (1,889)	2,529	- (395)	2,134	- (97)	2,037	- (65)	1,972	-	1,972
Budget Risks Reserve	To cover future budget risks	1,809	0 (454)	1,355	- (122)	1,233	- 0	1,233	0	1,233	0	1,233	-	1,233
Service Improvement		300	0 (132)	168	0 (124)	44	- (36)	8	-	8	-	8	-	8
Covid19 Government Funding		0	644 (644)	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
Northern Gateway Reserve		149	-	149	- 0	149	-	149	- (149)	0	-	0	-	0
S106 Contributions		522	- 0	522	- (15)	507	- (15)	492	- (10)	482	- 0	482	- 0	482
ICT Digital Innovation		31	10 (41)	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
Enterprise Zone Business Rates		1,411	1,925 (2,484)	852	1,963 (1,561)	1,254	2,003 (1,440)	1,817	2,043 (1,460)	2,400	2,084 (1,475)	3,009	2,125 (1,500)	3,634
General Fund Working Balance	Required to prevent supplementary in year council tax increase	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>19,864</b>	<b>(6,198)</b>	<b>13,666</b>	<b>(2,211)</b>	<b>11,455</b>	<b>(171)</b>	<b>11,284</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>11,707</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>12,136</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>12,765</b>

This page is intentionally left blank



## KEY BUDGET RISKS &amp; SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS 2022/23

Description	Budget Risk	Risk Assessment			Containment Actions			Progress
		Probability	Impact	Value £000'S	What	Who	When	
Achieving income targets - leisure, car parks, etc	Net expenditure falls if economy severely dips, impact of Covid19 pandemic or switch to competitors. 5% of budgets.	Med	High	315	Base budgets adjusted. Monthly budget monitoring + marketing & promotional activities.	Service Managers	Monthly	
Benefits - high spend £23.3m with complicated grant scheme.	Increase in expd with less than 100% subsidy. Failure to Comply with Regulations	Low	High	200	Regular monitoring of claims processed. Staff Training	Benefits Manager	Quarterly	
Ind & Comm. Property portfolio - reduced rent income during economic downturn and due to disposals to generate capital receipts.	Industrial & commercial £50k. Vicar Lane £100k Pavements £500k	Med	High	900	Monitor voids/ business cases. Flexible Payments for existing. Planned Disposal Programme	Estates Officer	Monthly	
Any other unforeseen significant expenditure		High	High	250	Maintain adequate working balance/ insurance fund + effective risk mgt and monitoring additional cost pressures as a result of the Covid19 Pandemic	SLT, CLT, budget holders, Accty	On-going	
Provision for Bad Debts		High	High	250	Regular monitoring level of debtors and collection rates.	Finance	On-going	
VAT - 5% exempt limit exceeded	Limit exceeded £250k un-recoverable plus excess amount.	Low	High	400	Monitoring	Deputy Chief Accountant	Monthly	
MMI – risk of insolvent run-off following recent ruling on EL claims.	'Clawback' beyond the £345k provision (£1.4m claims settled).	Low	High	100	Clawback rate currently 25%. Provision of £348k established and in line with Insurance Fund review completed in 2019/20.	CFO	On-going	
ICT Digital Innovation Savings	Failure to achieve savings	Med	Low	-	Monitor progress against targets early in 2022/23	CFO / CLT / CLT	On-going	
Balanced Budget Savings Plan	Failure to achieve savings	Med	Low	500	Monitor progress against targets early in 2022/23	CFO / SLT / CLT	On-going	
Property Maintenance - 10 year maintenance programme	Condition Survey. AMT in progress. undertaken. Potential additional requirements	High	Medium	1,500	Asset Management Strategy and Plan will inform outcome and actions need to address	Executive Director	On-going	
Achieving vacant post saving targets	15% of £250k target	Low	Med	38	Target monitoring required monthly on staff turnover	CFO/HR	Quarterly	
Localisation of council tax support	Increased take-up by pensioners or working age and full implementation of universal credit.	Med	Med	25	Monitoring claims and income so remedial action taken ASAP.	CFO	Monthly	
Potential Business Rates Reset	Impact on Growth above baseline	High	High	1,500	Business Rates Risk reserve set up to mitigate risk / Transitional arrangements likely	CFO	Awaiting consultation from Government	
Business Rates Pool	Potential changes in pooling arrangement / Declining business rates growth £300k exposure 50%	High	High	300	Business Rates Risk reserve set up to mitigate risk / Transitional arrangements likely	CFO	Quarterly	

Gen Fund Rev Budget	Total exposure			6,278	
	Allowance %	Prob	Total £000	Allow £000	Impact assessment:
Risk allowance	90%	High	2,300	2,070	High = £50k or more
	60%	Med	1,740	1,044	Med = £10k-£49k
	30%	Low	2,238	671	Low = less than £10k
Risk allowance			6,278	3,785	

This page is intentionally left blank

## CALCULATION OF EXPENDITURE – SECTION 32 LGFA '92

	<b>2022/23 £</b>
Gross Expenditure – Chesterfield Borough Council	102,934,749
<u>Special Items</u>	
- Staveley Town Council Precept - (£420,307 in 21/22)	444,502
- Brimington Parish Council Precept - (£54,028 in 21/22)	<u>55,123</u>
Total Special Items	499,625
<b>Gross Expenditure 31A (2)</b>	<b>103,434,374</b>
Gross Income – Chesterfield Borough Council	(94,487,310)
Revenue Support Grant	(457,937)
Business Rates Baseline Need	(3,373,521)
Retained Non Domestic Rates Growth	(2,028,482)
<b>Gross Income Including Use of Reserves 31A (3)</b>	<b>(100,347,250)</b>
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit: Council Tax	<b>(38,107)</b>
Non Domestic Rates	<b>2,821,785</b>
<b>Council Tax Requirement 31A (4)</b>	<b>5,870,802</b>
<b>Tax base</b> (29,268.96 in 2021/22)	<b>29,858.12</b>
<b>Average Band 'D' Tax (incl. Parishes)</b>	£196.62
Percentage Increase - (2021/22 £191.10, +2.87%)	+2.89%
<b>C.B.C.'s Council Tax</b>	<b>£179.89</b>
Percentage Increase - (2021/22 £174.89, +2.94%)	+2.86%

This page is intentionally left blank

## For publication

### Approval of the Senior Pay Policy Statement 2022-23

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Full Council
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022 23 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Governance
<b>Directorate:</b>	Digital, HR and Customer Services

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To seek approval to a revision of the current Senior Pay Policy Statement in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2014.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Finance and Performance Board and Cabinet consider the revised Senior Pay Policy Statement and refer it for approval by Full Council.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 This report provides transparency of the Council's senior pay policy and enables it to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

#### **4.0 Report details**

- 4.1 A first version of this Policy was developed in March 2012 following the implementation of the Localism Act 2011. Section 38 (1) of the Act requires that English and Welsh local authorities produce a Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2012/13 and each financial year after that. In 2014, the Department for Communities and Local Government published a revised Local Government Transparency Code on 3

October 2014 which sets out the requirement to publish data relating to Senior Pay. This Policy adheres to these requirements.

- 4.2 Legislation requires that the Policy is approved by Full Council each year and published on the Council's website.
- 4.3 The objective for publishing this information is to increase public transparency and local democratic accountability in how senior pay is set in local authorities. The intention is for Councils to be able to demonstrate value for money in the remuneration package of the senior managers and also show the role that local councillors play in determining senior reward.
- 4.4 A copy of the Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2022-23 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.5 The Senior Pay Policy 2022-23 reflects the reshape of the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) which took place during 2020 and the tier four review in 2021.
- 4.6 The revised Corporate Leadership Team structure which was approved by Joint Cabinet & Employment and General Committee in October 2020 accepted the recommendation that the salary of the Chief Executive be increased in line with the external market to a salary of £120,000 (maximum). In light of the current financial circumstances the Chief Executive declined the increased pay offer and has remained on his existing salary.
- 4.6 The Senior Pay Policy is reviewed annually and guides senior officer recruitment. Should there be any significant changes in senior officer pay and conditions during the financial year, the Policy will be updated accordingly.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

- 5.1 As publication of the Senior Pay Policy Statement is a legislative requirement, no alternative options have been considered.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

- 6.1 The Senior Pay Policy reflects remuneration levels which are deemed adequate to secure and retain high quality employees who are

dedicated to delivering public services and the successful achievement of the activities set out in the Council Plan.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

7.1 The Senior Pay Policy sets out the pay structure for senior officers within Chesterfield Borough Council. A benchmarking and evaluation exercise has been completed to ensure that this pay structure meets the Council's needs and is comparable to other Local Authorities.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

8.1 Approval and publication of this Senior Pay Policy meets the legislative requirements set out in the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2014.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

9.1 The Senior Pay Policy sets out a pay structure and remuneration package which is transparent and enables the human resources team to recruit to senior management posts in a consistent way.

## **10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Failure to publish the Senior Pay Policy Statement	H	L	Clear decision-making timetables will ensure that statutory deadlines are achieved	H	L
Failure to update and publish the statement on an annual basis	H	L	The policy is reviewed annually and when recruitment of senior roles is required.	H	L

## **11.0 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing**

11.1 The senior pay policy supports the recruitment and retention of employees who can deliver the Council's community wellbeing ambitions.

## **12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills**

12.1 The senior pay policy supports the recruitment and retention of employees who can deliver the Council's economic growth ambitions.

## **13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change**

13.1 The senior pay policy supports the recruitment and retention of employees who can deliver the Council's climate change ambitions.

## **14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

14.1 The policy does not impact on specific groups or protected characteristics.

### **Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	1088
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

### **Document information**

<b>Report author</b>	
Gemma Masoud – Head of Organisational Development <a href="mailto:Gemma.Masoud@chesterfield.gov.uk">@Gemma.Masoud@chesterfield.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix 1	Senior Pay Policy 2022-23



# Senior Pay Policy and Guiding Principles 2022/2023

**Prepared by:** Human Resources

**Date:** January 2022

**For Review:** January 2023



## **CONTENTS**

		<b>Page</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Legislation	3
1.2	Scope	3
1.3	Context	4
1.4	Definitions	4
<b>2.</b>	<b>Background to Pay and Grading</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Whole Workforce	4
2.2	Living Wage	5
2.3	Corporate Leadership Team	5
<b>3.</b>	<b>Senior Management Salaries</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Senior Leadership Team Benchmarking	6
3.2	Packages over £100,000	7
3.3	New Corporate Management Team	7
<b>4.</b>	<b>Terms and Conditions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Additional Payments</b>	<b>8</b>
5.1	Election Duties	8
5.2	Acting up Payments	8
5.3	Honoraria	8
5.4	Telephone Rental	8
5.5	Car Mileage and Expenses	8
5.6	Other financial benefits	9
<b>6.</b>	<b>Incremental Progression</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Lowest Paid Employees</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Relationship between Salaries</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Pensions</b>	<b>10</b>
9.1	Contributions	10
9.2	Discretions	10
9.3	Re-employment of Employees	11
<b>10.</b>	<b>Payments on Termination of Employment</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Publication of Information</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Contact details</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Corporate Management Team structure chart</b>	<b>13</b>

# Senior Pay Policy Statement

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Legislation

Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011, requires all local authorities in England and Wales to produce a Senior Pay Policy Statement which is updated on an annual basis.

The Act and supporting statutory guidance provide details of matters that should be included in this statutory pay policy, which must be complied with when setting the terms and conditions of Chief Officers. The policy must be formally approved by full Council each year and published on the Council's website.

In addition, the Department for Communities and Local Government published a revised Local Government Transparency Code on 3 October 2014. The Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2014 regulates the Code which sets out the information local authorities are required to publish.

### 1.2 Scope

This Senior Pay Policy Statement will cover the following areas:

- The principles underpinning the Council's pay policy for the whole of the workforce
- The Council's policy on the level and elements of remuneration for each Chief Officer
- The Council's policy on the remuneration of its lowest-paid employees, along with a definition of 'lowest-paid employees'
- The Council's policy on the relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and other officers
- The Council's policy on other specific aspects of Chief Officers' remuneration
- Information about terms and conditions of service for Chief Officers, particularly those that represent a cost to the Council
- The Council's policy on making discretionary payments on early termination of employment
- The Council's approach to remuneration at all levels to balance the need to secure and retain high-quality employees and avoiding excessive cost to the taxpayer
- The factors that are taken into account in deciding on what point of a scale a recruit is appointed, and by whom any decision is made
- An indication of the percentage rate at which the employer's pension contributions is set
- Information about re-employment of employees in receipt of a local government pension

### **1.3 Context**

Chesterfield Borough Council recognises that, in the context of managing scarce public resources, remuneration at all levels needs to be adequate to secure and retain high quality employees dedicated to delivering public services, whilst at the same time not being unnecessarily generous and excessive.

It is essential that local authorities are able to determine their own pay structures in order to address local priorities and to compete in the local labour market. It is recognised that senior management roles in local government are complex and diverse with managers working in a highly politicised environment where often national and local pressures conflict.

If the council is to maintain its high performance, then it must be able to retain and attract high calibre leaders to deliver the complex agenda.

### **1.4 Definitions**

The term Chief Officer covers the following permanent Senior Leadership roles at Chesterfield Borough Council

- Chief Executive
- Executive Director x 2
- Service Director Finance
- Service Director Digital, HR and Customer Services
- Service Director Economic Growth
- Service Director Leisure, Culture & Community Services
- Service Director Housing
- Service Director Corporate

The newly appointed Service Director Finance commenced in the role in September 2021.

The statutory duties of Head of Paid Service is incorporated into the post of Chief Executive, and the new Service Director Finance carries out the responsibilities of the Section 151 officer. The duties of the Monitoring Officer are incorporated into the post of Regulatory and Local Government Law Manager.

## **2. Background to Pay and Grading**

### **2.1 Whole Workforce**

To secure equal pay within the organisation, the NJC job evaluation scheme was applied to all posts covered by the NJC for Local Government Employees (excluding Chief Officers).

A new grading structure was implemented in 2003 for the whole workforce (excluding Chief Officers and Craft Workers) with negotiations then continuing with the relevant Trade Unions to complete the Single Status exercise.

An equal pay audit was undertaken on all evaluated posts to:

- Analyse the pay arrangements for all the Council employees
- Identify any differences in levels of pay between men and women
- Review the reasons for, and possible causes of, difference in pay, in particular whether these can be attributed to direct or indirect sex discrimination, and
- Identify how to close gaps in pay that cannot be attributed to reasons/causes other than sex discrimination.

The final Pay and Conditions were later agreed in the form of a Local Collective Agreement in November 2007. The actual salary at each point is determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Award, the last one being awarded as at 1 April 2020 for one year. The cost of living increase due from 1 April 2021 has not yet been agreed at national level for any group of staff. The final pay offer was 1.75% for craftworkers and for NJC it was 2.75% for point 1 and 1.75% for points 2 and above.

## **2.2 Living Wage**

The new legislative requirement to pay the National Living Wage of £7.20 came into force from 1 April 2016. However, the council was committed to paying the Living Wage determined by the Living Wage Foundation and this was implemented from 1 April 2016 at the rate of £8.25 per hour for staff at spine points 12 and below and increased in line with the rate set by the Living Wage foundation each April until April 2019.

From April 2019 the living wage element was removed as the NJC award raised the bottom pay to the level of the National Living Wage, however following the conclusion of the national pay award in 2020 the council again reinstated the Voluntary Living Wage rate of £9.30 for all affected staff and this was subsequently increased to £9.50 from 1 April 2021.

The Council is currently considering the financial implications of raising the minimum hourly rate of employees to £9.90 from April 2022 in line with the National Living Wage recommended hourly rate. This could impact on all employees on points 1 and 2 as they would potentially be below the £9.90 hourly rate when the 2020 and 2021 cost of living increases have been applied.

## **2.3 Corporate Leadership Team**

With the unprecedented challenges facing the council it was essential for the Corporate Leadership Team to have the skills and capabilities to deliver the changes required and given that the last review was in 2014, it was felt it was timely for this to happen. A review of the Corporate Leadership Team took place in 2020 and a revised structure was implemented.

The aim of the review was to put in place a Corporate Leadership Team that could lead the successful delivery of the Council plan, in line with the

Council's values and behaviours and meet the ongoing challenges that regularly arise. The key areas, which were addressed as part of the review were: -

- Increasing strategic capacity to shape and lead change across services.
- Ensuring the Council had the right levels of capacity, skills and alignment across services and management tiers to deliver the Council Plan priorities and associated plans.
- Providing the strategic capacity to strengthen the corporate approach to leading business prioritisation, planning, budget and performance management
- Strengthening and adding clarity to the governance, assurance, and compliance arrangements across the council
- Improving engagement and communications with people and teams across the Council.
- Further reducing silo working and embedding the 'One Council' culture.

Following the implementation of the Corporate Leadership Team structure in early December 2020, the council then reviewed the posts at tier four to align these to the new portfolios.

The tier 4 review was concluded and implemented from 1 September 2021, all posts are now filled using internal and external recruitment activity.

### **3. Senior Management Salaries**

#### **3.1 Senior Leadership Team - Benchmarking**

In deciding on appropriate salaries for the new Corporate Leadership Team in 2020, a benchmarking exercise was carried out into emerging management structures across district/borough councils in England. The research found that there was a move away from annual incremental progression through an agreed salary scale, to senior officers now being appointed on spot salaries.

The benchmarking and evaluation report recommended that the Chief Executive salary be uplifted (as this had not been reviewed for many years) and recommended a salary minimum of £112,500 to a maximum of £120,000.

Given the current financial burdens not only on the council but the wider economy, the current Chief Executive chose not to accept the increased salary level proposed and remains on the existing salary range (with annual pay rise being added to this lower level).

The Chief Executive and the Chief Officer pay award for 2021 was agreed in February 2022 with an increase backdated to 1 April 2021 of 1.5 %.

The salaries for the current Senior Leadership posts effective from 1 April 2021 are shown in the table below including the 1.5% pay increase.

<b>Post</b>	<b>Salary</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>	£115,665
<b>Executive Director</b>	£95,964

### **3.2 Package over £100,000**

Where the salary package of any post exceeds £100,000, full council will be given the opportunity to approve the level of remuneration. The salary package is defined as base salary, any routinely paid allowances, bonus fees and other benefits in kind which are due under the contract.

### **3.3 New Corporate Leadership Team**

The new Corporate Leadership Team was implemented from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and comprised of six manager posts with new job roles. These all include an identical set of corporate responsibilities, together with a set of service specific responsibilities.

There was also a change to the Senior Leadership Team which saw the Director of Finance and Resources role being deleted.

The new Corporate Leadership Team roles were evaluated by a senior adviser to the Local Government Association, using the LGA Chief Officer method of job evaluation. The recommended salary bands took account of comparable roles in other local authority organisations.

To provide consistency with the approach taken to other roles within the Senior Leadership Team, all the new Service Director roles were appointed on a spot salary. Salaries at April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 (including potential 1.5% pay increase to be agreed nationally)

<b>Post</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Service Director Housing	£78,662
Service Director Digital, HR & Customer Services	£78,662
Service Director Economic Growth	£78,662
Service Director Leisure, Culture & Community Services	£78,662
Service Director Corporate	£78,662
Service Director Finance	£78,662

These pay scales will be uplifted in line with the national pay award on an annual basis.

## **4. Terms and Conditions of Service**

The Chief Executive is employed under the terms and conditions of service of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities, and the Executive Directors and Corporate Leadership Team under the terms and

conditions of service of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities.

There are currently no additional local agreements relating to the employment of Chief Officers that represent a charge on the public purse, except for election duties (see following paragraph).

## **5. Additional Payments**

### **5.1 Election Duties**

The Chief Executive receives fee payments pursuant to his appointment as Returning Officer at elections. The fees paid in respect of parish, district and county council elections vary according to the size of the electorate and number of postal voters and are calculated in accordance with a fee structure determined by Derbyshire County Council. Fee payments for national and European elections are set by central government and are, in effect, not paid by the council, as the fees are reclaimed.

### **5.2 Acting Up Payments**

Acting up payments are made where an employee may undertake the full duties and responsibilities of a higher graded post. For employees at Scale 8 and above (which includes Chief Officers) a continuous qualifying period of four weeks will apply before payment can be made. Further details are set out in paragraph 8 of the Local Collective Agreement.

### **5.3 Honoraria**

An honorarium is payable in circumstances where an employee carries out additional duties which are at a higher level than those in their substantive post, but there is no entitlement to a higher salary. Further details are set out in Paragraph 9 of the Local Pay Agreement.

### **5.4 Telephone Rental**

A line rental may be paid to any Chief Officer who is expected to be contactable at home. The same payment is made to all eligible employees, regardless of grade.

A mobile telephone is provided to employees at the discretion of the Service Manager where it is considered appropriate for the delivery of the service. The cost of the monthly rental is paid as well as business related calls.

### **5.5 Car Mileage and Expenses**

All employees, including Chief Officers, can claim for mileage and expenses occurred for business reasons only. A review of car mileage payments was carried out in 2012/13 and a decision made by Cabinet in July 2013 to implement the HMRC rates for mileage claims. These revised payments have been applied to all employees claiming mileage since March 2014. Essential user allowance is no longer paid. Expenses are paid in accordance with the Council's Subsistence Policy.



## **5.6 Other financial benefits**

Post holders employed under the terms and conditions relating to Chief Executives and Chief Officers are not in receipt of any financial benefits that are not also available to other employees. They are exempt from receiving the following benefits which other employees receive:

- Unsocial hours payments
- Overtime Payments

The Chief Executive and Chief Officers do not receive any additional payments relating to performance related pay, bonuses or ex-gratia benefits.

## **6. Incremental Progression**

The policy of the council in respect of incremental progression is the same regardless of the level of the post and is set out at paragraph 1 of the Local Collective Agreement. On taking up employment, individuals will normally start at the bottom spinal column point of the appropriate grade; however, there is discretion to appoint at a higher point depending on skills, experience and any market factors which could impact on the ability to otherwise recruit to the post.

In the case of a Chief Officer appointment, this decision would be made by the Chief Executive. The Appointments Panel would make this decision for any Chief Executive appointment (in accordance with the council's constitution).

## **7. Lowest Paid Employees**

Following the implementation of Single Status and the NJC Job Evaluation Scheme, local grades were implemented. The lowest paid employees are determined by those whose job evaluation score was between 250-279, which placed them on Scale 1 at SCP 4-6. From 1 October 2015, the NJC for Local government Employees agreed that the bottom Spinal Column Point would be removed as this would be lower than the National Minimum Wage.

Following realignment of the local pay grades, the lowest grade currently as at 1 April 2020 starts at the new scale point 1 which is £9.24 an hour with a potential 2.75% pay award from 1 April 2021 taking the hourly rate to £9.50 per hour.

The hourly rate of £9.50 has been paid since 1 April 2020 in line with the Living Wage Foundation rate of £9.50 as announced in November 2020.

## **8. Relationship between salaries**

The ratio of the Council's top earner to that of its median paid employee is 6:1. This ratio has been based on year to date taxable earnings for the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021.

## **9.Pensions**

### **9.1 Contributions**

Employees of the Council (including Chief Officers) pay a contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme relative to their annual full-time equivalent pensionable pay (including pensionable allowances) (rates below as of April 2021):

Actual Pensionable Pay (based on latest pay x 12)	Employee Contribution rate
Up to £14,600	5.5%
£14,601 to £22,900	5.8%
£22,901 to £37,200	6.5%
£37,201 to £47,100	6.8%
£47,101 to £65,900	8.5%
£65,901 to £93,400	9.9%
£93,401 to £110,000	10.5%
£110,001 to £165,000	11.4%
£165,001 or more	12.5%

An assessment is undertaken on an annual basis to determine the contribution rate.

Following changes under the LGPS regulations in 2014, all employees now have an option to pay half contributions and build up half of the normal pension. This is known as the 50/50 section of the scheme and is designed to be a short-term option for when times are financially difficult.

Following the triennial re-evaluation of the pension scheme the Employer's contribution for Chesterfield will be 15.2% of pensionable pay from April 2021.

### **9.2 Discretions**

There are a number of discretions available under the Local Government Pension Scheme applicable to all employees. The aim of the Chesterfield Borough Council Policy on discretions is to ensure:

- fairness and equity in funding and contribution levels are adequate to meet future demands
- elected members are made aware of the financial consequences of decisions
- the age, skills and experience profile of the organisation is balanced

The discretions agreed for all employees are set out in the council's discretions policy.

### **9.3 Re-employment of employees in receipt of a pension**

The council has a statutory duty to appoint on merit and will always seek to appoint the best candidate for a position based on skills, knowledge, experience and abilities.

Under the terms of the Local Government Pension scheme, an employee who has retired from local government service and is in receipt of a pension may reapply for local government employment. However, where this happens, the pension may be subject to abatement, i.e. if the pension added to the new salary is higher than the original salary then the amount of pension will be reduced accordingly.

There are currently no re-employed pensioners in senior management positions and no previously employed Chief Officer has returned under a contract for services.

Where a former employee has left on the grounds of redundancy, the Council will apply the provisions of the Redundancy Modifications Order regarding recovery of the redundancy payment, if relevant.

## **10. Payments on Termination of Employment**

Payments on termination of employment will be made under the LGPS or in accordance with the discretions set out above. Other payments may be made where the council has specific legal advice to the effect that a payment may be necessary to eliminate risk of claims against the Council.

Any severance payment currently over £100,000 must be agreed by full council.

The Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 (Exit Cap Regulations) came into force on 4 November 2020. These regulations limit the value of public sector employee exit packages to a cap of £95,000. The Government announced on 12 February 2021 that the Exit Pay Cap Regulations had been revoked due to their "unintended consequences".

The Council did not make any capped payments under the Regulations for employees who left between 4th November 2020 and 12th February 2021.

## **11. Publication of Information**

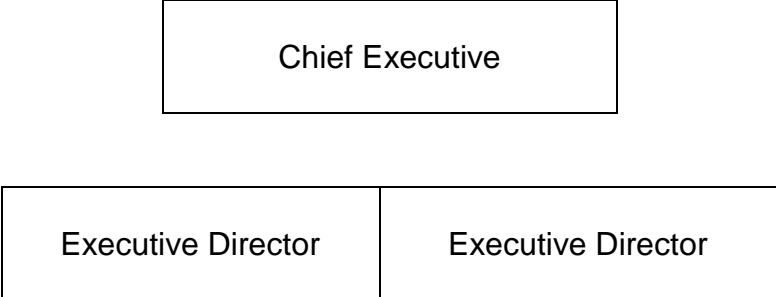
Information relating to the salaries of senior management is already published on the council's website. This policy statement, which has been approved by Full Council, will also be made available and placed on the website by 31 March 2022.

## **12. Contact details**

Employees can be contacted on 01246 345345 or at [chesterfield.gov.uk](http://chesterfield.gov.uk)

Corporate Management Structure – 2022/2023

Senior Leadership Team



Corporate Management Team

Service Director Economic Growth	Service Director Housing
Service Director Corporate	Service Director Leisure, Culture & Community Services
Service Director Digital, HR and Customer Services	Service Director Finance

This page is intentionally left blank

## For publication

### Civic Arrangements 2022/23 (GV000)

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Full Council
<b>Date:</b>	22 February, 2022 23 February, 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Governance
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate
<b>For publication</b>	

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To confirm arrangements for the civic year 2022/23 in respect of the following:
- Election of Mayor of the Borough
  - Election of Deputy Mayor of the Borough
  - Annual Council Meeting
- 1.2 To provide members with an update on the arrangements for the associated civic events, namely the Annual Civic Service and Parade and Mayoral Dinner.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Councillor Tony Rogers be invited to become Mayor of the Borough for 2022/23.
- 2.2 That Councillor Mick Brady be invited to become Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2022/23.
- 2.3 That it be noted that the Annual Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 May, 2022, followed by a civic reception at the Winding Wheel.

2.4 That it be noted that the Annual Civic Service and Parade will be held on Saturday 14 May, 2022.

### **3.0 Reason for recommendations**

3.1 To enable the Council to confirm civic arrangements for 2022/23.

### **4.0 Report details**

4.1 Each year the Council is asked to confirm its civic arrangements for the forthcoming municipal year, namely the appointment of Deputy Mayor, the date of the Annual Council meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the associated civic events.

4.2 The appointment of Deputy Mayor as Vice Chairman of the Council is a statutory appointment under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972). In the case of a Borough Council, the Vice Chairman is entitled to use the title of Deputy Mayor.

4.3 Cabinet adopted the following protocol for electing the Deputy Mayor in November 2006 (Minute No. 124), continuing the practice adopted in 1995, namely that the Deputy Mayor will be elected as Mayor after their year as Deputy Mayor and that the Mayor will be the councillor with the longest service. Priority between councillors with equal length of service is governed by ascending alphabetical order of surname, without regard to membership of political group.

4.4 In accordance with this protocol, Councillor Mick Brady has indicated his willingness to accept the appointment of Deputy Mayor for 2022/23. This will need to be confirmed by Full Council.

4.5 The date of the Annual Council Meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2022/23 will be Wednesday 11 May, 2022. In accordance with council policy, confirmed by Cabinet (Minute No. 126, 2008/09), the Annual Council Meeting shall be immediately followed by a civic reception with a Civic Service on the following Saturday. The Civic service will, therefore, be held on 14 May, 2022.

4.6 The Mayor Elect is meeting with the Chief Executive and the Member and Civic Support Officers to confirm details for the civic reception and make preparations for the Mayoral year.



## **5.0 Alternative options**

5.1 There are no alternative options to consider as the report follows a procedure prescribed by council policy and statutory requirements.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

6.1 There are no financial implications for consideration. A small budget is allocated for the delivery of civic events.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

7.1 There are no legal implications for consideration. The proposals in this report are in accordance with the LGA 1972 and council policy.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

8.1 There are no implications for consideration relating to human resources.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan**

9.1 There are no implications for consideration relating to the council plan.

## **10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change**

10.1 The Climate Change Officer has been consulted on the report and is satisfied that there are no climate change implications for consideration.

## **11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

11.1 There are no implications for consideration relating to equality and diversity.

## **12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

12.1 There are no risk management implications for consideration.

### **Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	Non-key
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## Document information

<b>Report author</b>
Rachel Appleyard, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer, Corporate.

## For publication

### Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022 – 2030 (L000)

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Council
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022 23 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Health and Wellbeing
<b>Directorate:</b>	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing
<b>For publication</b>	

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To seek Council approval of the Chesterfield Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, 2022 – 2030.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

That Cabinet recommends to full Council:

- 2.1 That a new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy be approved and adopted for the period 2022 through 2030.
- 2.2 That the Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing be invited to develop a five-year costed delivery plan, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to give effect to the Strategy's aims and objectives and for this delivery plan to be presented for approval at future meetings of the Cabinet and full Council.

#### **3.0 Reason for recommendations**

- 3.1 The Council requires a robust needs assessment and evidence base relating to green space to meet statutory planning requirements within

the Local Plan Framework, and the parks and open spaces strategy supports this.

- 3.2 Having a modern and relevant Parks and Open Spaces Strategy will enable the Council to strategically plan and prioritise resources across the Borough, and to work appropriately with developers and other stakeholders.
- 3.3 The effective management of our parks and open spaces will continue to support the Borough in being a great destination; and a healthy and active place to live and work.

#### **4.0 Report details**

##### **Background**

- 4.1 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy establishes an understanding and ambition for the borough until 2030. A robust evidence base has been drawn from national policies and initiatives, local consultation and analysis of existing parks and open space provision. This has enabled the development of local standards and policies, which provide a framework for this strategy. The updated strategy, following consultation, is attached at Appendix A, parts 1 and 2.
- 4.2 The draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was considered at the Cabinet meeting on 6 July 2021 where it was resolved that the draft strategy be approved for wider consultation.

##### **Consultation on the Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022 - 2030**

- 4.3 The consultation programme for the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy took place between August and October 2021. This programme, in addition to ongoing internal officer engagement, included:
  - An online survey for members of the public to respond.
  - A session with the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
  - An online survey for stakeholder groups such as 'Friends' groups and Sports Clubs to respond.

- A presentation and online survey for the Councils Equalities and Diversity Group.
- 4.4 Initially the consultation was held over a four-week period; this was subsequently extended to six weeks to enable further engagement of stakeholders in the consultation process.
- 4.5 Fifty responses to the online consultation were received. The comments and responses are set out in Appendix B.
- 4.6 The consultation with Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee enabled further discussion and consideration of key issues, the feedback is set out in Appendix C.
- 4.7 Feedback from the consultation was positive and supportive of the strategy including its key themes and direction of travel.
- 4.8 Due to the overall positive and supportive nature of the feedback there have been no significant changes to the strategy following the consultation.
- 4.9 The vision has been simplified and the aims have been updated to more overtly set out the priority to reduce inequality in areas of highest deprivation. Clarity has also been provided over the development and use of local standards and policies to provide a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement.
- 4.10 Other amendments in relation to the structure of document have been made in response to the feedback received. This includes for example, the inclusion of an executive summary to help capture for the reader the key areas of the strategy.

### **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022 - 2030**

- 4.11 The updated vision, aims and themes for the strategy, that will set the framework for the development of the five-year costed delivery plan, are set out in the paragraphs below. The final version of the strategy is attached at Appendix A, parts 1 and 2.
- 4.12 The vision for the parks and open spaces across the borough is:

'For every park and open space to offer a high quality and fulfilling experience; supporting biodiversity, promoting health, well-being and enjoyment, and improving the quality of life for residents and visitors to the borough.'

4.13 The aims of the strategy are:

- To provide clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving parks and open spaces.
- To reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index multiple deprivation by providing good quality and accessible parks and open spaces.
- To enhance local leadership and commitment to improving and investing in parks and open spaces.
- To provide high quality evidence to underpin and support funding bids to improve parks and open spaces including community engagement opportunities.
- To feed into and maximise visibility within the Council's key strategy documents the Council Plan and Local Plan.
- To enhance our contribution to key agenda's including the climate emergency, nature recovery, improving accessibility and responding the borough's challenging health and wellbeing profile.
- To support negotiation with developers for 'planning gain and support' for open space investment / provision across the Borough.
- To develop parks and open spaces using local standards, evidence base and policies to provide a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement.

4.14 The key themes that set the delivery context for the strategy are focussed on:

- Using a clear approach for investment in parks and open spaces
- Using our resources effectively and sustainably
- Increasing the use of our parks and open spaces
- Engaging with our community and partners effectively

4.15 The updated and refreshed strategy will become the key document guiding the Council's management of and investment in its parks and open spaces until 2030. By adopting this strategy, the Council will have:

- Clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving its parks and open spaces, to meet the needs of community in

providing open space in the borough, setting the context for the development of a five-year costed delivery plan.

- Evidence of local leadership on and commitment to parks and open spaces, to underpin bids for funding their development.
- Clear co-ordination with the Council Plan and the adopted Local Plan.
- An evidence base and local standards to underpin the negotiation of 'planning gain' for open space investment / provision across the Borough.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

5.1 The alternative option would have been to not develop a parks and open spaces strategy and subsequent 5-year costed delivery plan and continue with current arrangements whereby the Council Plan provides the broad strategic framework and activities are guided by different team service plans.

5.2 The preferred option, as covered in this report, supports both the strategic need and operational delivery requirements to maintain high standards by investing in key parks, open spaces and play facilities including increasing biodiversity and carbon capture whilst maintaining resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces.

5.3 The preferred option will support the Council to target resources effectively and efficiently through using the clear framework that the parks and open spaces strategy provides.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

6.1 No specific financial implications have been identified from the consultation on the strategy.

6.2 To maintain the quality and the desired levels of positive customer experience across our parks and open space, the Council, in addition to its general fund resource support, will continue its highly successful approach to securing additional external funding to enable the progressive development of the Councils parks and open spaces through the strategy. This includes:

- Council funding: capital and revenue funding allocated to deliver facilities and improvements within the Council's ownership
- CIL and Section 106 developer contributions
- Grant funding for example - Landfill Tax Credits

6.3 In the last five years the Council has enabled the investment of £1.6m in parks and open space infrastructure, in addition to the services core general fund resource allocation which is currently £2.1m per annum.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

7.1 The Council is required to meet statutory planning requirements including compliance with the NPPF as part of its Local Plan. A robust parks and open space evidence base has been used in the development of the strategy and as a result will support such compliance.

7.2 Planning development for the borough and associated decisions require robust strategic needs and evidence being in place in event of challenge this strategy will support this.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

8.1 The Environmental Services section has recently completed a service redesign which has considered at its heart how the alignment of the street scene and green spaces teams can become more focussed on service delivery through the priorities as outlined in the strategy.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan**

9.1 The parks and open spaces strategy positively contributes to the following council plan objectives:

- Improving quality of life for local people.
- Improving our environment and enhancing community safety for all our communities and future generations.
- Helping our communities to improve their health and wellbeing.

9.2 Access to good quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve both physical and mental health by encouraging people to walk more, play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. We will, through this strategy encourage the use of parks and green spaces by all sections of our community. Open space, as we have seen through the



Covid-19 pandemic, has played and continues to play an integral role in supporting the wellbeing of communities.

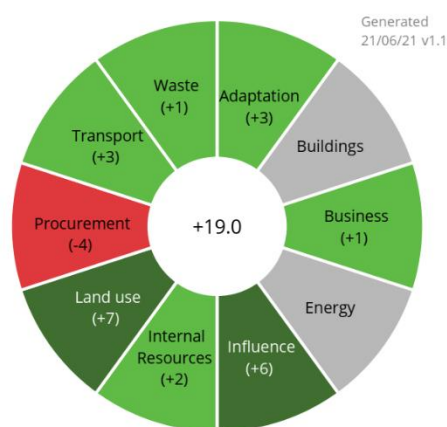
9.3 We will through the strategy continue to work with partners to maximise the benefits to physical and mental health conditions as part of a 'natural environment health service'. The council through working with valued partners, will continue to develop opportunities for using green social prescribing to better support and improve mental and physical health and wellbeing.

9.4 Providing good quality open space also supports the Councils wider ambitions regarding making Chesterfield a thriving borough by actively contributing to making Chesterfield a great place to live, work and visit.

### 10.0 Implications for consideration - Climate change

10.1 The impact of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is defined by the Council's Climate Change Impact Assessment Decision Making Tool and a summary image of the assessment is included below at 10.2.

10.2



CBC has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (8 years and 6 months away).

10.3 Our parks and open spaces make a significant contribution to our commitment to become a net carbon neutral council by 2030 and borough by 2050. This includes maximising sustainable principles at all our facilities and in the way we manage and maintain our parks and open spaces; but also, in seeking to enhance biodiversity. We have an overarching duty to consider the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment. In the management,

maintenance and development of open space biodiversity is a key theme that this strategy supports.

10.4 Through the strategy and the operational delivery plans that will support it, the service will build climate adaptability into the maintenance of Chesterfields parks and open spaces thus enabling these areas to play an important role in reducing the borough’s carbon and environmental footprint.

10.5 A full Climate Change Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix D.

**11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

11.1 The Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix E. No negative impacts for groups with protected characteristics have been identified.

**12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

12.1 Risk matrix

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Strategy not adopted	High	Low	The strategy has been developed to fully reflect the challenges of land use and open space development. It has been informed by a varied evidence base and as such it supports the Council vision and council plan objectives. A full consultation programme has been undertaken to ensure local input and engagement to reflect local need.	Medium	Low
Insufficient resources available to deliver the Parks	High	Medium	The Council will continue to maximise its use of internal resource and will compliment this by	Medium	Low

and Open Spaces Strategy 2022 – 2030.			continuing its highly successful approach of attracting external funding, in parallel with council funding sources, where appropriate, to support the delivery of the strategy. Following adoption of the strategy a five-year costed delivery plan will be produced.		
---------------------------------------	--	--	---	--	--

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1033</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>ALL</b>

### Document information

<b>Report author</b>	
Ian Waller – Service Director - Leisure Culture and Community Wellbeing John Ramsey – Principal Green Space Officer Strategic	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A Part 1	Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022 – 2030
Appendix A part 2	Evidence Base
Appendix B	General Online Consultation Comments
Appendix C	Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel Comments
Appendix D	Climate Change Impact Assessment
Appendix E	Equalities Impact Assessment

This page is intentionally left blank



# **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022-2030**

Owner: Service Director - Leisure, Culture and Wellbeing

Date: January 2022

Review by: January 2030

# Contents

Section	Contents	Page
	<b>Foreword</b>	3
	<b>Executive Summary</b>	4-6
1.0	Introduction	7-10
2.0	The impact of parks and open spaces	11-16
3.0	Barriers to the use of parks and open space	17-18
4.0	Evidence base and Local standards	19-26
5.0	Our vision and key themes	27-35
6.0	Delivery plan, monitoring and review	36
	<b>Appendix A</b> Evidence base	

# FOREWORD

By Cllr Jill Mannion Brunt, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing



Chesterfield is not your typical market town and not your typical borough. It is perfectly located at the heart of England and well connected via the United Kingdom's road and rail network; it affords residents a great quality of life, being on the doorstep of the stunning Peak District National Park and a place with high quality, affordable housing. Although benefiting from key developments and growth in recent years, the legacy of declining industries has contributed to high levels of deprivation and significant health and wellbeing challenges in some parts of the borough.

The parks and open spaces within our borough are an important element of what makes Chesterfield an attractive place to live, work and visit. They have an essential role to play in improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life for our communities as well as attracting visitors from far and wide. As seen during the 2020 – 2021 Covid-19 pandemic our parks and open spaces offered a real lifeline to many residents and enabled them to continue to access free exercise and wellbeing opportunities when many other options were unavailable to them.

Now more than ever our green spaces should be protected, enhanced, and cherished for generations to come. Good quality, accessible open spaces provide sporting and recreational facilities, green lungs for communities to breathe and contribute to a vibrant economy, encouraging higher quality and more sustainable economic development. Through increasing biodiversity and enabling sustainable landscapes they also make a crucial contribution to reducing the impact of Climate Change and help us to work towards our Climate Change targets of a net carbon neutral council by 2030 and borough by 2050.

For our open space network to be fully utilised, it is important to recognise our community's needs. Several issues are key to the success of this strategy including improving the quality and accessibility of provision and maximising opportunities to engage communities to create a shared ownership and pride for our parks and open spaces.

# Executive Summary

## Our Vision for parks and open spaces

'For every park and open space to offer a high quality and fulfilling experience; supporting biodiversity, promoting health, well-being and enjoyment, and improving the quality of life for residents and visitors to the borough.'

Our Parks and Open Spaces Strategy establishes an understanding and ambition for the borough until 2030. A robust evidence base has been drawn from national policies and initiatives, local consultation and analysis of existing parks and open space provision. This has enabled the development of local standards and policies, which provide a framework for this strategy.

The parks and open spaces within our borough are an important part of what makes Chesterfield an attractive place to live, work and visit and their value to communities has been reinforced through the Covid-19 pandemic. Parks will be a powerful part of our recovery from the pandemic helping to create stronger, more connected, healthier communities.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is key to guiding the Council's protection and investment in parks and open spaces and providing a platform for increased community engagement. The aims of the strategy are:

- to provide clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving parks and open spaces
- to reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index multiple deprivation by providing good quality and accessible parks and open spaces
- to enhance local leadership and commitment to improving and investing in parks and open spaces
- to provide high quality evidence to underpin and support funding bids to improve parks and open spaces including community engagement opportunities
- to feed into and maximise visibility within the Council's key strategy documents the Council Plan and Local Plan
- to enhance our contribution to key agenda's including the climate emergency, nature recovery, improving accessibility and responding the borough's challenging health and wellbeing profile
- to support negotiation with developers for 'planning gain and support' for open space investment / provision across the Borough



- to develop parks and open spaces using local standards, evidence base and policies to provide a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement

Informed by audits and consultation and linking into key strategic documents and priorities, a series of **Parks and Open Space Strategy Themes** have been developed. These themes, which incorporate core objectives, will be used to guide the development of the delivery plan and the specific activities that will be implemented to achieve the vision, reflecting the needs and aspirations of communities in Chesterfield.

- 1. Using a clear approach for investment in parks and open spaces**
- 2. Using our resources effectively and sustainably**
- 3. Increasing the use of our parks and open spaces**
- 4. Engaging with our community and partners effectively**

This strategy sets out local standards and policies which the Council will use to focus resources where they are most needed and where they will have the greatest impact for the future. It sets out the framework within which we will seek to engage with partners, communities and funders in order to maximise resource allocation both in terms of quality of provision and outcomes. The parks and open spaces strategy will also influence the authorities' approach to levelling up and will inform the allocation and prioritisation of resources across a range of opportunities.

Through this strategy the Council will support the delivery of good quality, accessible open spaces that provide; sporting and recreational facilities, green lungs for communities and contribute to higher quality and more sustainable economic development. In addition, through increasing biodiversity and enabling sustainable landscapes they also make a crucial contribution to reducing the impact of Climate Change and help us to work towards our Climate Change targets of a net carbon neutral council by 2030 and borough by 2050.

The development of the Strategy has been informed by extensive consultation with residents and stakeholder groups. The results of the survey demonstrate the high regard in which our parks and open spaces are held and will be used to inform our action and work plans. The strategy will inform collective decision making about parks and open space opportunities and enable resources to be utilised in an efficient and effective manner.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is a framework and guide for the development of our parks and open spaces over the next ten years. We will develop a five-year costed delivery plan to set out the key activities to be progressed; this will be sufficiently flexible to reflect upon local need as well evolving challenges and strategic priorities.

Delivery of the parks and open spaces strategy will be the responsibility of Chesterfield Borough Council; however, we will continue to work with partners and engage with local communities to maximise the delivery opportunities of this strategy.

# SECTION 1: Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Parks and other open spaces play a big part in what makes Chesterfield Borough an attractive place to live, work and visit. They are places for everyone to enjoy and encourage and promote healthy lifestyles as well as providing much needed places to meet family and friends and relax. Good quality open space can also enhance our economy by providing employment opportunities in a number of sectors including leisure and tourism.

This strategy sets out a range of local standards, against which assessments of our parks and open spaces will be undertaken. This approach will enable us to focus resources where they are most needed and where they will have the greatest impact for the future. It sets out the approach within which we will seek to engage with funders, partners and communities in order to maximise resource allocation both in terms of quality of provision and outcomes such as reducing health inequalities.

Our previous Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was launched in 2014 and has been a catalyst for wide ranging improvements in the quality of parks and open spaces but also led to a significant increase in community engagement. Since the launch of the strategy, over twenty Friends of Parks groups have been supported and encouraged by the Council and play a significant role in securing external funding to drive improvements and attracting more people to use their local park. Key collaborative improvements include:

- Reducing the impact of climate change via our extensive tree planting scheme and careful development of our landscaping and maintenance schemes
- Developing a comprehensive resource pack and officer support to enable new Friends of groups to form and existing groups to flourish
- Chesterfield in Bloom is firmly established with thousands of residents through schools, local businesses, community groups and as private individuals taking part in this campaign to green our borough. The Council has achieved gold standard four years in a row up to 2020
- Holding five prestigious Green Flag awards - Queen's Park, Holme Brook Valley Park, Eastwood Park, Pools Brook Country Park and the Crematorium

- Completed the restoration of our Grade II\* listed Queen's Park's western boundary with sympathetic fencing and extensive landscaping works
- Provision of a new 3G artificial sports pitch at Queen's Park, enabling a variety of sport and recreation
- Refurbished play spaces with challenging and innovative play equipment and also introduced outdoor gyms, multi-use games areas and skate parks
- Increased events and activities in our parks by working with a range of partners for example Stand Road Bonfire Night, County Cricket, Gala Days and Chesterfield Pride
- Developed masterplans and management plans for our key parks to maximise quality, engagement and biodiversity. This includes several areas of the borough being declared as local nature reserves and tracts of woodland are now being actively managed and made more accessible
- Effective management of a range of semi-natural spaces under the DEFRA high-level stewardship scheme

In the light of all these improvements and achievements, public satisfaction with local parks and open spaces in Chesterfield Borough remains high with 83% of residents being very satisfied or satisfied with provision (based on 2019/20 Local Government Association Are You Being Served survey methodology).

## **1.2 Strategy scope**

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy covers the whole borough of Chesterfield and includes all publicly owned parks and open spaces. Allotments, sports pitches and play areas are referred to throughout the strategy however there are separate strategies for these specific open spaces.

Parks and open spaces over 0.2 hectares or more across a range of typologies are included within the strategy. This equates to over 592 hectares of publicly owned parks and open spaces. The largest category of provision is natural and semi-natural spaces which accounts for 313 hectares. This is predominantly due to the two country parks within the borough (Holmebrook and Poolsbrook) which account for over 130 hectares of provision.

### **1.3 Strategy aims**

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is key to guiding the Council's protection and investment in parks and open spaces and providing a platform for increased community engagement. The aims of the strategy are:

- to provide clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving parks and open spaces
- to reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index of multiple deprivation by providing good quality and accessible parks and open spaces
- to enhance local leadership and commitment to improving and investing in parks and open spaces
- to provide high quality evidence to underpin and support funding bids to improve parks and open spaces including community engagement opportunities
- to feed into and maximise visibility within the Council's key strategy documents the Council Plan and Local Plan
- to enhance our contribution to key agenda's including the climate emergency, nature recovery, improving accessibility and responding the borough's challenging health and wellbeing profile
- to support negotiation with developers for 'planning gain and support' for open space investment / provision across the Borough
- to develop parks and open spaces using local standards, evidence base and policies to provide a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement

### **1.4 The Council's role**

Local authorities are advocates and custodians of parks and open spaces. They can:

- Improve, maintain and review existing parks and open spaces
- Provide new, high-quality parks and open space
- Increase green infrastructure within public spaces
- Improve transport links, pathways and other means of access to parks and open spaces
- Provide imaginative routes linking areas of parks and open space for active travel

This strategy and the resultant delivery plan will embed our commitment to the effective management of our parks and open spaces within the borough and recognises the importance to our communities and our economy. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy contributes significantly to the Council's vision

'Putting our communities first' and our Council Plan delivery across the three priority areas:

- Making Chesterfield a thriving Borough
- Improving the quality of life for local people
- Providing value-for-money services

# SECTION 2: The impact of parks and open spaces

## 2.1 Why are parks and open spaces so important?

The quality of our parks and open spaces can make a significant contribution to the quality of life and health and wellbeing for residents. They provide places to meet, exercise and play but also places to learn about nature or just enjoy a pleasant environment. They are venues for affordable recreation and provide opportunities for young people to undertake creative play and 'hang out'. A spacious green environment can also boost the image of an area, helping to attract inward investment, visitors, and residents alike, whilst key sites are often the focus of civic pride, for example Queen's Park.

Having a strategic approach to parks and open spaces provision can help us to maximise the benefits of parks and open spaces for the whole community. This includes integrating provision into the Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and a range of other key plans and strategies. Ensuring that parks and open spaces are a key consideration in our Local Plan is paramount to ensure that planning policies, masterplans, new developments, negotiations and decision making all consider the importance of parks and open spaces provision.

Understanding national policy levers, as well as the purpose and contents of local policies and strategies is critical to address provision of sufficient access to parks and open space and its longer-term sustainability. Local documents should reflect how parks and open space is integral to meeting health and wider priorities and support the protection and enhancement of them.

Now more than ever we can look at parks and open space with a deeper understanding of the wider determinants of health, of which both the built and the natural environment are fundamental pillars. Broadly, it is thought that parks and open space is linked to health and wellbeing in several ways:

- Improving access to parks and open space promotes healthy behaviours including engaging in physical activity and active travel
- Improving social contacts and giving people a sense of familiarity and belonging

- Providing opportunities to develop new skills and capabilities – particularly for young people, there is emerging evidence that spending time in parks and open space is associated with a range of benefits including improved motor skills, better academic performance and increased concentration
- Parks and open spaces including pocket parks, street trees, green walls and roof gardens in urban areas can also help to mediate potential harms posed by exposure to air pollution, the urban heat island effect, mitigate excessive noise and reduce flood risk.
- We are living in a time of real challenge, facing intertwined nature, climate and health emergencies that are having devastating, global impacts. But there are still ways to make positive changes. Restoring nature can help tackle the climate crisis and improve human health too. Nature Recovery Networks - joined-up, nature-rich spaces of all sizes, across all areas are the key. These networks can help to ensure nature's recovery across at least 30% of our land and sea by 2030.

For all these reasons, improving access to quality parks and open space has the potential to improve health outcomes for the whole population. However, this is particularly true for disadvantaged communities, who appear to accrue an even greater health benefit from living in a greener environment. This means that parks and open space also can be an important tool in the ambition to increase healthy life expectancy and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities.

## **2.2 Benefits of Open Space**

### **2.2.1 Health benefits**

A range of academic and community studies have identified clear links between parks and open spaces and improved health and wellbeing. Recent findings include:

- A clear link between green living environments and improved mortality rates in particular for cardiovascular linked mortality
- Increased self-assessed perceptions of good health and wellbeing
- A reduction in the physical and psychological markers of stress, anxiety, and depression
- Improved parental and birth outcomes including more favourable birth weights



- People living near quality parks and open spaces are more likely to meet the national physical activity recommendations, have positive mental health outcomes and are less likely to struggle with weight management
- Improved immune systems
- Positive associations between a greener living environment and improved mental health outcomes for children and young people including emotional wellbeing, reduced stress and improved resilience

Mental health is an area of sharp focus where parks and open spaces can make a significant positive contribution. The physical health, social and economic consequences of poor mental health are substantial. Compared to the general population, people with poor mental health are more likely to have physical health conditions, a lower life expectancy, higher rates of health risk factors such as smoking, alcohol and drug misuse, and are more likely to experience social / economic inequalities such as isolation, unemployment and homelessness or poor housing. Poor mental health is estimated to have an economic and social cost of £105 billion a year in England, with treatment costs expected to double in the next 20 years. In addition to these costs there are incalculable costs to individuals, families, and communities due to lost potential and limited life chances.

### **2.2.2 Social benefits**

The social benefits of parks and open spaces have also been a key area for study with a range of benefits identified including:

- The creation of opportunities for social connectedness – taking part in events, activities or just taking time to relax with friends and family
- Children’s play is a key reason for many people to visit parks and open spaces. The importance of play for a child’s development is well documented but there are often challenges around access including concerns about poor facilities, safety and anti-social behaviour
- Passive recreation is also a key social benefit. This can include walking dogs, watching your children play, viewing wildlife, looking at views, reading or resting. Passive recreation is often far more important to individuals lives than active recreation
- Active Recreation – organised sport, children’s play, music, and a range of events. It is estimated nationally that up to 16% of park users will visit for active recreation alone and this accounts for 7.5 million visitors to parks and open spaces each year

- Equality and diversity– different groups have different requirements and expectations of parks and open spaces such as accessible features, opportunities for reflection and worship or celebration of key dates.
- Park and Open Spaces as Educational Resources. The benefits to children have included sensory perception, children’s behaviour, outdoor learning opportunities, different patterns of play.

### **2.2.3 Environmental and climate change benefits**

A range of environmental benefits have also been identified alongside significant opportunities for reducing the impact of climate change:

- Opportunities to enhance screening to reduce noise and absorb pollutants
- Provide diverse wildlife habitats and contact people with nature close to their homes, schools and places of work. These include local nature reserves, areas of natural and semi-natural green space, allotments and river corridors
- Provide opportunities for active travel to reduce car journeys
- Enable specific climate change focused initiatives including tree planting, improving biodiversity and developing sustainable solutions to landscaping and management
- Providing receptor sites and opportunities to improve a range of habitats

### **2.3 The value of parks and open spaces**

Local Government is a major advocate and custodian of parks and open spaces, but the sector faces huge challenges in terms of the funding and maintenance of existing parks and open spaces, let alone the creation of further provision. It is important that in these strained times parks and open spaces are recognised for their broader social, economic, health and environmental benefits and not just viewed as a financial liability. This needs to form part of all investment and divestment decisions around parks and open spaces provision.

The value of parks and open spaces can be quantified by a monetary value for instance the value of the land, the income opportunities or the cost of maintenance but we are advocating those qualitative measures including social, economic, health and environmental benefits are also effectively considered to improve decision making. There is also an increasing body of evidence that demonstrates a positive relationship between the provision of parks and open

space with improvements to community wellbeing and reduced costs for public services including central and local government provision, NHS, Police and Fire and Rescue services:

- Natural England estimate that £2.1 billion per year could be saved in health costs if everyone in England had good access to parks and open space, due to increased physical activity in those spaces. This is primarily through improved mental health outcomes and people meeting physical activity guidelines
- A welfare gains of £1.2 billion per annum is found for people undertaking one or more 'active' visits (30 minutes, moderate intensity activity daily) to parks and open spaces. This includes £760 million in avoidable medical costs
- A number of city based and regional studies have also quantified the savings potential through better health outcomes linked to opens spaces for example £580 million in London, £192 million in Birmingham or £18 million for Wales costal paths
- Some studies have estimated the annual benefit to society of parks and open spaces for instance £600 million in Birmingham and some have shown the link between £1 spent on parks and open spaces to pounds saved in health costs - £34 in Sheffield
- Proximity to parks and open spaces has also been shown to attract a premium in terms of house prices and area desirability

## **2.4 Inequalities in parks and open space access**

Studies have been undertaken nationally to suggest that there are disparities between the quality and quantity of parks and spaces in different areas and indeed differences in the ways and frequency that communities use and engage with them. This can include:

- Generally lower levels of high-quality parks and open spaces areas with higher deprivation levels
- There is a link between poorer access to high quality parks and open spaces and poorer health and wellbeing outcomes
- People in areas with higher deprivation levels are already more likely to have poorer health and wellbeing outcomes so unequal provision can further compound this issue.
- Studies indicate that all communities benefit from parks and open spaces but there is a disproportionate positive impact for communities with higher

- Deprivation levels Analysis of Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey data across multiple years found that infrequent users of parks and open space tend to be – people who are female, older, in poor health, of lower socioeconomic status, with a physical disability, ethnic minorities, people living in deprived areas, those with less local access to parks and open space and people living further from the coast.

## Section 3.0: Barriers to the use of parks and open space

**3.1** National evidence and research identifies a range of barriers which may contribute to reasons why some groups are less likely to use parks and open spaces than others. These can include physical barriers, social and cultural barriers or even perception and awareness of opportunities. Barriers identified include:

- Proximity to parks and open space near to home. MENE data shows that two-thirds of visits to parks and open space are within two miles of home.
- Physical obstacles – lack of or poorly maintained road or path networks or challenging topography.
- Transport – lack of public transport options, safe walking or cycling routes or the cost of parking on site.
- Lack of facilities – toilets, benches, cafes.
- Accessibility for example accessible access for people with mobility challenges, seats, accessible toilets, and suitable parking.
- Social experiences – being out in a natural setting is not part of social expectations or background, discomfort over perceptions of what is seen as ‘appropriate’ behaviour in such spaces, feeling unwelcome or out of place.
- Experiences or perceptions of anti-social behaviour, hate crime, vandalism, litter, poor maintenance, poor lighting.
- Limited awareness of provision and how to access.
- Experience and confidence in accessing provision.
- Competing time pressures and interests - MENE survey data indicated that 36% of respondents were either “too busy at work” or “too busy at home” to engage with parks and open spaces and a further 21% just weren’t interested.

**3.2** Good practice guidelines developed by CABI (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) to encourage engagement with parks and open space:

- Provide opportunities for ongoing and meaningful consultation with communities to understand the barriers that are preventing them from using parks and open spaces and to collaborate to identify solutions to reduce barriers.

- Utilising inclusive design principles that make it easy and attractive for people to use parks and open spaces and that maximise benefits for the community.
- Undertake bespoke work to engage harder to reach communities to identify activities and actions which could increase their engagement with parks and open spaces.
- A combined approach which delivers physical improvements to parks and open spaces, seeks to reduce barriers to access and promotes social engagement and participation.
- Careful planning and evaluation of proposals and decisions that consider the holistic value of parks and open spaces.

This strategy will seek to address barriers through the development of a five-year costed delivery plan informed by the CABI guidelines. Chesterfield Borough Council like most local authorities face significant challenges in terms of the funding and maintenance of existing provision and investment in new provision. We actively pursue external grant opportunities for improvements and have been very successful in drawing down significant funding to enhance existing provision and to support new provision. There may be occasions however, where match funding is required, or we have been unable to secure external funding for key schemes. In these circumstances it may be necessary to consider the disposal of surplus low-quality open space provision to support the maintenance and enhancement of the remainder of our parks and open spaces network.

# Section 4: Evidence base and Local standards – Refer to Appendix A

## 4.1 Evidence base

A huge range of data underpins the development of our Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The evidence base, set out Appendix A, is important in setting local standards for the type, location, quantity, quality and accessibility of parks and open spaces, helping to identify levels of provision and to define key priorities for investment. We have produced a comprehensive evidence base document that sets out national, regional, and local information which has guided the development of a set of local standards that will be adopted through this strategy.

## 4.2 Parks and Open Spaces assessment

In 2018 the Council undertook a series of audits to establish the quantity, accessibility, quality of parks and open spaces in the borough and more importantly how the value and contribution that these spaces make to the quality of life for residents. There is localised recognition that there needs to be continued improvements to parks and open spaces within the borough. However, despite the enthusiasm to do so, these continued improvements cannot be achieved all at once and actions need to be organised, prioritised, resourced and adequately funded.

The parks and open spaces assessment and audit scores help us to identify key priorities by enabling:

- Clear policies for protection linked to prescribed and identified sites.
- Developing specific recommendations by area where there are opportunities to improve quality, value and accessibility of green spaces.
- A shared understanding through custodianship of the areas to be retained and protected.
- The use of adopted standards in the Local Plan for the amount of open space to highlight areas where there is potentially a surplus.
- Determined what additional resources are required to build on existing good practice.

The parks and open spaces assessment and audit were undertaken in several key stages including:

- Analysis areas
- Auditing local provision
- Development of local standards for quality and value
- Quality and value assessments
- Development of travel and accessibility standards
- Travel and accessibility catchment assessment

Further details of the methodology used and how scores and values were awarded is contained within our evidence base, but the key findings are detailed below.

### 4.3 Overview of open space typologies

There is over 592 hectares of publicly accessible parks and open spaces within Chesterfield Borough. The largest contributor to provision is natural and semi-natural parks and open space (313 hectares). This is predominantly due to the two country parks (an equivalent to 130 hectares) being categorised within the typology. The table below gives an overview of provision:

**Table 1 – Overview of open space typologies**

<b>Open space typology</b>	<b>Number of sites</b>	<b>Total amount (hectares)</b>
Park and gardens	20	111
Natural & semi-natural parks and open space	33	313
Amenity parks and open space	95	93
Space / provision for children & young people	92	5
Allotments	33	40
Cemeteries/churchyards	10	30
Green corridors	4	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>592</b>



#### 4.4 Local standards for quality and value

Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high-quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Table 2 sets out the thresholds for quality and value assessments.

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements may be required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development.

For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater presence and variety of ancillary facilities (e.g., seating, bins, paths, play equipment, landscaping, etc.) in comparison to an amenity greenspace or other type of open space.

For each typology a different set or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is in order to better reflect the different roles and uses of each open space type. Consequently, a different threshold level is set for each open space typology.

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites.

A high valued site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and mental benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative blanket threshold of 20% is set. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is a relative score. If a site meets more than one criterion for value, it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

**Table 2 Quality and value thresholds by typology**

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	55%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	60%	20%
Space / provision for children and young people	60%	20%
Allotments	50%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	60%	20%
Green corridors	60%	20%

#### 4.5 Quality assessments and scores

There is generally a good level of quality across open space sites. The evidence base demonstrates that over three quarters (77%) of sites score above the quality threshold. Parks, allotments, green corridors and cemeteries have a high proportion of sites that rate above the quality thresholds. The table below gives an overview of quality.

**Table 3 – Quality scores for assessed open space typologies**

Typology	Threshold	Scores %			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Below threshold	Above threshold
Park and gardens	55%	44%	61%	86%	4	16
Natural & semi-natural parks and open space	40%	29%	51%	96%	11	22
Amenity parks and open space	60%	33%	65%	87%	26	69
Space / provision for children & young people	60%	50%	67%	91%	23	69
Allotments	50%	36%	58%	73%	1	32
Cemeteries/churchyards	60%	56%	68%	87%	2	8
Green corridors	60%	61%	71%	84%	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>67</b>	<b>220</b>

## 4.6 Value assessments and scores

Value assessments have also been undertaken. Nearly all sites (94%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of parks and open space provision to local communities and environments. Provision for children and young people is the only typology to have any sites to rate below the value threshold. This reflects for those sites a general lack of quality equipment.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest, for example, good quality play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive. The table below gives an overview of value:

**Table 4 – Value scores for assessed open space typologies**

Typology	Threshold	Scores %			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Below threshold	Above threshold
Park and gardens	20%	39%	51%	90%	0	20
Natural & semi-natural parks and open space		26%	41%	68%	0	33
Amenity parks and open space		15%	32%	60%	6	89
Space / provision for children & young people		15%	63%	91%	11	81
Allotments		9%	28%	56%	1	32
Cemeteries/churchyards		32%	60%	81%	0	10
Green corridors		31%	49%	83%	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>18</b>

## 4.7 Parks and open spaces community survey

A parks and open spaces community survey was undertaken by consultants in 2018/19 with 671 respondents taking the opportunity to tell us more about their needs and aspirations for parks and open spaces within the borough. A summary of the consultation report is available within the evidence base but some key messages from the survey include:

- 65% of respondents visit a park or public garden at least once a week

- The majority of respondents use non-vehicular modes of transport including walking, running and cycling to access provision in particular parks (77%), amenity greenspace (62%) and outdoor networks (57%)
- For other types of provision including play areas, country parks and cemeteries the weighting towards vehicle use is higher
- For most types of provision people are willing to travel for around 15 minutes but this increases for certain types of provision including country parks and local nature reserves where the majority of people would be happy to travel for 30 minutes
- In general, respondents consider the amount of provision to be quite satisfactory for most types of provision, similarly with quality
- The factors which would make the biggest difference in terms of increasing the use of parks and open spaces include improved cleanliness, better maintenance and improvements to paths, benches, shelters etc and the attractiveness of sites with landscaping, floral displays etc.

**4.8 In addition to the main survey 236 children took the opportunity to engage in a specific child focused survey in 2018/19. The key findings include:**

- 81% like to visit parks, 66% play areas and 63% nature areas
- The most common reason for visiting these types of open space is to play (81%), meet with friends (61%), to exercise (51%) and to visit with family (46%)
- When asked about what would make parks and open spaces better the most popular answers were making them cleaner and tidier (65%) and more play equipment (64%)

The parks and open spaces community survey found that the most common mode of travel to access open spaces is by non-vehicle methods e.g. walking, running cycling. The most common time willing to be travelled to access provision is 15 minutes. A 15-minute walk is the equivalent to 1.2 kilometres and this radius has been used to map the access to key provision types. For some types of provision – driving is a key method of transport e.g. for country parks and local nature reserves this has also been considered within the audits. The mapping and gap analysis is available within the evidence base.

## 4.9 Local standards for quantity and travel distance

Standards for the quantity of differing parks and open space typologies consider surpluses and deficiencies in provision on the basis of quantitative, qualitative analysis and any consultation undertaken.

The location, accessibility, and quality of parks and open space is also important in ensuring that the areas are well used and appropriate to the needs of the Chesterfield community. Setting distance thresholds for each type of open space for all areas is not easy to achieve, as many factors will influence travel times. The figures are based on generic average travel times. The Local Plan standards provide guidance that help to identify gaps that will be used to inform developer and Council Delivery plans.

In developing and applying standards of provision, it is important to note that:

- National standards of recommended provision have been used for comparative purposes (Fields in Trust Beyond the Six Acre Standard and Accessible Natural Parks and Open Space Standard)
- Existing standards of provision relate to the current level of provision of a specific typology
- Recommended standards of provision are based on local assessment and analysis but may be the same as a national recommended standard if appropriate, and specifically where current levels of provision do not meet a nationally recommended standard as a minimum. Equally, the future recommended standard may be the existing provision, if it is particularly high, and to lose it would significantly change the natural character of the area.

It is not appropriate to set local standards in the same way for each typology; this is because the majority of people access different types of provision in different ways, for example, walking to a park or children's play area, driving to an outdoor sports facility. In addition, the way in which people choose to access different types of provision may be influenced by locational factors, for example, a high-quality park may be within cycling or driving, but not walking distance. With this in mind, we have developed a set of standards below for each typology. There is generally a good level of provision regarding quantity and travel across most open space typologies.

**Table 5 – Adopted standards for open space typologies**

	<b>Quantity standard</b>	<b>Travel and accessibility standard</b>
<b>Parks and gardens</b>	1.06 hectares per 1000 population	1.2km or 15-minute walk time
<b>Natural and semi-natural</b>	3 hectares per 1000 population	1.2km or 15-minute walk time or 30-minute drive time
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>	0.68 hectares per 1000 population	1.2km or 15-minute walk time
<b>Children and young people</b>	0.27 hectares per 1000 population	1.2km or 15-minute walk time
<b>Allotments</b>	0.39 hectares per 1000 population	1.2km or 15-minute walk time

# Section 5: Our vision and key themes

## 5.1 Our Vision for parks and open spaces:

'For every park and open space to offer a high quality and fulfilling experience; supporting biodiversity, promoting health, well-being and enjoyment, and improving the quality of life for residents and visitors to the borough.'

### Aims of the strategy

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is key to guiding the Council's protection and investment in parks and open spaces and providing a platform for increased community engagement. The aims of the strategy are:

- to provide clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving parks and open spaces
- to reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index multiple deprivation by providing good quality and accessible parks and open spaces
- to enhance local leadership and commitment to improving and investing in parks and open spaces
- to provide high quality evidence to underpin and support funding bids to improve parks and open spaces including community engagement opportunities
- to feed into and maximise visibility within the Council's key strategy documents the Council Plan and Local Plan
- to enhance our contribution to key agenda's including the climate emergency, nature recovery, improving accessibility and responding the borough's challenging health and wellbeing profile
- to support negotiation with developers for 'planning gain and support' for open space investment / provision across the Borough
- to develop parks and open spaces using local standards, evidence base and policies to provide a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement

## 5.2 Themes

Chesterfield Borough Council wishes to protect and preserve public open space. We want to ensure that development proposals and local improvement

work take all reasonable steps to avoid harm to the amenity, heritage, biodiversity and recreational value of existing open space.

We have identified four key themes for the parks and open spaces strategy, each with core objectives:

- 1. Using a clear approach for investment in parks and open spaces**
- 2. Using our resources effectively and sustainably**
- 3. Increasing the use of our parks and open spaces**
- 4. Engaging with our community and partners effectively**

The sections below capture the core objectives for each theme and set out the range of activities that will be developed and delivered under each of these themes.

### **5.3 Theme 1. Using a clear approach for investment in parks and open spaces**

- Identify key investment priorities by assessing parks and open spaces against an adopted local assessment framework
- Improve the quality of parks and open spaces in line with the identified investment priorities, maximising the use of internal and external resources
- Seek to prioritise the reinvestment of income raised through the parks and open spaces assets, into the maintenance and development of those assets
- Review through our local standards the Parks, Open Space and Play provision across the Borough.

#### **Investment in Open Spaces**

We will explore and co-ordinate all investment opportunities in our parks and open spaces including for example Heritage Lottery Funding, Sport England, Landfill Tax Credits. We will continue, where appropriate, to seek funding through the planning process e.g., Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy, for open space provision in relation to new development and off-site contributions.

We will develop a five-year costed delivery plan to determine those spaces in need of investment to improve their quality. We will use our evidence base and audits to inform where investment should be directed. These will be linked to, and driven by, gaps in provision and areas of social and economic deprivation.

We recognise that our parks and open spaces require investment and nurturing. We will maximise the use of the Councils general fund revenue budgets and actively seek opportunities to generate income and secure



funding for the improvement and regeneration of our parks and open spaces, in partnership with key stakeholders and external agencies.

### **Protection of parks and open spaces**

The Council wishes to protect and preserve public open space by ensuring that assets are not transferred out of the Council's ownership. There may be exceptional circumstances with lease arrangements or where alternative suitable provision can be made if provision is lost through development. We want to ensure that development proposals and local improvement works take all reasonable steps to avoid harm to the amenity, heritage, biodiversity and recreational value of existing open space.

### **Quality and access at strategic and multi-functional sites**

Through this strategy and the evidence-based assessments we will highlight sites that have real potential to reduce gaps in provision. We will also assess sites across the borough with a multi-functional role which provide the opportunity to serve the wider borough. We are seeking to ensure that quality and access at these types of sites is good, and we will be exploring options to enhance provision given their important role across the borough. Such sites play a multifunctional role with regard to nature recovery and biodiversity net gain, environmental services and climate change. These sites include:

**Destination parks** – these parks serve local communities but also attract a large number of visitors from within and outside of the borough. They are of substantial size and often of historic importance. They provide a wide range of attractions and facilities.

**Community parks** - these parks serve a key local need, but which are of sufficient size to accommodate a reasonable range of attractions and facilities. There are 19 sites that are considered as Community parks or have the potential to be community parks with some investment.

**Natural/semi-natural green space** - these sites are primarily 'natural' in appearance, of significant size, listed in the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust register of sites of importance for nature conservation and managed for wildlife but accessible for informal recreation.

**Table 6 – Strategic and multifunctional Parks and Open Spaces**

<b>Destination Parks</b>	
Holmebrook Valley Park	Pools Brook Country Park
Queen’s Park and Annexe	
<b>Community Parks</b>	
Brearley Park	Eastwood Park
Hady Playing Field	Highfield Park
Loundsley Green	Rother Rec
Stand Road Park	Tapton Park
Inkerman Playing Fields	Ringwood Park
Whitecotes Playing Field	Badger Recreation Ground
Thistle Park	Inkersall Green Playing Fields
King George V Playing Fields	Langer Lane Recreation Ground
Manor Road Recreation Ground	Station Road Recreation Ground
Somersall Park	
<b>Natural/Semi Natural Green Space</b>	
Brearley Wetland LNR	Norbriggs Flash LNR
Blue Bank Pool LNR	Phipps Open Holes
Westwood	Troughbrook Wood
Cobnar Wood	Wheeldon Mill Plantation
McGregors Pond	Rother Wetland
Chesterfield Canal	

**Review of play provision stock**

The quality of play provision has been highlighted as an area of concern within the parks and open spaces audit and community survey. A significantly greater percentage of respondents to the survey were dissatisfied with the quality of play provision when compared to other types of parks and open spaces. Enhancing the stock is a challenge due the demands of refurbishing and improving stock on a regular basis and the capital investment required.

We will develop a five-year costed delivery plan through our parks and open space strategy. The plan will provide the framework for a long-term strategic view to be taken to ensure we have a robust and affordable range of play opportunities across the Borough. In developing the plan consideration will be given to providing more natural play opportunities through creative landscaping. This will be in response to the higher proportion of survey respondents who cited preferring natural play opportunities as opposed to traditional play equipment.

## 5.4 Theme 2. Using our resources effectively and sustainably

- Maximise income and external funding opportunities
- Explore the potential to dispose of or make alternative use of low value and low-quality open space in line with the assessment against the local standards
- Review parks management and maintenance regimes to realise efficiencies and maximise climate change benefit

### **Maximise income and external funding**

We will ensure that income generating and external funding opportunities - including for example Heritage Lottery Funding, Sport England, Landfill Tax Credits are fully explored and appropriately used to positively contribute to achieving the aims of the parks and open spaces strategy.

### **Dealing with Surpluses and Deficiencies in Open Space**

We will ensure that where surplus land exists (where typologies exceed the standards for local communities), modification to the land to address other typology shortfalls within the locality will be considered prior to consideration for disposal where practicable. We will seek to address deficiencies in open space (where typologies do not meet the standards for local communities) by applying for external funding sources and consideration of gain through the planning system.

### **Adoption and Liability of New Open Spaces**

Through seeking to address shortfalls in the Parks and Open Spaces, the Council will reduce its financial liability by actively promoting the transfer to third party organisations e.g., management bodies on new development sites. Where the Council does accept the asset transfer appropriate levels of revenue funding will be agreed in advance and the quality standards identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy should be met, where possible, prior to transfer.

### **Management and Maintenance**

The Council recognises the importance of high-quality management and maintenance of open spaces and will seek to ensure that the quality standards identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy are met. We will continually review how we manage our provision to ensure it provides a high-quality service that is sustainable and accessible. Specifications, procedures and protocols will be developed in order to effectively manage open space.

## **Climate change and biodiversity**

Our parks and open spaces make a significant contribution to our commitment to become a net carbon neutral council by 2030 and borough by 2050. This includes maximising sustainable principles at all our facilities and in the way we manage and maintain our parks and open spaces but also in seeking to increase biodiversity. We have an overarching duty to consider the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment. In the management, maintenance and development of open space biodiversity will be a priority. Parks and open spaces can serve as receptor sites for biodiversity net gain from new development sites (off-setting).

Long term climate forecasts (Climate UK), indicate a likelihood of higher average temperatures and more seasonal extremes. This might include a decrease in summer rainfall and an increase in heat waves, and/or an increase in 'flash' rainfall resulting in more flooding, higher sea levels and waterlogged soils. There is therefore a need to build climate adaptability into the maintenance of Chesterfields parks, open spaces.

This will in turn impact on the selection of species for planting, choosing specimens that are resilient to climatic changes. There is potential to improve and promote the environmental sustainability of parks and open spaces and associated buildings and operations, for example, using low emission machinery/vehicles where possible. Chesterfields parks and open spaces can play an important role in reducing the borough's carbon and environmental footprint through for example recycling and composting of parks waste, encouraging local food growing and encouraging cycling, walking and public transport use where appropriate.

Improving the management of the habitats at sites can also help to manage the effects of climate change. For example, the planting of more trees and the restoration of grassland areas can not only lead to the sequestration of more carbon but can also mitigate against flooding events and improve habitat connectivity for species that are most affected by climate change such as birds and bees. We are reviewing our sites to identify opportunities for nature-based solutions, allowing us to mitigate against and adapt to our changing climate, as well as make improvements for both wildlife and people.

## **5.5 Theme 3. Increasing the use of our parks and open spaces**

- Develop a diverse and attractive programme of events and healthy activities in partnership
- Promote open space benefits for health, learning and wildlife
- Encourage responsible use of sites and take effective action with partners to combat anti-social behaviour

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Relaxing or participating in active exercise in a park or green space is an effective way to tackle poor health in an urban area. Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve both physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. We will encourage the use of parks and green spaces for a culture of physical activity by all sections of our community.

We will seek to ensure that our parks and open spaces can be beneficial for a range of physical and mental health condition priorities as part of a preventative 'natural health service'. Linking deprived communities and people with health-related issues to parks and open spaces is more important than ever. The council has a supporting public health leadership role, working with valued partners and we will work with our partners to create a joined-up approach using green social prescribing to better support and improve the mental health and wellbeing of local communities through use and development of green space, by supporting people to feel confident and encouraging them to become active participants in the natural world.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The Council is committed to promoting equality and diversity in the provision and management of open space including improvements to parks and open space facilities. This commitment recognises not only our legal requirements under legislation, but also our drive to ensure we make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that our facilities are accessible for our communities.

### **Crime and anti-social behaviour**

We will work with our partners and use a multi-agency approach to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and improve social cohesion in our parks and open spaces.

### **Signage and Interpretation**

We will ensure that where there is an identified need, appropriate signs and interpretation boards are in place for our parks open spaces. Signage should be fit for purpose and positioned to avoid impairing amenity and creating visual clutter.

## **Marketing and Promotion**

We will continue and seek to improve marketing of open space across the Borough including to fully exploit its value for education, health promotion, improved liveability of neighbourhoods and accessibility via public transport, cycling or walking.

### **5.6 Theme 4. Engaging with our community and partners effectively**

- Increase engagement with key partners and user groups
- Develop volunteering opportunities in parks
- Seek to promote a local river and tree stewardship scheme in partnership
- Support sports clubs and other groups to move to self-management of facilities
- Work with planning and developers to enhance and develop parks and open spaces

## **Community Engagement and Volunteering**

The Council recognises the many valuable benefits that volunteering can bring to individuals, communities and in improving our parks and open spaces. We will continue to encourage and support volunteering in its many forms including Friends of Groups (FrOGs), tenants and residents' associations and the Chesterfield in Bloom committee. In committing to providing and extending the range of volunteering opportunities within the open spaces work programme, the Council has provided technical support and advice to community and voluntary groups that are working on projects which support the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

We have developed a pack of information to support Friends groups and their activities. We will hold an annual meeting with FrOGS to give advice and support and to enable networking.

## **Consultation**

We will consult with residents, users and community groups, where reasonable, on proposals for development of or changes to parks and open spaces, to ensure community expectations are met in delivering and managing open space and in order to set good examples to other providers.

## **Partnership Working**

We will continue to work in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors including providing advice and support and acting as a critical friend in order to manage and enhance our parks and open spaces across the borough more effectively.

### **Strategic Growth Sites**

Known development sites provide an opportunity to establish a more detailed level of clarity in terms of the open space provision requirements as a result of each development. Across the borough there are several planned developments and allocated sites for housing. These developments are at different stages, some have live planning applications, some are allocated, and others are at an initial identification stage.

Developers of all new housing within the borough will be required to contribute to on or off-site open space provision in accordance with the council's adopted standards. On-site provision will be made where appropriate or off-site contributions to additional or improved open space will be sought where we are able to secure it by S106 planning obligation or Community Infrastructure Levy. The recommended quantity provision standards for the borough are applied in order to determine the need for open space provision as part of the development scenarios.

# Section 6: Delivery plan, monitoring and review

## 6.1 Delivery plan

We will develop a five-year costed delivery plan setting out a range of activities to support the delivery of the strategy through the key themes. Key features of the delivery plan will include estimated investment costs to achieve the council's vision for parks and open spaces, taking into account the detailed analysis of parks and open spaces against the local standards established within this strategy.

Delivery of the parks and open spaces strategy will ultimately be the responsibility of Chesterfield Borough Council; however, we will continue to work in partnership where possible and engage with local communities to maximise delivery of the strategy.

## 6.2 Monitoring and review

The development of a delivery plan will be a key tool to manage, control and report on progress. Progress against the delivery plan will be monitored and challenged in line with the Council's performance management framework. This will also include the opportunity to make any amendments to the delivery plan in response to emerging needs and challenges. Key performance information will also be monitored and challenged during the plan period including satisfaction and usage data, quality and value score updates.





# **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Evidence base Appendix A**

# Section 1: National Context

At a national level the key policy and guidance documents that underpin this strategy and set out clear expectations for local authorities to take a strategic approach to green space are:

- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)
- The Biodiversity Strategy for England (BSE)
- The Localism Act, 2011
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Making Space for Nature (MSN)
- Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance (GIG)
- DEFRA's Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP)
- Communities and Local Government Committee: Public Park – Seventh Report Session (2016 – 2017)
- Government Response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Report: The Future of Public Parks (2017)

## The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)

The NEWP (2011) states the government's view that the quality of the natural environment is in decline, highly fragmented and unable to respond to the pressures that will follow from climate change. The NEWP is based largely on the concept of "ecosystem services" and the benefits that society gains from natural resources and functional natural systems – benefits such as food and water, fertile soils and clean air. It concludes that many ecosystems are in decline and therefore the benefits society derives from them are also in decline. As a result, it argues for the creation and maintenance of a "resilient ecological network across England". It also refers to urban green infrastructure as completing "the links in our national ecological network" and "one of the most effective tools available to us in managing environmental risks such as flooding and heat waves".

The White Paper introduced several new policy initiatives, including:

- Local Nature Partnerships, intended to work at a strategic scale for a better natural environment
- Nature Improvement Areas intended to enhance and reconnect nature on a significant scale
- Biodiversity offsets, designed to deliver biodiversity benefits for losses through compensatory habitat expansion or restoration elsewhere
- A Green Infrastructure (GI) Partnership designed to support the development of GI in England

## **The Biodiversity Strategy for England (BSE)**

The BSE, Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services, sets out how the Government intends to implement international and EU commitments. It aims to reduce the environmental pressures created by development by "taking a strategic approach to planning for nature" and by retaining "the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system".

## **National Planning Policy Framework (2018)**

The NPPF sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Under paragraph 96 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 97 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports, and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss

## **Communities and Local Government Committee: Public parks - Seventh Report of Session (2016–17)**

Discusses in detail the three key questions on the inquiry into public parks: why parks matter, what challenges are facing the parks sector, and how we can secure a sustainable future for parks. A summary of the three themes is set out below:

### **Why do parks matter?**

Clear evidence of the high usage and role of parks in serving a wide range of users including children and young people is strongly discussed. Furthermore, the many benefits of parks are recognised including:

- Physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Active travel
- Community cohesion and identity
- Biodiversity and access to nature
- Local economy and growth
- Climate change and the environment

Whilst the diverse role of parks is widely acknowledged as indisputable, the focus on parks as physical assets and operational costs can overlook the benefits provided. There is a need for assessment of parks to be more nuanced in a way which values it in terms of health and wellbeing, amenity, and leisure.

### **What challenges are facing the parks sector?**

A number of demands and trends are impacting on the management, maintenance and use of parks across the country. These include:

- Competing demands and tensions between parks users
- Funding reductions
- Health and safety
- Access to revenue and capital funding
- Unequal distribution of parks and green spaces
- Planning policy
- Green infrastructure

### **How can we secure a sustainable future for parks?**

No one size fits all solution is recognised. However, it is highlighted that local authorities are best placed to make decisions appropriate to their local circumstances. Other key considerations include:

- The role of the community
- Innovation and alternative approaches
- A statutory duty to provide and maintain parks
- Coordination and leadership

## **Government Response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Report: The Future of Public Parks (2017)**

The document examines the inquiry conducted by Communities and Local Government Select Committee (in July 2016) on the future of public parks. It builds upon the previous themes of why do parks matter, what challenges is the sector facing and can a sustainable future be secured.

In total 17 recommendations were made with each being considered by the Parks Minister as part of the formal Government response. A summary of some of the more relevant recommendations to local authorities are provided below:

- Recommendation Three: As part of developing their exclusive use and charging policies for parks and open spaces, local authorities should work collaboratively with relevant groups of park users to identify the range of ways in which they can contribute to their parks.
- Recommendation Four: Local authorities should encourage and support the development of friends' group forums, and work with them in a coordinated way to ensure that needs are properly assessed, and resources are prioritised and targeted appropriately.
- Recommendation Seven: Local Plans should take a whole-place approach recognising the importance of parks and green spaces to existing and new communities.
- Recommendation Thirteen: Cross-departmental group should encourage and facilitate the evaluation and benchmarking of emerging models for parks management, and the sharing of best practice.
- Recommendation Fourteen: guidance for local authorities that they should work collaboratively with Health and Wellbeing Boards (and others) to prepare joint strategies.

## **Promoting Healthy Communities**

Open space is a vitally important component of sustainable development and is covered in the NPPF objective of Promoting Health Communities. It requires planning authorities:

- To create a shared vision with communities of the residential environment and facilities they wish to see.
- To deliver the social, recreational, and cultural facilities and services the community needs.

- To base their planning policies on “robust and up to date assessments of the needs for parks and open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision, “in effect, what was known until recently as a “PPG17 assessment” or “green space strategy;”
- To protect and enhance public rights of way and access.

It provides highly specific guidance:

- Existing park and open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings, or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

## **Protecting Green Belt Land**

The NPPF states unequivocally that “the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open” and requires planning authorities to:

“... plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land”.

It also states that the construction of buildings in the Green Belt is inappropriate, although it also highlights a number of exceptions to this general rule. They include the

“... provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sports, outdoor recreation and for cemeteries, as long as it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of providing land within it”.

## **Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment**

The NPPF suggests that the planning system should help conserve and enhance the natural environment by:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils.
- Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services.

- Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and
- Remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

## **Provision Standards**

The Framework entitled “Using a proportionate evidence base”, requires that planning authorities,

“... set out their policy on local standards in the Local Plan ...they should assess the likely cumulative impacts on development in the area of all existing and proposed local standards, supplementary planning documents and policies that support the development plan, when added to nationally required standards.”

Implicitly, therefore, the NPPF continues the approach set out in the former PPG17 of requiring councils to adopt locally determined standards for open space, sport and recreation provision, a key outcome of this revised parks and open spaces strategy.

## **Making Space for Nature (MSN)**

MSN also highlights the decline in biodiversity and fragmentation of wildlife habitats, resulting in a reduction in the benefits that ecosystems deliver. It suggests that the overall aim for England’s ecological networks should be to ensure that

“Compared to the situation in 2000, biodiversity is enhanced and the diversity, functioning and resilience of ecosystems re-established in a network of spaces for nature that can sustain these levels into the future, even given continuing environmental change and human pressures.”

## **Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Guidance (GIG)**

Natural England has been promoting the concept of green infrastructure (GI) for some years. However, its initial attempts concentrated on trying to persuade local authorities to adopt its Accessible Natural Parks and open space Standard (ANGSt) which set out an aspiration that everyone should be able to access a range of green spaces of different sizes within fixed maximum distances from their home. ANGSt had two main failings. First, it ignored the requirement in the former PPG17 that

provision standards for open space should be locally determined; and second, it was simply unachievable in many areas. GI thinking has now moved on to focus more on the planned use of natural systems and processes (ecosystems) than what was ultimately an arbitrarily determined set of standards.

## **DEFRA's Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP)**

This is reflected in the work of the Green Infrastructure Partnership, which fulfils a commitment in the Natural Environment Green Paper, it brings together a wide range of organisations with a remit of:

Finding ways to provide green infrastructure in towns, cities, and rural areas.

Address barriers that might prevent this progress.

Develop and evidence base on the condition of England's green infrastructure and how it meets the needs of communities.

Demonstrate the many benefits that green infrastructure can bring.

Look into how communities, planners and decision-makers can best be supported in designing and developing green infrastructure; and

Help people to quantify the costs and benefits of investing in green infrastructure and make the case for green infrastructure projects.

The Partnership defines GI as "a planned network of green spaces and other environmental features including street trees, gardens, green roofs, community forests, parks, rivers, canals and wetlands". It has gone on to commission research on six broad topics:

- How to design and retrofit GI.
- How to plan GI for ecosystem services.
- How to work with communities.
- How to implement GI at the local level.
- How to value and make the case for GI; and
- How to ensure that people have the skills and knowledge to deliver improved GI

## **Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000) and Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (2006)**

Both the Acts refer to GI by recognising the need for strategic and open access, Local Access Forums and the duty of public bodies to have regard for biodiversity.

## **The Biodiversity Strategy for England, Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (2011)**



Builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and Lawton report and the role planning and development has in taking “a strategic approach to planning for nature”. It sets out the Government’s objectives and main actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020 and to ensure the intrinsic value and benefits associated with biodiversity are fully recognised by society. The emphasis is very much about planning for biodiversity at a landscape scale.

## **Section 2: Local Context**

### **Open Space Assessment – October 2018**

The Council commissioned an Open Space Assessment prepared by Knight Kavanagh and Page. The assessment provides detail with regard to what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. This study was intended to assist in the Councils process of preparing a new Local Plan for the area and a Strategy for Parks and Open Spaces. As part of this, it has reviewed the evidence base which will help to inform better understanding of the community needs and priorities for investment. The recommendations and priorities take into consideration the findings of the assessment report as well as population distribution, health and deprivation levels and planned growth.

The study also gives guidance on the consideration of potential disposal sites in areas found to have sufficient open space.

### **Chesterfield Local Plan 2018 - 2033**

Sets out a strategy for development across the borough until 2033. It identifies which broad areas are suitable for development.

It also established a presumption against the loss of open space, play provision and sports facilities unless certain criteria are met. In broad terms it seeks to maintain and enhance existing provision in the Borough unless there is clear evidence of a surplus. This was formulated in the absence of an up to date evidence base on open space, outdoor sports and recreation. The Examination Inspector stated a need for further evidence to be prepared as a matter of urgency.

As part of the Councils preparation for a new Local Plan it is concurrently reviewing its land holdings to help inform future decision-making policy. Local Plan Policies that relate directly to open space are set out below.

## **CLP15 Green Infrastructure**

Chesterfield borough's green infrastructure network will be recognised at all levels of the planning and development process with the aim of protecting enhancing, linking, and managing the network, and creating new green infrastructure where necessary. Development proposals should demonstrate that they will not adversely affect, or result in the loss of, green infrastructure, unless suitable mitigation measures or compensatory provision are provided.

Development proposals should, where relevant:

- a) not conflict with the aim and purposes of the Green Belt (as set out in the NPPF); and
- b) not harm the character and function of the Green Wedges and Strategic Gaps; and
- c) enhance connectivity between, and public access to, green infrastructure; and
- d) (i) protect and enhance access to the multi-user trails network as shown on the Policies Map; and (ii) increase the opportunities for cycling, walking and horse riding; and
- e) enhance the multi-functionality of the Borough's formal and informal parks and open spaces; and
- f) protect or enhance Landscape Character; and
- g) increase tree cover in suitable locations in the borough to enhance landscape character, amenity, and air quality; and
- h) where new green infrastructure is proposed, there must be clear funding and delivery mechanisms in place for its long-term management and maintenance, prior to the development commencing.

Where necessary and appropriate development will be expected to make a contribution through planning obligations or CIL towards the establishment, enhancement and on-going management of green infrastructure by contributing to the development of a strategic green infrastructure network within Chesterfield Borough.

## **CLP16 Biodiversity, Geodiversity, and the Ecological Network**

The council will expect development proposals to:

- protect, enhance and contribute to the management of the borough's ecological network of habitats, protected and priority species and sites of international, national and local importance (statutory and non-statutory), including sites that meet the criteria for selection as a local wildlife site or priority habitat; and
- avoid or minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity; and

- provide a net measurable gain in biodiversity.

## **CLP17 Open Space, Play Provision, Sports Facilities and Allotments**

Where proposed development would result in a need for new open space and outdoor sports facilities and/or exacerbate existing deficiencies in provision, development must contribute to public open space, sports facilities and play provision in accordance with the council's adopted standards as set out in Appendix B of the Local Plan and in line with the following requirements:

- a) on-site in a suitable location taking account of accessibility wherever possible; or
- b) where on site provision is not feasible or suitable, as a financial contribution to the creation of a new facility off-site or the upgrading and improvement of an existing facility, secured by planning obligation or CIL; or
- c) where new public open space is to be provided on site, as multifunctional, fit for purpose space that supports local community's health and wellbeing and activity levels and the ecological network.

Contributions to off-site provision will be secured through CIL and/or S106 agreements as appropriate.

On-site provision will be incorporated into development proposals with suitable management and maintenance arrangements secured through S106 agreements. Planning permission will not be granted for development which would have a negative impact on, or result in the loss of, open space, play provision and/or sports facilities unless:

- a) the site is clearly surplus to requirements and the land is not needed or is not suitable to meet a deficiency in a different type of open space provision; or
- b) equivalent or better alternative open space provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility will be provided on a replacement site; or
- c) the development is for alternative sports and/or recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

## **Deprivation factors**

The latest indices of multiple deprivation figures, health profile, official labour market statistics (NOMIS) and child poverty statistics indicate that despite extensive investment to grow Chesterfield's economy, our communities are still struggling to access the proceeds of growth due to a variety of factors including poor health, caring responsibilities and poor educational and skills attainment.

Key issues include:

- Estimated 5600 children in poverty
- Ranked 86<sup>th</sup> worst out of 317 local authorities for overall indices of multiple deprivation, 64<sup>th</sup> income, 40<sup>th</sup> employment, 13<sup>th</sup> health,
- Life expectancy 9.8 years lower for people in the most deprived areas of Chesterfield compared to the least deprived
- Over 1000 people presenting as homeless each year

## **Our Lives, Our Health - Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023**

### **Vision and Priorities for Derbyshire**

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 outlines five priority areas on which the Health and Wellbeing Board will focus activity over the coming years.

Our priorities are to:

- Enable people in Derbyshire to live healthy lives
- Work to lower levels of air pollution
- Build mental health and wellbeing across the life course
- Support our vulnerable populations to live in well-planned and healthy homes
- Strengthen opportunities for quality employment and lifelong learning

In Derbyshire, 20.9% of the population is physically inactive, similar to the England average of 22.2%. However, the prevalence of overweight and obesity in both adults and young children is significantly higher than the national average. Only 40.4% of babies in Derbyshire are breastfed for at least 6 weeks, compared to an England average of 44.4%. Further, only half of 15-year olds eat 5 portions or more of fruit and vegetables per day, rising to 57.8% in adults.

The 'Towards an Active Derbyshire' strategy seeks cultural transformation that makes Derbyshire more active through providing co-ordinated choice, motivation, and support for physical activity. Delivery of the strategy is a partnership between a wide range of stakeholders – led by Active Derbyshire – that focuses on reducing physical inactivity in women and girls, young people and those living in more deprived communities. Delivery will be through a wide range of initiatives for example encouraging active travel and supporting the development of local opportunities to be active.

## **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

Draws together information in order to forecast the main health and wellbeing needs of Derbyshire people over the next 15 years. It provides a snapshot of the current health and wellbeing of residents. The JSNA supports re-design of services to ensure demand is met and health inequalities are identified in order to set a framework across services and agencies. A series of reports are provided to help provide profiles to some of the key areas to be addressed.

## **Chesterfield Borough Council Plan 2019 - 2023**

The Council Plan helps us to effectively invest and deploy our time, resources, and energy to support key services and work with residents, partners, and businesses to ensure that everyone in the borough can achieve their full potential.

The Council Plan includes our priorities for the next four years:

- Making Chesterfield a thriving borough
- Improving quality of life for local people
- Providing value for money services

These are the activities on which we will focus our efforts and want to see a real shift in over the four years. The four-year plan allows us time to plan ahead without trying to speculate about what our communities will need and expect in the distant future.

## **Section 3: Parks and Open Space Audits – our methodology**

### **Analysis area and population**

The whole of the Chesterfield Borough area is used for the purposes of mapping and initial audit analysis. The assessment splits Chesterfield into 22 analysis areas in order to provide a more detailed level of analysis and to help inform future requirements and any future parks and open space recommendations.

The 22 analysis areas are intended to reflect the recognisable places of the different areas of Chesterfield. These relate to the 19 Wards across Chesterfield. They also reflect known barriers to movement such as major roads (e.g. A61, A619 and A617), railways (e.g. Midland Main Line) and waterways (e.g. Chesterfield Canal and River Doe Lea). The map below shows the 22 analysis areas.

Figure 1 Analysis areas



Chesterfield is estimated to have a population of 104,440 (need to mark Office of national statistics and year – latest is 104,600 - 2019). This is used throughout the strategy to help calculate the current provision levels in hectares per 1,000 population. i.e. area of open space (in hectares) per 1000 people (head of population).

Population figures for each of the 22 analysis areas are set out in the table below. ONS Mid-Year 2016 figures at a Lower Super Output level are initially utilised. These are then allocated to reflect the number of residential dwellings located within one of the 22 analysis areas.

### **Analysis areas with estimated populations.**

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Estimated population</b>
Barrow Hill	1,388
Boythorpe & Birdholme	12,715
Brimington & Hollingwood	9,851
Brimington Common	1,410
Brockwell, Ashgate & Loundsley Green	14,960
Duckmanton	1,067
Dunston, Newbold, Stonegravels & Whittington Moor	16,231
Hady & Spital	3,961
Hasland	7,416
Holme Hall & Holmebrook Valley Park	5,474
Mastin Moor	1,718
Middlecroft & Inkersall	7,462
New Whittington	4,385
North of Dunston	12
Old Whittington	4,108
Poolsbrook	1,037
South of Unstone	149
Staveley	3,028
Tapton & Waterside	1,529
Town Centre	544
Walton & Brookside South	5,498
Woodthorpe	497

Set out below is the methodology the Council used when assessing its parks and open spaces.

## **Auditing local provision**

The assessments focussed on those sites that are publicly accessible (i.e. generally private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). The exception is for allotments which are not open to the general public, but which are used by members of the community. Sites are initially identified using existing mapping data from previous and related studies.

In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. Sites of a smaller size, particularly for the typologies of amenity parks and open space and natural and semi-natural parks and open space tend to have a different role. Often this is for visual purposes (e.g. small incremental grassed areas such as highway verges) and is therefore considered as offering less recreational use in comparison to other forms of open space. Subsequently sites below 0.2 hectares for these typologies are not audited.

Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. However, the multi-functional role and use of some types of open space is acknowledged. A total of 283 sites are identified and included within the study. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

- Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi natural green space
- Amenity parks and open space
- Provision for Children and young people
- Allotments
- Cemeteries/churchyards
- Green Corridors

All information relating to each open space is collated into a database.

## **Quality and value**

Each type of open space (included within the sample audit) receives separate quality and value scores.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high-quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

## **Analysis of quality**

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in



the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised below:

- Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
- Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- Parking, e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking
- Information signage, e.g. presence of up to date site information, notice boards
- Equipment and facilities, e.g. adequacy and condition of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people

Within the databases the criteria are weighted to reflect their level of importance to each different open space typology. For example, a greater presence and variety of ancillary facilities (e.g. seating, bins, paths, play equipment, landscaping, etc.) and their management is expected at a park than in comparison to an amenity parks and open space or other type of open space. This is intended to reflect the general role and use of each open space type.

## **Analysis of value**

Site visit data plus desk-based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in best practice guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- Level and type of use.
- The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity, and the wider environment.

In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife. These elements are all considered as part of the value scoring:

- Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility
- Context of site in relation to other open spaces and proximity to housing
- Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
- Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote physical and mental well-being
- Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high-profile symbols of local area

- Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity, and attracts people from near and far

## Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements may be required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

The only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for Green Flag. However, the Green Flag pass rate is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of provision.

For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater presence and variety of ancillary facilities (e.g. seating, bins, paths, play equipment, landscaping, etc.) in comparison to an amenity parks and open space or other type of open space.

Furthermore, the 66% threshold for Green Flag is not appropriate as a different scoring mechanism is used (albeit the criteria for this study is derived from the categories used as part of Green Flag).

For each typology a different set or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is in order to better reflect the different roles and uses of each open space type. Consequently, a different threshold level is set for each open space typology.

In order to distinguish between higher and lower quality sites, the quality thresholds are set to reflect the average scores for each typology within the Borough. For example, the average of the 95 amenity parks and open space sites to receive a score is 64%. Consequently, the quality threshold is set at 60% (setting the threshold at 65% only provides a limited number of sites below the threshold and which does not reflect known sites of a lower quality). In our experience this works as an effective initial method to reflect local levels of provision and their variability.

## Quality and Value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	55%	20%
Natural and semi-natural parks and open space	40%	20%
Amenity parks and open space	60%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%
Allotments	50%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	60%	20%
Green corridors	60%	20%

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites.

A high valued site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical, and mental benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative blanket threshold of 20% is set. Whilst 20% may initially seem low - it is a relative score. One designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). If a site meets more than one criterion for value it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

### Identifying local need

In the spring and early summer of 2018, the council undertook a consultation exercise to identify local need for open space provision. This was carried out via a combination of face-to-face meetings, surveys, and telephone interviews. An online community survey and a survey for children to complete were also hosted. These were promoted by the Council with 671 community survey responses and 236 children's survey responses being received.

The purpose of the surveys was to gather views of the public and highlight their opinions regarding the accessibility, amount, and quality of open spaces in Chesterfield. It helps to statistically support the audit assessment findings in relation to quality, quantity, and access of provision. This in turn helps to inform any future actions and recommendations for parks and open spaces in the borough.

The findings of the consultations are used, reviewed, and interpreted to further support the results of the quality and value assessment.

## Travel and Access catchments

Accessibility catchments for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process, this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users.

Catchment areas are overlaid on the mapping of sites to help identify potential gaps in provision. In effect these are circular 'as the crow flies' areas (radial catchments). They do not simulate actual walking distances based on pedestrian routes or barriers to movement. However, significant barriers to movement are also mapped to help recognise instances where access to open space provision may be restricted. The use of radial catchment areas is a common and accepted method to identify potential gaps in provision (as set out in best practice such as FIT and Companion Guidance to PPG17).

Results of the community survey have been used to set initial accessibility catchments. These are presented in Table 5 and are applied to help inform potential deficiencies in each form of open space provision.

No catchments are set for the typologies of cemeteries. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

## Travel and Access catchments from respondents

Open space type		Accessibility catchment	Equivalent radial distance
Parks & Gardens		15-minute walk time	1,200m
		30-minute drive time to country parks	n/a
Natural & Semi-natural Parks and open space		15-minute walk time	1,200m
		30-minute drive time	n/a
Amenity Parks and open space		15-minute walk time	1,200m
Play areas & provision for young people	Children's play	15-minute walk time	1,200m
	Youth provision	15-minute walk time	1,200m
Allotments		15-minute walk time	1,200m
		15-minute drive time	n/a

# Section 4: Open Space Assessment – audit results and analysis

## Parks and gardens

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. Country park sites may also provide opportunities and functions often associated with parks and should therefore be recognised within a parks section.

There are 20 sites classified as parks and gardens. This is an equivalent of over 111 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites are included within the typology.

## Parks overview

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<b>Chesterfield</b>	20	111.19	1.06

The largest site and biggest contributor to provision is Tapton Park (16.2 hectares). This is followed by Somersall Park (15.2 hectares). Other significant providers are Ringwood Park (9.8 hectares), Highfield Park (9.5 hectares) and Queens Park (8.7 hectares)

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Chesterfield has a current provision level of 1.06 hectares per 1,000 population which sufficiently surpasses the FIT suggested standard.

Country parks can be considered to offer a dual role. Sites predominantly provide opportunities linked with natural greenspace but also offer many features associated with parks provision. However, to ensure no double counting of sites they are classified within natural and semi-natural greenspace but recognised within the parks and gardens typology.

If the sites were to be included within the quantity of parks provision, due to their dual role, the current levels of provision would greatly increase. The provision levels for parks and gardens would still exceed the FIT suggested standard.

## Parks overview (including country parks)

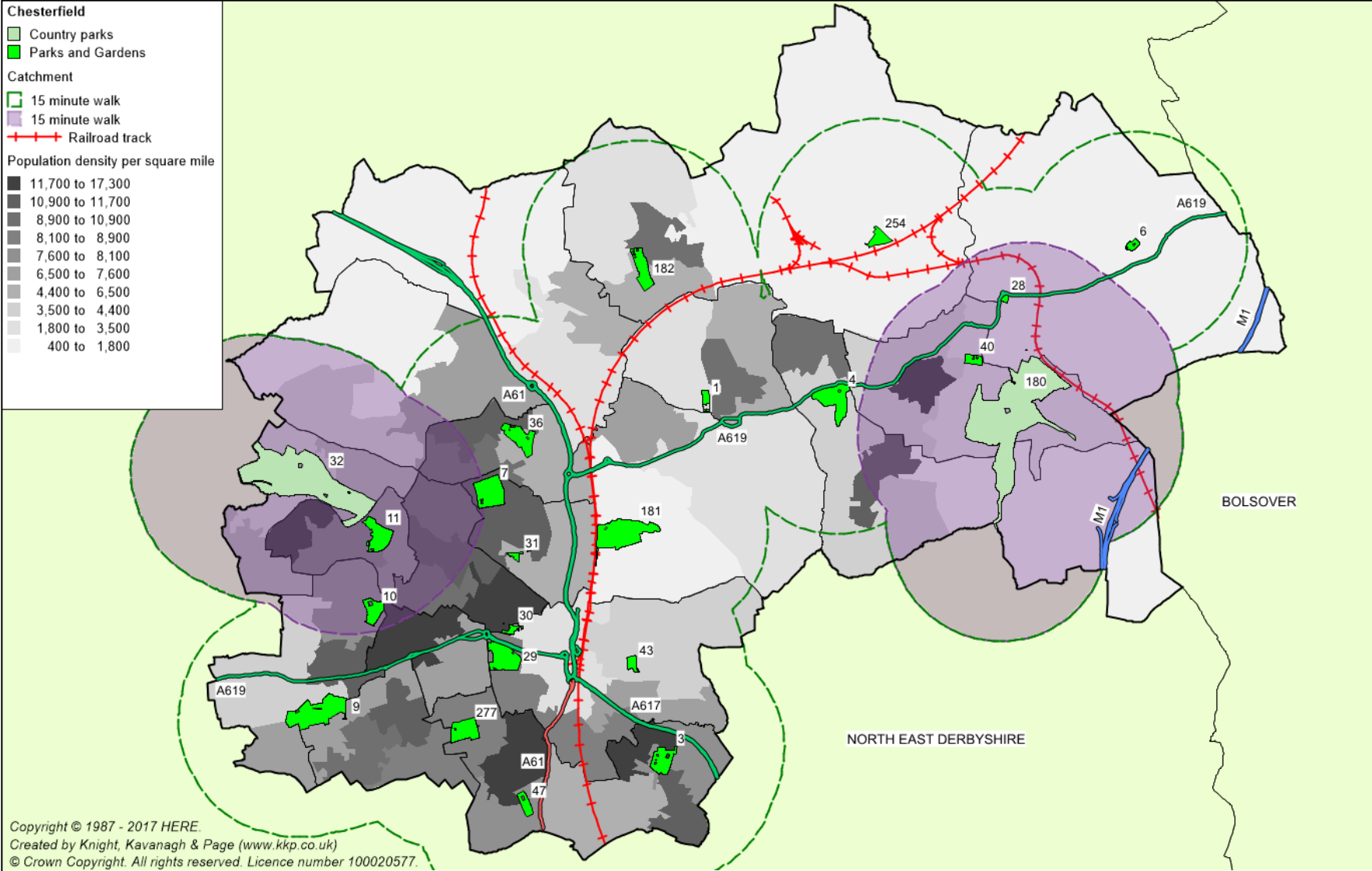
Analysis area	Parks and gardens (inc country parks)		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<b>Chesterfield</b>	22	241.01	2.31

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how much open space exists in the area. No issue with regard to availability of parks is highlighted. Nearly half of respondents (45%) rate being quite satisfied with the how much parks provision exists. A further 27% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (9%) or very dissatisfied (8%).

The community survey found the most common mode of travel to access a park is by non-vehicle methods (e.g. walking, running etc). Over three quarters of respondents (77%) state they access a park by non-vehicle means. This is followed by 16% of respondents that identify accessing park provision via private car. A further 4% state accessing via cycling. The most common times willing to be travelled by survey respondents is up to 15 minutes (30%). This is closely followed by those willing to travel up to 10 minutes (26%). On this basis, a 15-minute walk (equivalent to 1,200m) has been applied to all parks to reflect the most popular walk time. The map below shows the catchment mapping. Country parks are also shown to reflect the dual role such forms of provision provide. Only a 15-minute walk time to the country parks is shown as the 30-minute drive time applied to country parks covers the whole of Chesterfield as well as surrounding local authorities. For this reason, the drive time catchment is not shown in the mapping.

# Parks and gardens mapped against 15-minute walk time catchment

Page 183



## Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
1	Thistle Recreation Ground (Eastwood Rec)	60.3%	45.7%
3	Eastwood Park	80.4%	85.7%
4	Ringwood Park	62.7%	61.0%
6	Wickins Place Doorstep Green	59.9%	45.7%
7	Highfield Park	58.9%	50.5%
9	Somersall Park	72.0%	56.2%
10	Wasps Nest (Inkerman Playing Field)	54.7%	53.3%
11	Loundsley Green Park	43.9%	49.5%
28	Staveley Memorial Gardens	49.3%	43.8%
29	Queen's Park	82.3%	94.3%
30	Shentall Gardens	58.7%	41.9%
31	Abercrombie Community Park	55.0%	39.0%
36	Stand Road Recreation Ground	67.7%	61.9%
40	King George V Park	58.0%	60.0%
43	Valley Road Recreation Ground/Spital Park	49.9%	45.7%
47	Langerfield Park	54.8%	56.2%
181	Tapton Park	68.3%	52.4%
182	Brearley Park & Wetlands	56.9%	61.0%
254	Station Road Recreation Ground	58.0%	57.1%
277	Boythorpe Park	53.1%	52.4%

Some gaps in the 15-minute walk time catchment are initially highlighted to a few areas of the Borough including;

- Barrow Hill
- Brimington Common
- Ducknanton
- Mastin Moor
- North of Dunston
- Old Whittington
- South of Unstone
- Woodthorpe

In most instances these appear to be areas of low population density. In addition, the identified barriers to movement are likely to further impact on access to provision in areas such as Woodthorpe, Brimington and Hollingwood, Middlecroft and Inkersall.



Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how close open space in the area is. No issue with regard to 'closeness' of parks is highlighted. Nearly half of respondents (47%) rate being very satisfied with the how close parks provision is. A further 38% state they are quite satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (4%) or very dissatisfied (3%).

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

## Quality ratings for parks

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <55%	High ≥55%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	44%	61%	86%	42%	4	16

Over three quarters of parks provision (80%) is rated as being above the quality threshold. There are only four sites to rate below the quality threshold. It is worth acknowledging that most of the sites only just score below the quality threshold of 55%.

The four sites to rate below the threshold are:

- Langerfield Park (54.8%)
- Staveley Memorial Gardens (51.4%)
- Spital Park (49.9%)
- Loundsley Green Park (43.9%)

No specific quality issues are observed at the sites. The sites should not necessarily be considered as poor quality as scoring is a relative concept. The ratings therefore tell us that these four sites, in comparison to other park sites, are not considered as being of a similar level of quality.

There are 18 sites to rate above the threshold. The highest scoring sites are:

- Queen's Park (85.8%)
- Eastwood Park (80.4%)
- Somersall Park (72.0%)

- Tapton Park (68.3%)
- Stand Road Recreation Ground (67.7%)

The sites are generally identified as containing a range of ancillary features and facilities including play equipment (for a wide range of ages), sporting opportunities (i.e. football, cricket), wildlife promotion and other facilities such as toilets, café, and car parking. There are also active Friends Groups providing additional benefits to the quality and use of the site. In general, the overall appearance and maintenance at the sites is observed as excellent. The quality of the sites is reflective of Queens Park and Eastwood Park achieving Green Flag Award status.

Most respondents to the community survey are generally satisfied with the quality of parks provision. Over a third of respondents' rate quality as quite satisfactory (40%) with a further 19% rating provision as very satisfactory. There is a small proportion of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (16%) or very dissatisfied (12%) with quality of parks.

## **Green Flag**

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality. This in turn impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those without it. Its survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

There are six sites in Chesterfield identified as achieving Green Flag Award status (2019/20). Two of these are identified as park sites. The Green Flag Award sites are:

- Eastwood Park
- Queen's Park

Other non-park Green Flag Award sites are:

- Chesterfield Crematorium
- Chesterfield Canal
- Holmebrook Valley Country Park
- Poolsbrook Country Park

To be successfully awarded a Green Flag, sites must be considered to be maintained and managed to a high standard. The work of both the Council maintenance team and the Friends of Groups located at sites are important to their continuing achievement.

To determine whether sites are high or low value the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value.

## Value scores for parks

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	39%	51%	90%	51%	0	20

All 20 sites score above the threshold for value. The four Green Flag Award sites are the highest rating parks for value:

- Queen’s Park (94.3%)
- Eastwood Park (85.7%)
- Brearley Park (61.0%)
- Stand Road Recreation Ground (57.1%)

This is likely in part to reflect the high quality of such sites but also their role in facilitating a range of educational, social and well-being benefits.

All parks provide opportunities for a range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision.

Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area. Furthermore, parks can have ecological value, providing habitats for a variety of wildlife. Taking all this into account, parks and gardens are recognised as being heavily integrated into people’s everyday lives.

## Natural and semi natural greenspace

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland and scrub, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, wastelands, and bare rock habitats and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

In total, 33 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling nearly 314 hectares of provision. A minimum site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are assumed to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to quality of life and health and wellbeing.

## Natural and semi-natural greenspace overview

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<b>Chesterfield</b>	33	313.80	3.00

The biggest contributor to natural and semi-natural provision is Poolsbrook Country Park at 73 hectares. Other noticeably large sites include Holmebrook Valley Country Park (57 hectares), Norbriggs Flash at 37 hectares, Netherthorpe Flash (29 hectares), West Wood (24 hectares) and Cobnar Wood (19 hectares)

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard for natural and semi-natural provision. Overall, Chesterfield has a current provision level of 3.00 hectares per 1,000 population. This sufficiently surpasses the FIT suggested standard.

It is important to recognise that other forms of open space such as parks and amenity greenspace may also provide opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how much open space exists in the area. No issue with regard to availability of nature reserves, commons or woodlands is highlighted. Over two fifths of respondents (42%) rate being quite satisfied with how much natural provision exists. A further 25% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (10%) or very dissatisfied (4%).

A slightly greater proportion of respondents (47%) rate being quite satisfied with how much country parks provision exists. A further 28% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (6%) or very dissatisfied (3%).

Three sites identified as being designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). These are:

- Bluebank Woods
- Brearley Wetlands
- Norbriggs Flash

All three are recognised for their habitats and wildlife promotion. A brief summary of each site is set out below.

## Types of designation

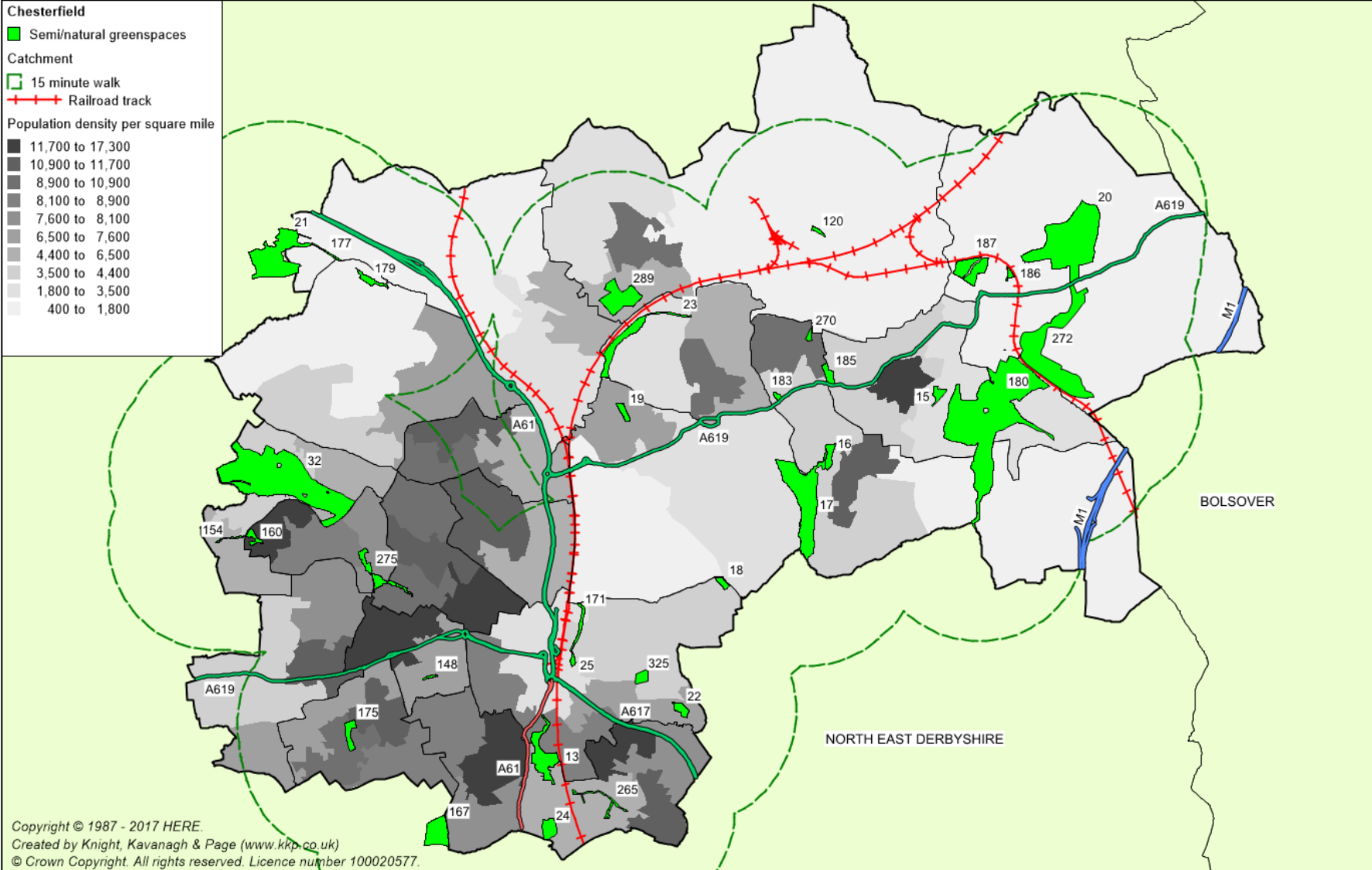
Designation	Description
Bluebank Woods	An unusual feature is the oxbow pools created when the River Rother was straightened as part of the railway development. A variety of wildlife can be seen including voles, kingfishers, grass snakes etc.
Brearley Wetlands	Habitats on site include wet grasslands, hedgerows, and scrub. Specifics such as invertebrates and migrating birds may be seen.
Norbriggs Flash	Mosaic of species rich grassland, open water, surrounding reed beds and marginal aquatic vegetation. Site is important for wintering wading birds and wildfowl.

The community survey found the most common mode of travel to access a nature reserve, common or woodland is by private car (55%). This is followed by non-vehicle means (32%). A similar trend is also demonstrated for country parks; with 65% of respondents stating they access provision via private car.

The most common time willing to be travelled by respondents to access a nature reserve, common or woodland is up to 30 minutes (32%); followed by 15 minutes (22%). A similar trend is also demonstrated for country parks; with 36% of respondents stating they would travel up to 30 minutes.

On this basis, a 15-minute walk time and 30-minute drive time have been applied to natural and semi-natural greenspaces across Chesterfield. The map below shows the walk time catchment applied. A 30-minute drive time covers the whole of Chesterfield as well as surrounding local authorities. For this reason, it is not shown in the mapping.

# Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against 15-minute walk time



## Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
13	Rother Recreation Ground & Washlands	64.6%	49.5%
15	Haddon Place	43.4%	42.1%
16	Land Adjacent to Bevan Drive	36.4%	38.9%
17	West Wood	54.5%	36.8%
18	Plover Wood	33.3%	37.9%
19	Wheeldonmill Planation	48.5%	33.7%
20	Norbriggs Flash	62.0%	55.8%
21	Cobnar Wood	39.4%	36.8%
22	Hady Plantation	29.3%	37.9%
23	Bluebank Wood	61.3%	50.5%
24	McGregor's Pond	55.9%	49.5%
25	Wakeley Recreation Ground	34.3%	33.7%
32	Holmebrook Valley Country Park	95.6%	58.9%
120	Campbell Drive Plantation	47.5%	35.8%
148	Sycamore Avenue	53.5%	35.8%
154	Off Langley Close	59.3%	30.5%
160	Tansley Drive Woodland	65.7%	50.5%
167	Gorsey Knowe	55.2%	37.9%
171	Riverside Park	63.6%	44.2%
175	Walton Plantation	54.5%	36.8%
177	Barlow Brook	36.4%	33.7%
179	Smeckley Wood Close	39.4%	34.7%
180	Poolsbrook Country Park	84.8%	68.4%
183	Land Adjacent Pear Tree Close	32.3%	26.3%
185	Troughbrook Wood	32.3%	41.1%
186	Pullman Close Plantation	41.4%	38.9%
187	Staveley Town Basin	52.5%	47.4%
265	Hasland Corridor	52.5%	33.7%
270	Land off Private Drive	30.3%	29.5%
272	Netherthorpe Flash	38.4%	38.9%
275	Purbeck Avenue/Penine Way	66.0%	40.0%
289	Brearley Wetland	53.5%	45.3%
325	Spital Park Woods	51.5%	37.9%

Gaps in the 15-minute walk time catchment are initially highlighted to a few areas of the Borough including;

- Barrow Hill
- Duckmanton
- Dunston, Newbold, Stonegravels and Whittington Moor
- New Whittington
- Walton and Brookside South

In most instances these appear to be areas of low population density. In addition, the identified barriers to movement are likely to further impact on access to provision in areas such as Duckmanton, South of Unstone and Woodthorpe.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how close open space in the area is. No issue with regard to ‘closeness’ of natural sites is highlighted; 42% of respondents rate being quite satisfied with how close natural provision is. A further 30% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (8%) or very dissatisfied (3%).

Similarly, 44% of respondents rate being quite satisfied with how close country parks provision is. A further 31% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (7%) or very dissatisfied (2%).

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality.

**Quality ratings for natural and semi-natural greenspace**

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High ≥40%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	29%	51%	96%	66%	11	22



Natural and semi-natural greenspace has a lower quality threshold than some other open space typologies such as parks. This is in order to reflect the wide-ranging characteristics of provision. For instance, some natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities as they focus on wildlife habitats whilst others are more centred on recreational use.

Of the natural and semi-natural provision assessed, a total of 22 sites (66%) rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 11 sites which rate below the quality threshold applied.

The lowest scoring sites are:

- Hady Plantation (29.3%)
- Land off Private Drive (30.3%)
- Land adjacent Pear Tree Close (32.3%)
- Troughbrook Wood (32.3%)
- Plover Wood (33.3%)

Sites scoring below the threshold for quality tend to lack basic ancillary features such as benches and bins. However, as previously mentioned, this can be due to their primary role as forms of habitat provision. However, they mainly score below the threshold due to an appearance of a lack of maintenance (narrow/overgrown pathways) which impacts on their access and usage.

Most sites scoring above the threshold are observed as being more attractive due to the perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the recreational uses on offer.

The highest scoring sites are:

- Holmebrook Valley Country Park (95.6%)
- Poolsbrook Country Park (84.6%)
- Tansley Drive Woodland (69.7%)
- Norbriggs Flash (67.0%)
- Purbeck Avenue/Pennine Way (66.0%)
- Bluebank Wood (65.3%)

These sites are observed as having better maintained pathways, appropriate boundary fencing as well as good signage. All the above sites score well for overall maintenance and cleanliness, drainage, and pathways.

Holmebrook Valley Country Park is the highest scoring site. It is noted as containing a range of features and ancillary facilities (e.g. café, car parking, play equipment, sports provision etc). The sites high score is likely a reflection of its offer; as well as its status as a Green Flag Award site.

Quality of natural provision for most respondents to the community survey is generally satisfactory. Over half of respondents (51%) rate being quite satisfied with quality of nature reserves with a further 23% being very satisfied. Respondents also rate quality of country parks positively; with 50% rating quality as quite satisfactory and 25% rating it as very satisfactory.

## **Green Flag**

There are six sites in Chesterfield identified as achieving Green Flag Award status (2019/20). Two of these are identified as natural and semi-natural sites:

- Holmebrook Valley Country Park
- Poolsbrook Country Park

Other non-natural Green Flag Award sites are:

- Chesterfield Crematorium
- Chesterfield Canal
- Eastwood Park
- Queen's Park

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value.

## Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	26%	41%	68%	42%	0	33

All of the assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace sites rate above the value threshold. The sites to rate the highest for value are:

- Poolsbrook Country Park (68.4%)
- Holmebrook Valley Country Park (58.9%)
- Norbriggs Flash (55.8%)
- Bluebank Wood (50.5%)
- Tansley Drive Woodland (50.5%)
- Rother Recreation Ground & Washlands (49.5%)
- Mc Gregor's Pond (49.5%)

Excluding McGregor’s Pond, the other sites listed above are also some of the highest scoring sites for quality. The high quality and value score for such sites is reflective of their role and importance to the local area.

Norbriggs Flash and Bluebank Wood are both designated as LNR’s. The former features an interpretation board about the site’s history and species; which adds to its onsite educational value. The other LNR site, Brearley Wetland, also rates highly for value with 45.3%. Rother Recreation Ground & Washlands scores highly for value. This is partly due to wide pathways and a cycle path enabling a range of users including wheelchair users to access the site. It also has small football goals on the grass area. Together these elements enhance the sites social, sport and recreation value.

Sites rating above the value threshold often demonstrate the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna promotion and habitat opportunities. There are only three natural sites with a LNR designation in place. This demonstrates the role and importance such sites provide especially in terms of natural provision. Prominent sites of this type can even act as a destination, attracting users from outside the local area.

## Amenity greenspace

This is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

There are 95 amenity greenspace sites in Chesterfield equivalent to over 93 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

## Amenity greenspace overview

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<b>Chesterfield</b>	95	93.31	0.89

A large proportion of provision may be considered as being smaller grassed areas or roadside verges. However, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example, the smallest site is Land adjacent to Arklow Close at 0.18 hectares whilst the largest site is Hasland Hall Playing Fields at over 4.96 hectares. Larger recreation grounds and playing fields serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational and sporting activities due to their size.

It is important to recognise the role of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) with regard to such sites. Some playing fields and recreation grounds included within the Open Space Assessment will also be included within a PPS. These sites are covered by the Open Space Assessment to reflect the multi-functional role of such forms of provision.

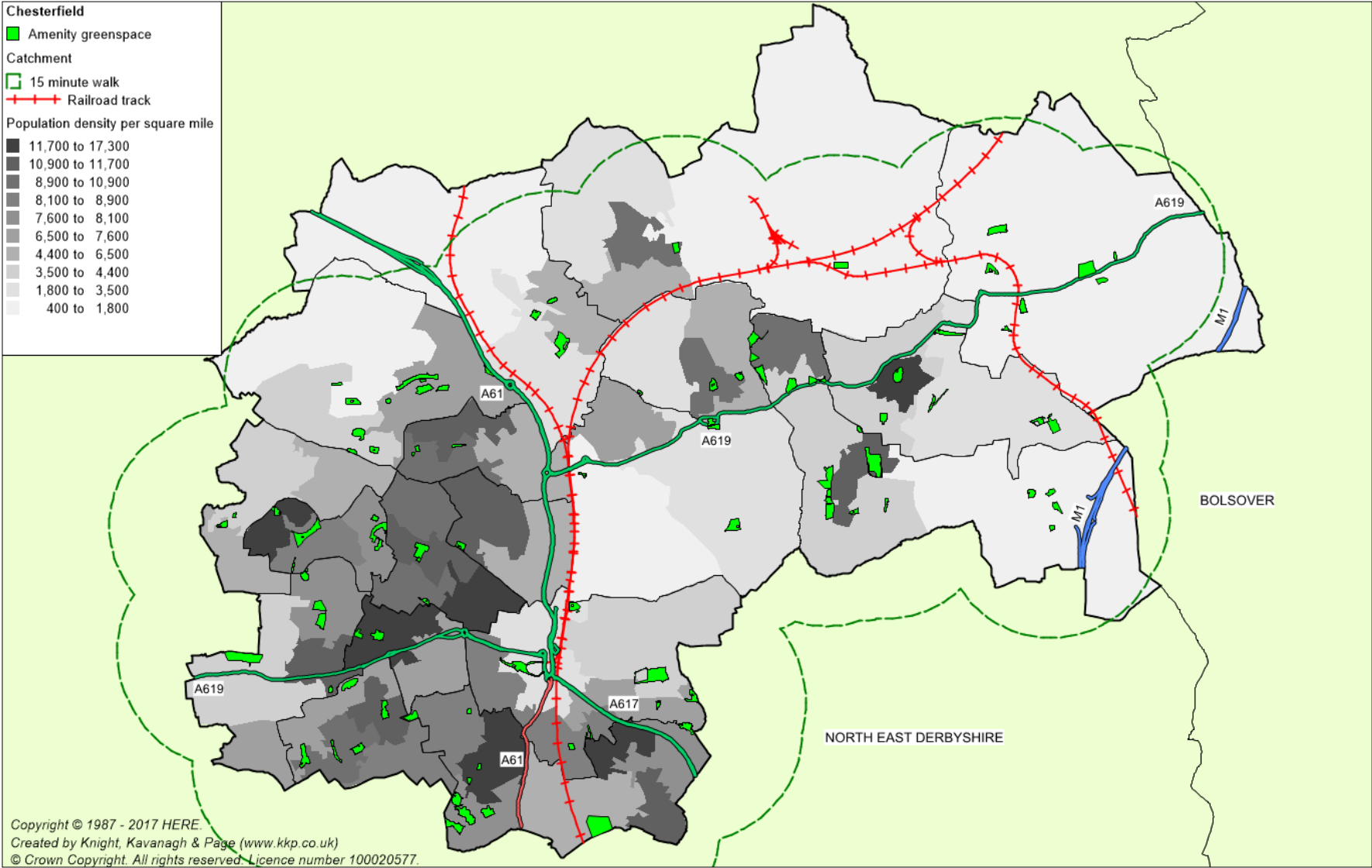
Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Chesterfield has a current provision level of 0.89 hectares per 1,000 population which sufficiently surpasses the FIT suggested standard.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how much open space exists in the area. Just over a third of respondents (37%) rate being quite satisfied with the how much amenity greenspace provision exists. A further 15% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (10%) or very dissatisfied (3%).

The community survey found the most common mode of travel to access an amenity greenspace is by non-vehicle methods (i.e. walking, running etc.). Nearly two thirds of respondents (62%) state they access an amenity greenspace by non-vehicle means. This is followed by 20% of respondents that identify accessing amenity greenspace provision via private car.

The most common times willing to be travelled by survey respondents is up to 10 minutes (23%) and up to 15 minutes (22%). A further 16% state they would travel up to 30 minutes. On this basis, a 15-minute walk (equivalent to 1,200m) has been applied to all amenity greenspace to reflect a significant proportion of respondents will walk up to 15 minutes. This is shown in map below.

# Amenity greenspace mapped against 15-minute catchment



## Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
2	Badger Recreation Ground	66.3%	33.0%
5	Inkersall Green Playing Field	81.8%	52.1%
8	Hady Playing Field	65.8%	39.4%
34	Hartington Recreation Ground	61.0%	40.4%
35	Hilltop Road	59.9%	36.2%
37	BRSA Sports Ground, Station Road	50.8%	26.6%
38	Off Alpine Grove	63.1%	34.0%
41	Poolsbrook Recreation Ground	66.9%	41.5%
44	Manor Road Recreation Ground	79.1%	59.6%
51	Pearsons Recreation Ground	77.0%	41.5%
52	Netherleigh Road	87.2%	48.9%
53	Chester Street Recreation Ground (The Monkey Park)	67.4%	43.6%
114	Kendal Road Recreation Ground	59.4%	29.8%
115	Church Street	78.6%	44.7%
116	Wensley Way	59.0%	23.4%
117	Edinburgh Road	80.2%	46.8%
118	Poolsbrook Road	55.6%	40.4%
119	Newbridge Lane	65.8%	33.0%
121	Brushfield Recreation Ground	65.2%	48.9%
122	Markham Road Open Space	33.2%	22.3%
123	Bellmont Drive	75.9%	35.1%
124	The Pingles	74.3%	35.1%
125	Netherthorpe Recreation Ground	65.2%	35.1%
126	Land to West of St Philips Drive	63.1%	31.9%
127	Land at Cherry Tree Grove	67.4%	36.2%
128	Off Ravensdale Close	66.3%	38.3%
129	Peak View Road	65.8%	35.1%
130	Princess Street	67.0%	34.0%
131	Sheldon Road	65.8%	47.9%
132	Coniston Road and Rydal Close	74.3%	40.4%
133	Circular Road	71.3%	35.1%
134	Rockley Close	65.8%	35.1%
135	Moston Walk	66.3%	42.6%
136	Kirkstone Road	71.1%	46.8%

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
137	Hall Road	71.7%	39.4%
138	Cuttholme Road	70.6%	30.9%
139	Roecar Close Open Space	59.4%	28.7%
140	Woolgrove AGS	64.2%	37.2%
141	Land South of Coniston Road	60.4%	34.0%
142	Land Adjacent Kirkstone Road	59.9%	27.7%
143	Damon Drive	56.2%	36.2%
144	Thirlmere Road	73.8%	36.2%
145	Windermere Road	65.8%	34.0%
146	Somersby Avenue	64.7%	46.8%
147	Wingerworth Way Open Space	65.2%	34.0%
149	Land Adjacent Salisbury Avenue	67.4%	39.4%
150	Healthy Living Centre Open Space	64.2%	29.8%
151	Pevensey Green	80.2%	62.8%
152	Land Adjacent Newbold Road	77.0%	35.1%
153	Land South of Rydal Crescent	61.5%	34.0%
155	Haddon Close	69.5%	29.8%
156	Summerskill Green	75.0%	52.1%
157	Greenways	55.1%	23.4%
158	Elm Street	40.6%	21.3%
161	Gypsy Lane Amenity Area	43.3%	26.6%
162	Dovedale Avenue	57.8%	35.1%
163	Cottage Close	54.6%	28.7%
164	Spire Walk	63.6%	52.1%
165	Haddon Close 2 Amenity Space	69.0%	43.6%
166	Harehill Road	65.1%	34.0%
169	Lockoford Amenity Greenspace	68.6%	37.2%
170	St David's Rise	65.8%	36.2%
172	Barnes Road	65.2%	33.0%
173	Spital Lane Recreation Ground	61.0%	33.0%
197	Cavendish Place	59.9%	35.1%
209	North of Brookfield Avenue	56.2%	27.7%
219	Land Adjacent Stubbing Road	73.8%	42.6%
226	Land off Kingsley Avenue	66.8%	42.6%
227	Land Adjacent Baines Wood Close	54.6%	28.7%
233	Land North of Albert Street North	72.7%	31.9%
240	Land Adjacent Grindlow Avenue	64.2%	40.4%



Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
245	Glencoe Way	61.0%	33.0%
248	Land Adjacent B6039	75.9%	26.6%
249	Land adjacent to Arklow Close	68.5%	31.9%
251	Norbriggs Playing Field	71.7%	34.0%
252	Hassop Road Amenity Space	75.6%	43.6%
255	Albert Road Amenity Greenspace	52.4%	35.1%
258	Pennine Way Amenity Greenspace	69.0%	36.2%
259	Loundsley Green Road Amenity Space	67.9%	47.9%
260	Brushfield Road Amenity Greenspace	66.8%	36.2%
263	Walton Dam Pitches North	50.1%	30.9%
267	Heathcote Drive	77.0%	40.4%
269	Crow Lane Amenity Space	72.0%	52.1%
271	Westwood Drive Amenity Space	62.0%	39.4%
273	East Crescent North	50.3%	29.8%
274	East Crescent West	67.9%	35.1%
283	Madin Drive/Bradshaw Road	62.6%	39.4%
284	Kinder Road	63.1%	34.0%
285	Madin Drive/Jarvis Place	55.6%	34.0%
286	Maple Street	50.3%	23.4%
287	Land South of Maple Street	71.7%	33.0%
288	Land North of Sycamore Road	47.1%	20.2%
326	Hasland Hall Playing Fields	48.7%	45.7%
328	Norbriggs Road	48.1%	24.5%
332	Brampton Rec	44.4%	28.7%
333	Boythorpe AGS*		

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision across the area; the majority of areas with a higher population density are being served by a catchment of an amenity greenspace. However, gaps in the 15-minute walk time catchments are initially highlighted to a few areas of the Borough; most noticeably Barrow Hill and South of Unstone.

In addition, the identified barriers to movement are likely to further impact on access to provision in areas such as Barrow Hill and Woodthorpe. The Strategy will explore in more detail the potential gaps in provision on an analysis area basis.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how close open space in the area is. Over a third (37%) rate being quite satisfied with how close amenity greenspace provision is. A further 22% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (5%) or very dissatisfied (2%).

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality.

**Quality ratings for amenity greenspace**

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High ≥60%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	33%	65%	87%	57%	26	69

A total of 73% of assessed amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for quality.

The highest scoring sites for are:

- Netherleigh Road (aka Manor Fields) (87.2%)
- Inkersall Green Playing Field (81.8%)
- Pevensey Green (80.2%)
- Edinburgh Road (80.2%)

The sites are observed as having high standards of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a good overall appearance. In addition, they provide sufficient security levels, bins, signage and pathways.

Netherleigh Road is the highest scoring site. It has a noticeboard, appropriate fencing and a good supply of benches and bins. It is well used especially by dog walkers. This site is managed by volunteers at the Manor Fields Association.

Similarly, Pevensey Green is maintained by the Friends of Pevensey Green. The site is observed as very neat and well-maintained with benches and bins. Despite this, consultation with the Group identify that the site is plagued by dog fouling and occasional vandalism. The site seems well used by locals and dog walkers.

Edinburgh Road and Inkersall Green Playing Field benefit from play areas which add to their quality and value. The latter also has a MUGA. Edinburgh Road also has a noticeboard about upcoming events; evidencing a level of community involvement and use.

Larger amenity greenspace sites such as recreation grounds and playing fields often lend themselves to greater sporting and recreational opportunities such as football. These opportunities as well as other added features on site, such as good quality play areas, provide increased reasons for people to visit such provision. Consequently, the quality of such sites is often to a higher standard. Of the sites highlighted as a recreation ground or playing field, 11 out of the 13 (85%) are rated as being above the quality threshold.

Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites are:

- Markham Road Open Space (33.2%)
- Elm Street (40.6%)
- Gypsy Lane Amenity Area (43.3%)
- Land North of Sycamore Road (47.1%)
- Hasland Hall Playing Fields (48.7%)

These sites all lack ancillary features such as bins and benches. They mainly score low due to a generally poorer level of appearance and perceived maintenance. For example, Hasland Hall Playing Fields has damaged fencing and very long grass. It has no specific paths but does seem reasonably used by dog walkers and contains a spacious grass area with a running track and rounders area.

Markham Road Open Space is observed as poorly maintained with overgrown grassed areas and unkept paths. The paths are narrow in parts with evidence of misuse (i.e. broken glass). Similarly, Elm Street is observed as having overgrown grass and thorns encroaching onto the pathways as well as appearing to be generally less well maintained.

Most respondents to the community survey are generally satisfied with the quality of amenity greenspace provision. Over a third of respondents' rate quality as quite satisfactory (37%) with a further 12% rating provision as very satisfactory. There is a small proportion of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (7%) or very dissatisfied (4%) with the quality of amenity greenspace.

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value.

**Value ratings for amenity greenspace**

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	15%	32%	60%	45%	<b>6</b>	89

Nearly all amenity greenspaces (94%) rate above the threshold for value. The highest scoring sites are:

- Manor Road Recreation Ground (59.6%)
- Pevensey Green (57.4%)
- Inkersall Green Playing Field (52.1%)
- Spire Walk (52.1%)
- Summerskill Green (52.1%)
- Crow Lane (52.1%)

These sites scoring high for value also score high for quality. They all appear well used, providing social and health benefits with suitable ancillary facilities to enable a wider range of people to use. Manor Road Recreation Ground and Inkersall Green Playing Field contain football goals, enhancing sport and recreation opportunities. Crow Lane and Spire Walk also feature play provision; further added to their appeal and social interaction benefits.

There are six sites to rate below the value threshold. These include:

- Land North of Sycamore Road (14.9%)
- Elm Street (16.0%)

- Markham Road Open Space (17.0%)
- Greenways (18.1%)
- Maple Street (18.1%)
- Wensley Way (18.1%)

The sites are all observed as being poorly maintained with a lack of pathways and other ancillary facilities. There is perceived to be little use of these sites. All six also rate below the threshold for quality.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites are likely to offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing. These attributes add to the quality, accessibility, and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping, and trees) this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

## **Provision for children and young people**

This type of provision includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can also include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges. It can include facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs).

A total of 81 sites are identified in Chesterfield as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of more than five hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

## Provision for children and young people overview

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<b>Chesterfield</b>	81	5.17	0.05

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Chesterfield has a current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population based on equipped play areas. However, there are instances where the surrounding open space of the site in which the play provision is located will also contribute to the play offer. If such sites are also included in the calculation, then a total of 37.17 hectares is identified; an equivalent to 0.36 hectares per 1,000 population.

There are a number of sites providing specific provision catering for older age ranges. In total there are seven sites recognised as offering substantial provision such as skate parks for older ages. These include:

- Eastwood Park
- Wickins Place
- Loundsley Green
- Stand Road
- Chesterfield Skate Park
- Brearley Park
- Station Road (Barrow Hill)

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how much open space exists in the area. A quarter (25%) rate being quite satisfied with how many play areas for young people exists. A further 11% state they are very satisfied. However, a combined 26% state they are quite dissatisfied (13%) or very dissatisfied (13%).

For teenage provision, a total of 57% of respondents had no opinion. A slightly greater proportion of respondent's rate being quite dissatisfied (10%) or very dissatisfied (7%) compared to those that are quite satisfied (9%) or very satisfied (6%).

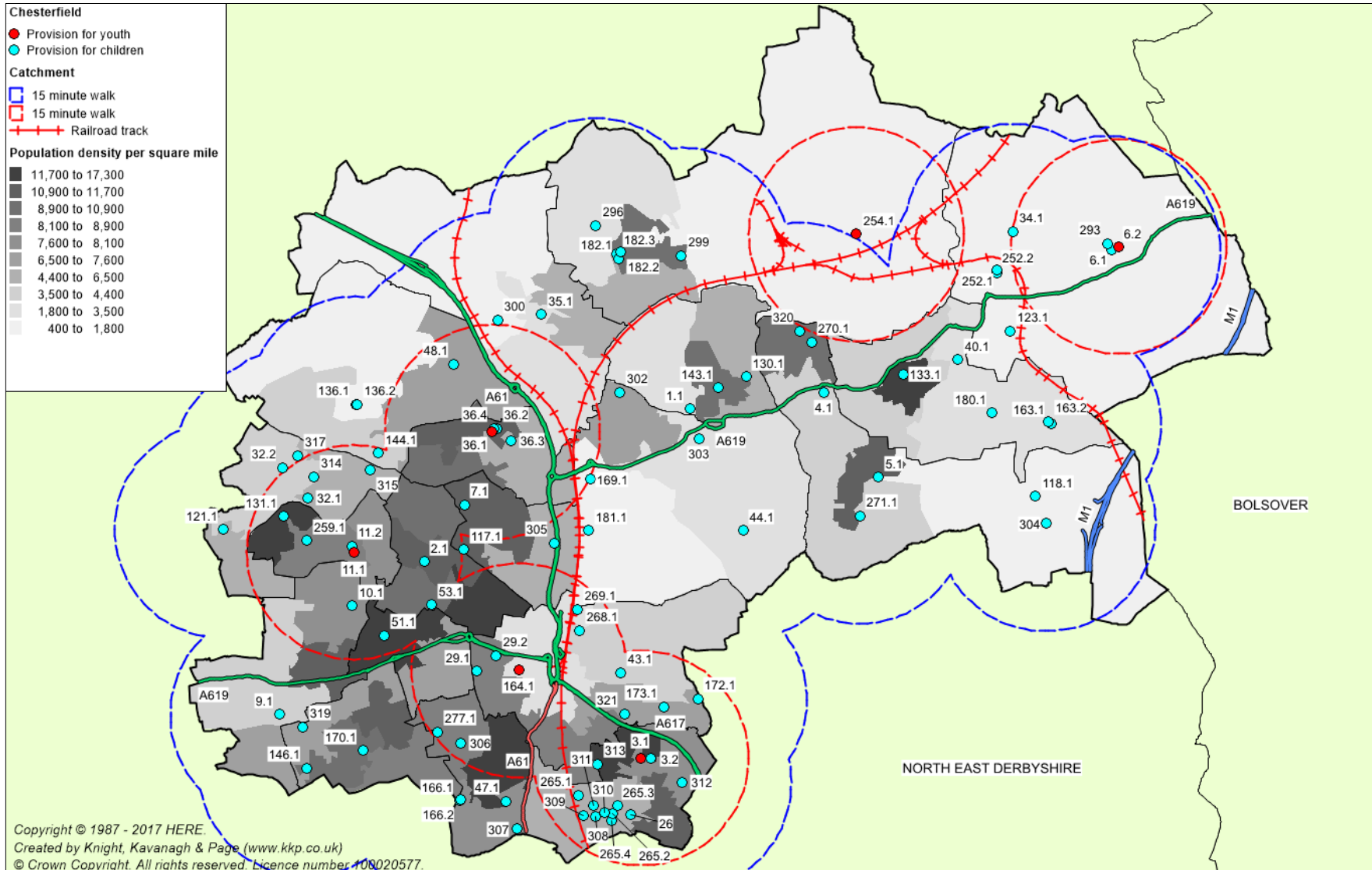
The community survey found that the most common mode of travel to access play areas for children is by non-vehicle methods (i.e. walking, running etc).

Nearly half of respondents (49%) state they access a play area by non-vehicle means. This is followed by 18% of respondents that identify accessing play areas for children via private car.

The most common times willing to be travelled by survey respondents is up to 15 minutes (20%) and up to 10 minutes (19%). On this basis, a 15-minute walk has been applied to all play areas for children to reflect the most popular walk time.

Respondents to the survey also highlight that for provision catering for older ages (i.e. teenagers), the most popular mode of travel to access such provision is by non-vehicle means (12%) followed by private car (10%). The most common times to travel in order to access provision for teenagers are 15 minutes (9%), 30 minutes (8%) and 10 minutes (6%). Consequently, a 15-minute walk time to provision for teenagers is applied to the mapping to reflect the average travel time from respondents. This is shown in the map below.

# Provision for children and young people mapped against catchments



Copyright © 1987 - 2017 HERE.  
 Created by Knight, Kavanagh & Page (www.kkp.co.uk)  
 © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020577.



A single quality and value score are attributed at sites where more than one form of play provision is identified.

## Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
1.1	Thistle Park	76.8%	78.2%
2.1	Badger Play Area	61.8%	50.9%
3.1	Eastwood Park Play Area	88.6%	81.8%
3.2	Eastwood Park MUGA		
4.1	Ringwood Park	69.3%	72.7%
5.1	Inkersall Green	80.4%	89.1%
6.1	Wickins Place 2	62.7%	81.8%
6.2	Wickins Place 1		
7.1	Highfield Park play area and MUGA	62.4%	87.3%
9.1	Somersall Park Play Area	55.6%	74.5%
10.1	Wasps Nest	66.7%	83.6%
11.1	Loundsley Green skate park and MUGA	70.9%	85.5%
11.2	Loundsley Green play area		
26	Kirby Close Play Area	67.6%	16.4%
29.1	Queens Park Play Area	80.1%	89.1%
29.2	Queens Park Play Area 2		
32.1	Holmebrook Valley Park Play Area 1	66.7%	87.3%
32.2	Holmebrook Valley Park Play Area 2	89.9%	83.6%
34.1	Hartington Recreation Ground	62.1%	49.1%
35.1	Hilltop Road Play Area	81.4%	80.0%
36.1	Stand Road Skate Park	80.1%	87.3%
36.2	Stand Road Play Area		
36.4	Stand Road MUGA		
36.3	Stand Road Play Area 2	73.5%	85.5%
40.1	King George V Play Area	60.8%	74.5%
43.1	Valley Road	61.1%	74.5%
44.1	Manor Road Recreation Ground Play Area	81.7%	85.5%
47.1	Langerfield Park MUGA	80.4%	89.1%
48.1	Chesterfield Panthers Rugby Club MUGA	76.5%	85.5%
51.1	Pearsons Recreation Ground Play Area	52.9%	20.0%

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
53.1	Chester Street Recreation Ground Play Area	69.3%	81.8%
117.1	Edinburgh Road Play Area	91.2%	90.9%
118.1	Poolsbrook Road Play Area	54.9%	78.2%
121.1	Brushfield Recreation Ground	66.7%	83.6%
123.1	Bellmont Drive Play Area	69.6%	83.6%
130.1	Princess Street Play Area	54.2%	50.9%
131.1	Sheldon Road Play Area	54.2%	70.9%
133.1	Circular Road Play Area	68.3%	87.3%
136.1	Kirkstone Road Play Area	63.7%	81.8%
136.2	Kirkstone Road Play Area MUGA		
143.1	Damon Drive Play Area	67.6%	72.7%
144.1	Thirlmere Road Play Area	56.9%	80.0%
146.1	Stanford Way Play Area	88.2%	83.6%
163.1	Cottage Close Play Area 1	64.7%	81.8%
163.2	Cottage Close Play Area 2	56.9%	74.5%
164.1	Chesterfield Skate Park	62.4%	80.0%
166.1	Harehill Road Play Area	71.9%	85.5%
166.2	Harehill Road MUGA		
169.1	Lockoford Play Area	57.8%	38.2%
170.1	St Davids Rise Play Area	53.9%	41.8%
172.1	Barnes Road Play Area	67.6%	70.9%
173.1	Spital Lane Play Area	80.7%	70.9%
180.1	Poolsbrook Country Park	85.3%	72.7%
181.1	Tapton Park Play Area	53.6%	69.1%
182.1	Brearley Park Play Area	81.0%	78.2%
182.2	Brearley Park Skate Park		
182.3	Brearley Park MUGA		
252.1	Hassop Road	69.0%	87.3%
252.2	Hassop Road MUGA		
254.1	Station Road (Barrow Hill) play area and MUGA	70.6%	90.9%
259.1	Carsington Way	73.2%	72.7%
265.1	Knighton Close Play Area	74.8%	16.4%
265.2	Oadby Drive 1	61.8%	16.4%
265.3	Seagrave Drive	59.2%	34.5%
265.4	Harcourt Close	60.8%	69.1%

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
268.1	Wain Avenue	55.9%	36.4%
269.1	Crow Lane MUGA	66.3%	89.1%
270.1	Private Drive Play Area	80.4%	85.5%
271.1	Westwood Drive	51.3%	23.6%
277.1	Whitecotes Playing Field Play Area	71.6%	81.8%
293	Howells Place	51.6%	21.8%
296	Coupland Close	54.9%	43.6%
299	Devonshire Avenue Play Area	53.9%	70.9%
300	Holland Road	59.2%	72.7%
302	Windmill Way	75.5%	72.7%
303	Nethercroft LAP (Lark's Rise)	59.8%	40.0%
304	West Crescent Play Area	82.4%	90.9%
305	Canal Wharf Play area and MUGA	68.3%	83.6%
306	Whitecotes Park Play Area	58.8%	21.8%
307	Staunton Close	58.8%	20.0%
308	Bradgate Croft	64.7%	16.4%
309	Oadby Drive 3	65.4%	16.4%
310	Oadby Drive 2	69.9%	16.4%
311	Rempstone Drive	68.6%	61.8%
312	Heather Vale Road Play Area	76.5%	74.5%
313	Durley Chine	67.0%	50.9%
314	Parkside View	65.7%	18.2%
315	Stoops Close	50.3%	18.2%
317	Priestfield Gardens	62.7%	67.3%
319	Foxbrook Drive	58.8%	14.5%
320	Juniper Close	62.7%	20.0%
321	Rose Garth Close	55.9%	18.2%

Gaps in the 15-minute walk time catchments are initially highlighted to a few areas of the Borough; most noticeably Barrow Hill and South of Unstone.

There several gaps in provision catering for older age ranges. This is particularly noticeable to the eastern areas of the Borough.

In addition, the identified barriers to movement are likely to further impact on access to provision in areas such as Brockwell, Ashgate and Loundsley Green and Woodthorpe. There is generally a good spread of play provision across the area.

Greater population density areas are shown to be served by some form of play provision.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how close open space is in the area. Over a quarter of respondents (26%) rate being very satisfied with the how close play areas for young children is. A further 29% state they are quite satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (6%) or very dissatisfied (4%).

Similar to responses for quantity, most (59%) had no opinion regarding teenage provision. There are 10% of respondents very satisfied and 11% as quite satisfied with the closeness of teenage provision. This is compared to those respondents which rate being either quite dissatisfied (6%) or very dissatisfied (5%). The results are likely a reflection to the role and use of such provision to older aged respondents.

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality.

**Quality ratings for provision for children and young people**

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High ≥60%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	50%	67%	91%	41%	23	69

Overall, 75% of play sites rate above the quality threshold. There are however 23 sites which rate below the threshold.

Of the 23 sites to rate below the threshold, 18 are considered to be akin to localised areas of play (LAPs). These are generally small forms of play provision with often a limited range of equipment.

This links to a wider trend with observations from the site visit audit highlighting a number of sites with a lack of equipment. There are 25 sites noted as having a lack of equipment. In some instances, sites contain a single piece of equipment such as a springy or static play piece. Not all sites noted as having a lack of equipment rate below the quality threshold. However, the range and diversity of equipment at a site influences its quality and potential level of use. Consequently, sites with a limited scope of equipment are more likely to rate lower for quality and value.

In addition, site visit observations also highlight a tired and dated appearance at some play sites. There are 16 play sites with audit comments signalling the play equipment or the site in general to appear old and dated. For example, across the stock there are several sites which have old safety tile surfaces (the surface of choice for most play sites now tends to be wet pore or similar). Given the age of some of these surfaces, shrinkage and gapping is highlighted at several sites. These can present potential trip hazards.

Some of the lower scoring sites for quality are:

- Stoops Close (50.3%)
- Westwood Drive (51.3%)
- Howells Place (51.6%)
- Pearsons Recreation Ground Play Area (52.9%)

The example sites (above) are all identified as containing single pieces of play equipment. This is generally perceived as being of poor quality. In addition, surface quality, ancillary features (e.g. bins and seating) and site cleanliness all score low.

The majority of sites do however rate above the threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites include:

- Edinburgh Road Play Area (91.2%)
- Holmebrook Valley Park Play Area 2 (89.9%)
- Eastwood Park Play Area (88.6%)
- Poolsbrook Country Park (87.3%)

These sites are all noted as having a good range and imaginative forms of equipment catering for different ages. In addition, the equipment is in great condition as are the other features on site such as seating and bins. Sites such

as Eastwood and Poolsbrook contain outdoor gym equipment which further adds to their offer and appeal. The former also has a relatively new skate park facility.

Proportionally the larger play sites tend to score higher for quality. This is often due to a wider variety of equipment being present which caters towards a greater range of age groups. Such sites are also likely to be linked with additional ancillary facilities such as car parking, toilets, and refreshments.

Most respondents to the community survey are slightly negative with the quality of play areas for children. A total of 20% view quality as very dissatisfactory with a further 15% rating provision as quite dissatisfactory. There is a smaller proportion of respondents that are either quite satisfied (22%) or very satisfied (9%). The responses for teenage provision are more mixed. There are 6% quite dissatisfied and 8% very dissatisfied. Conversely, there are 10% of respondents who are quite satisfied and 5% very satisfied. More than half of respondents (61%) have no opinion.

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the value assessment for children and young people. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value.

**Value ratings for provision for children and young people**

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	15%	63%	91%	76%	11	81

Nearly all play sites (88%) rate above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the important role play provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

There are 11 sites to rate below the threshold for value. These are all identified as being sites containing only a single piece of equipment. Three of these sites also rate below the threshold for quality:

- Foxbrook Drive (14.5%)
- Stoops Close (18.2%)
- Rose Garth Close (18.2%)

High valued sites tend to reflect the size and amount as well as range of provision present. This often means sites are more popular and well used. Diverse equipment caters to a greater range of ages. Furthermore, such sites often provide added value in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between individuals whilst also adding to developmental and educational benefits.

Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect the size and amount/range and role of equipment present on site. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:

- Poolsbrook Country Park (90.9%)
- Station Road (Barrow Hill) (90.9%)
- West Crescent Play Area (90.9%)
- Crow Lane (89.1%)
- Inkersall Green (89.1%)
- Langerfield Park (89.1%)
- Queens Park (89.1%)

The three highest scoring sites for value are all observed as containing a variety of equipment. For example, Poolsbrook Country Park has a range of equipment including outdoor gym equipment; Station Road (Barrow Hill) features play equipment, a MUGA and a youth shelter; West Crescent Play Area has an extensive amount of equipment including a number of educational play panels with different languages.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is also essential. More specifically, provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are highly valued forms of play. Sites containing such forms of provision often tend to rate higher for value.

It is also important to recognise the benefits of play in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion, and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. The importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities is essential.

## Allotments

Allotments are a typology which covers open spaces that 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 interaction. This includes provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

There are 33 sites classified as allotments in Chesterfield, equating to over 40 hectares.

### Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Provision for Allotments		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<b>Chesterfield</b>	33	40.35	0.39

The largest forms of allotment provision are Grove Allotments at 3.49 hectares and Highfield Allotments at 3.27 hectares.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 populations based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

As a whole, Chesterfield, based on its current population (104,440) meets the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision is 26 hectares. Existing provision of 40 hectares therefore meets this guideline.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how much open space exists in the area. Just over half of respondents (50%) had no opinion on this. Excluding this, a greater proportion of respondents (16%) are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with how much allotments exists. There are 18% of respondents that state being quite satisfied with how much provision exist. A further 8% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either

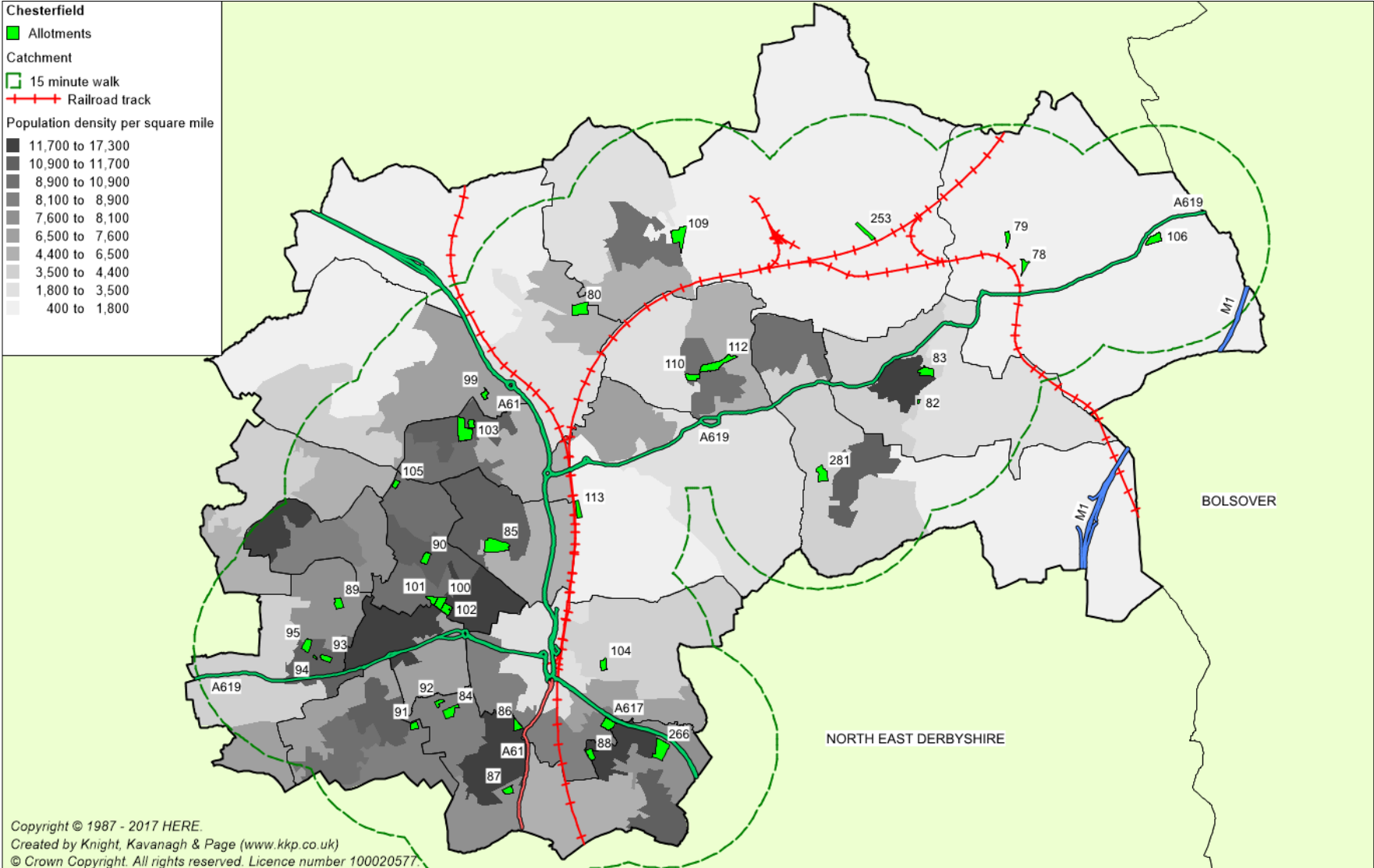


quite dissatisfied (6%) or very dissatisfied (2%). The low response figures are reflective of the niche use of allotments to the wider public.

The community survey found the most common modes of travel to access an allotment is by non-vehicle methods (i.e. walking, running etc) (16%) and by private car (13%).

The most common times willing to be travelled by survey respondents is up to 10 minutes (11%) and up to 15 minutes (14%). On this basis, a 15-minute walk time (equivalent to 1,200m) and drive time have been applied to all allotments to reflect the most popular mode and travel times. This is shown in the map below.

# Allotments mapped against 15-minute walk time catchment



## Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value score
78	Bellhouse Allotments	56.7%	25.6%
79	Hartington Allotments	54.4%	26.7%
80	Old Whittington Allotments	53.3%	27.8%
82	Calver Crescent Allotments	54.4%	25.6%
83	Middlecroft Allotments	60.0%	31.1%
84	Boythorpe Allotments	56.7%	27.8%
85	Highfield Allotments	57.8%	22.2%
86	St Augustine's Allotments	61.1%	27.8%
87	Hunloke Community Gardens	62.2%	48.9%
88	Storforth Lane Terrace Allotments	55.6%	28.9%
89	Ashgate Allotments	63.3%	28.9%
90	Brockwell Allotments	58.9%	24.4%
91	Off Hunloke Avenue Allotments	56.7%	23.3%
92	Rufford Close Allotments	60.0%	33.3%
93	Off Rhodesia Road Allotments	58.9%	22.2%
94	Quarry Lane Allotments	51.1%	21.1%
95	Old Road Allotments	65.6%	23.3%
99	Avenue Road Allotments (St John's Road)	58.9%	32.2%
100	Goldwell No 1 Allotments	65.6%	30.0%
101	Goldwell No 2 Allotments	67.8%	41.1%
102	Fairplay Community Garden	61.1%	26.7%
103	Grove Allotments (Stand Road)	57.8%	27.8%
104	Hady Hill Allotments	52.2%	25.6%
105	Littlemoor Allotments	58.9%	24.4%
106	Mastin Moor Community Garden	73.3%	55.6%
107	Penmore Allotments (Penmore Lane)	58.9%	30.0%
109	New Whittington Allotments	51.1%	27.8%
110	Coronation Road Allotments	61.1%	26.7%
112	King Street Allotments	61.1%	32.2%
113	Swaddale Allotments	35.6%	8.9%
253	Barrow Hill Allotments (Station Road)	51.1%	25.6%
266	Ashfield Road Allotments	68.9%	33.3%
281	Inkersall Allotments	53.3%	32.2%

The map above shows the distribution of allotment sites across the area against the 15-minute walk time catchment. A 15-minute drive time covers the whole of Chesterfield as well as some neighbouring local authorities. For this reason, it is not mapped.

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of allotments provision across the area; most areas with a higher population density are being served by a catchment of an allotment. However, gaps in the 15-minute walk time catchments are initially highlighted to a few areas of the Borough including:

- Barrow Hill
- Duckmanton
- Holme Hall and Holmebrook Valley Park
- North of Dunston
- Poolsbrook
- South of Unstone

In addition, the identified barriers to movement are likely to further impact on access to provision in areas such as Mastin Moor and Walton and Brookside South. The Strategy will explore in more detail the potential gaps in provision on an analysis area basis.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how close open space in the area is. Nearly half of respondents (46%) had no opinion. No issue with regard to 'closeness' of parks is highlighted; a fifth (20%) rate being quite satisfied with a further 14% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing availability of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (4%) or very dissatisfied (1%).

Allotment associations are responsible for the day to day management of the sites. Many of the sites operate a waiting list due to the popularity and demand for plots.

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

## Quality ratings for allotments

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High ≥50%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	36%	58%	73%	37%	1	32

Only one site rates below the quality threshold. Swaddale Allotments appears to not be in use. The site was overgrown and not accessible at the time of the visit. This site has now been earmarked for housing in the local plan.

Overall, quality of provision is very good with nearly all identified sites rating above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring sites are:

- Mastin Moor Community Garden (73.3%)
- Ashfield Road Allotments (68.9%)
- Goldwell No 2 Allotments (67.8%)
- Goldwell No 1 Allotments (65.6%)
- Old Road Allotments (65.6%)

All five sites have good personal security, signage and excellent boundary fencing. Mastin Moor Community Garden has the additional benefit of seating and bins. Furthermore, all the sites are observed as being well maintained containing neat plots and good pathways.

It is also important to recognise the Rufford Close Allotment site is a previous East Midlands In Bloom competition winner. The site was recognised for its organisation and tidiness.

Most respondents to the community survey (49%) had no opinion to the quality of allotments. Of those that did, 20% rate quality as quite satisfactory with a further 11% rating it as very satisfactory. There is a small proportion of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (2%) or very dissatisfied (2%) with quality of allotments.

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below

summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value.

**Value ratings for allotments**

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
	<b>Chesterfield</b>	9%	29%		56%	47%

Nearly all assessed allotment sites rate above the threshold for value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision. Swaddale Allotments is the only site to rate below the value threshold. The site appears to not be in use as it was overgrown and not accessible at the time of the visit.

The highest scoring sites for value are Mastin Moor Community Garden (56%) and Hunloke Community Garden (49%). Both are very well maintained. Unusually both sites can be accessed by the public; as opposed to only being used by allotment holders. This further adds to their role and benefit to the local communities.

Other sites also offer additional social value. For example, Goldwell No. 2 Allotments is highlighted as having two raised beds and a sensory garden for disabled users. In addition, a plot on the site is used by the Oak Springs charity as part of a rehabilitation programme.

Avenue Road Allotments is also identified as having a plot that been converted to a communal plot for growing space; enhancing the sites social and community value.

There is high ecological and biodiversity value at Goldwell No. 2 Allotments. The site is teeming with wildlife and attracts a lot of wildlife including dragonflies, newts, bees, and bats. There is a pond on site too, some rare weeds and wildlife encouragement is an ongoing project. In the future, the association would like to have schools visiting and to be shown the pond as this concept would be very beneficial.

The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists at sites signalling continued demand for provision.

**Cemeteries and closed church yards**

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

There are 10 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to nearly 30 hectares of provision. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

**Distribution of cemeteries and churchyards**

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Chesterfield	10	29.50

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Chesterfield and District Crematorium (6.35 hectares). This followed by Boythorpe Cemetery at 5.37 hectares.

There are four sites operated by CBC:

- Brimington Cemetery
- Boythorpe Cemetery
- Spital Cemetery
- Staveley Cemetery

Several closed churchyards are also maintained by the Council.

The Chesterfield and District Crematorium is managed by a Joint Crematorium Committee as it is jointly owned by Chesterfield Borough Council and Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Councils.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how much open space exists in the area. No issue with regard to the quantity of cemeteries is highlighted. A quarter of respondents (25%) rate being quite satisfied with a further 13% stating they are very satisfied. Further supporting

the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (2%) or very dissatisfied (1%). There are 39% of respondents who have no opinion to provision of cemeteries.

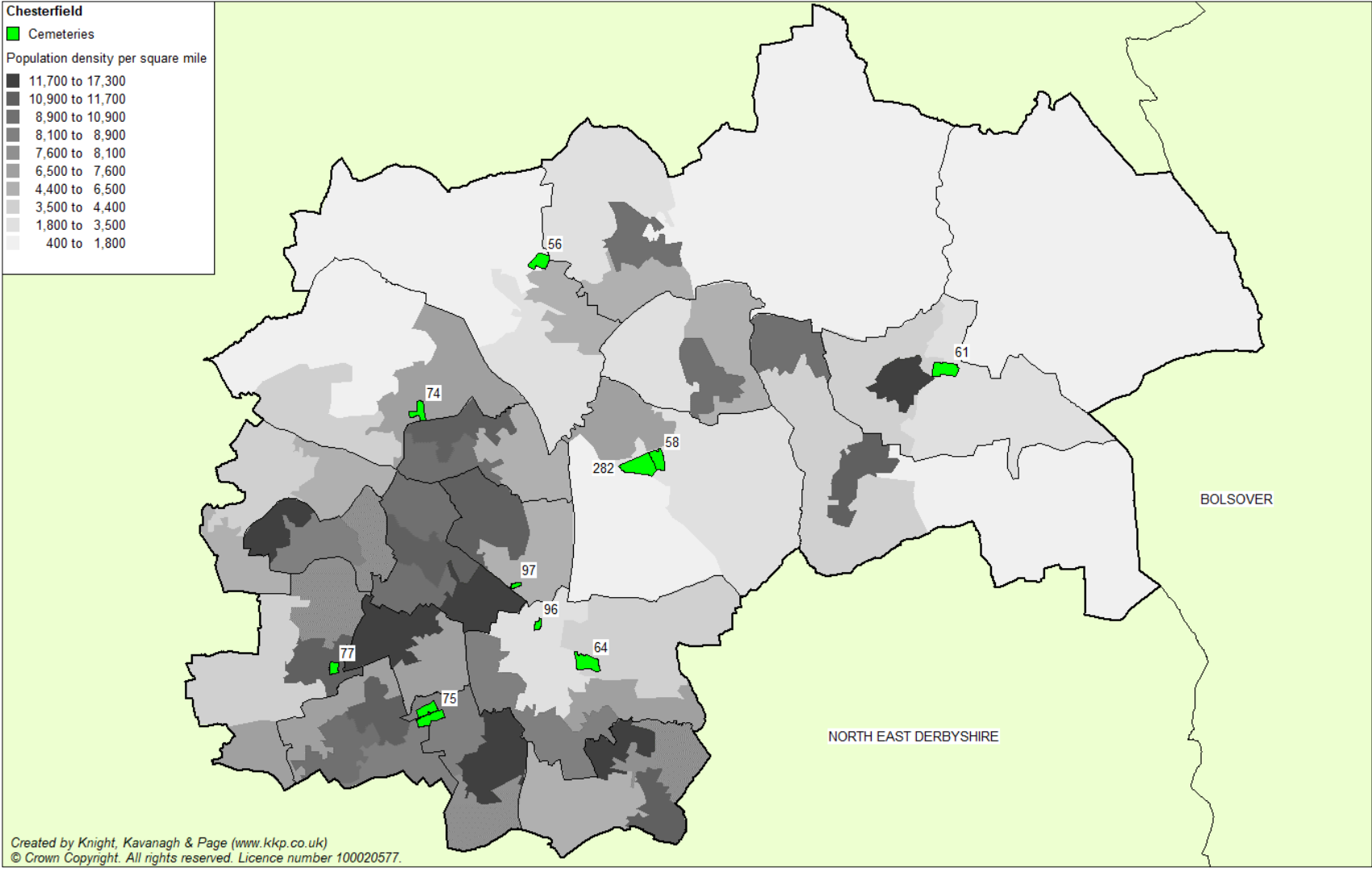
No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand.

The map below shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.



# Cemetery sites mapped

Page 225



## Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality Score	Value Score
56	St Bartholomew's Church Old Whittington Closed Churchyards	59.6%	47.8%
58	Brimington Cemetery	66.1%	70.0%
61	Staveley Cemetery	68.5%	76.7%
64	Spital Cemetery	65.4%	63.3%
74	St John's Newbold	55.5%	32.2%
75	Boythorpe Cemetery	70.6%	77.8%
77	St Thomas' Church Brampton	76.6%	62.2%
96	St Mary and All Saints Church	64.0%	43.3%
282	Chesterfield and District Crematorium	86.6%	81.1%
97	Holy Trinity Church	62.6%	47.8%

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly balanced distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how close open space in the area is. No issue with regard to 'closeness' of cemeteries is highlighted. A fifth of respondents (25%) state being quite satisfied with a further 16% being very satisfied with how close cemeteries provision is. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are quite dissatisfied (1%) or very dissatisfied (1%).

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

## Quality ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High ≥60%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	56%	68%	87%	31%	2	8

The majority of cemeteries and churchyards in Chesterfield (80%) rate above the threshold set for quality; suggesting a reasonably high standard of quality.

Chesterfield and District Crematorium, in Brimington, is the highest scoring site for quality with a score of 87%. It scores significantly higher than the other sites. It is observed as being well-maintained with accessible paths and ancillary features such as seating, car parking (Including disabled parking bays) and toilet facilities. It also has excellent signage, directional signposts, and a map of the large site. Furthermore, it has a child burial area, garden of remembrance as well as a woodland walk; all add to the quality of the site as well as the aesthetic value and health benefits. Its high quality is represented by it being a Green Flag Award site.

Boythorpe Cemetery (71%) also scores well above the threshold for quality. The site is observed as containing excellent, flat, wide paths, being tidy and containing lots of seating. It also seems very well used by locals as a cut through and for plot holders accessing the allotments adjacent to the cemetery.

The only two sites to rate below the quality threshold are:

- St Bartholomew's Church Old Whittington Closed Churchyards (59.6%)
- St John's Newbold (56%)

It should be noted that St Bartholomew's Church Old Whittington Closed Churchyards scores just below the threshold of 60%. There are no major issues highlighted but the site scores lower for paths and general maintenance. It is observed that paths are mostly fine but are uneven in parts. In addition, there are several tilted gravestones. However, the site does have seating, some car parking and litter bins.

St John's Newbold is observed as being well maintained overall. It only just scores below the threshold (56%). The site, in comparison to others, has no car parking or seating but it does benefit from good pathways and bins.

Most respondents (40%) have no opinion on this. The rest of the respondents to the community survey are generally satisfied with the quality of provision. Over a fifth of respondents' rate quality as quite satisfactory (26%) with a further 11% rating provision as very satisfactory. There is a small proportion of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (3%) or very dissatisfied (2%) with quality of cemeteries.

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value.

## Value ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
<b>Chesterfield</b>	32%	60%	81%	49%	0	10

All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their role within local communities. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide for local people is acknowledged in the assessment scoring. High scoring sites for value offer visually attractive landscape benefits and opportunities to serve an important function for a local community. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can often offer important low impact recreational benefits to the local area (e.g. walking, habitat provision, wildlife watching).

Chesterfield and District Crematorium (81%) scores the highest for value. It is a well-used Green Flag Award site. In addition to its 'traditional' function the site also has added ecological and biodiversity value with lots of trees, blossoms, a pond, and woodland walk.

Similarly, the other four main cemetery sites all rate highly for value. This reflects their role and use to the local communities they serve.

## Green Corridors

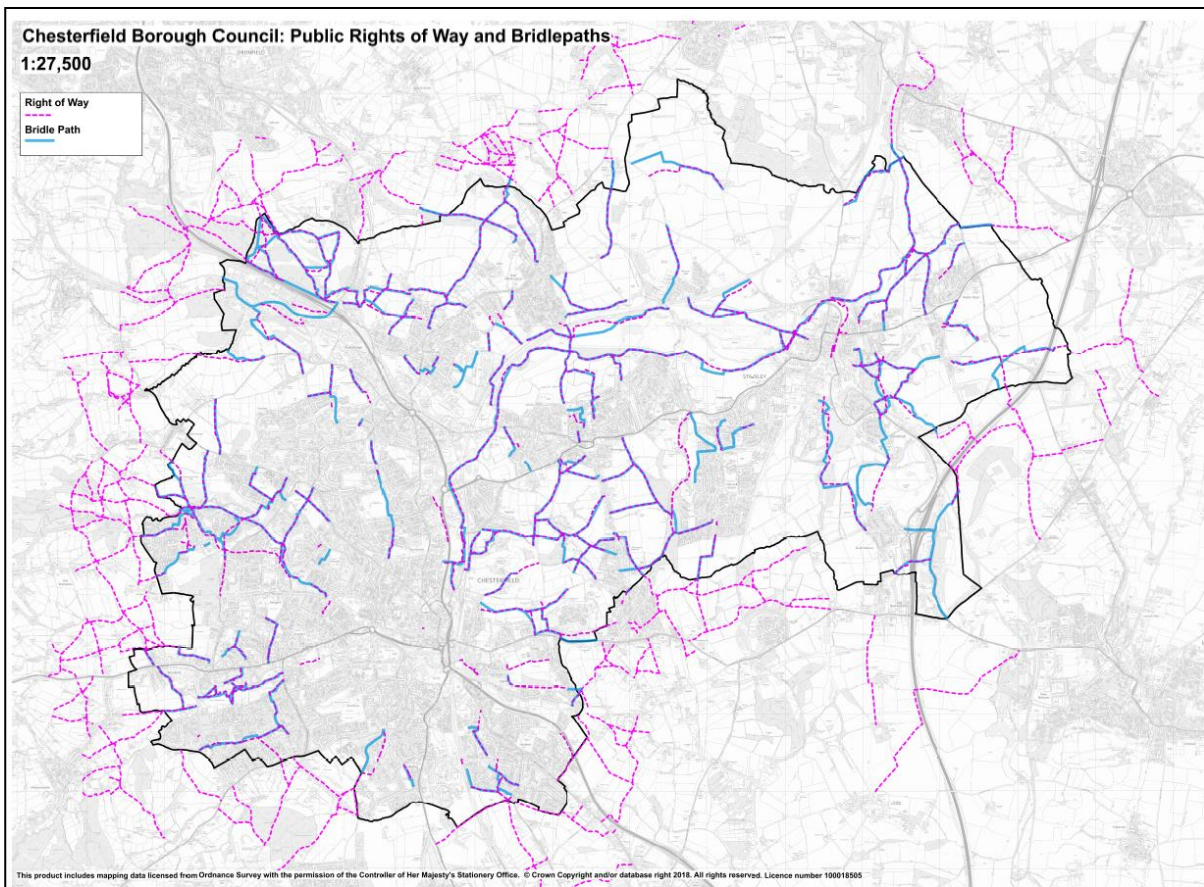
The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration.

There are four forms of green corridor provision identified across Chesterfield.

- Chesterfield Canal
- Holme Brook Valley Trail
- Hipper Valley Trail
- Trans Pennine Trail and Cuckoo Way

It is acknowledged that there are other forms of provision in Chesterfield which are likely to contribute to green corridors such as public rights of way (PROW). However, the focus of this study is on those main forms of provision.

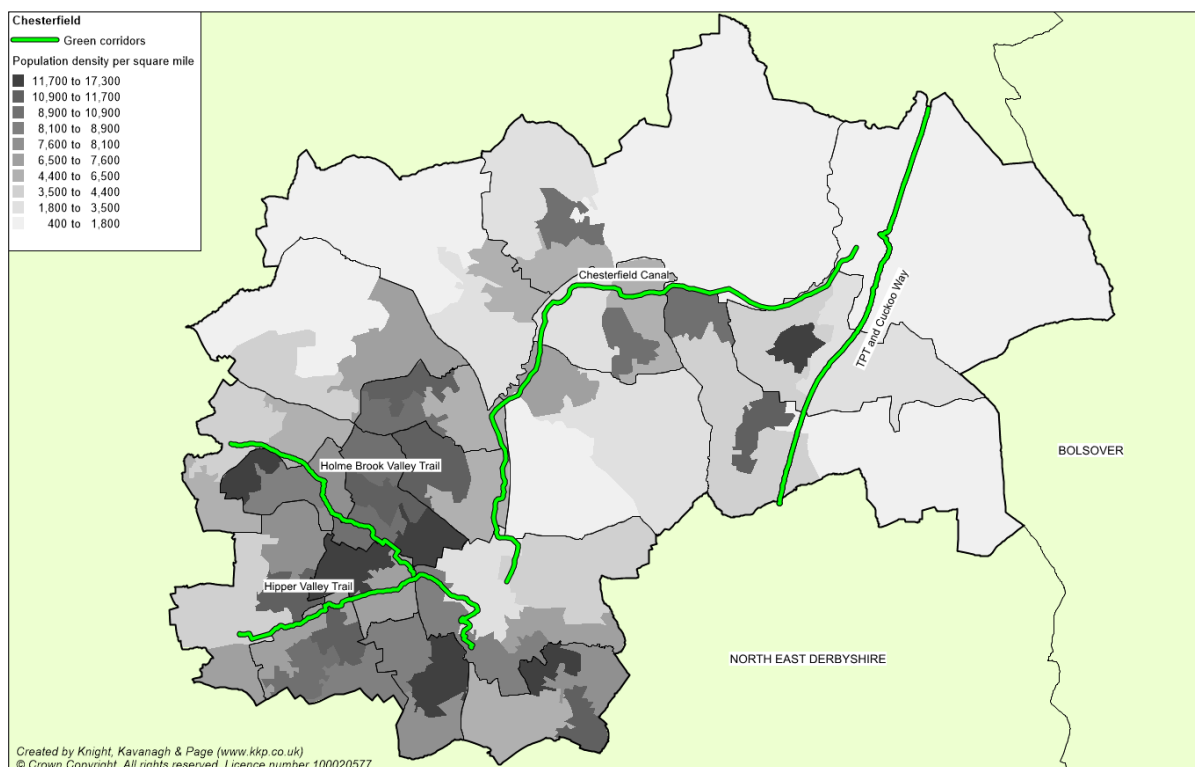
## Public rights of way and bridle paths in Chesterfield



Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how much open space exists in the area. No issue with regard to availability of outdoor networks is highlighted. Nearly half of respondents (43%) rate being quite satisfied with the how much provision exists. A further 20% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (10%) or very dissatisfied (5%).

It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their linear nature and usage. The map below shows green corridors mapped in the area.

## Green corridors mapped



## Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value Score
327	Chesterfield Canal	84.2%	83.3%
329	Holme Brook Valley Trail	61.4%	31.1%
330	Hipper Valley Trail	64.9%	31.1%
331	Trans Pennine Trail and Cuckoo Way	74.9%	48.9%

Respondents to the community survey were asked how satisfied they are with how close open space in the area is. No issue with regard to 'closeness' of green corridors is highlighted. Two fifths (41%) rate being quite satisfied with the how close green corridors provision is. A further 27% state they are very satisfied. Further supporting the existing amount of provision is the smaller percentage of respondents that are quite dissatisfied (7%) or very dissatisfied (4%).

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality.

## Quality ratings for green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High ≥60%
	<b>Chesterfield</b>	61%	71%		84%	23%

All four green corridors rate above the threshold for quality. No particular issues are identified. Observations do note that the main sign for the Hipper Valley Trail (in Somersall Park) could do with being refreshed.

Chesterfield canal rates above the threshold for quality. It scores highly for accessibility, signage/information as well as being generally well kept and maintained. Its high quality is represented by it being a Green Flag Award winner (2019/20).

Most respondents to the community survey are generally satisfied with the quality of outdoor networks provision. Over two fifths of respondents' rate quality as quite satisfactory (43%) with a further 17% rating provision as very satisfactory. There is a small proportion of respondents that are quite dissatisfied (9%) or very dissatisfied (5%) with quality.

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value.

## Value ratings for green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
	<b>Chesterfield</b>	31%	49%		83%	-

All four green corridors rate above the threshold for value. It is important to highlight that the green corridors serve as an important link between different open space sites. A summary of the connections each green corridor provides is set out below:

## Connecting open space sites to green corridors

Green corridor	Other connecting open space sites
Chesterfield Canal	Staveley Town Basin, BRSA Sports Ground, Bluebank Wood
Holme Brook Valley Trail	Holme Brook Valley Country Park, Loundsley Green Park, Purbeck Avenue/Pennine Way, Chester Street Recreation Ground, Goldwell Allotments, Queens Park
Hipper Valley Trail	Somersall Park/Walton Park, Walton Dam, Queens Park, Spire Walk,
Trans Pennine Trail and Cuckoo Way	Pullman Close Plantation, Poolsbrook Country Park, Haddon Close Amenity

Chesterfield canal rates highest for value. It provides many recreational and learning opportunities. The Tapton Lock visitors centre offers additional educational and social benefits. Further adding to its value are the range of events which take place throughout the year.





This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix B – General Online Survey Results

### Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Questionnaire Report, October 2021

---

#### Contents

1. Summary .....	1
2. Introduction.....	1
3. Questionnaire results.....	2
4. Social Media.....	9
5. Equality monitoring.....	9

#### 1. Summary

---

*Questionnaire format:* Web/online  
*Responses:* 50 Total  
*Date range:* 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

#### 2. Introduction

---

Participants were asked to take a few moments to read the proposed Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which has been developed based on previous consultation activity and best practise examples before completing the questionnaire.

We asked for feedback on the draft Strategy which includes four key objectives for the parks and open spaces, each with underpinning actions.

### 3. Questionnaire results

Please indicate how important you think the actions within the proposed objectives are.

<b>Objective 1: A clear strategy for investment in parks and open spaces</b>										
	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Identify key investment priorities	30	63.8%	11	23.4%	5	10.6%	0	0%	1	2.1%
Improve the quality of parks and open spaces at key sites	44	89.8%	3	6.1%	1	2.0%	0	0%	1	2.0%

<b>Any other comments or suggestions about objective 1:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a nation we are supposed to be promoting exercise and healthy eating and exercise amongst children, and yet our play parks are currently very neglected, or were totally removed like our local one</li> <li>There should be more regular consultation and dialogue with local partners, friends groups and sporting clubs that operate within the Borough sites, encouraging and assisting more self-management.</li> <li>Strategies should be constantly reviewed in respect of new house building. Every house will be full of families who need space to breathe, play, keep fit, walk dogs. You can't use up park space to build houses on</li> <li>Many parks appear to be run down and neglected. The parks are then padlocked and removed and not replaced. This impacts on the children, parents and grandparents in the community. Examples include Stanford Way park in Walton and St David's Rise</li> <li>Add coffee, tea where possible and seating</li> <li>As a parent of three children and a dog owner I feel this is so important. We visit parks almost every day. I do believe the children's play areas are lacking interesting and challenging equipment. Often missing equipment and poorly maintained equipment</li> <li>With focus on making parks and open spaces safer for young children. I have taken my two year old son to several parks in Chesterfield with uneven ground, rusty play equipment etc. and this needs to be dealt with.</li> <li>Little parks in Walton need improving, near Stanford Way and top of Foljambe Avenue (currently padlocked up)</li> <li>What is meant by key sites - all sites are important</li> <li>Quality should be improved at all sites and not just selected key sites. How is "key" to be defined?</li> <li>Whilst I agree regarding key sites, I also feel very strongly that smaller parks e.g. the one on my estate Nether Croft Road, Brimington, should not be overlooked. It hasn't been updated since it was built and is now, in my opinion, dangerous.</li> <li>Vital we have a clear strategy so that investment and commitment can be undertaken.</li> <li>Continue to support and advise local friends groups.</li> <li>The [REDACTED] welcome the council's recognition that parks and open spaces require investment and nurturing and that the council will actively seek funding and income generation opportunities.</li> <li>We then read Appendix A the evidence base, and would like to provide a response to that: The [REDACTED] read with interest the evidence base enclosed in the consultation pack.</li> </ul>

- Given the high levels of voluntary work and the collaboration between the [REDACTED], it is gratifying to read that Holmebrook Valley Park is the highest scoring site (95.6%) for quality, measured as being more attractive due the perceived high levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the recreational uses on offer. [REDACTED] are keen to ensure that level of public satisfaction continues, but are concerned about the impact of covid/lockdown and a reduced budget will have on maintenance and provision of equipment.
- The Council asserts that " play sites... allow children to play but also... giving them safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments." [REDACTED] a large mosaic art work, created by local schoolchildren and which has been placed beside the play area and cafe to successfully enhance that area. Yet the play area itself is deteriorating for lack of maintenance. Equipment is half removed or tied up with tape, suggesting a lack of 'official' care for the area and encouraging vandalism and anti-social behaviour, as evidenced by the increased litter in the area.
- HVP has two play areas - yet it does not rate as a high scoring site for value, (the 7 highest ranking sites include Poolsbrook Country Park, Queens Park and Inkersall Green). This indicates that the amount/range and role of equipment currently present on site are not extensive or varied enough. Poolsbrook Country Park is cited as having a range of equipment including outdoor gym equipment [REDACTED] that Holmebrook Valley Park also has outdoor gym equipment and previously had a range of play equipment, including two areas which have been taken out of commission and removed. Holmebrook Valley Park is closer to a greater population than Poolsbrook, (87.3% value for catchment as against 72.7% value for Poolsbrook) yet it is clearly ranked much lower by the Council for facilities and maintenance of infrastructure [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for funding allocation than it currently attracts, so that levels of maintenance and replacement equipment reflects the high visitor use of the park.

### Objective 2: Using our resources effectively and sustainably

	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rationalise play area provision	15	31.9%	15	31.9%	7	14.9%	3	6.4%	7	14.9%
Maximise income and external funding opportunities	27	57.4%	10	21.3%	3	6.4%	7	14.9%	0	0%
Explore the potential to dispose of or make alternative use of low value and low-quality open space in areas of over provision	5	10.9%	11	23.9%	15	32.6%	7	15.2%	8	17.4%
Review parks management and maintenance regimes to realise efficiencies and maximise climate change benefit	22	47.8%	13	28.3%	7	15.2%	1	2.2%	3	6.5%

### Any other comments or suggestions about objective 2:

- Your grounds team do an amazing job given shortages and anti social behaviour. By all means review but give them a well deserved pat on the back. There will always be a developer willing to take the space off you but look at sub-letting land to community groups.
- Do not remove or 'rationalise' any more parks
- There are a few - a few - places where an intended provision is not 'working' and is difficult to maintain, without much apparent benefit. With consultation, economies might be made, but this should go alongside a desire to maximise green spaces of every kind.
- Groups, clubs that use borough facilities should be encouraged and assisted to reduce and share the burden of maintenance of all provisions by providing guidance, equipment and training. Examples, some grass areas could be maintained by groups, litter picking etc.
- Worrying section containing ambiguous language like 'rationalise'. There is no such thing as over provision of open space. Best to renovate and repurpose unused office/ industrial spaces.
- Trial using an adventure playground design. This requires less investment in expensive fixed slides and other fittings.
- I do not think parks should be closed. Open space is at a premium and it is sad to see land sold to developers.
- Massive improvements need to be made on the maintenance of play equipment. Also rubbish collections in some areas don't seem to be adequate. Maybe promote local litter picks? Involve local schools, brownies? Maybe involve local football teams that play on pitches.
- Rationalise play area provision? Sounds like an excuse to close and remove some. Low value? The report states "A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation).
- Wildflower planting would be needed if maintenance is reduced to control the nettles
- Let areas re-wild naturally
- Maximising the stream of external funding opportunities is vital. It's essential the council invests in the voluntary sector to support the likes of 'friends of groups' across the borough. When friends of groups and the voluntary sector are supported they can achieve.
- The concern that low value / low quality open space remains a green space is important

### Objective 3: Increase the use of our parks and open spaces

	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Develop a diverse and attractive programme of events and healthy activities in partnership	25	52.1%	16	33.3%	4	8.3%	2	4.2%	1	2.1%
Promote open space benefits for health, learning and wildlife	34	70.8%	12	25.0%	1	2.1%	0	0%	1	2.1%
Encourage responsible use of sites and take effective action with partners to combat anti-social behaviour	43	89.6%	2	4.2%	3	6.3%	0	0%	0	0%

### Any other comments or suggestions about objective 3:

- This summer's events were fantastic, keep it up please
- I am associated with the Whitecotes group, and appreciate hugely the formal and informal spaces there; we noticed at Holmebrook Valley a replica of the destroyed object at Whitecotes. Any chance of another repair/replacement?
- To help reduce the anti social behaviour by Hasland community football club in Eastwood Park, Hasland, as certain groups from Hasland community football club set up their goal areas so they are kicking balls towards the houses on the Calow Lane side of the park
- The more the park / open space is used the less likely the occurrence of vandalism and anti social behaviour.
- What provision is there for teenagers, to engage them and prevent potential anti social behaviour?
- Our local park (Somersall) is great and our children love the play equipment there but it is regularly covered in rubbish, including empty cans and broken glass left by people. It's getting to the point that I worry about their safety if they fall over etc.
- I firmly believe exercising outdoors is beneficial to health. Maybe encourage fitness instructors to run outdoor classes? More cycle path links? When our children's play areas are on grass surfaces in the colder months they become really muddy.
- Does dog poo count as anti social behaviour? Better signage about consequences of not cleaning up after your dog and more dog poo bins?
- The summer play activities were an excellent use of resources and should be continued in future years
- It's essential we make our parks and green spaces as welcoming and as attractive as possible. Communications are needed to ensure residents understand what is happening in places. It's essential the council do things with real people in communities when planning.
- [REDACTED] agree with the range of benefits which our parks and open spaces bring to people's health and social lives in addition to the environmental benefits of rich and varied habitats and wildlife. [REDACTED] seek ways to enhance and improve the experience of visitors to the park, and this year we have secured funding for an artwork which has improved the terrace area and made the space a more pleasant one in which to sit at the tables and benches outside the cafe.

### Objective 4: Engage with our community and partners effectively

	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Increase engagement with key partners and user groups	22	47.8%	21	45.7%	1	2.2%	1	2.2%	1	2.2%
Develop volunteering opportunities in parks	21	45.7%	14	30.4%	10	21.7%	0	0%	1	2.2%
Seek to promote a local river and tree stewardship scheme in partnership	20	44.4%	14	31.1%	10	22.2%	1	2.2%	0	0%
Support sports clubs and other groups to move to day-to-day management and maintenance of facilities	13	28.3%	15	32.6%	11	23.9%	4	8.7%	3	6.5%

**Any other comments or suggestions about objective 4:**

- Why should clubs manage maintenance of your council sites?
- We could make much more of the 'middle and lower Hipper'. The Robinson site is still appalling. The stretch east of Boythorpe Road needs more attention, but it is good to see the skateboard area in use again.
- Maintenance should be properly funded and carried out by the council
- Our councils should be responsible not private clubs.
- Asking sports clubs to take over management of facilities will surely lead to closures in poorer areas.
- Encourage sports clubs by all means but they need to be responsible; football groups at Holmebrook have an awful tendency to leave a lot of litter behind
- The parks are public facilities for everyone on an equal basis and are not for "sports clubs and other groups" to manage or maintain. They are an important public facility and should be managed and maintained by the borough council for the benefit of all residents.
- "Seek to promote a local river and tree stewardship scheme in partnership" in partnership with whom?
- Brushcutter training/licences for volunteers and free hire of equipment and PPE for volunteer groups who are trained. Work more closely with DCRT / Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Support to the voluntary sector is vital. If the council invested this via a specific officer the return on investment would be ten fold.
- If sports clubs are to oversee the management of facilities the financial implications need to be considered as is the monitoring of this. It could be problematic

**Do you have any other suggestions or comments to make about the proposed strategy?**

- Keep us all in the loop. Would be great to be on a focus group or whatever as part of a strategic long term plan. Us, as a football club, would love our own venue and have approached private landowners with ideas. They are not very forth coming
- Write it in everyday English so you aren't disguising what you actually mean
- We are well blessed with 'parks' of one sort and another. Long may it continue.
- Get Hasland Community Football Club to pay to train on Eastwood Park, Hasland and contribute to the maintenance, as in wet weather they still come and turn the green area and football pitch into mud and paying users get told not to use the football pitch
- Whilst the council should carry out routine maintenance it should empower Friends groups etc. to provide additional facilities and activities and provide funds to help attract larger grants
- The strategy looks reasonable and achievable, setting unrealistic aims is self-defeating. In the challenging times ahead maximum effective use of all resources, council and private, needs to be a continuous focus point.
- Queen's Park needs more benches on west side near play areas. Also need more litter bins on west side. Could there be an outside gym area in Queen's Park please.
- Needs to be high priority given current mental and physical health needs.
- The Borough Council owns Cobnar Wood, this is a very pleasant area but is blighted by anti social activities like motorcycles and mountain bikes, also it is being increasingly used to exercise dangerous dogs and hunting dogs.
- Important to protect biodiversity and ensure that climate and biodiversity is the number one priority. Ban balloon releases and sky lanterns on council owned land. Only allow plastic free events to take place within parks.



- This is not an easy questionnaire for a member of the public to fill in, even having read the documents which most people will not have time for. It would be better to have context before the questions and phrase them in a simpler style.
- Yes, playgrounds for children and families are so important. It seems to fall to communities to have to replace them which is a shame. They are often closed with no replacement. I am a health care professional working with children locally and see fitness levels decreased
- Continue to support all Friends of Groups and encourage them to 'set up' as they are a real benefit to their local public green spaces
- Keep doing the excellent job being done, I have the pleasure of walking in several borough parks regularly
- I feel that huge improvement is key to improve the health of the community. For people to want to spend time outside we need to have areas which appeal. I feel in Chesterfield we have lots of beautiful areas which appeal to adults.
- There are a number of really well used, valued play spaces within the borough which have not had the investment to maintain them. Holmebrook play area near the pavilion has been largely out of use for the past six months
- As our local park is of huge importance to myself and my family, I'm glad to see provisions put in place to improve and secure their future. Somersall park has many diverse areas and so various wildlife inhabit the park. Recent play area improvement has been very welcome
- Lack of outdoor play facilities in Walton is concerning and is not represented correctly in council documentation. Four parks are listed in Walton, however, two have had their equipment removed and another has been permanently closed. The park in Stanford Way is the only one left
- If funding is limited, it is important that quality of open spaces is maintained across our town, and not restricted to specific areas.
- Sign up all parks to Fields in Trust and Green Flag Community Award
- I would like to see more capacity in the green spaces team. A specific officer to support the 'friends of groups' and to tap into external funding would be an amazing use of funds. You could monitor the outcomes of this over a three year period to see if it would pay for the officer time.
- Plant more trees like oak. Make more parks around the borough on current wasteland to drive up nearby land value.
- Ensure that play spaces are maintained and if they need replacing that there is the support to enable this to happen and no area loses their play space . I would have liked the area to the rear of the Queen's park sports centre included in the list of spaces
- [REDACTED] note that the strategy's policy statement acknowledges the significant role played by the Friends of Parks groups. The statement also reflects that in 2019/20, public satisfaction with local parks and open spaces was high, with 83% of residents reporting they were satisfied or very satisfied with provision. However, it must be noted that this survey was completed pre-covid, before the ensuing effect of staffing cut backs and redeployment which has clearly impacted on parks and local spaces e.g. maintenance programmes. Therefore, [REDACTED] are particularly interested in how priorities for improving and investing in parks and open spaces will be determined in future.
- Strategy aims: [REDACTED] agree in principle with the Strategy's aims, but would seek further clarification on the last aim "to develop a hierarchy of parks and open spaces with a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement".
- The Council's role: [REDACTED] are pleased to know that the Council sees itself as an advocate and custodian of parks and open spaces. [REDACTED] look forward to continuing to work with the Council to support reviews, maintenance and improvements to existing parks and open spaces, and in particular [REDACTED]. We welcome the opportunity to meet park staff

regularly and regard our role as acting as intermediary between the public and the parks team as important and valuable.

- Vision and key themes [REDACTED] welcome the following priorities in particular:
  - the recognition of the need to review play area provision,
  - to develop a diverse and attractive programme of events and healthy activities,
  - to encourage responsible use of sites and take effective action with partners to combat anti social behaviour ,
  - to increase engagement with key partners and
  - to develop volunteering opportunities.
- Key priorities: [REDACTED] are pleased to note that the Council has highlighted the quality of play provision as an area of concern and are interested in the proposal to "develop a 5 year plan which identifies those sites for which investment is required. The plan will provide the framework for a long term strategic view to be taken to ensure we have a robust and affordable range of play opportunities across the borough. In developing this plan consideration will be given to providing more natural play through creative landscaping. This will be in response to the higher proportion of survey respondents who cited preferring natural play opportunities as opposed to traditional play equipment."
- [REDACTED] could not find reference to this survey and do not agree that most park users would prefer 'creative landscaping' over play equipment. Therefore we would like to request clarification about this point. Feedback from our own members and the public have continually highlighted the need to upgrade [REDACTED] existing 'traditional' play equipment and to replace that which has been recently taken out of action. Families visit [REDACTED] and other parks for the play equipment which cannot be provided in domestic gardens or on countryside walks. This means the need for slides, swings, seesaws, zip wires and climbing frames is paramount - more so than grass slopes, carved tree trunks and 'stepping stones' of tree stumps. This is a topic which generates a great deal of correspondence from members of the public to our email address and to the Facebook group.
- In conclusion, [REDACTED] hope that this response to the consultation is useful for future planning. [REDACTED] greatly value the park and its contribution to the physical and mental wellbeing of the population as well as providing wildlife habitats encouraging biodiversity. We spend time and energy fulfilling our aim of working with the council to enhance visitor experience to the park. Over time, the FHVP members have contributed a great deal to improve and enhance the park. We therefore request that the council recognises the importance of Holmebrook Valley Park when it is making decisions about funding and resource allocations.

#### 4. Social Media

---

Summary of social media impressions/engagements/engagement rate etc

- Impressions - the amount of times our content is displayed. One person could have multiple impressions for a single piece of content.
- Engagement - the amount of comments, likes, post clicks and shares our content gets

Social media platform	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
Facebook	7247	219	3.02%
Twitter	1573	23	1.46%
LinkedIn	244	10	4.09%
Instagram	84	3	3.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9148</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>2.79%</b>

#### 5. Equality monitoring

---

##### Q1 What is your gender?

Q15: What is your gender?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Male	12	31.6%
Female	25	65.8%
Prefer not to say	1	2.6%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>38</b>	

##### Q2 Is your gender identity the same gender you were assigned at birth?

Is your gender identity the same gender you were assigned at birth?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Yes	39	100%
No	0	0%
Prefer not to say	0	0%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>39</b>	

**Q3 How old are you?**

<b>Q16: How old are you?</b>		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Under 16 years	0	0%
16 to 24 years	1	2.6%
25 to 34 years	2	5.1%
35 to 44 years	11	28.2%
45 to 54 years	7	17.9%
55 to 64 years	1	2.6%
65 to 74 years	10	25.6%
75 years and over	3	7.7%
Prefer not to say	4	10.3%
<b>Base Number</b>	<b>39</b>	

**Q4 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

<b>Q17: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?</b>		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
No	32	82.1%
Yes	5	12.8%
Prefer not to say	2	5.1%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>39</b>	

**Q5 What is your ethnicity?**

<b>Q18: What is your ethnicity?</b>		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
White British	35	89.7%
Black or Black British	0	0%
Asian or Asian British	0	0%
Mixed ethnic group	1	2.6%
Any other ethnic group	1	2.6%
Prefer not to say	2	5.1%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>39</b>	

## Appendix C – Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

### Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Questionnaire

#### Objective 1: A clear strategy for investment in parks and open spaces

Identify key investment priorities

Improve the quality of parks and open spaces at key sites

#### Any comments or suggestions about objective 1:

- There needs to be good signposting between the council and user groups for grants etc as sometimes there are funding opportunities that cannot be accessed by the council or vice versa.
- A defined budget for parks and open spaces is needed to determine maintenance programmes and to enable direct re-investment.

#### Objective 2: Using our resources effectively and sustainably

Rationalise play area provision

Maximise income and external funding opportunities

Explore the potential to dispose of or make alternative use of low value and low-quality open space in areas of over provision

Review parks management and maintenance regimes to realise efficiencies and maximise climate change benefit

#### Any comments or suggestions about objective 2:

- We understand that it may be difficult to maintain everything we have now to a high standard. We accept that it may be better to maintain the open space and keep the areas green rather than investing in play areas. We feel we should encourage natural play in our green open spaces which would be more cost effective than maintaining equipment. A sound investment would be to run programmes that show children the wonderful opportunities for fun, activity, imagination and education when using adapted natural play. In an ideal situation, we don't want to lose any green spaces and ensure that everyone has space that is accessible to them, even for people without vehicles.
- Some areas could be left wild in order to reduce maintenance costs and the use of tree schemes would be very positive
- We accept that there are some examples of open space that could be used for building ie for housing

**Objective 3: Increase the use of our parks and open spaces**

Develop a diverse and attractive programme of events and healthy activities in partnership

Promote open space benefits for health, learning and wildlife

Encourage responsible use of sites and take effective action with partners to combat anti-social behaviour

**Any comments or suggestions about objective 3:**

- The programme of activities that took place over the summer was excellent and should be continued using a diverse range of locations across the borough

**Objective 4: Engage with our community and partners effectively**

Increase engagement with key partners and user groups

Develop volunteering opportunities in parks

Seek to promote a local river and tree stewardship scheme in partnership

Support sports clubs and other groups to move to day-to-day management and maintenance of facilities

**Any comments or suggestions about objective 4:**

- Remove the word “key” when describing partners. All partners are important.
- Friends of and Community groups need terms of reference that ensure the whole community is involved in discussions about the park, particularly when agreeing developments. It is vital that all points of view are heard and considered. This will also encourage new interest in growing the number of members participating in the work of Friends of, or Community Groups.
- Schools have been engaged in the past to get involved with various schemes and this needs to be maximised which encourages local children to take ownership of the parks and spaces.
- Lots of questions arose surrounding groups, and management and maintenance of facilities, referred back to John. Some concerns were raised regarding what the benefits to the clubs would be, how it would be monitored from a H&S and liability perspective, whether it could be sustained over the long term, reduced maintenance costs for the council but potentially also reduced income, as fees would need to be adjusted accordingly.

**Do you have any other suggestions or comments to make about the proposed strategy?**

- This needs to be a corporate strategy that cuts across the parks teams, maintenance, economic growth and others, fosters cross-department working and collaboration and involves regular communication so that investment and development opportunities are maximised.
- If we want to encourage more use of parks then we need to recognise that it is an experience for the whole family. Children don't visit parks on their own any more so parents need to be catered for too.

## Parks and Open Space Strategy 2022 – 2030 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

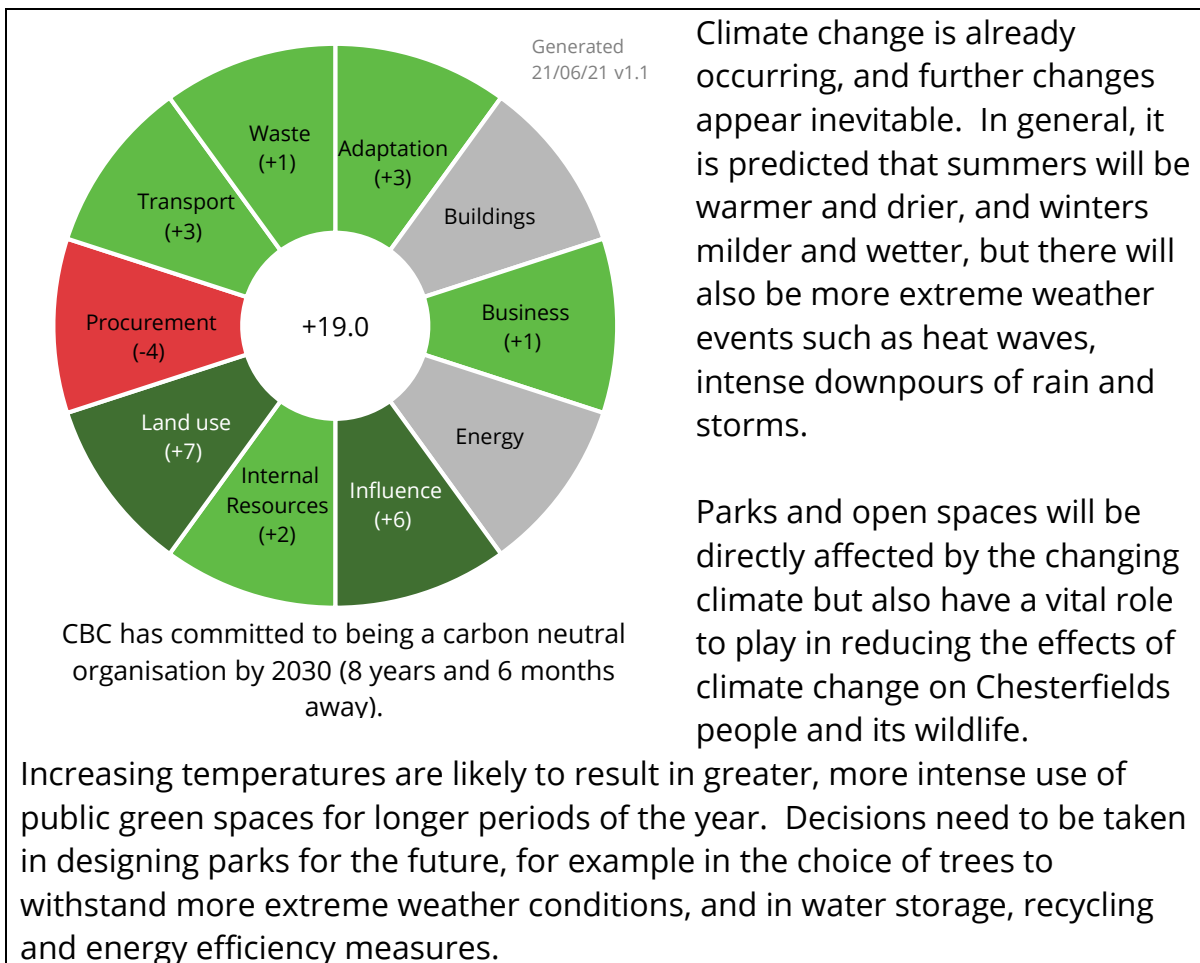
The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy covers multiple climate change sensitivities, and which results in both positive and negative effects. A summary of the estimated results is available in Table 1.

Table 1. Rationale of adopting the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and its impacts for Climate Change.

Category	Rationale summary
Adaptation	<p>We can support and encourage water storage by allotment associations and community gardens.</p> <p>Our tree planting programmes will help to reduce flooding peak (not a NFM scheme, but catchment will become more wooded)</p> <p>Tree planting can reduce heatwave vulnerability and can have a cooling effect.</p> <p>Changing our mowing regimes can help to capture more carbon and have a cooling effect.</p>
Buildings	<p>The design of any new buildings in parks and open space on existing or growth sites can incorporate measures to reduce energy consumption, utilise materials sourced locally and consider the inclusion of grey water storage.</p>
Business	<p>By working with a range of partners such as Friends groups and volunteers we can influence the way they work, procure things, and raise awareness of the need to tackle climate change in our communities through events, activities and projects</p> <p>By ensuring that any businesses that operate from our premises i.e. café follow best practice</p>
Energy	
Influence	<p>We can promote good practice by sharing stories of our own successes with other partners and support them with advice</p> <p>We can influence a range of partners including voluntary groups, tree wardens, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derbyshire County Council and Don Catchment Rivers Trust in the work we do on our parks and open spaces e.g. DCC on the cycle network.</p>
Internal Resources	
Land Use	<p>By undertaking more tree planting on urban sites, we can meet identified deficiencies in semi natural open space.</p>

	On semi natural open space, we can also modify the land by implementing scrapes to increase water carrying capacity to prevent flooding and help with nature recovery.
Procurement	There is likely to be an increase in spending on sundry items for tree planting programmes for example on tree shelters, weedkiller, tools etc.
Transport	Through the strategy we can promote active travel on our own land and also the wider network of footpaths and cycleways to support a reduction in carbon emissions.
Waste	Try to minimise our waste materials by promoting recycling schemes at some of our venues and ensuring that the most sustainable option is used where possible. We are adapting our formal planting areas to reduce the amount of green waste by using more permanent plant types that require less pruning. Some green waste can be recycled but there are haulage considerations to be taken account of.

## Report





Chesterfields Parks and Open Spaces Strategy will be central to the way parks and open spaces adapt to climate change, including their role in capturing and storing water after heavy rainfall, preventing localised flooding. Parks and open spaces provide an important cooling effect.

Key benefits that we can realise through our Parks and Open Spaces Strategy to reduce our climatic impacts are:

- promote healthier living, providing spaces for physical activity and relaxation
- cool the town and absorb stormwater to lessen the impacts of climate change
- filter pollutants to improve air and water quality
- make access improvements to our footpaths and cycleways to make them clean, comfortable, and more attractive to encourage walking and cycling,
- store carbon in soils and woodlands
- create better quality and better-connected habitats to improve biodiversity and ecological resilience

This page is intentionally left blank

## Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

<i>Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022 - 2030
<i>Service Area:</i>	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing	
<i>Section:</i>	Environmental Services	
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	John Ramsey	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	May 2021	
<i>Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		
<i>Existing</i>	Yes	
<i>Changed</i>	Yes	
<i>New / Proposed</i>	No	

### Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

#### 1. What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

By adopting this strategy, the Council will have:

- clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving its parks and open spaces, to meet the needs of community attitudes and expectations in providing green space in the borough;
- evidence of local leadership on and commitment to parks and open spaces, to underpin bids for funding for their improvement;
- clear links to and co-ordination with the councils Council Plan and the adopted Local Plan;
- evidence and policies to underpin the negotiation of 'planning gain' for open space provision in association with new development;
- a developed hierarchy of parks and green spaces, with a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement with the basis for the development of investment-backed annual action plans
- improved accessibility to Chesterfields parks and open spaces.

**2. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and how?**  
 All residents of and visitors to Chesterfield.

**3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?**  
 Clarity for local residents and specific interest groups on the Councils vision and strategic direction for the provision, management and improvement of green spaces across the Borough.

**Section 2 – What is the impact?**

**4. Summary of anticipated impacts.** *Please tick at least one option per protected characteristic. Think about barriers people may experience in accessing services, how the policy is likely to affect the promotion of equality, knowledge of customer experiences to date. You may need to think about sub-groups within categories eg. older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment etc.*

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability and long-term conditions	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes

### Section 3 – Recommendations and monitoring

---

If you have answered that the policy, project, service, function or strategy could potentially have a negative impact on any of the above characteristics then a full EIA will be required.

#### 5. Should a full EIA be completed for this policy, project, service, function or strategy

*A brief description of how the proposal has been developed to take into consideration protected groups, outcomes of consultation etc.*

No disproportionate negative impact has been identified for any group with a protected characteristic. We consulted with the Chesterfield Equalities and Diversity Forum on the draft strategy and its themes.

### Section 4 – Knowledge management and publication

---

Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Service Manager and the Policy Service **before** WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager	Name:	John Ramsey
	Date:	28/05/2021
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	Donna Reddish
	Date:	28.06.21
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service	Yes	
Decision information sent to Policy Service	Yes	

This page is intentionally left blank

## For publication

### Play Strategy 2022 - 2030 (L000)

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Council
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022 23 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Health and Wellbeing
<b>Directorate:</b>	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing
<b>For publication</b>	

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To seek Council approval of the Chesterfield Play Strategy, 2022 - 2030.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

That Cabinet recommends to full Council:

2.1 That a new Play Strategy be approved and adopted for the period 2022 through 2030.

2.2 That the Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing be invited to develop a five-year costed delivery plan, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to give effect to the Strategy's aims and objectives and for this delivery plan to be presented for approval at future meetings of the Cabinet and full Council.

#### 3.0 Reason for recommendations

3.1 It is a priority for the Council to have a modern and relevant Play Strategy that reflects recent assessments and national, regional and local initiatives. This will enable the Council to strategically plan and prioritise resources across the Borough, and to work appropriately with developers and other stakeholders.

3.2 The effective management of our play spaces will continue to support the Borough in being a great destination; and a healthy and active place to live and work.

#### **4.0 Report details**

##### **Background**

4.1 The Play Strategy establishes an understanding and ambition for children and young people's play in the borough from 2022 until 2030. A robust evidence base has been drawn from national policies and initiatives, local consultation and analysis of existing play provision. This has enabled the development of local standards and assessment criteria, which in turn have provided the framework for this strategy. The updated strategy, following consultation, is attached at Appendix A, parts 1 and 2.

4.2 The draft Play Strategy was considered at the Cabinet meeting on 6 July 2021 where it was resolved that the draft strategy be approved for wider consultation.

##### **Consultation on the Play Strategy 2022 – 2030**

4.3 The consultation programme for the draft Play Strategy took place between August and October 2021. This programme, in addition to ongoing internal officer engagement, included:

- An online survey for members of the public to respond.
- A session with Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- An online survey for stakeholder groups such as 'Friends' groups and Sports Clubs to respond.
- A presentation and online survey for the Councils Equalities and Diversity Group.

4.4 Initially the consultation was held over a four-week period, this was subsequently extended to six weeks to enable further engagement of stakeholders in the consultation process.

4.5 Fifty-five responses to the online consultation were received. The comments and responses are set out in Appendix B.



- 4.6 The consultation with Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee enabled further discussion and consideration of the key issues, the feedback is set out in Appendix C.
- 4.7 Comments from both the online survey and the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny panel did highlight the need to improve ongoing maintenance of play spaces. It was a particular concern of some respondents that whilst the play offer was good, maintenance did not meet expectation. This feedback will be reviewed in detail by the service, and incorporated as part of the development of the delivery plan.
- 4.8 Feedback from the consultation was positive and supportive of the strategy itself, including its key themes and direction of travel. As a result there have been no significant changes to the strategy following the consultation.
- 4.9 It is proposed that, given the close link between the parks and open space strategy and the play strategy, the duration of the play strategy is aligned to the parks and open spaces strategy. Both strategies would therefore cover the period from 2022 until 2030.
- 4.10 The aims have also been updated to more overtly set out the priority to reduce inequality in areas of highest deprivation.
- 4.11 Other amendments in relation to the structure of document have been made in response to the feedback received. This includes for example, the inclusion of an executive summary to help capture for the reader the key areas of the strategy.

### **Play Strategy 2022 - 2030**

- 4.12 The vision, updated aims and themes for the strategy, that will set the framework for the development of the five-year costed delivery plan, are set out in the paragraphs below. The final version of the strategy is attached at Appendix A, parts 1 and 2.
- 4.13 The vision for play across the borough is:

'For every play space to be a destination, by creating a variety of sustainable play experiences that offer children and young people of all

ages and abilities accessible, quality, challenging and fun opportunities for play.'

4.14 The aims of the strategy are:

- To increase play experiences for children, young people and families.
- To reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index multiple deprivation by providing good quality and accessible play experiences.
- To raise the standard, quality and experience of play opportunities across Chesterfield borough.
- To widen the concept of play and enable innovation.
- To improve play accessibility for our children, young people and diverse communities.
- To facilitate play experiences that are inclusive and accessible to all children and young people.
- To ensure that play experiences are properly resourced and sustainable.

4.15 The key themes that set the delivery context for the strategy are focussed on:

- Raising awareness of play
- Raising the quality of play
- Improving the range and accessibility of play
- Informal and natural play opportunities
- Maximising resources to improve and develop play
- Strategic Management and Growth Sites

4.16 The updated and refreshed strategy will become the key document guiding the Council's management of and investment in play experiences until 2030. By adopting this strategy, the Council will have:

- Clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving play experiences across the borough, setting the context for the development of a five-year costed delivery plan.
- Evidence of local leadership on and commitment to play to underpin bids for funding play development.

- Clear co-ordination with the Council Plan and the adopted Local Plan.
- Improved accessibility to play opportunities and experiences.
- An evidence base and local standards to underpin the negotiation of 'planning gain' for the creation of appropriate play experiences across the Borough.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

- 5.1 The alternative option would have been to not develop a play strategy and subsequent five-year costed delivery plan and continue with current arrangements whereby the Council Plan provides the broad strategic framework and activities are guided by different team service plans.
- 5.2 The preferred option, as covered in this report, supports both the strategic need and operational delivery requirements to maintain high standards through management and investment in play experiences.
- 5.3 The preferred option will support the Council to target resources effectively and efficiently through using the clear framework that the play strategy provides.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

- 6.1 No specific financial implications have been identified from the consultation on the strategy.
- 6.2 To maintain the quality and the desired levels of positive customer experience across our play spaces the Council, in addition to its general fund resource will continue its highly successful approach to securing external funding to enable the progressive development of the Councils play spaces and experiences through the strategy. This includes:
- Council funding: capital and revenue funding allocated to deliver facilities and improvements within the Council's ownership
  - CIL and Section 106 developer contributions
  - Grant funding for example - Landfill Tax Credits
- 6.3 In the last five years the Council has enabled the investment of over £770,000 in play infrastructure in addition to the Parks and Open Space

services core general fund resource allocation which is currently £2.1m per annum.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 7.1 Article 31 of the UN Convention on the rights of the child states; ‘Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.’ ‘Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.’
- 7.2 The Council recognises the importance of play to children and young people and the strategy will enable the enhancement and development of play experiences.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

- 8.1 The Environmental Services section has recently completed a service redesign which has considered at its heart how the alignment of the street scene and green spaces teams can become more focussed on service delivery through the priorities as outlined in the strategy.
- 8.2 The service redesign will support improvements in the way in which ongoing maintenance of play spaces is achieved, bringing with it a sharper focus on the responsiveness to undertake repairs.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan**

- 9.1 The play strategy positively contributes to the following council plan objectives:
- Improving quality of life for local people.
  - Improving our environment and enhance community safety for all our communities and future generations.
  - Helping our communities to improve their health and wellbeing.
- 9.2 Being active through play can make a unique contribution to children’s health, wellbeing and holistic development, which cannot be obtained from more structured forms of physical activity or formal sport. Anyone can take part in play, there is little or no cost to the participant and does

not need high skill levels to specifically engage. This along with the natural creativity and flexibility of play makes it an important part of a child / young person's development. The Play Strategy will seek to positively contribute to this.

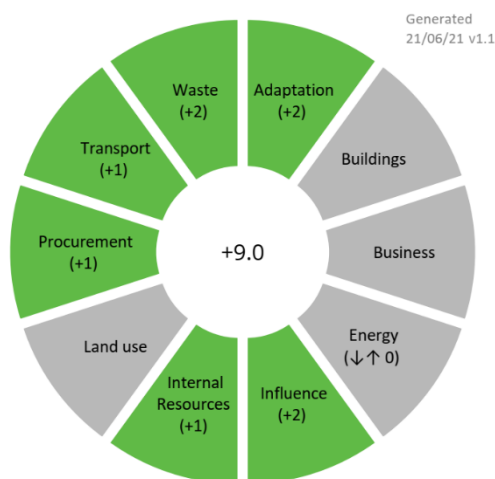
9.3 Outdoor play opportunities can also be beneficial to mental health and wellbeing by providing important opportunities to interact with nature and other people. The Council will through the strategy continue to work with partners to maximise the benefits to physical and mental health through play.

9.4 Providing good quality play opportunities will support the Council's wider ambitions regarding making Chesterfield a thriving borough by actively contributing to making Chesterfield A great place to live, work and visit.

### 10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

10.1 The impact of the Play Strategy is defined by the Council's Climate Change Impact Assessment Decision Making Tool and a summary image of the assessment is included below at para. 10.2.

10.2



CBC has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (8 years and 6 months away).

10.3 Opportunities exist within our open space to explore the inclusion of natural play settings. Existing features can be utilised such as woodlands, streams, slopes and fallen wood. These opportunities need to be measured against the risk of engagement but equally the approach needs to reflect the positive outcomes from such engagement. By adapting play

spaces to include natural elements through the strategy we could further influence the design of play spaces to take account of these less traditional options and opportunities for play which will have a positive impact on Climate Change.

10.4 Through the strategy our procurement processes will include further requirements on suppliers to use materials that are more sympathetic to the environment. For example, the types of paint used and where and how those materials are sourced and transported to and from.

10.5 A full Climate Change Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix D.

### 11.0 Implications for consideration - Equality and diversity

11.1 The Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix E. No negative impacts for groups with protected characteristics have been identified.

### 12.0 Implications for consideration - Risk Management

#### 12.1 Risk matrix

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Strategy not adopted	High	Low	The strategy has been developed to fully reflect the challenges of land use and play development. It has been informed by a varied evidence base and as such it supports the Council vision and council plan objectives. A full consultation programme has been undertaken to ensure local input and engagement to reflect need.	Medium	Low
Insufficient resources available to deliver the	High	Medium	The Council will continue to maximise its use of internal resource and will compliment this by	Medium	Low

Play Strategy 2022 – 2030.			continuing its highly successful approach of attracting external funding, in parallel with council funding sources, where appropriate, to support the delivery of the strategy. Following adoption of the strategy a five-year costed delivery plan will be produced.		
----------------------------	--	--	---	--	--

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1034</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>ALL</b>

### Document information

<b>Report author</b>	
Ian Waller – Service Director - Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing John Ramsey - Principal Green Space Officer Strategic	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A Part 1	Draft Play Strategy 2022 – 2030
Appendix A Part 2	Evidence base
Appendix B	General Online Consultation Comments
Appendix C	Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel Comments
Appendix D	Climate Change Impact Assessment
Appendix E	Equalities Impact Assessment

This page is intentionally left blank





# **Play Strategy**

## **2022 - 2030**

Owner: Service Director - Leisure, Culture and Wellbeing

Date: January 2022

Review by: January 2030

# Contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
	<b>Foreword</b>	3
	<b>Executive Summary</b>	4-5
1.0	Introduction	6-7
2.0	Impact of play	8-10
3.0	Barriers to play	11-12
4.0	Evidence base and Local standards	13-21
5.0	Our vision and themes	22-26
6.0	Delivery plan, monitoring and review	27
	<b>Appendix A</b> Evidence base	

# FOREWORD

By Cllr Jill Mannion Brunt, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing



Chesterfield Borough Council has a proud history of supporting play experiences across the borough. Despite the financial challenges faced by local authorities we have continued to invest in our play spaces as we recognised the value to our communities.

Play forms a vital part of a child's growth and development, not just their physical development but their social and cognitive development too. Children play in many ways and at many different times and places. For children and young people, play is more than just 'letting-off steam', it is what they do in their own time, for their own reasons.

In preparing this strategy, we have asked many children and young people and their parents and carers what barriers they face in accessing play spaces. We aim to reduce these barriers over the coming years with an emphasis on supporting those most in need, including children with disabilities and children in areas of deprivation with less life opportunities.

Our aim is to provide all children living and visiting Chesterfield access to good quality play experiences. The challenge in respect of play areas and play spaces is to make sure they deliver a good experience for their users. Children want play spaces they can enjoy and have fun safely. Adults want play spaces where children can develop physical and decision-making skills that will help them in all parts of their lives. This strategy sets out the Council's commitment to making that a reality.

# Executive Summary

## Our vision for play in Chesterfield

“For every play space to be a destination, by creating a variety of sustainable play experiences that offer children and young people of all ages and abilities accessible, quality, challenging and fun opportunities for play.”

Our Play Strategy establishes an understanding and ambition for Children’s play in the borough from 2022 until 2030. A robust evidence base has been drawn from national policies and initiatives, local consultation and analysis of existing play provision. This has enabled the development of local standards and assessment criteria, which in turn have provided the framework for this strategy.

Children are active participants in building their own understanding of the world around them. They mostly do this by experimenting, observing and participating with other children and adults through play. Children gain direct benefits to their physical health, mental health, wellbeing, risk awareness, social skills and holistic development through playing. Play areas are part of the necessary infrastructure for healthy communities and contribute to cohesive communities when children’s play is welcomed and respected. For these reasons, the Council is committed to improving the quality and experience of play opportunities across Chesterfield borough.

The aims for this strategy are:

- To increase play experiences for children, young people and families
- To reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index multiple deprivation by providing good quality and accessible play experiences
- To raise the standard, quality and experience of play opportunities across Chesterfield borough
- To widen the concept of play and enable innovation
- To improve play accessibility for our children, young people and diverse communities
- To facilitate play experiences that are inclusive and accessible to all children and young people
- To ensure that play experiences are properly resourced and sustainable

Informed by audits and consultation and linking into key strategic documents and priorities, a series of **Play Strategy Themes** have been developed. These set out the core objectives for the Play Strategy to develop and implement the needs and aspirations of children and young people in Chesterfield and will be the reference point for the delivery plan that is developed following the adoption of this strategy.

**Theme 1 - Raising awareness of play**

**Theme 2 - Raising the quality of play**

**Theme 3 - Improving the range and accessibility of play**

**Theme 4 - Informal and natural play opportunities**

**Theme 5 - Maximising resources to improve and develop play**

**Theme 6 - Strategic Management and Growth Sites**

This Play Strategy includes an evaluation and assessment of the quality, quantity and accessibility of current play provision within Chesterfield borough. This analysis has enabled the development of a set of local standards to guide the development of play provision and help to determine where future investment should be directed. This strategy will link in with the authorities' approach to levelling up, informing the allocation and prioritisation of wider resources. The strategy sets a framework to enable collective decision making about play opportunities and enable resources to be utilised in an efficient and effective manner.

Following on from the strategy a costed five-year delivery plan will be developed setting out a range of activities to support the delivery of the key themes. Delivery of the play strategy will be the responsibility of Chesterfield Borough Council; however, we will continue to work with partners and engage with local communities including children and young people to maximise the delivery of this strategy.

# SECTION 1: Introduction

## 1.1 Background

In order to be able to set out a plan to maintain and develop excellent play spaces we need to understand our current provision, its strengths and its limitations including the amount, location, quality and different types of play space. We must also be aware of the planning context so that new developments can have suitable facilities to help build new communities. The latest guidance and best practice will also be key in helping us to target resources in the locations most needing them.

Our Play Strategy establishes an understanding and ambition for Children's play in the borough from 2022 until 2030. A robust evidence base for the strategy has been drawn from national policies and initiatives, local consultation and analysis of existing play provision.

We recognise that children and young people are the experts on play, and they often show great ingenuity in playing in many different and sometimes challenging circumstances. Throughout the development of this strategy, we have listened to children, young people, parents, carers and the wider community to find out what is important to them in play provision and what the barriers are. We are making a commitment to continue this approach with consultation being a key part of any future refurbishment or development project.

## 1.2 Strategy scope

The Play Strategy aims to provide high quality play experiences for children and young people aged 0 – 19 years. The strategy sets out a direction of travel as to how we might develop further informal play opportunities in public open space in general. The strategy will also provide guidance on the standards for play provision, which we will encourage other play area developers to adopt. The scope of the strategy goes beyond traditional 'fixed equipped' play areas e.g. slides and swings in fenced off areas. Instead 'play spaces' that embrace the natural landscape and create diversity in play are considered within the role of the strategy, enabling and facilitating free choice for play in the wider park environment. Play experience is geared towards 'free play' i.e., freely available, free of charge and free to choose.

We also recognise that the play children engage in at home, school and commercial venues is important to their development, but these play

experiences are not under the control of the Council and are therefore not included within the scope of this strategy.

To inform the strategy a robust evidence base has been produced to assess the quantity, quality and accessibility to freely reachable play spaces.

### 1.3 **Strategy aims**

The Play Strategy, includes an evaluation of the current quality, quantity and accessibility of play provision within Chesterfield borough, set out in the evidence base at Appendix A. This evidence gathering has been used to develop a set of local standards and assessment criteria which will provide a guide towards investment proposals for future play provision.

The aims of the strategy are:

- To increase play experiences for children, young people and families
- To reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index multiple deprivations by providing good quality and accessible play experiences
- To raise the standard, quality and experience of play opportunities across Chesterfield borough
- To widen the concept of play and enable innovation
- To improve play accessibility for our children, young people and diverse communities
- To facilitate play experiences that are inclusive and accessible to all children and young people
- To ensure that play experiences are properly resourced and sustainable

# SECTION 2: The impact of play

## 2.1 Why is play important?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations in 1989, spells out the basic human rights to which every child, everywhere, is entitled. The Convention sets out several statements called articles. These are the rights of all children and young people up to the age of 18. These include Article 31, the right to engage in play and recreational activities. Children all have a natural desire to play. They play because it is fun, and it makes them happy. When children play, they can be who they want to be and play how they want to play.

## 2.2 What is play?

Play is what children choose to do in their free time, it can and does happen anywhere. Children's play needs are diverse and so too are people's definition of what play is or is not. In order to set a framework for delivering and developing play experiences in the borough, we define play as:

'What children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in the own way, and for their own reasons.'

Play can take place in many different places; from designated play areas to green open spaces, woods, the streets where children live and on the way to places where children go.

## 2.3 The benefits of play

Research shows that play has many benefits for children, families and the wider community, as well as improving health and quality of life, as illustrated in the diagram below:





Play England’s ‘A world without play’ considers the effects of a lack of play on children’s lives. It highlights ‘the importance of play, particularly outdoor play, for increasing levels of physical activity, alongside other positive influences on a child’s well-being’, such as opportunities to understand and respect the natural world.

## 2.4 Inactivity in children

Current national guidance (UK Active) recommends that children over 5 years old should engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day. Children under 5 that are able to walk unaided should be physically active for at least 3 hours spread throughout the day. The UK Active’s study found that across England, only 24% of girls and 32% of boys aged between 2 years old and 15 years old were meeting these recommendations and this is having a significant impact on children’s health. 19.5% of children in Year 6 within

Chesterfield are classified as obese. This is not significantly different from the England average (20%). However, there are some areas of the borough where this figure is above 35%. These tend to correlate with areas with higher levels of deprivation and poorer health profiles.

## 2.5 **Play and health and wellbeing**

Physically active play can make unique contributions to children's health, wellbeing, and holistic development, which cannot be obtained from more structured forms of physical activity or formal sport. Anyone can take part in it, there is no cost, low skill entry level, no specific rules, no specific equipment and no uniform.

Research supports the assertion that physical activity is vital for children's learning and for their physical wellbeing. However, recent research has shown that activity levels in the UK, along with those in much of the developed world, are falling and that only half of 7-year-olds in the UK achieve an hour's physical activity a day. Research from *Designed to Move: A Physical Activity Action Agenda* shows that from 1961 to 2005, levels of physical activity in the UK dropped by 20% and if current trends continue, will reduce by more than 35% by 2030.

In addition to the positive effects physical activity can have on mental well-being. Outdoor play experiences can also be beneficial to mental health and well-being by providing important opportunities to interact with nature. The positive effect interaction with nature has on our mental well-being has been well documented. Spending time in green environments whether combined with physical activity or for passive relaxation is said to have restorative qualities which help the human body recover from the demands of modern everyday life.

Children with easy access to nature are more able to cope with a stressful life than those in urban habitats lacking green space. It can improve cognitive function and has been shown to improve a child's ability to direct their attention. This re-iterates the importance of outdoor play provisions, especially in more urban areas, and their potential to provide a link between children and nature.

## **SECTION 3: Barriers to play**

### 3.1 **Barriers to Play**

There are several common barriers identified through a wealth of national research, which can prevent or reduce children and young people from playing outdoors.

**Disability, ethnicity and faith** – Inaccessible play facilities and concerns about the behaviour of other people using facilities can create social and physical barriers to the enjoyment of disabled children’s right to play. A recent national survey of 1,000 parents of disabled children demonstrated how their children were often excluded from play opportunities. Parks and playgrounds were the least user-friendly, with few facilities for disabled children and young people. Research has also indicated that ethnicity and faith can be a factor in reduced access to play to a range of factors again due to concerns about the behaviour of other users of facilities and community cohesion.

**Traffic** – a survey commissioned in 2013 by Play England, Play Wales, Play Scotland and Playboard Northern Ireland, found that over 53% of parents and carers had concerns about traffic. This is an issue that consistently appears high on the list of factors restricting outdoor play. The growing dominance of the car in residential streets, along with concerns about road safety, restricts the space and opportunity for children and young people to engage in active outdoor play and can affect a child’s ability to reach a play space independently by walking or cycling. Studies show dramatic decreases in children’s independent mobility, a major factor in their access to play opportunities.

**Negative attitudes and behaviour** - children and young people themselves can be a cause of concern in the community. Children are often told to stop playing in the streets or area near their home. There can be a perception that children congregating in groups is threatening but many children do this for their own sense of security. Social barriers such as fear can lead to people linking children and young people socialising in public space with anti-social behaviour. These types of negative attitudes towards children have led to the banning of activities that appeal to younger people, such as ball games and skateboarding in community spaces.

**Outcomes focussed on play provision** – the replacement of free, self-directed play, with an increase in prescribed educational activities or childcare outcomes restricts children’s opportunities for playing. The role of free play in physical social and cognitive wellbeing has been ‘overlooked’ in many areas and much play provision has become outcome orientated. Play has therefore become an ‘unaffordable luxury’ in modern society, pushed aside to make way for organised activities that are more educational. In organised activities, children do not have the opportunity to direct their own play and create their own boundaries.

**Reduction in free time** – there are competing demands on children’s time, and so time to play freely is limited. Added to that, many parents are faced with time pressures of their own, which can impact on how children are transported to play areas, especially children living in more isolated areas. This contributes to children having a more sedentary lifestyle, as they turn to games consoles and social media in replacement of active, outdoor play.

**Parental anxiety** – perceived dangers and parental fears can reduce the amount of time children spend in outdoor open space. Building confidence in the use of our parks and open spaces for safe play is vital.

# Section 4: Evidence base and local standards – Refer to Appendix A

## 4.1 Play Space Assessments

In 2018 the Council undertook a series of audits to establish the quantity, accessibility, quality, condition of play spaces and, arguably more importantly, to understand the value and contribution that these play spaces make to the quality of life for children, young people and their parents and carers.

## 4.2 Quantity assessment and local standard

The quantity assessment considers the number and different types of freely accessible play opportunities currently provided within Chesterfield. The table below gives an overview of existing provision in each ward under the following definitions:

**LAPS** – Local Area for Play – single play item

**LEAPS** – Local Equipped Area For Play – a minimum of five play types i.e. sliding and swinging e.g. Princess Street, Chester Street Wharf Lane

**NEAPS** – Neighbourhood Equipped Area For Play – to include for Kindergarten play, Multi Use Games Areas and Skate Parks e.g. Stand Road Park, Eastwood Park and Brearley Park

**Table 1 – Play provision by ward**

Ward	LAPS	LEAPS	NEAPS	Total
Barrow Hill and New Whittington	1	1	2	4
Brimington North	0	2	1	3
Brimington South	3	2	0	5
Brockwell	0	2	0	2
Dunston	0	2	0	2
Hasland	7	3	1	11
Holmebrook	0	1	0	1
Hollingwood, Inkersall and Duckmanton	2	4	1	7
Linacre	6	1	1	8
Loundsley Green	0	2	1	3
Lowgates	1	3	1	5
Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	1	2	2	5
Moor	0	0	1	1
Old Whittington	1	2	0	3
Rother	1	2	1	4

St Helens	0	2	1	3
St Leonards	2	4	1	7
Walton	2	2	0	4
West	0	2	0	2

The purpose of the quantity assessment is to establish the type, range and location of current freely available play facilities and opportunities. There are currently 81 equipped play spaces within the borough equating to 5.17 hectares. Informal open space in a parent site in which a play space is located will also contribute to the play offer resulting in a total of 37.17 hectares; equivalent to 0.37 hectares per 1,000 population.). The Fields In Trust (FIT) standard suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard.

There is a good spread of provision across the borough. All areas with a greater population density are within walking distance of a form of play provision.

The table below outlines the adopted Local Plan quantity standards for play space in Chesterfield.

**Table 2 – adopted standard for play space provision**

Typology	Explanation	Recommended quantity standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Space / provision for children and young people	All equipped play provision including informal amenity greenspaces (below two ha) which host a play site	0.27

### 4.3 Quality and Value / Contribution Assessment

The quality and value / contribution assessments included assessments of the equipped play within Chesterfield using results obtained as part of an independent play assessment. These took into consideration a range of contribution factors including site safety, accessibility, levels of deprivation, proximity to a nearby play space and the wider environment.

### 4.4 Quality and Value / Contribution thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of

applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements may be required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

To distinguish between higher and lower quality sites, the quality thresholds are set to reflect the average scores for each typology within the Borough; The quality threshold has been set at 60%.

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. A high valued site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and mental benefits. Value/Contribution is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative blanket threshold of 20% is set. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is a relative score. One designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). If a site meets more than one criterion for value, it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

**Table 3 - Quality and Value/Contribution thresholds**

Typology	Quality threshold	Value/Contribution threshold
Space / provision for children and young people	60%	20%

**Table 4 - Summary of Quality scores for all play types**

Typology	Threshold	Scores %			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Below threshold	Above threshold
Space / provision for children & young people	60%	50%	67%	91%	23	58

A greater proportion of play sites (71%) rate above the threshold for quality. Lower quality scoring sites tends to reflect a lack in and/or range of equipment and/or its general condition.

Of the 23 sites to rate below the threshold, 18 are considered to be akin to localised areas of play (LAPs). These are generally small forms of play provision with often a limited range of equipment. Some of these sites that score low in the assessment may not be able to increase their scores due to site constraints, such as the site not being physically large enough to have a wider range of play equipment installed upon it, or the topography of the site.

In order to mitigate this limitation with LAP's, the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy for Chesterfield within the local plan policies, set out the Councils preference, where conditions allow, to consider new or improved play provision across a locality rather than looking to provide a specific LAP within the development area.

**Table 5 - Summary of Value/Contribution scores for all play types**

Typology	Threshold	Scores %			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Below threshold	Above threshold
Space / provision for children & young people	20%	15%	63%	91%	20	61

The majority of play provision (76%) rates above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, healthy and developmental benefits play space provision can provide

#### **4.5 Accessibility Assessment and local standard**

This is an assessment of accessibility to equipped play spaces including an assessment of inclusiveness and barriers that prevent children and young people from enjoying play.

Access to play provision has been established through applying the classification of play spaces and distance thresholds in the play strategy audit, through National Planning Policy Framework (PPG17 Companion Guide) audit findings and GIS mapping which have contributed to ward profiles.

Accessibility catchments for play space are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of the audits carried out in Appendix A, the concept of



'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users, has been used.

It is recognised that the PPG17 target for accessibility is to use the Fields in Trust median accessibility standard, which is defined in terms of walking distances from home to play areas:

- Local Areas of Play (**LAPs**): accompanied walking distance **100m** (1-3 minutes' walk)
- Local Equipped Areas of Play (**LEAPs**): walking distance **400m** (5 minutes' walk)
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (**NEAPs**): walking distance **1,000m** (15 minutes' walk)

In acknowledging the difficulty in achieving this FIT standard, especially in urban areas, the PPG17 study proposes that open spaces used for other purposes be opened to play and that existing areas offer a greater variety of play opportunities where space allows. This policy requires a local solution, as play provision for older children and young people is often considered to disturb other uses of open space and those living adjacent.

In order to establish the level of provision, and quality of service, Table 6 sets out the adopted standard for play space accessibility catchments. Use of this standard will enable Chesterfield to measure performance against nationally recognised benchmark criteria. The map at the end of this section shows the catchment mapping when the equivalent radial distance of 1200m is applied.

Results of the community survey have informed the adopted local plan standards for accessibility catchments. This is presented in table below and is applied to help inform potential deficiencies in play space provision. This standard has been adopted by the council for any new developments as they arise.

**Table 6 – adopted standard for play space accessibility catchments**

Open space type		Accessibility catchment	Equivalent radial distance
Space / Play areas & provision for young people	Children's play	15-minute walk time	1,200m
	Youth provision	15-minute walk time	1,200m

**Local play spaces and facilities** with a catchment area of 1200 metres — the aim is to provide an equipped play area within a residential area, where a play area is no more than 1200 metres from home.

**Neighbourhood spaces and facilities to include youth provision** with a catchment area of 1200 metres - large, equipped destination play areas primarily for children of all ages providing a mixture of facilities which may include wheeled facilities, kick-about areas or multi use games areas.

Accessibility catchment areas are overlaid on the mapping of sites to help identify potential gaps in provision for each analysis area. In effect these are circular 'as the crow flies' areas (radial catchments). They do not simulate actual walking distances based on pedestrian routes or barriers to movement (a costly method). However, significant barriers to movement are also mapped to help recognise instances where access to open space provision may be restricted.

#### **4.6 Condition Survey**

In seeking to develop a full picture of play sites, they were also assessed against their age and current condition, levels of anti-social behaviour, independent insurance inspection reports and compliance with current standards.

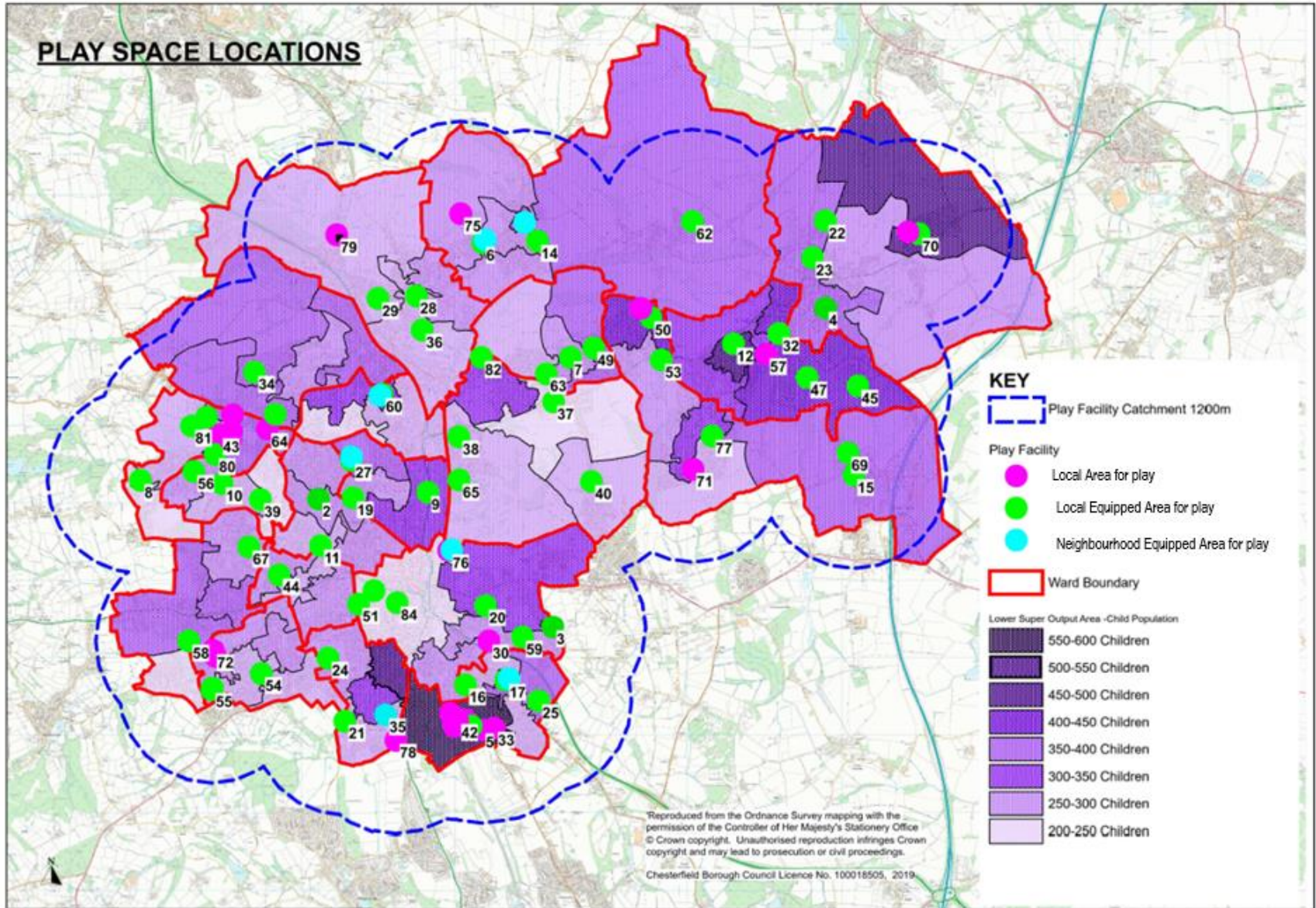
#### **4.7 Consultation – Open Space Assessment Community Survey**

Respondents were asked what types of open and play space they like to visit. The most common type of open space to visit is parks with 81%. Other forms of open space they like to visit are play areas (66%), nature areas (63%), small, grassed areas near home (49%) and sports pitches (38%).

The most common reason for visiting these types of open space is to play (81%). Meeting with friends (61%), exercising (51%) and to visit with family (46%) are commonly also cited reasons for visiting.

Respondents were asked what type of play provision they prefer to visit, formal and/or informal play spaces. There is an even split between formal and informal with a slightly higher proportion of respondents preferring more natural play opportunities (52%).

Respondents were asked what would make open spaces near them better. The most popular answers include sites to be clean and tidy (65%) and for more play equipment (64%). Respondents were asked what deters you from using your local play space. The most popular answers were stranger danger (55.80%), not age appropriate (45.2%), high volumes of traffic (41.6%) and older children/adults (31.5%).



#### 4.8 Equality Act 2010 - policy statement

When assessing our play spaces, we will ensure accessibility to and within the site, with reasonable adjustments made where practicable. A quality assessment of the equipment will be carried out to ensure inclusion and signage and safety information will be shown pictorially. For new provision it is written into procurement tenders to ensure appropriate aspects of the Act are implemented both for play equipment provision, access to and from the sites, signage and seating.

#### 4.9 Priorities for improvement and investment

By using the scores and data obtained from a range of sources to include the findings of the site assessments (refer to evidence base **Appendix A**) and mapping, an assessment can be made about how play space provision currently meets the needs of the children and young people of Chesterfield and how to plan for future needs.

The result from this work now enables the Council:

- To carry out a more detailed analysis of play across Chesterfield against the full range of local standards established in this strategy.
- To identify priorities for investment and development.
- To identify the need for developer contributions to fund the enhancement of existing provision within the vicinity of a proposed development.

The more detailed analysis of the play provision will include using a quality / value matrix tool (**see below and included in appendix A**) and the contribution scores to review each of the sites, this will enable us to determine the future treatment of existing sites and future growth housing growth sites.

High Quality/Low Value	High Quality/High Value
Maintain the quality. Undertake further assessment on the value with the aim of enhancing its present primary purpose. Consider if it would be a high value if converted to another primary purpose. Change of use is only acceptable if the options above are not achievable.	Maintain the quality. Protect the site through planning process.

Low Quality/Low Value	High Value/Low Quality
<p>Enhance the quality as long as it is also possible to enhance the value.</p> <p>Assess primary purpose as the site could be surplus to requirements in terms of present primary purpose.</p>	<p>Raise the site quality to meet the require standard.</p> <p>Protect the site through the planning process.</p>

This matrix has the potential to act as a tool to plan the most appropriate course of action for each site.

Following this detailed analysis, it is proposed that each area of play space provision, will then be allocated against a simple classification that will assist in prioritising actions for each site and inform a delivery plan. The system of classification is set out as follows:

- **Sustain** – has received investment within the last ten years, continue to maintain quality through normal routine maintenance and inspection.
- **Enhance** – invest to bring up to modern standard – could include naturalistic play elements as well as fixed play equipment.
- **Enhance/Sustain** – invest to bring up to modern standard – an existing facility may be in the sustain classification for the primary play provision for toddlers and juniors but there might be demand for additional facilities for older children i.e. a multi-use games area in a community park.
- **Modify** – consider adaptation to informal play space/naturalistic play space/retained as public open space. Disposal of a site could be considered if there is an oversupply of play space in the area and if investment wouldn't improve the overall quality and value.

# Section 5: Our Vision and Themes

## 5.1 Our vision for play

“For every play space to be a destination, by creating a variety of sustainable play experiences that offer children and young people of all ages and abilities accessible, quality, challenging and fun opportunities for play.”

### Aims of the strategy

The Play Strategy is key to guiding the Council’s investment in play and for providing a platform for increased community engagement. The aims of the strategy are:

- To increase play experiences for children, young people and families
- To reduce inequality in those areas of highest deprivation according to the index multiple deprivations by providing good quality and accessible play experiences
- To raise the standard, quality and experience of play opportunities across Chesterfield borough
- To widen the concept of play and enable innovation
- To improve play accessibility for our children, young people and diverse communities
- To facilitate play experiences that are inclusive and accessible to all children and young people
- To ensure that play experiences are properly resourced and sustainable

## 5.2 Themes

Informed by the assessments, consultation and linking into key strategic documents and priorities, a series of six play strategy themes have been developed. These set out the core objectives for the Play Strategy to develop and implement the needs and aspirations of children and young people in Chesterfield and will be the reference point for all action and delivery plans arising from the strategy.

**Theme 1 - Raising awareness of play**

**Theme 2 - Raising the quality of play**

**Theme 3 - Improving the range and accessibility of play**

**Theme 4 - Informal and natural play opportunities**

**Theme 5 - Maximising resources to improve and develop play**

**Theme 6 - Strategic Management and Growth Sites**

### **5.3 Theme 1 - Raising awareness of play**

The Council and its partners through multi agency working will raise awareness of the importance of play, in developing children's and young person's physical and social life skills. We want to develop a targeted approach to communicating messages about play opportunities to children and young people. The objectives under this theme are to:

- Improve participation and usage of current and future provision and maximise the benefits of play
- Provide a more inclusive approach to play
- Help to educate children, parents and carers of the importance of play in development
- Reduce negative perceptions of children and young people at play

Key improvement activities will include improving our website, social media and traditional media presence and maximising partnership communication channels. We will also ensure the dialogue continues with children, young people, parents and carers to enhance our understanding of needs and aspirations.

### **5.4 Theme 2 - Raising the quality of play**

Raising the quality of play experiences for children and young people will provide greater choice and more stimulating environments to develop physical and social skills. The objectives under this theme are to:

- Promote children's creativity, physical, mental and emotional well-being and healthy growth
- Recognise children's needs to test boundaries
- Balance opportunities for risk taking with prevention of serious harm
- Promote social interaction and respect for others
- Ensure all future facilities comply fully with the Disability Discrimination Act
- Work with partner agencies to assess the number of children and young people with additional needs

Key improvement activities include ensuring consultation with children, young people, parents and carers is undertaken when planning provision upgrades and new provision. We will undertake regular inspections and assessments of equipped play sites including repair, planned maintenance and replacement. All new play equipment will be assessed against Equality Act requirements to maximise inclusive play.

Outdoor gym equipment is recognised nationally as a popular and inclusive form of physical activity for young people and adults. This could also assist in helping to tackle the challenges of an ageing population. Chesterfield borough will see a greater increase in the 65+ age band than any other age band up to 2036. The low impact exercise opportunities offered by outdoor gym equipment could therefore help with the challenges of an ageing population as well as providing physical activity opportunities for other age groups.

### **5.5 Theme 3 - Improving the range and accessibility of play**

A facility or service, which fails to meet user needs, will no doubt receive little use. This would be a waste of resource and missed opportunity for our children and young people. By auditing our current play provision, we have been able to assess and better understand levels of service provision, in particular by undertaking regular consultation with children and young people be able to ascertain what they find inspiring and how their needs might change over the period of the strategy. Our play facilities and services must be fit for purposes for the user group they are intended for. The objectives under this theme are to:

- Extend children's choice and control
- Make different kinds of play available
- Promote independence and self esteem
- Reduce barriers to play and increases the level of equal access

Key improvement activities include reviewing provision in line with the play audit findings to ensure geographic and user needs are met. This includes continuing to provide current levels of play provision where appropriate but also considering alternative use of areas where provision is no longer required or play spaces are low quality and value with limited scope for improvement.

### **5.6 Theme 4 - Informal and natural play opportunities**

Embracing the natural landscape creates endless diversity in play as every play space will be different and different landscapes can offer different opportunities. Within the consultation and analysis, it is evident that there are competing pressures to expose children to an element of appropriate risk to improve the overall play experience and also to ensure these risks are controlled to keep people safe. Managed correctly, this theme has potential to enable children to interact with their environment and play in less formally contrived situations. A consequence of this will be improved physical fitness and mental health and wellbeing. The objectives under this theme are to:

- Make for effective and efficient use of our play spaces for all types of play.



- Provide more opportunities for children and young people in the natural environment.
- Stimulate more innovation in play activity.

Key improvement activities include providing play opportunities which are inviting, remove physical barriers and introduce natural elements. As part of the review, consideration to providing more natural play opportunities with landscaping has been given. A slightly higher proportion of survey respondents cited preferring natural play opportunities as opposed to traditional play equipment. The introduction of other forms of play activity is also recommended for consideration.

## **5.7 Theme 5 - Maximising resources to improve and develop play**

Play adds great value for our communities in particular for children's happiness, health and development. We need to ensure that adequate resource is available meet this need. The objectives under this theme are to:

- Maximise the use of internal and external funding to develop new play experiences that contribute to achieving the vision and aims of this strategy.
- Sustain funding to appropriately maintain equipped play sites and their ongoing management.

Key improvement activities include prioritising areas for investment and securing external funding where possible to further develop and renew play opportunities.

We will ensure that play spaces are maintained to a good standard, that a technical safety assessment is undertaken every calendar month by fully trained staff and that an annual independent inspection is carried out by the council's insurers.

## **5.8 Theme 6 - Strategic Management and Growth Sites**

A prerequisite for the play agenda in Chesterfield is the overriding vision to influence planning and policy making process. Associated with this is the desire to make collective decisions about play opportunities and enable resources to be utilised efficient and effectively. We will:

- Identify funding opportunities such as the community infrastructure levy for sites in close proximity to housing growth areas.
- Continue to negotiate where appropriate for on-site play provision on new developments with management agreements for ongoing maintenance

agreements and/or off-site contributions to play facilities at existing play facilities and/or community parks.

- Continue to influence excellent design and provision during the planning process.

Sustaining and delivering play experiences from new residential development will remain a priority for the council as future population growth will provide added demand to the requirements for open space and play provision. It is recognised that an increase in population will create increases in the use of provision which in turn will reduce the lifespan of existing sites and/or features (e.g. play equipment, maintenance regimes etc), and our future resourcing plans will need to respond to these issues.

# Section 6: Delivery plan, monitoring and review

## 6.1 Play Strategy Delivery Plan

We will develop a five-year costed delivery plan setting out a range of activities to support the delivery of the strategy through the key themes. Key features of the delivery plan will include estimated investment costs to achieve the council's vision for play, taking into account the detailed analysis of play areas against the local standards established within this strategy.

Delivery of the play strategy will ultimately be the responsibility of Chesterfield Borough Council; however, we will continue to work in partnership where possible and engage with local communities including children and young people to maximise delivery of the strategy.

## 6.2 Monitoring and review

The development of a delivery plan will be a key tool to manage, control and report on progress. Progress against the delivery plan will be monitored and challenged in line with the Council's performance management framework. This will also include the opportunity to make any amendments to the delivery plan in response to emerging needs and challenges. Key performance information will also be monitored and challenged during the plan period including satisfaction and usage data, quality and value score updates.

This page is intentionally left blank



# **Play Strategy**

## **2022 – 2030**

### **Evidence Base**

## **Appendix A**

## Quality Assessment

The quality assessment carried out as part of this play strategy draws on the principles of the ROSPA Play Quality Awards judging system. Each of the sites visited during the audits were assessed in relation to quality. This took into consideration a range of factors including site safety, accessibility and environment.

The table below illustrates the quality system used for this assessment.

Quality Factor	Available Maximum Score
<b>SITE OVERALL</b>	
Social Safety	4
Physical Safety	4
Pollution Free	1
Noise Free	2
Minimum of two gates (pedestrian)	3
Gates suitable for wheelchairs	2
Vehicle access gate	1
Emergency vehicle access	2
Age Separation (children of all ages are able to play together)	4
Ground Contours	3
Shade Present	1
Shelter (all ages)	2
Access for Disabled	3
Suitability (for use as a play space)	2
Environmental suitability	2
Locally related	3
Use of planting	2
Wild flowers	3
Trees	3
Long Grass	3
Orientation	1
Appropriate Signage	1
Colour Suitability	2
Open Space	3
Wheelchair Friendly Surfacing Linking Items	4
<b>Site Overall Total</b>	<b>61</b>
Quality Factor	Available Maximum Score
<b>Ambience</b>	
Visual appeal	10
Condition (litter and graffiti)	2
Layout	2
<b>Ambience Total</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Overall Quality Score</b>	<b>75</b>

This scoring process enables the comparison of sites throughout the borough, with higher scoring sites being of a better quality. There is however some limitation in relation to the methodology employed as part of the quality audit, which should be clarified. It should also be noted that when assessing both

quality and value we did not just assess the defined play space but also the wider play opportunities of the site in which the play space is located.

Although the quality assessment provides a robust method for assessing overall quality, it should be noted that smaller sites, specifically LAP's are by their nature likely to score lower as they do not have the available space, and to an extent the need for some play features. What the quality audit does achieve is a comparable baseline assessment to identify general patterns in provision across the Borough, which in turn will help address shortcomings in resources and plan future management strategies.

### Value Assessment

Value Factor	Score (1=low 5=high)
<b>LOCATION</b>	
Informal oversight by passer-by or nearby properties.	
Well used by children.	
Ease of getting to and accessing the site.	
Personal safety, security and lighting.	
Access for those with impairments or buggies and pushchairs.	
Opportunities for meeting other children on route.	
Designed for the site.	
<b>Location Total (out of 35)</b>	
<b>PLAY VALUE</b>	
Enticing children to play.	
Play opportunities for disabled children.	
Movement.	
Ball games.	
Opportunities to change the environment / space (loose parts).	
Access to the natural environment.	
Places for children to sit.	
Added play value: the site offers more than just a basic experience.	
<b>Play Value Total (out of 40)</b>	
<b>CARE AND MAINTENANCE</b>	
Well maintained.	
Health & Safety.	
Seating for adults.	
Litter bins.	
Dog free zones.	
<b>Care and Maintenance Total (out of 25)</b>	
<b>VALUE TOTAL (out of 100)</b>	

To an extent play value is a subjective quality, for example, what for one child may be a brilliant and exciting play space, may be considered dull and unimaginative for another. Play value is not purely concerned with equipment, access, appearance it takes into account the contents of the site, the level and type of use and wider benefits. The approach taken to assessing the play value of a play space is based on the Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool developed by Play England in October 2009, which considers how a play space can meet Play England's golden rule that "a successful play space is a place in its own right, specially designed for its location, in such a way as to provide as much play value as possible."

The table below summaries the system using for assessing the value of play spaces and how the contribution to children and young people’s play experience.

It should be noted that there is an element of cross over between the factors that are used to assess quality and value. For example, care and maintenance impacts both the quality of a site and the way in which a child experiences play within the context of the site.

Undertaking a value assessment Chesterfield’s play spaces enables us to plan strategically for the future in order to ensure that play provision is challenging, stimulating and engaging.

Details of the value scores of the 81 sites which were assessed for play value during the play space audit are attached.

### Quality and Value Matrix

Although National Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 17: Open Space, Sport & Recreation 2002 has been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework it outlines a method for comparing quality and value scores as a means for Local Authorities to identify key actions for the future of open and green spaces such as play spaces. The matrix in the table below is based on the guidance in PPG 17 and provides a potential method for determining actions for the development of each play space.

<b>High Quality/Low Value</b>	<b>High Quality/High Value</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the quality.</li> <li>• Undertake further assessment on the value with the aim of enhancing its present primary purpose.</li> <li>• Consider if it would be a high value if converted to another primary purpose.</li> <li>• Change of use is only acceptable if the options above are not achievable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the quality.</li> <li>• Protect the site through planning process.</li> </ul>
<b>Low Quality/Low Value</b>	<b>High Value/Low Quality</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the quality as long as it is also possible to enhance the value.</li> <li>• Assess primary purpose as the site could be surplus to requirements in terms of present primary purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the site quality to meet the require standard.</li> <li>• Protect the site through the planning process.</li> </ul>

The 81 play spaces assessed in the audit have been assigned into the above matrix. The site rating takes into account both the quality and value scores making a distinction between high and low scoring sites. The average score for



both quality and value has been used to assign scores. The table below shows the results of this process.

### Contribution Criteria

Whilst play quality and value are useful tools for ascertaining the contribution that play spaces make to Chesterfield's play provision and can be used as a useful decision making tool for deciding the future of play spaces, there are a number of factors that it does not take into account.

Alongside value and quality, we have used a range of data sources to factor into the strategic decision-making process the contribution that play spaces make to meeting the needs of the community. The table below summarises a range of factors, that impact on how a play space contributes to its local community and outlines a scoring system which enables a meaningful comparison of sites. This process enables us to understand the contribution each play space makes to its community; with a higher score denoting that the park area/play space is more valuable to the community.

### Contribution Criteria

Factor	Criteria	Rationale	Measure	Score	Weight
<b>Context</b>	Accessibility	Based on Audit	Limited	5	33%
			Unrestricted	10	
	Proximity	Based on GIS Analysis using FiT Accessibility Standard Buffers. No overlaps = relative high value, increased overlaps relative low value.	No overlap	10	
			1 overlap	9	
			2 overlaps	8	
			3 overlaps	7	
			4 overlaps	6	
			5 overlaps	5	
			6 overlaps	4	
			7 overlaps	3	
			8 overlaps	2	
	9+overlaps	1			
	Quantity	Based on level of provision at ward level assessed against FiT standard quantity benchmark.	Below 0.25Ha	10	
			0.25 – 0.5Ha	9	
			0.5 – 1Ha	8	
			1 – 1.5Ha	7	
			1.5 – 2Ha	6	
2 – 2.5Ha			5		
2.5 – 3Ha			4		
3 – 3.5Ha			3		
3.5 – 4Ha			2		
4Ha+	1				

<b>Type of Use</b>	Hierarchy	Based on Prescribed typology derived from audit.	Destination	10	33%
			NEAP	7	
			LEAP	5	
			LAP	3	
<b>Benefit to Local Population</b>	Deprivation Children & Young People Population	Based on Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Assessed at LSOA Level.	0 – 10% most deprived	10	33%
			11 – 20% most deprived	7	
			0 – 10% least deprived	5	
		Percentage of Chesterfield's children and young people living in the area. Assessed at ward level	0 – 0.5%	3	
			0.6 – 1.0%	5	
			1.1 – 1.5%	7	
			1.6 – 2.0%	10	

We have been able to use data from a range of sources, the findings of the audit and mapping to make informed assumptions about how play space provision meets the needs of the children and young people of Chesterfield.

# Consultation

## Views about play and play provision

Consultation with children and young people in the borough, plus residents, parents and stakeholders, plays a key role in our strategic approach to providing for children's play in Chesterfield.

The consultation process engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders via questionnaires, public meetings, focus groups etc

The main aim was to ensure residents had the opportunity to give their views on play in Chesterfield, to help shape and direct the play strategy and to make sure the priorities reflect the needs of the community.

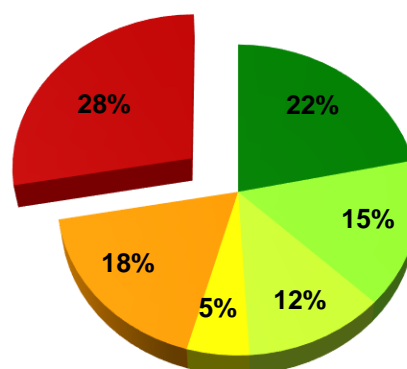
The key consultation findings relating to the provision of fixed equipment play areas are outlined below.

## Participation

### How often have you visited/used play spaces or teenage provision?

#### How often have you visited/used the play areas in the last 12 months?

- More than once a week
- Once a week
- 2-3 times a month
- Once a month



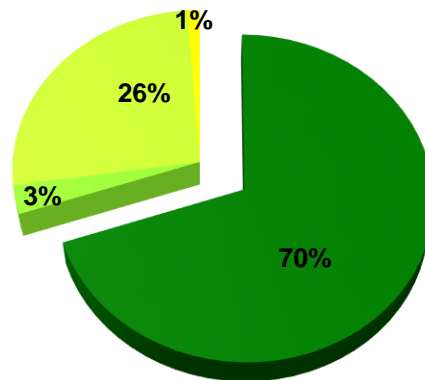
Respondents were asked to name the three sites they visit most often. The most popular site is Queens Park. A total of 43% of respondents state they often visit the site. Holmebrook Valley Country Park is the other specific park site cited as being visited often by respondents. Over a third of respondents (35%) cite visiting Holmebrook Valley Country Park often. Other sites popular for

respondents to visit are Somersall Park, Walton Dam, Poolsrook Country Park (19%) and Eastwood Park (14%).

### Accessibility

#### What is the main form of transport you use to reach each play area?

■ Non-vehicle ■ Public transport ■ Private vehicle ■ Cycle

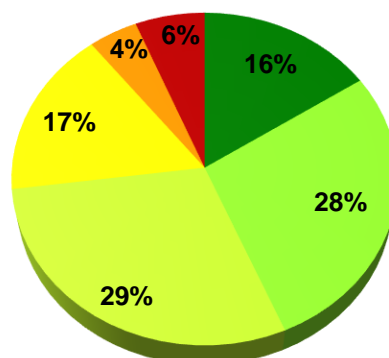


Respondents were asked what the main mode of travel they use to access play and open space provision. An assumption is made for only the most common modes of travel to be listed as possible options.

### Travel to open space sites

#### How long are you willing to spend travelling to the play areas?

■ Up to 5 minutes ■ 10 minutes ■ 15 minutes  
 ■ 30 minutes ■ 45 minutes ■ Over 45 minutes



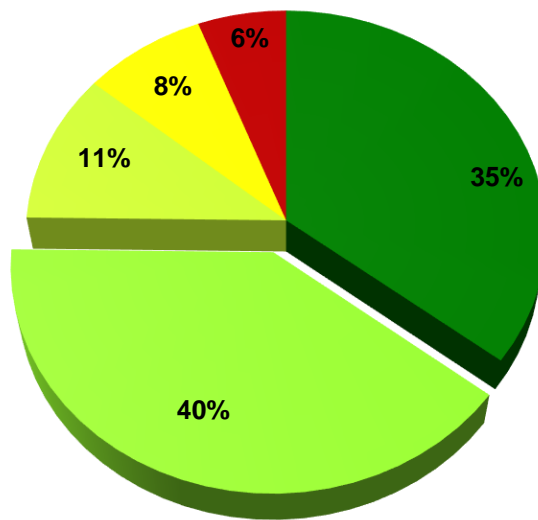
### Quantity of play space

In general, respondents consider the amount of provision to be quite satisfactory for most open space typologies. A noticeable proportion of respondents also view quantity as very satisfactory.

#### How satisfied are you with the quantity of the play

How satisfied are you with how close the play areas are to you?

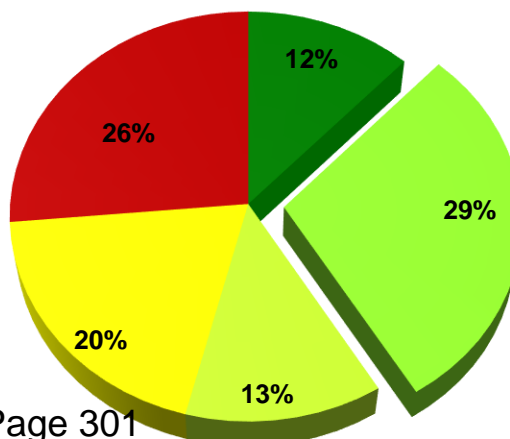
- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Quite dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied



### Quality

How satisfied are you with the quality of the play areas?

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Quite dissatisfied



Respondents to the survey were asked what improvements would most encourage them to use open space more in their area. The most common answers include maintenance and improvements (64%), cleanliness (60%) and new facilities e.g. café, play equipment 33%).

Improvements to play equipment is also highlighted by the 24% of respondents that answer different play opportunities from what is usually provided.

What improvements would encourage more visits?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Attractiveness of the site, flowers, trees etc	37.6%
Maintenance and improvement of footpaths, seats, shelters etc	63.9%
Good access to spaces	17.6%
Cleanliness	60.5%
Community involvement	15.5%
Increasing the amount of open spaces	22.4%
Accessibility improvements e.g. wheelchair access	5.7%
Different play opportunities than usually provided	23.5%
New facilities at existing spaces e.g. play equipment, cafe	33.4%
Use of open spaces for events etc	14.5%
Good public information about spaces and events	11.2%
More natural wildlife environments	26.2%
To incorporate a feeling of safety through lighting, fencing etc	18.2%
Other (please state below)	3.6%

The community survey also asked specific questions regarding play. Respondents were asked what type of play provision they visit most often; and, what type of play provision would they prefer.

A fairly even split between response figures is observed. A slightly higher proportion of respondents visit smaller play sites nearer to home (52%) and would prefer more natural play opportunities (57%).

What types of play do you visit most often?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Larger play sites with lots of different equipment often located at a park	48.5%
Smaller play sites with less equipment but nearer to home	51.5%

What types of play do you prefer?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
More natural play opportunities with landscaping	57.4%
Traditional play equipment	42.6%

### Children and Young Peoples Survey

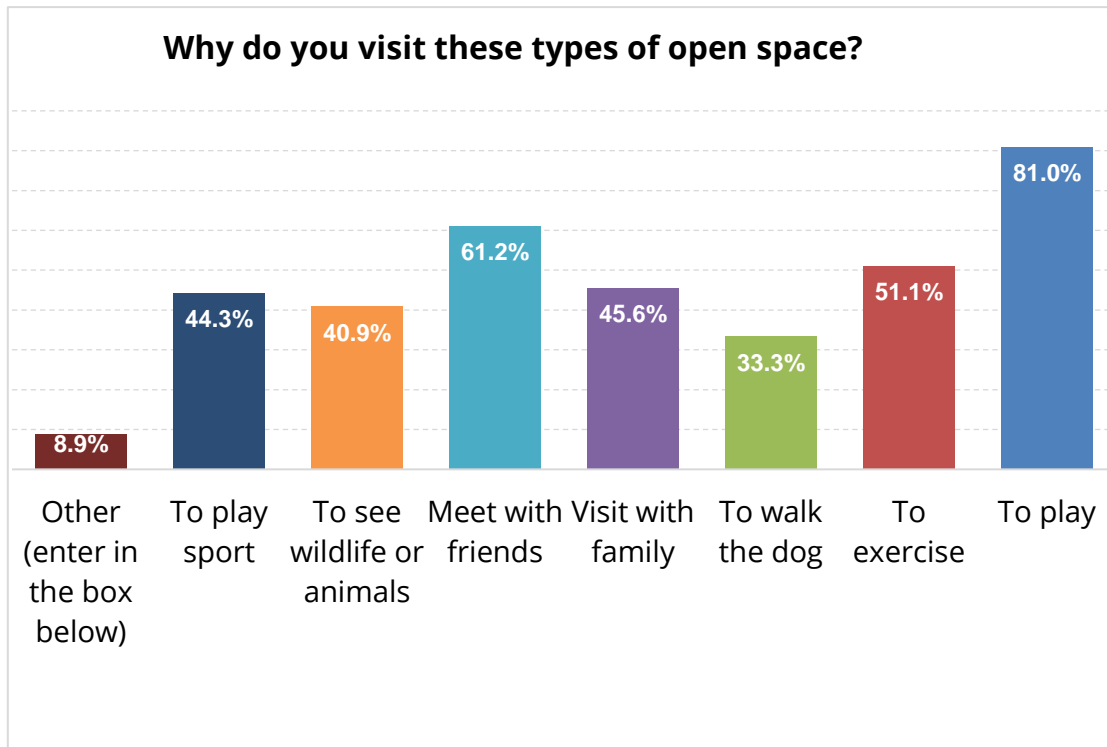
Children and young people were asked what types of open space they like to visit. The most common type of open space to visit is parks with 81%. Other forms of open space they like to visit are play areas (66%), nature areas (63%), small grassed areas near home (49%) and sports pitches (38%).

Visits to open space

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Parks	81.0%
Play areas	63.3%
Nature areas	66.2%
Small grassed areas near home	49.4%
Sports pitches	38.0%
None	3.0%

The most common reason for visiting these types of open space is to play (81%). Meeting with friends (61%), exercising (51%) and to visit with family (46%) are commonly also cited reasons for visiting.

Reasons for visiting



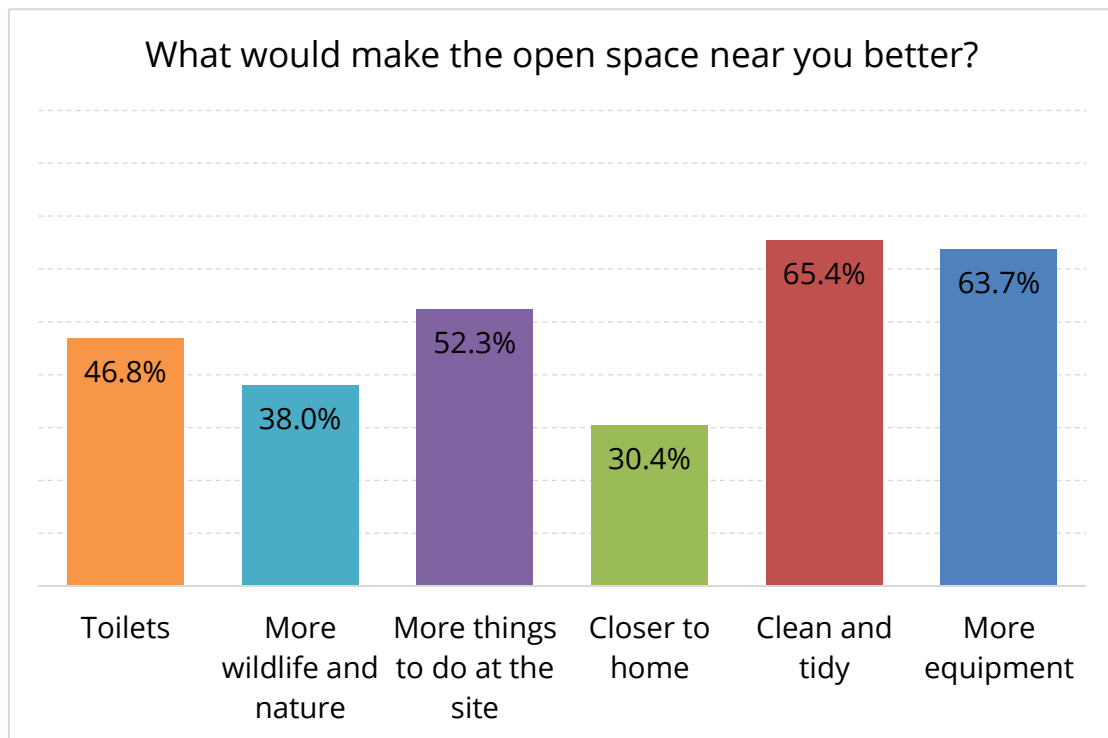
Respondents were asked what type of play provision they prefer to visit. A fairly even split between response figures is observed. A slightly higher proportion of respondents prefer more natural play opportunities (52%).

What types of play do you prefer?

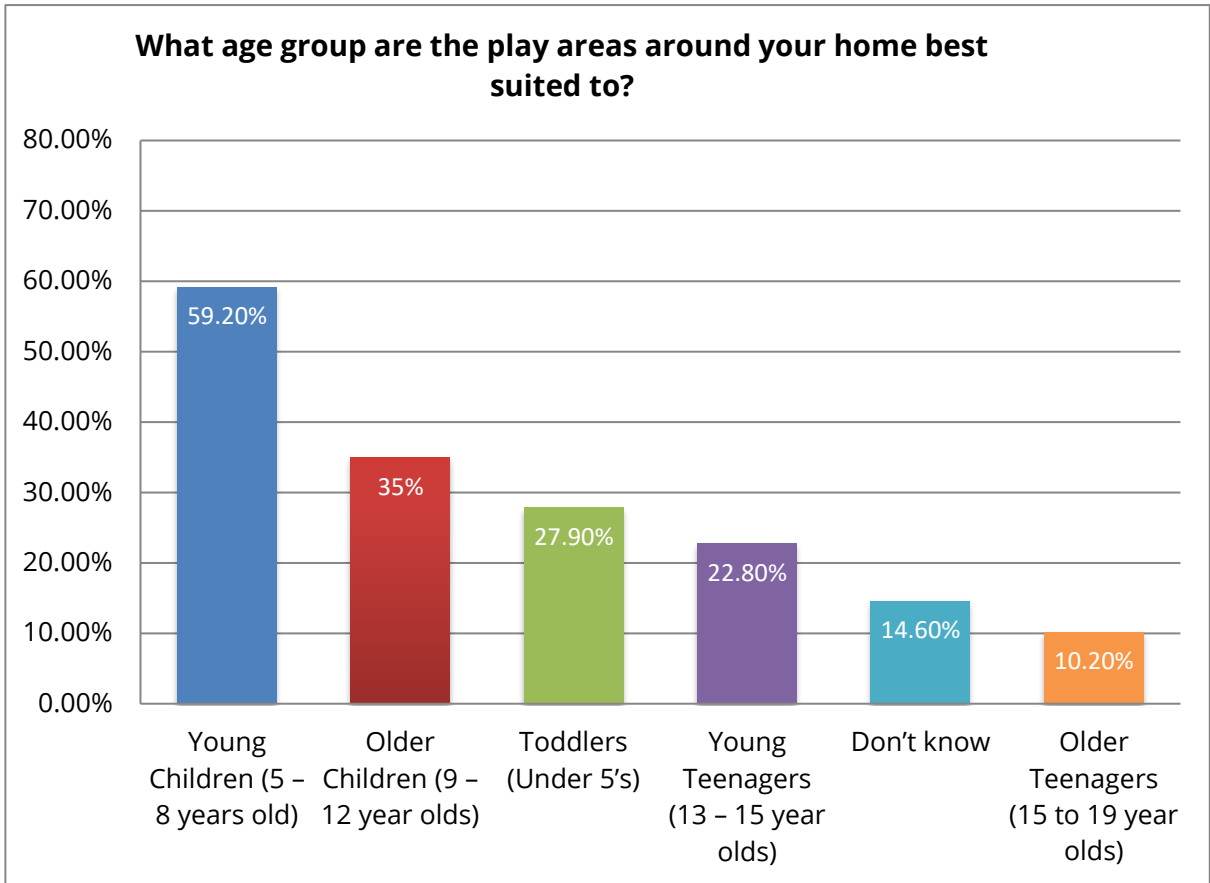


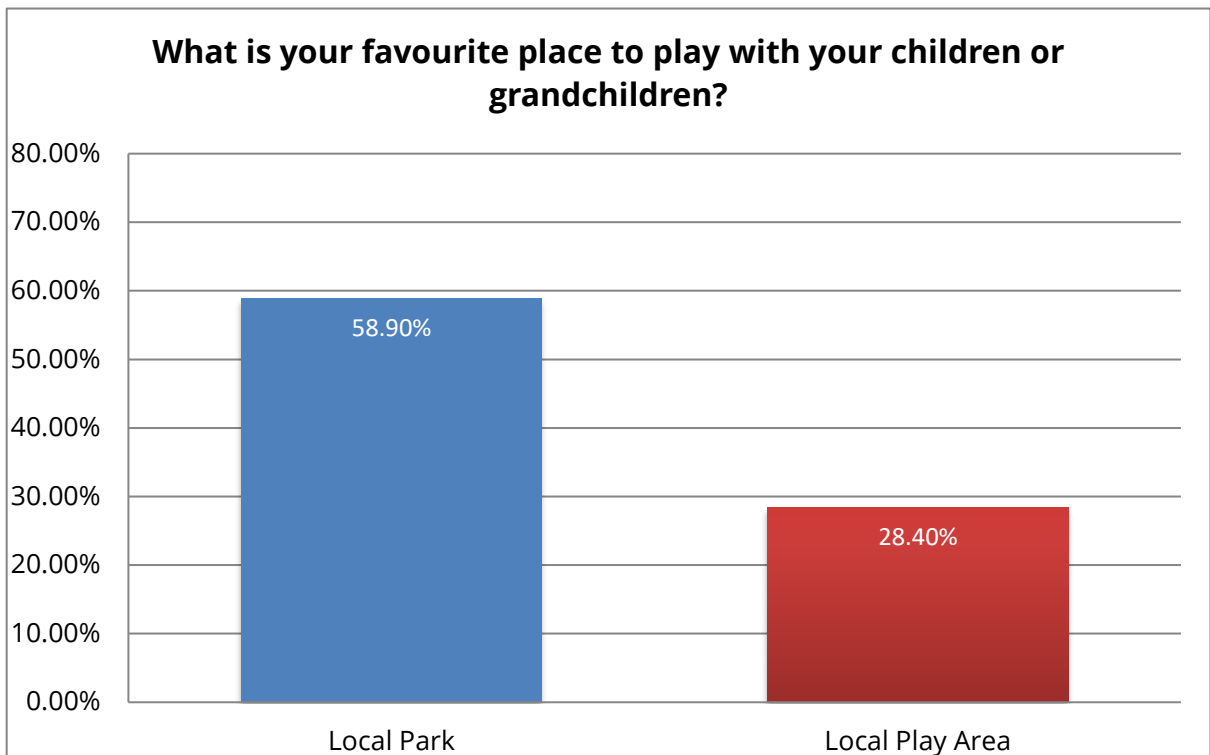
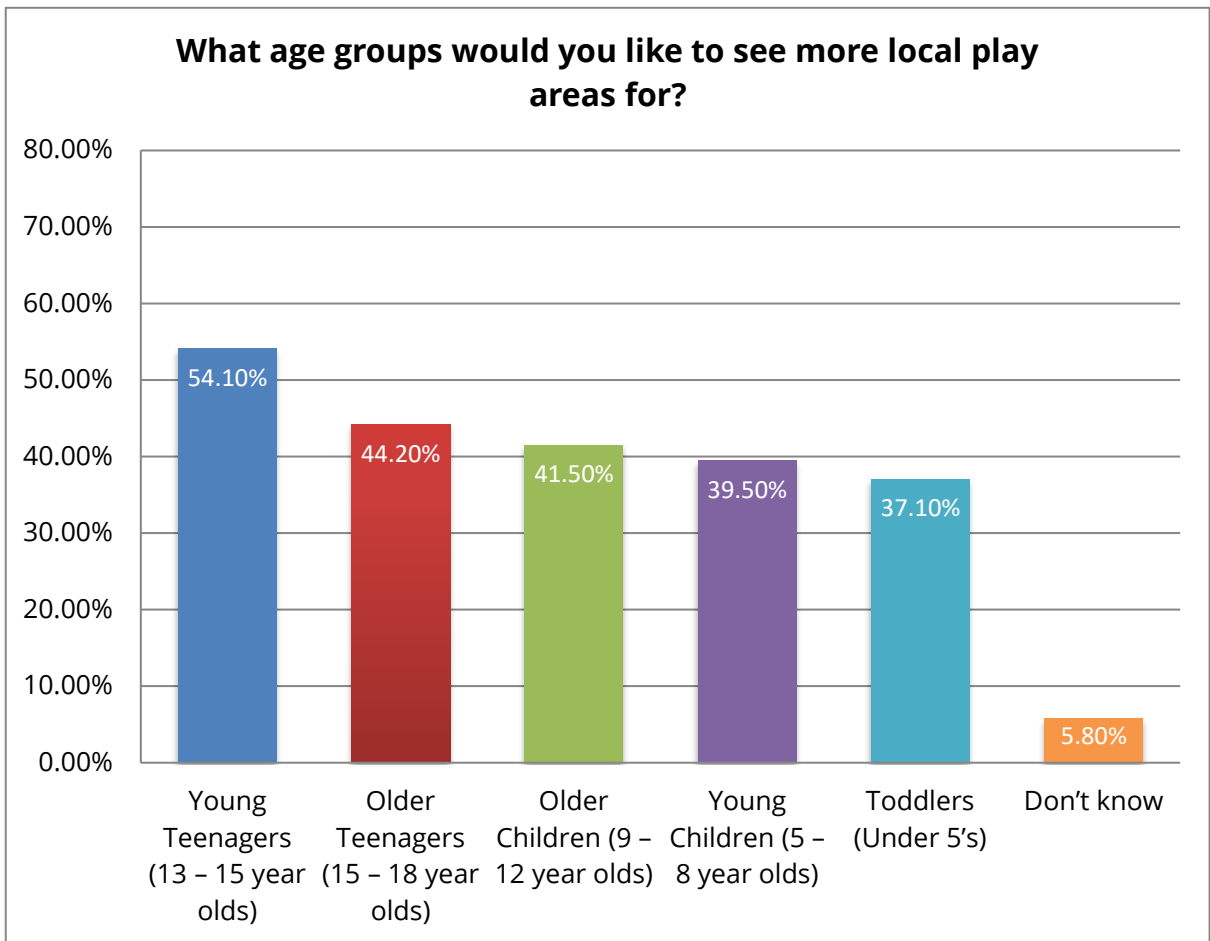


Respondents were asked what would make open spaces near them better. The most popular answers include sites to be clean and tidy (65%) and for more play equipment (64%).

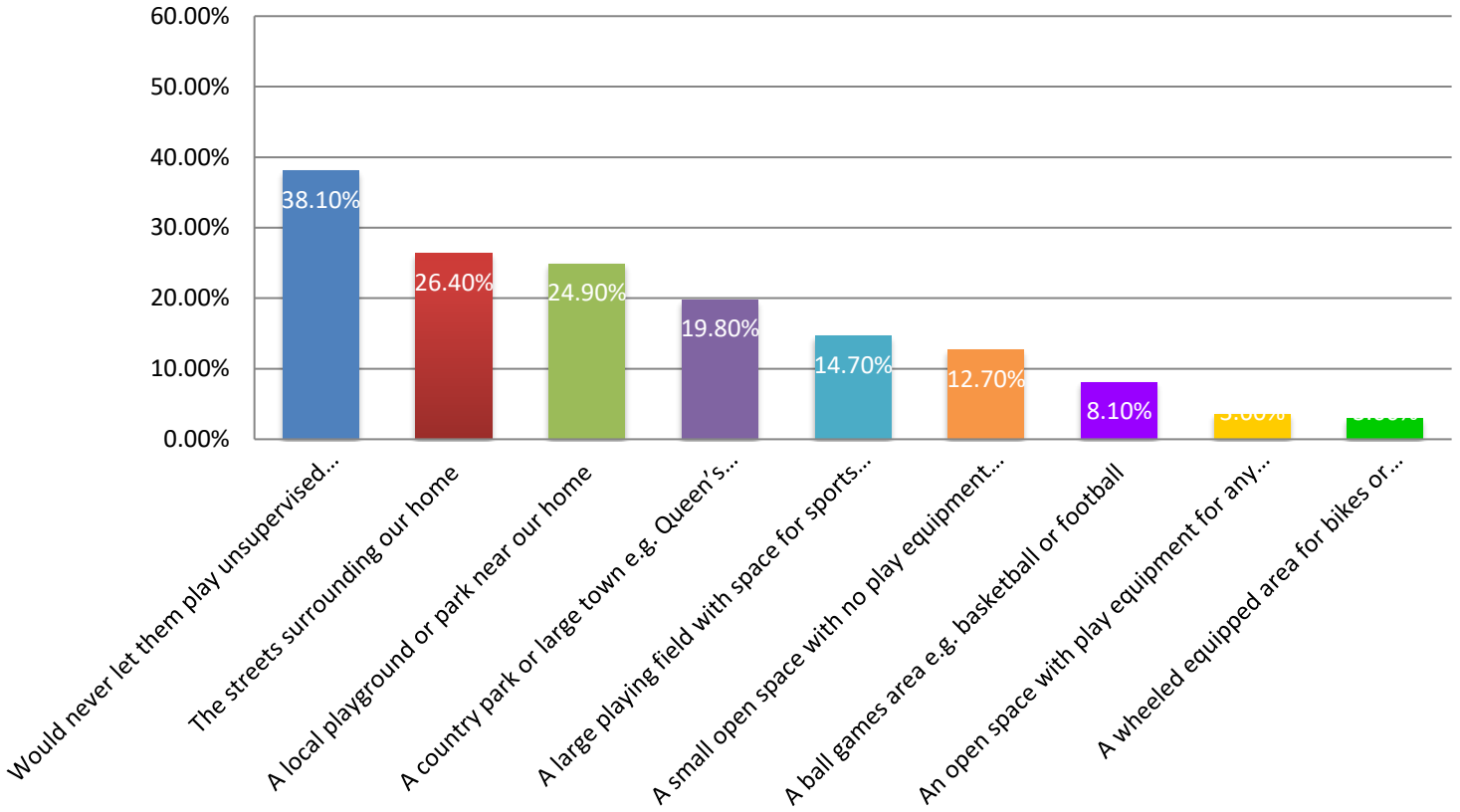


Respondents were asked what age group are the play areas around your home best suited to. The responses illustrate that gaps persist for older children and young people and this was borne out by the response to the follow on question.





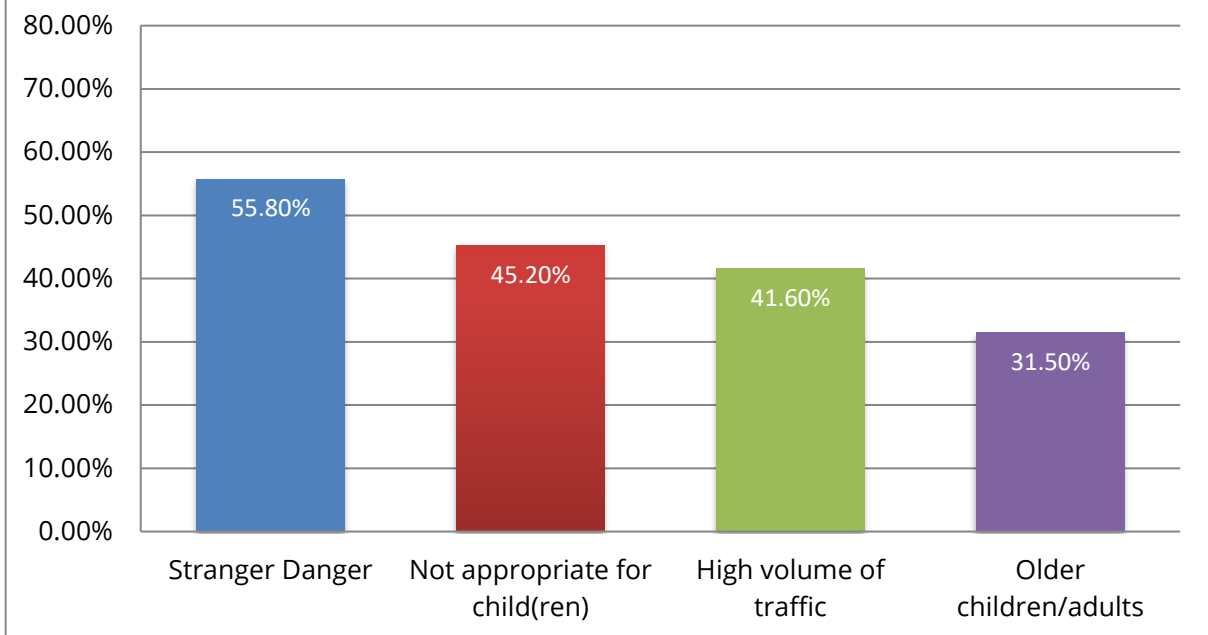
### Where do your children or grandchildren play when playing on their own/without adult supervision?



38% of respondents said they would never let their children play unsupervised outside. 25% said their children use the local park or play space to play.

### Barriers to play

#### What stops you letting your children or grandchildren play on the streets surrounding your home?



# Ward Profiles

## Poolsbrook and Middlecroft Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
32	King George Playing Field	Inkersall Road	S43 3JR	Middlecroft	NEAP	CBC
47	Pools Brook Country Park	Pavilion Drive	S43 3LS	Poolsbrook	NEAP	CBC
45	Cottage Close	Cottage Close	S43 3LP	Poolsbrook	LEAP	CBC
57	Silverwell Drive	St Anne's Close	S43 3LT	Middlecroft	LAP	CBC
12	Circular Road	Circular Road	S43 3XJ	Middlecroft	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Middlecroft and Poolsbrook			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	196	196	392	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	157	144	301	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	201	164	365	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	194	195	389	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 006E	Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	5,932	Top 20%
Chesterfield 002E	Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	2,656	Top 10%
Chesterfield 002D	Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	2,196	Top 10%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	King George Playing Field	NEAP	16	20	32
Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	Pools Brook Country Park	NEAP	75	78	36
Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	Cottage Close	LEAP	44	58	31
Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	Silverwell Drive	LAP	34	51	28
Middlecroft and Poolsbrook	Circular Road	LEAP	44	73	32

## Brimington North Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
7	Damon Drive	Damon Drive	S43 1JD	Brimington North	LEAP	CBC
63	Thistle Park	Station Road	S43 1JH	Brimington North	NEAP	CBC
49	Princess Street	Queen Street/Princess Street	S43 1HS	Brimington North	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Brimington North			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	Age	M	F	Tot	M	F
0 - 4	130	144	274	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	107	112	219	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	93	115	208	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	140	132	272	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 005A	Brimington North	13,803	Top 50%
Chesterfield 003C	Brimington North	8,440	Top 30%
Chesterfield 003D	Brimington North	7,016	Top 30%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Brimington North	Damon Drive	LEAP	8	8	42
Brimington North	Thistle Park	NEAP	46	64	42
Brimington North	Princess Street	LEAP	23	28	41

## Brimington South Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
40	Manor Road Rec	Manor Road	S43 1PQ	Brimington South	NEAP	CBC
65	Tapton Park	Brimington Road	S41 0ST	Brimington South	NEAP	CBC
38	Lockoford Lane	Darwent Road	S41 0UE	Brimington South	LAP	CBC
82	Windermill Way	Windermill Way	S43 1GR	Brimington South	LAP	CBC
37	Headland Road	Headland Road	S43 1QT	Brimington South	LAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Brimington South			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	158	134	292	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	110	127	237	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	164	168	332	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	145	182	327	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 005B	Brimington South	24,766	Least 30%
Chesterfield 005D	Brimington South	24,062	Least 30%
Chesterfield 005D	Brimington South	8,242	Top 30%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Brimington South	Manor Road Rec	NEAP	47	72	44
Brimington South	Tapton Park	NEAP	45	41	36
Brimington South	Lockoford Lane	LAP	35	39	38
Brimington South	Windermill Way	LAP	32	45	39
Brimington South	Headland Road	LAP	33	29	38

## St Helens Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
27	Highfield Rec Ground	Highfield Lane	S41 8BB	St Helens	NEAP	CBC
19	Edinburgh Road	Edinburgh Road	S41 7HE	St Helens	LEAP	CBC
9	Canal Wharf	Canal Wharf	S41 7LY	St Helens	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	St Helens			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	132	143	275	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	126	120	246	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	147	121	268	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	164	150	314	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 010D	St Helens	5,285	Top 20%
Chesterfield 007D	St Helens	5,825	Top 20%
Chesterfield 007E	St Helens	5,494	Top 20%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
St Helens	Highfield Rec Ground	NEAP	29	62	44
St Helens	Edinburgh Road	LEAP	51	85	43
St Helens	Canal Wharf	LEAP	34	54	43



## Moor Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
60	Stand Road Park	Stand Road	S41 8SW	Moor	NEAP	CBC

## Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Moor			Chesterfield Borough Council		
Age	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
0 - 4	119	106	225	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	92	90	182	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	114	111	225	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	138	143	281	2609	2428	5037

## Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 007B	Moor	8,100	Top 30%
Chesterfield 007C	Moor	12,269	Top 40%
Chesterfield 004E	Moor	5,699	Top 20%

## Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Moor	Stand Road Park	NEAP	39	76	41

## Linacre Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
1	Ashopton Road	Ashopton Road	S41 8XB	Linacre	LAP	CBC
43	Parkside View	Parkside View	S41 8WE	Linacre	LAP	CBC
64	Stoops Close	Stoops Close	S40 4YE	Linacre	LAP	CBC
8	Brushfield Rec Ground	Woodleigh Close	S40 4XW	Linacre	LEAP	CBC
81	Holme Brook Valley Park Top	Watermeadow Drive	S41 8XD	Linacre	NEAP	CBC
80	Holme Brook Valley Park Bottom	Linacre Road	S40 4RY	Linacre	NEAP	CBC
48	Priestfield Gardens	S41 8XH		Linacre	LAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Linacre			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	87	97	184	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	107	83	190	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	119	125	244	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	137	163	300	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 008C	Linacre	27,796	Least 20%
Chesterfield 008B	Linacre	27,047	Least 20%
Chesterfield 008A	Linacre	17,423	Least 50%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Linacre	Ashopton Road	LAP	30	38	30
Linacre	Parkside View	LAP	39	48	30
Linacre	Pearsons Croft	LAP	30	38	30
Linacre	Riddings Croft	LAP	30	38	30
Linacre	Stoops Close	LAP	34	32	32
Linacre	Brushfield Rec Ground	LEAP	45	64	45
Linacre	Holme Brook Valley Park Top	NEAP	65	76	38
Linacre	Holme Brook Valley Park Bottom	NEAP	60	66	38
Linacre	Priestfield Gardens	LAP	47	49	31

## Hasland Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
25	Heathervale Road	Gorse Valley Road	S41 0LL	Hasland	LEAP	CBC
42	Seagrave Drive	Chepstow Close	S41 0YD	Hasland	LAP	CBC
26	Oadby Drive (far end)	Oadby Drive	S41 0UA	Hasland	LAP	CBC
5	Bradgate Croft	Bradgate Croft	S41 0XZ	Hasland	LAP	CBC
74	Knighton Close	Knighton Close	S41 0XL	Hasland	LAP	CBC
13	Waltham Croft	Oadby Drive	S41 0UZ	Hasland	LAP	CBC
33	Kirby Close	Kirby Close	S41 0UY	Hasland	LAP	CBC
16	Storforth Lane Terrace	Storforth Lane Terrace	S41 0PY	Hasland	LEAP	CBC
68	Harcourt Close	Harcourt Close	S41 0XB	Hasland	LEAP	CBC
41	Oadby Drive	Oadby Drive	S41 0YA	Hasland	LAP	CBC
17	Eastwood Park	Eastwood Park Drive	S41 0AY	Hasland	NEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Hasland			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	175	186	361	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	174	177	351	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	187	177	364	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	212	205	417	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 012A	Hasland	19,559	Least 50%
Chesterfield 012B	Hasland	19,870	Least 40%
Chesterfield 012C	Hasland	5,077	Top 20%
Chesterfield 012D	Hasland	22,109	Least 40%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Hasland	Heathervale Road	LEAP	32	49	38
Hasland	Seagrave Drive	LAP	38	52	35
Hasland	Oadby Drive (far end)	LAP	38	52	35
Hasland	Bradgate Croft	LAP	38	52	35
Hasland	Knighton Close	LAP	38	52	34
Hasland	Waltham Croft	LAP	38	52	35
Hasland	Kirby Close	LAP	38	52	35
Hasland	Storforth Lane Terrace	LEAP	26	39	37
Hasland	Harcourt Close	LEAP	45	42	37
Hasland	Oadby Drive	LAP	37	40	47
Hasland	Eastwood Park	NEAP	53	94	

## St Leonards Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
51/52	Queen's Park	Boythorpe Avenue	S40 2BF	St Leonards	NEAP	CBC
20	Valley Road	Valley Road	S41 0HB	St Leonards	LEAP	CBC
59	Spital Lane	Spital Lane	S41 0HP	St Leonards	LEAP	CBC
30	Rose Garth Close	Rose Garth Close	S41 0GE	St Leonards	LAP	CBC
3	Barnes Road	Barnes Road	S41 0BX	St Leonards	LEAP	CBC
76?	Wain Avenue	Wain Avenue	S41 0FB	St Leonards	LAP	CBC
76?	Wain Avenue	Wain Avenue	S41 0FD	St Leonards	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	St Leonards			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	138	136	276	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	143	125	263	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	144	163	304	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	195	173	365	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 012E	St Leonards	13,494	Top 50%
Chesterfield 012F	St Leonards	23,232	Least 30%
Chesterfield 012G	St Leonards	18,295	Least 50%
Chesterfield 010G	St Leonards	6,592	Top 30%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
St Leonards	Queen's Park	NEAP	63	92	63
St Leonards	Valley Road	LEAP	32	59	41
St Leonards	Spital Lane	LEAP	38	55	40
St Leonards	Rose Garth Close	LAP	36	36	39
St Leonards	Barnes Road	LEAP	28	32	41
St Leonards	Wain Avenue	LAP	36	59	40
St Leonards	Wain Avenue	LEAP	48	67	40

## Lowgates and Woodthorpe Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
70	Lansbury Avenue	Wickens Place	S43 3FE	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	NEAP	CBC
22	Hartington Rec Ground	Franklyn Drive	S43 3YA	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	LEAP	CBC
31	Howells Place	Howells Place	S43 3FA	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	LAP	CBC
4	Belmont Bottom	Belmont Drive	S43 3PH	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	LEAP	CBC
23	Hassop Road	Hassop Road	S43 3YT	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Lowgates and Woodthorpe			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	138	138	276	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	143	125	268	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	141	163	304	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	195	173	368	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 002A	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	5,289	Top 20%
Chesterfield002B	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	14,729	Top 50%
Chesterfield 002C	Lowgates and Woodthorpe	3,341	Top 20%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Lowgates and Woodthorpe	Wickens Place	NEAP	51	72	49
Lowgates and Woodthorpe	Hartington Recreation Ground	LEAP	19	37	46
Lowgates and Woodthorpe	Howells Place	LAP	45	53	44
Lowgates and Woodthorpe	Belmont Drive	LEAP	47	77	45
Lowgates and Woodthorpe	Hassop Road	LEAP	51	79	45

## Barrowhill and New Whittington Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
75	Coupland Close	Coupland Close	S41 9TB	Barrowhill and New Whittington	LAP	CBC
6	Brearley Park	Brearley Street	S41 9LN	Barrowhill and New Whittington	NEAP	CBC
14	Devonshire Road North	Devonshire Road North	S43 2BH	Barrowhill and New Whittington	LEAP	CBC
62	Station Road Rec Ground	Station Road	S43 2NL	Barrowhill and New Whittington	NEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Barrowhill and New Whittington			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	176	169	345	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	140	144	284	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	196	187	383	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	205	161	366	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 001A	Barrowhill and New Whittington	11,796	Top 40%
Chesterfield 001B	Barrowhill and New Whittington	21,058	Least 40%
Chesterfield 003A	Barrowhill and New Whittington	2,711	Top 10%
Chesterfield 003B	Barrowhill and New Whittington	13,349	Top 50%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Barrowhill and New Whittington	Coupland Close	LAP	42	42	47
Barrowhill and New Whittington	Brearley Park	NEAP	50	87	50
Barrowhill and New Whittington	Devonshire Road North	LEAP	20	25	49
Barrowhill and New Whittington	Station Road Rec Ground	NEAP	54	78	47

## Old Whittington Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
29	Holland Road	Holland Road	S41 9DJ	Old Whittington	LEAP	CBC
79	Mallory Close	Mallory Close	S41 9EW	Old Whittington	LAP	CBC
28	Hill Top Road	Hill Top Road	S41 9NF	Old Whittington	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Old Whittington			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	119	104	223	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	100	83	183	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	117	110	227	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	105	121	226	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 001C	Old Whittington	3,863	Top 20%
Chesterfield 001D	Old Whittington	11,755	Top 40%
Chesterfield 001E	Old Whittington	11,620	Top 40%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Old Whittington	Holland Road	LEAP	37	53	45
Old Whittington	Mallory Close	LAP	29	50	45
Old Whittington	Hill Top Road	LEAP	38	46	46

## Dunston Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
34	Kirkstone Road	Kirkstone Road	S41 8HE	Dunston	NEAP	CBC
66	Thirlmere Road	Derwent Crescent	S41 8AL	Dunston	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Dunston			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	Age	M	F	Tot	M	F
0 - 4	205	206	411	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	160	147	307	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	180	171	351	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	179	182	361	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 004A	Dunston	9,291	Top 30%
Chesterfield 004B	Dunston	4,415	Top 20%
Chesterfield 004C	Dunston	5,359	Top 20%
Chesterfield 004D	Dunston	11,602	Top 40%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Dunston	Kirkstone Road	NEAP	46	93	49
Dunston	Thirlmere Road	LEAP	38	57	49



## Loundsley Green Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
39	Pennine Way	Pennine Way	S40 4NL	Loundsley Green	NEAP	CBC
10	Carsington Close	Carsington Close	S40 4RH	Loundsley Green	LEAP	CBC
56	Sheldon Road	Sheldon Road	S40 4RQ	Loundsley Green	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Loundsley Green			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	110	94	204	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	93	85	178	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	98	91	189	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	129	108	237	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 008D	Loundsley Green	11,444	Top 40%
Chesterfield 008E	Loundsley Green	1,126	Top 10%
Chesterfield 008F	Loundsley Green	7,219	Top 30%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Loundsley Green	Pennine Way	NEAP	39	70	44
Loundsley Green	Carsington Close	LEAP	33	53	44
Loundsley Green	Sheldon Road	LEAP	41	62	44

## Brockwell Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
11	Chester Street	Chester Street	S40 1DL	Brockwell	LEAP	CBC
2	Badger Rec Ground	Badger Rec Ground	S40 4BL	Brockwell	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Brockwell			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	147	160	307	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	146	128	274	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	165	155	320	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	182	168	350	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 007A	Brockwell	21,645	Least 40%
Chesterfield 009A	Brockwell	20,178	Least 40%
Chesterfield 009B	Brockwell	26,231	Least 30%
Chesetrfield 010A	Brockwell	10,801	Top 40%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Brockwell	Chester Street	LEAP	33	54	44
Brockwell	Badger Recreation Ground	LEAP	24	30	46

## Holmebrook Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
44	Pearsons Rec Ground	Old Hall Road	S40 2RD	Holmebrook	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Holmebrook			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	123	117	240	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	83	110	193	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	154	116	270	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	112	129	241	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 009C	Holmebrook	10,846	Top 40%
Chesterfield 010B	Holmebrook	10,955	Top 40%
Chesterfield 10C	Holmebrook	5,048	Top 20%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Holmebrook	Pearsons Rec Ground	LEAP	33	34	40

## West Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
67	Inkerman Playing Fields	Rockingham Close	S40 1JE	West	NEAP	CBC
58	Somersall Park	Somersall Lane	S40 3LE	West	NEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	West			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	111	123	234	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	148	142	290	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	181	181	362	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	184	196	380	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 009D	West	28,063	Least 20%
Chesterfield 009E	West	27,928	Least 20%
Chesterfield 011E	West	32,673	Least 20%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
West	Inkerman Playing Fields	NEAP	55	86	34
West	Somersall Park	NEAP	32	48	36

## Walton Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
54	St Davids Rise	St Davids Drive	S40 3HD	Walton	LEAP	CBC
61/55	Stanford Way	Stanford Way	S42 7NH	Walton	LEAP	CBC
72	Foxbrook Drive	Foxbrook Drive	S40 3JR	Walton	LAP	CBC
73	Foxbrook Court	Foxbrook Court	S40 3SS	Walton	LAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Walton			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4				2878	2939	8817
5 - 9				2277	2721	4998
10 - 14				2630	2520	5150
15 - 19				2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 011A	Walton	25,419	Least 30%
Chesterfield 011B	Walton	29,818	Least 10%
Chesterfield 011C	Walton	29,535	Least 20%
Chesterfield 011D	Walton	27,988	Least 20%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Walton	St Davids Rise	LEAP	22	38	28
Walton	Stanford Way	LEAP	30	41	27
Walton	Foxbrook Drive	LAP	38	52	25
Walton	Foxbrook Court	LAP	38	52	25

## Rother Ward Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
76	Staunton Close	Staunton Close	S40 2FE	Rother	LAP	CBC
35	Langer Field Park	Langer Lane	S40 2JE	Rother	NEAP	CBC
21	Harehill Road	Harehill Road	S40 2UN	Rother	LEAP	CBC
24	Hazel Drive	Hazel Drive	S40 3EH	Rother	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Rother			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	217	198	415	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	192	174	366	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	183	180	363	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	219	207	426	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 013B	Rother	5,173	Top 20%
Chesterfield 013C	Rother	9,417	Top 30%
Chesterfield 013D	Rother	291	Top 10%

### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Rother	Staunton Close	LAP	47	29	33
Rother	Langer Field Park	NEAP	42	52	37
Rother	Harehill Road	LEAP	36	48	34
Rother	Hazel Drive	LEAP	38	41	36

## Hollingwood, Inkersall and Duckmanton Profile Information

### Play Areas

URN	Play Area Name	Address	Postcode	Ward	Play Area Type	Ownership
69	West Crescent	West Crescent	S44 5HE	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	LEAP	CBC
71	Westwood Drive	Westwood Drive	S43 3DF	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	LAP	CBC
77	Inkersall Green Playing Fields	Inkersall Green Road	S43 3US	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	NEAP	CBC
53	Ringwood Park	Chesterfield Road	S43 1DQ	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	NEAP	CBC
50	Private Drive	Private Drive	S43 2JR	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	LEAP	CBC
83	Juniper Close	Juniper Close	S43 2JR	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	LAP	CBC
15	Poolsbrook Road	Poolsbrook Road	S44 5HB	Hollingwood	LEAP	CBC

### Ward and Borough Profiles Children and Young People

Ward and Borough Profile	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton			Chesterfield Borough Council		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Age						
0 - 4	234	233	467	2878	2939	8817
5 - 9	227	217	444	2277	2721	4998
10 - 14	260	231	491	2630	2520	5150
15 - 19	254	249	503	2609	2428	5037

### Poverty and Deprivation

Super output area code	Ward	Rank in England (out of 32,482 soa's)	Amongst the most/least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.
Chesterfield 006A	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	3,380	Top 20%
Chesterfield 006B	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	11,920	Top 40%
Chesterfield 006C	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	17,796	Least 50%
Chesterfield 006D	Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	9,355	Top 30%
Chesterfield 003E	Hollingwood Inkersall	19,812	Least 40%

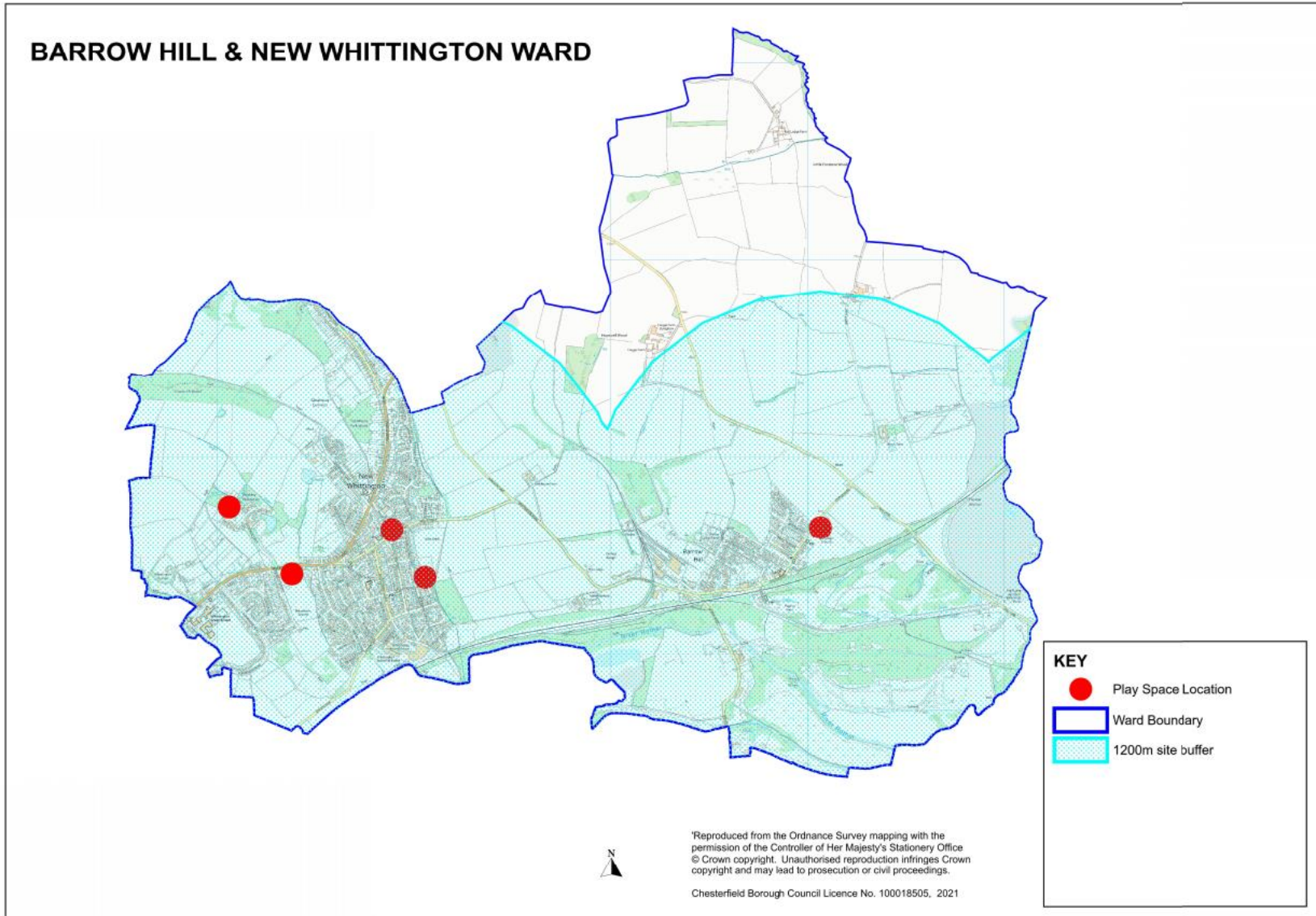
### Quality, Value and Contribution Scores

Ward	Site Name	Category	Quality Scores	Value Scores	Contribution Scores
Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	West Crescent	LEAP	62	63	37
Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	Westwood Drive	LAP	24	25	35
Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	Inkersall Green Playing Fields	NEAP	47	73	39
Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	Ringwood Park	NEAP	34	50	40
Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	Private Drive	LEAP	39	57	37
Hollingwood Inkersall and Duckmanton	Juniper Close	LAP	35	58	35
Hollingwood Inkersall	Poolsbrook Road	LEAP	45	58	36

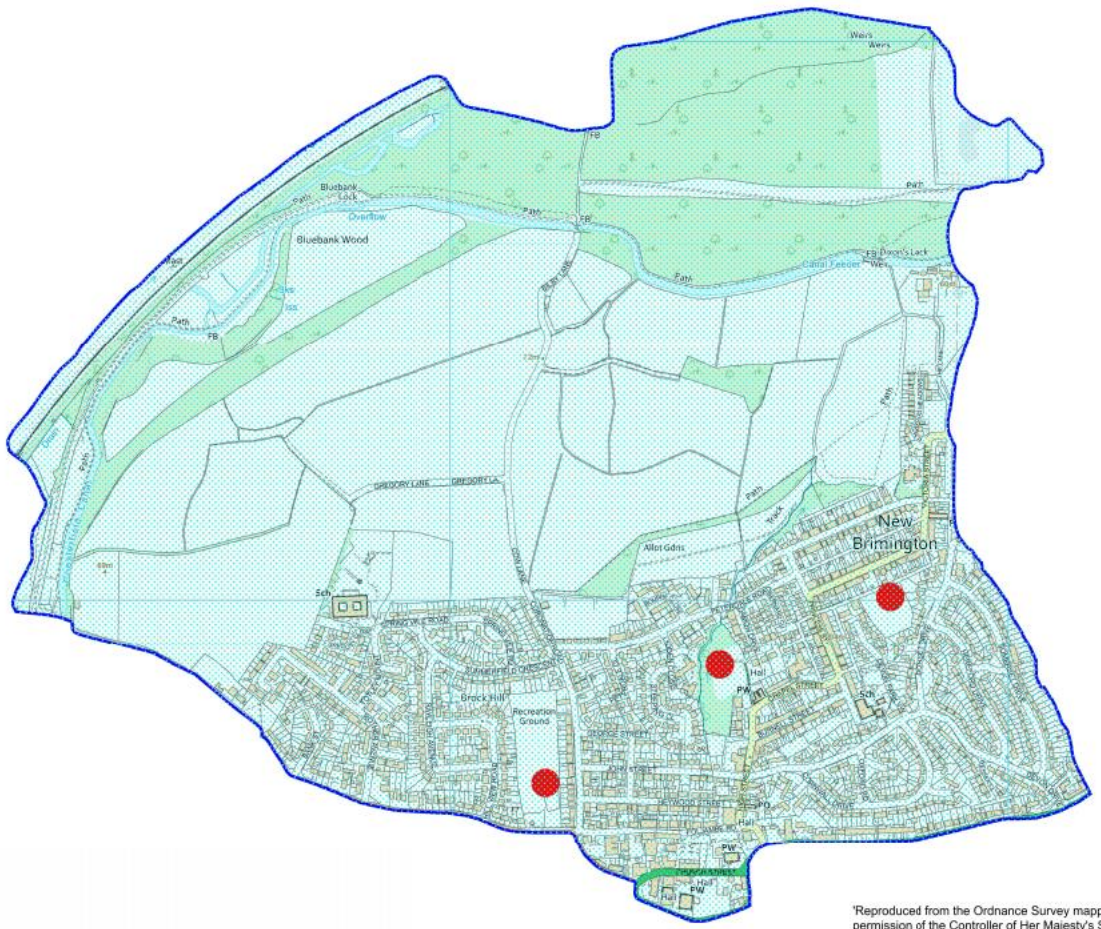




# Ward Level Maps



# BRIMINGTON NORTH

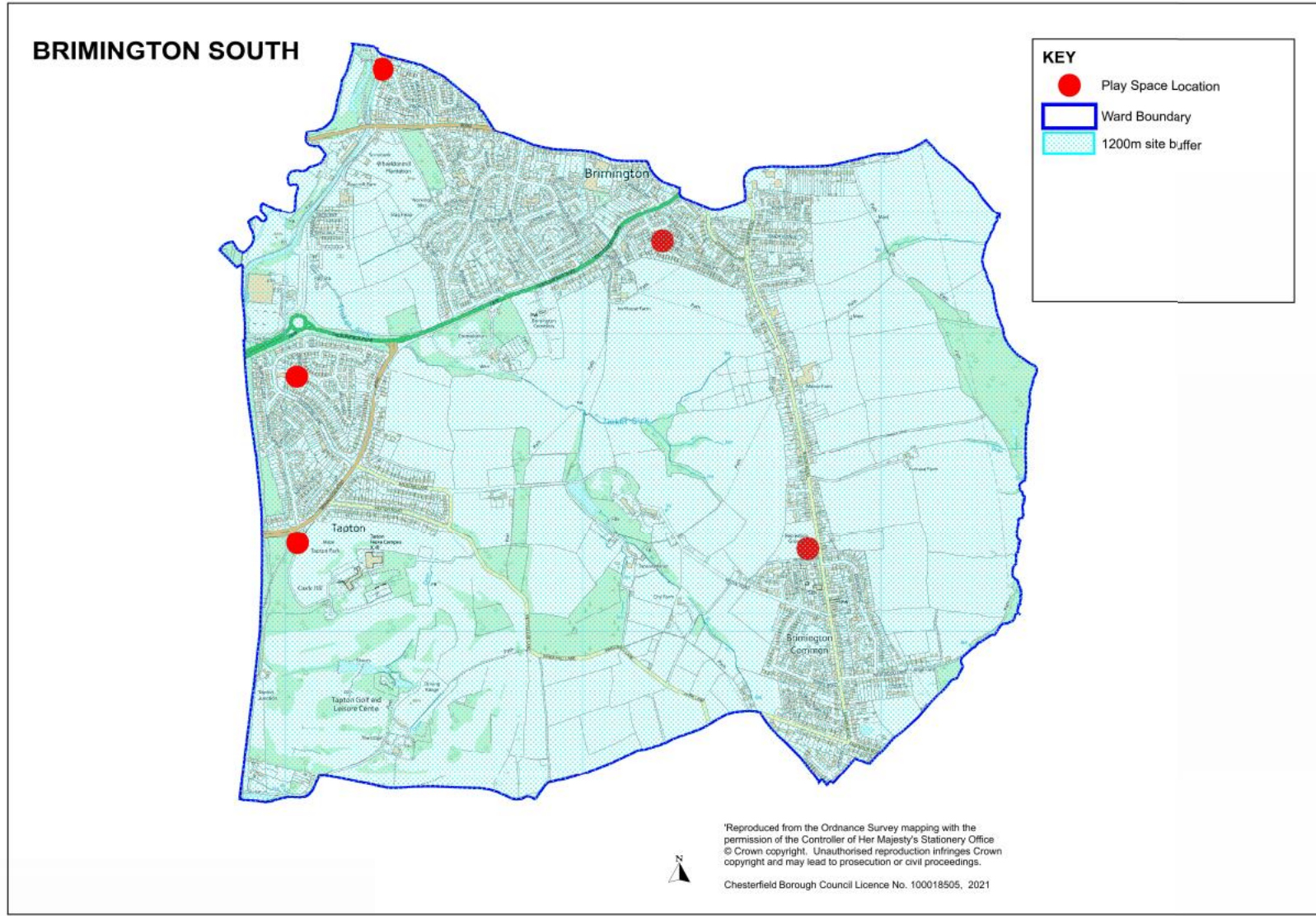


**KEY**

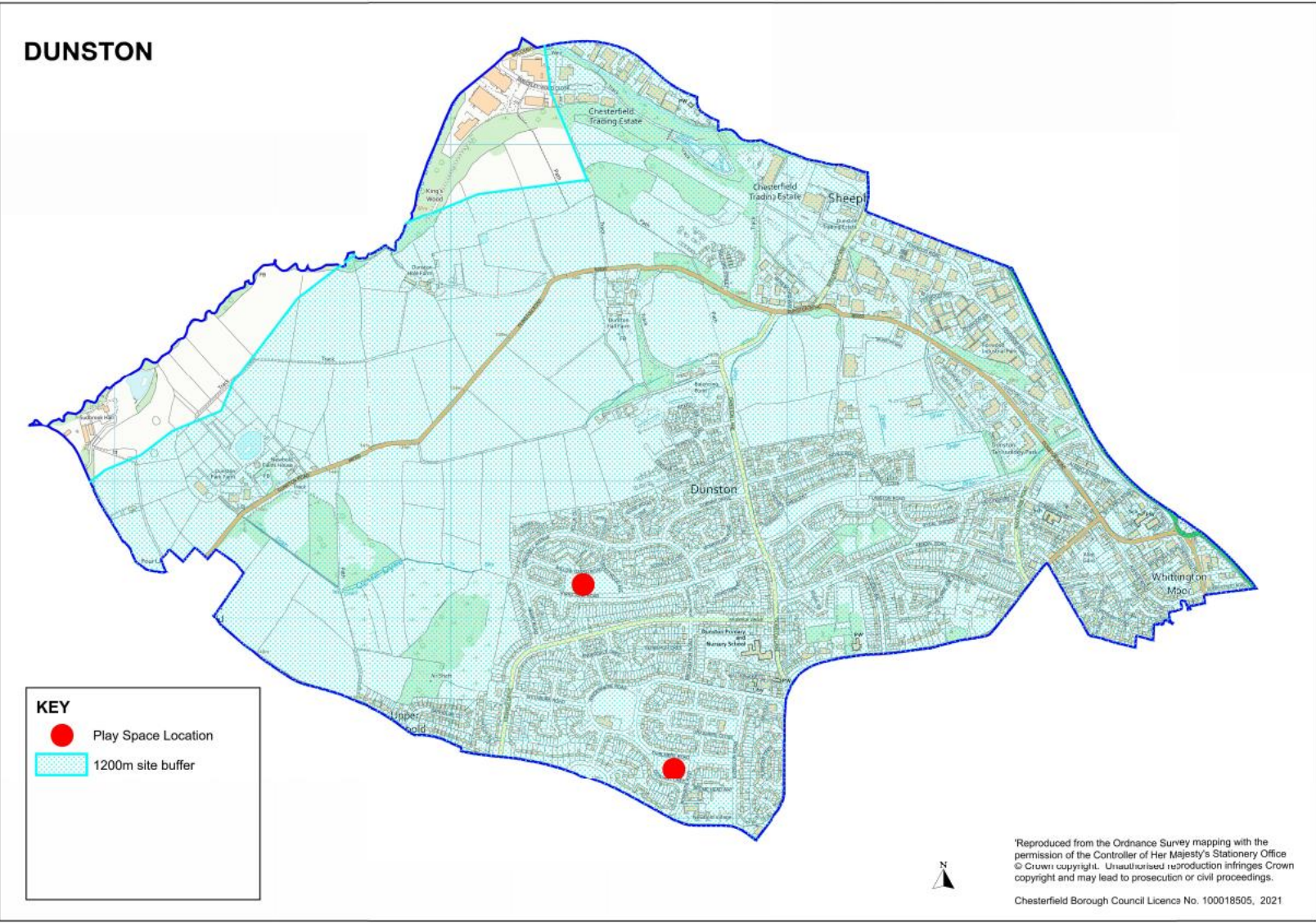
- Play Space Location
- ▭ Ward Boundary
- ▨ 1200m site buffer



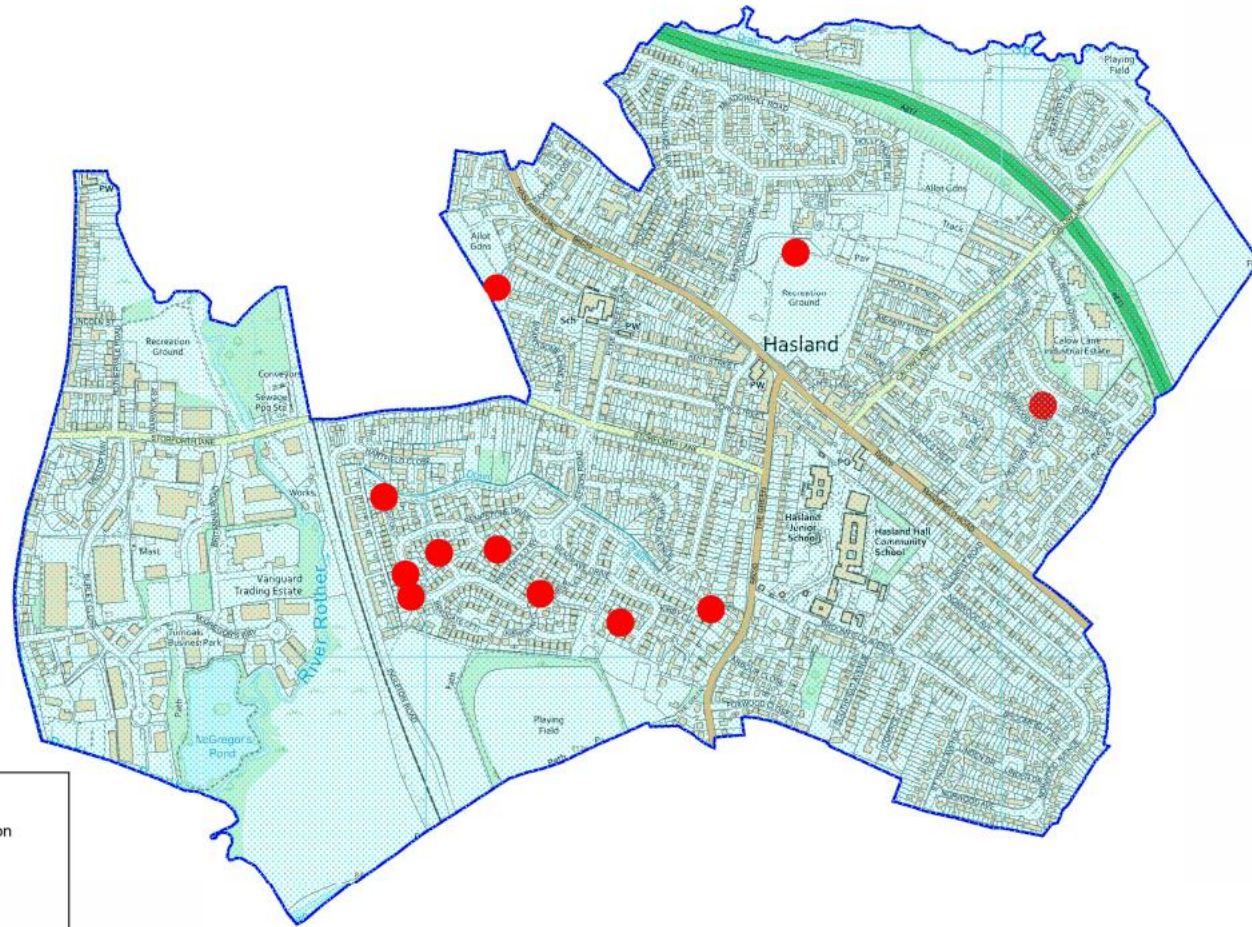
\*Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licence No. 100018505, 2021







# HASLAND

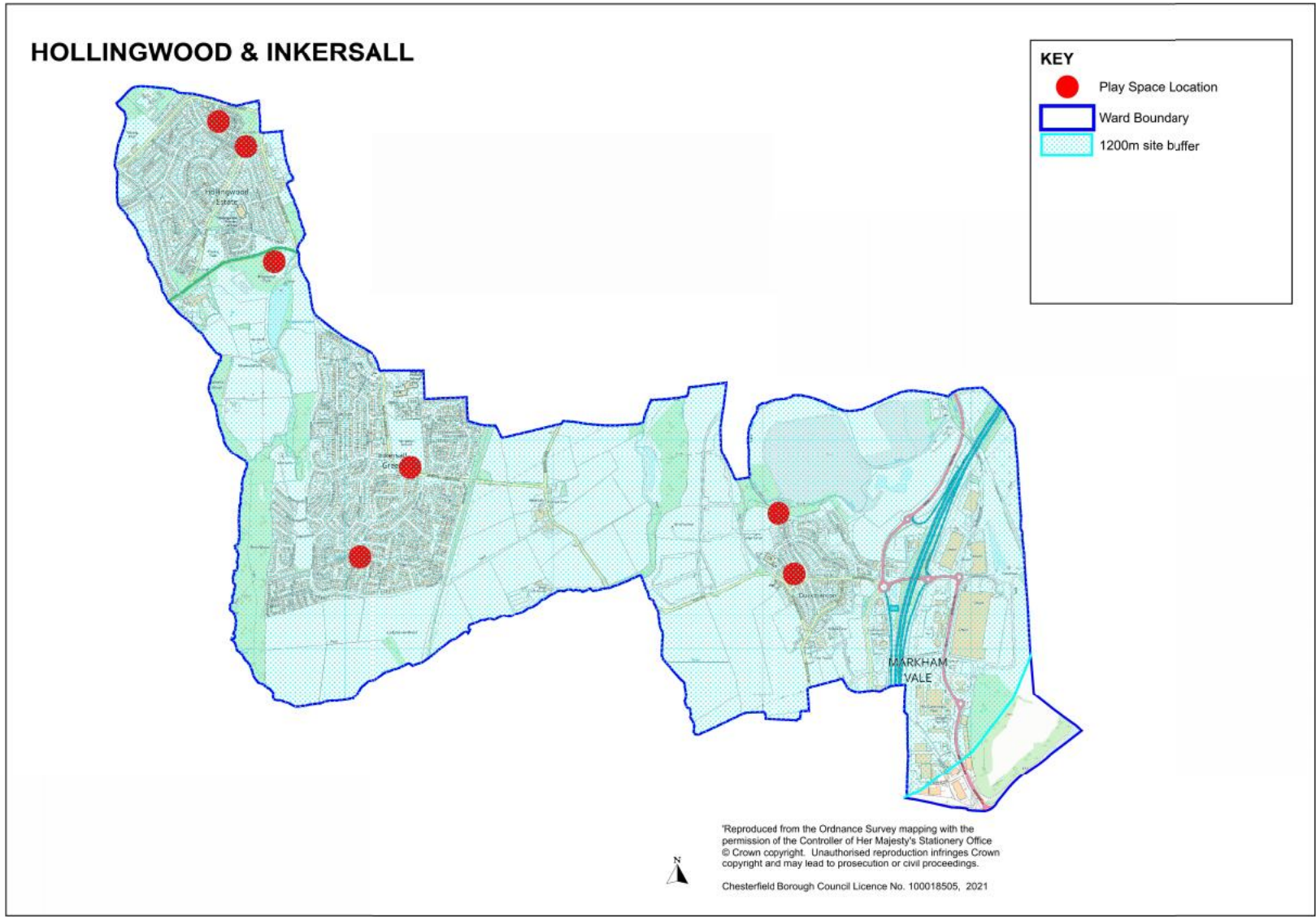


**KEY**

- Play Space Location
- 1200m site buffer





Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licenca No. 100018505, 2021



# HOLMEBROOK



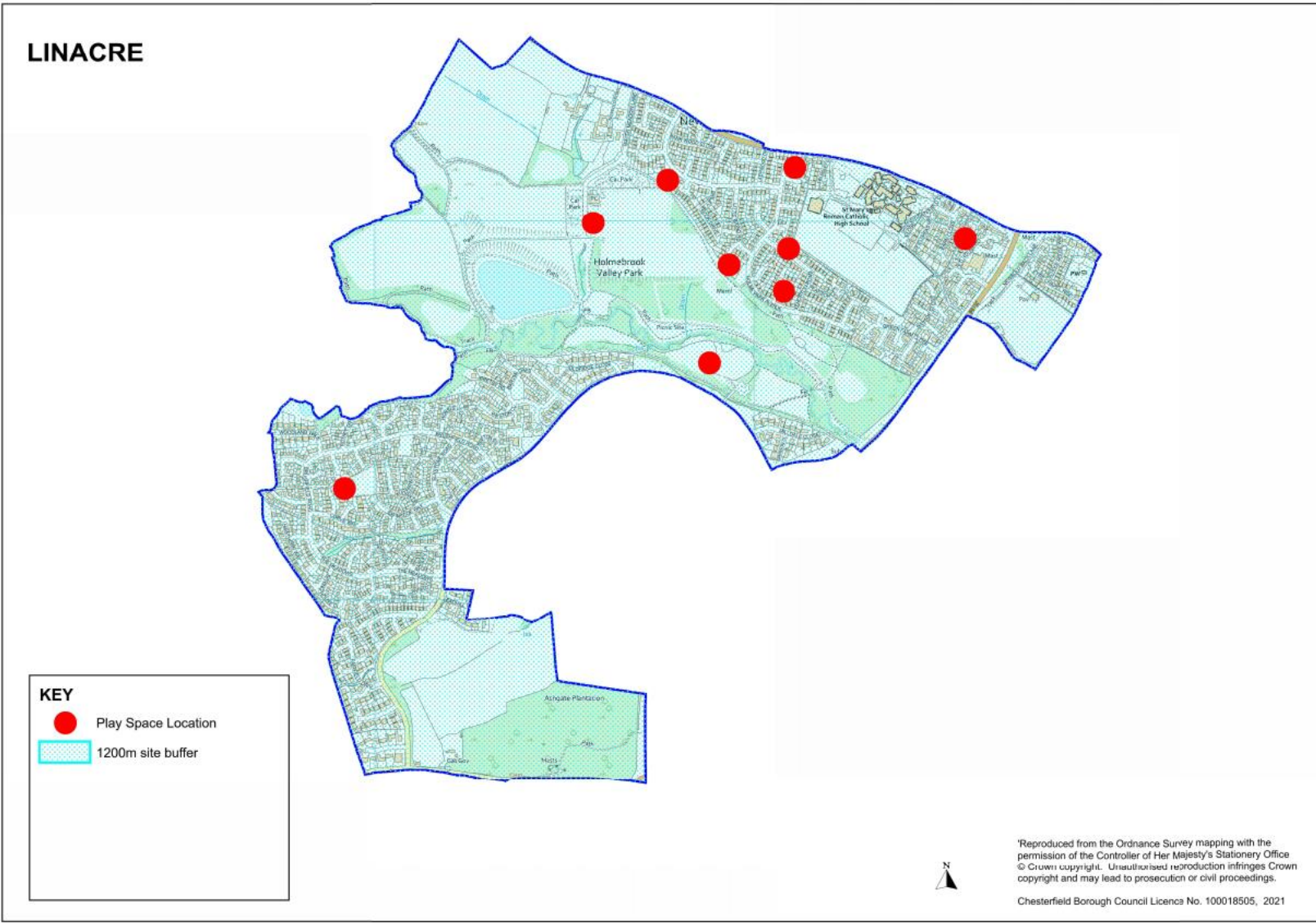
**KEY**

-  Play Space Location
-  1200m site buffer

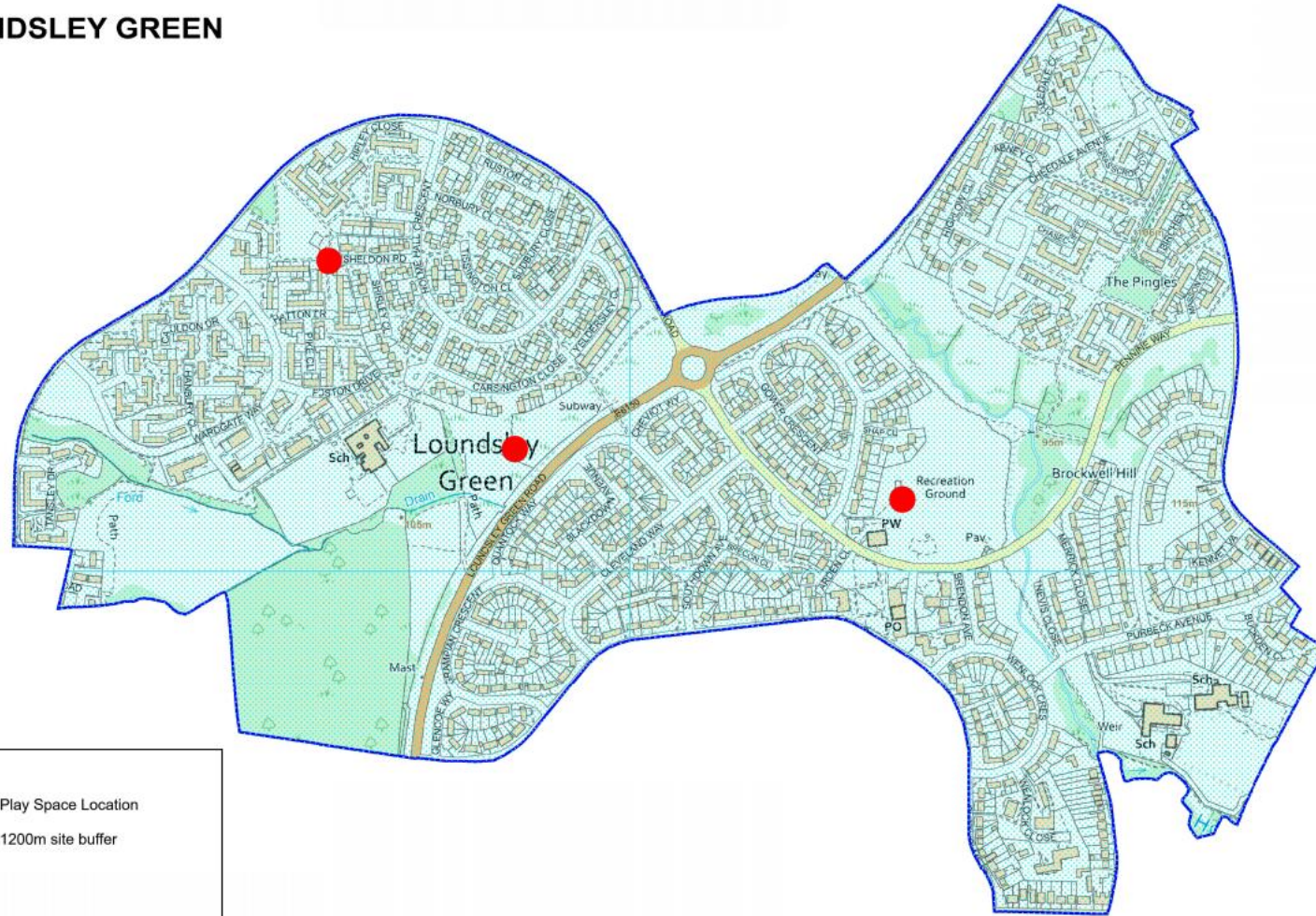


Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licence No. 100018505, 2021





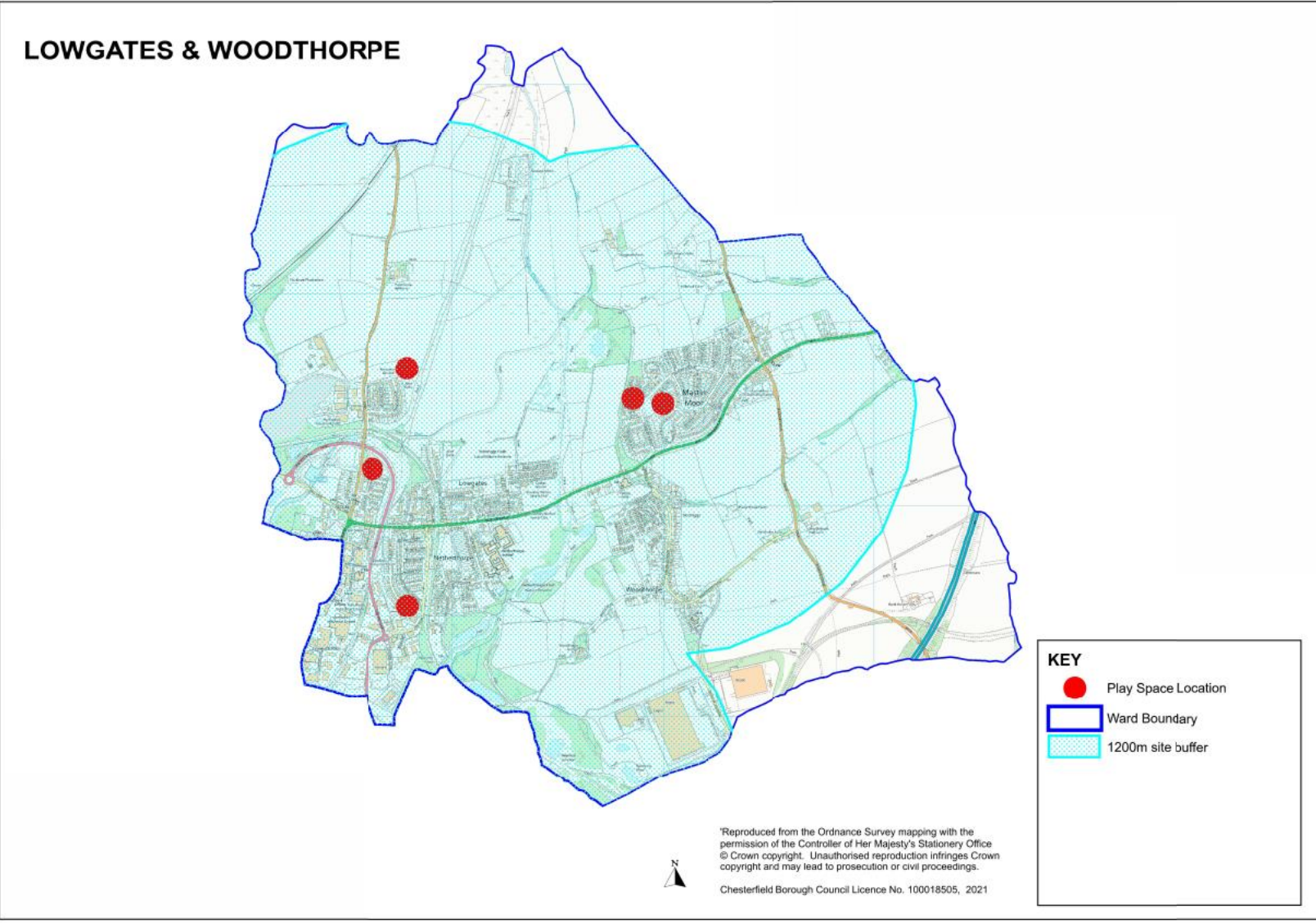
# LOUDSLEY GREEN



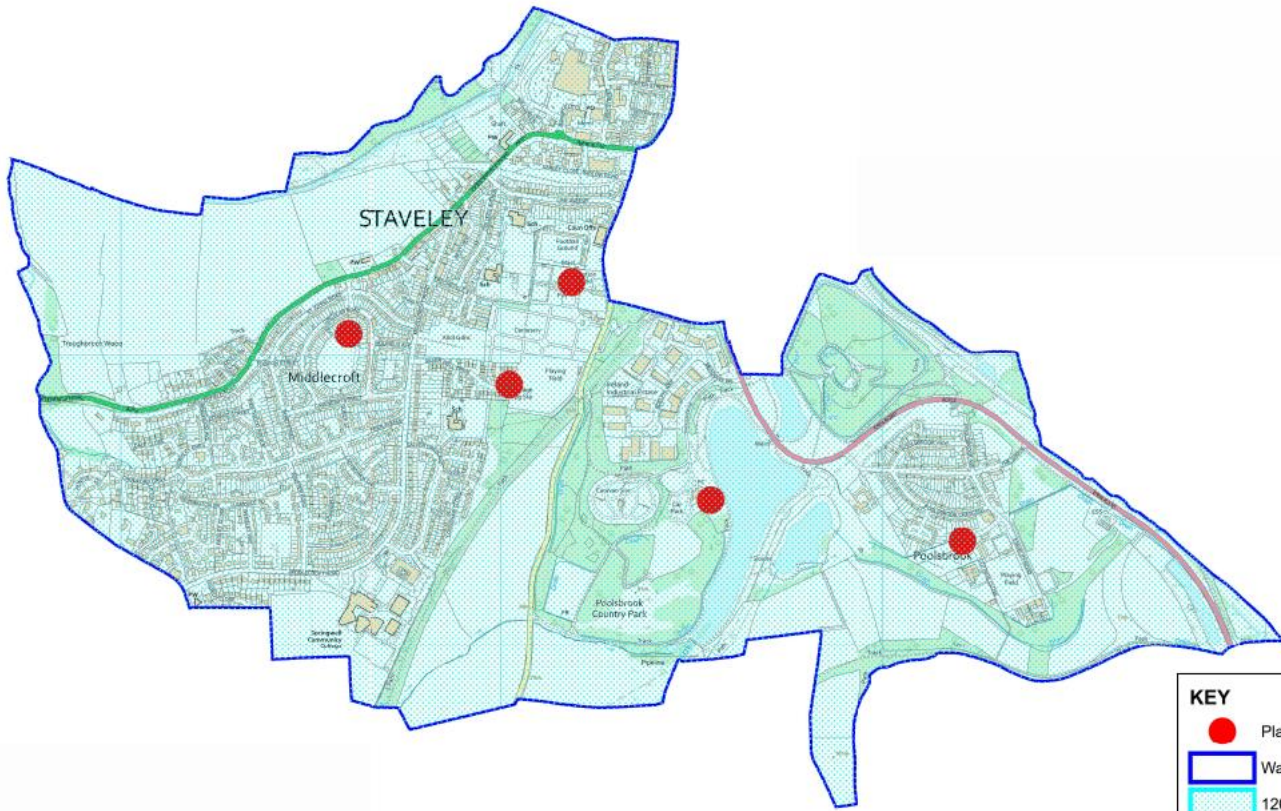
**KEY**

- Play Space Location
- 1200m site buffer

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office  
© Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licence No. 100018505, 2021



# MIDDLECROFT & POOLSBROOK

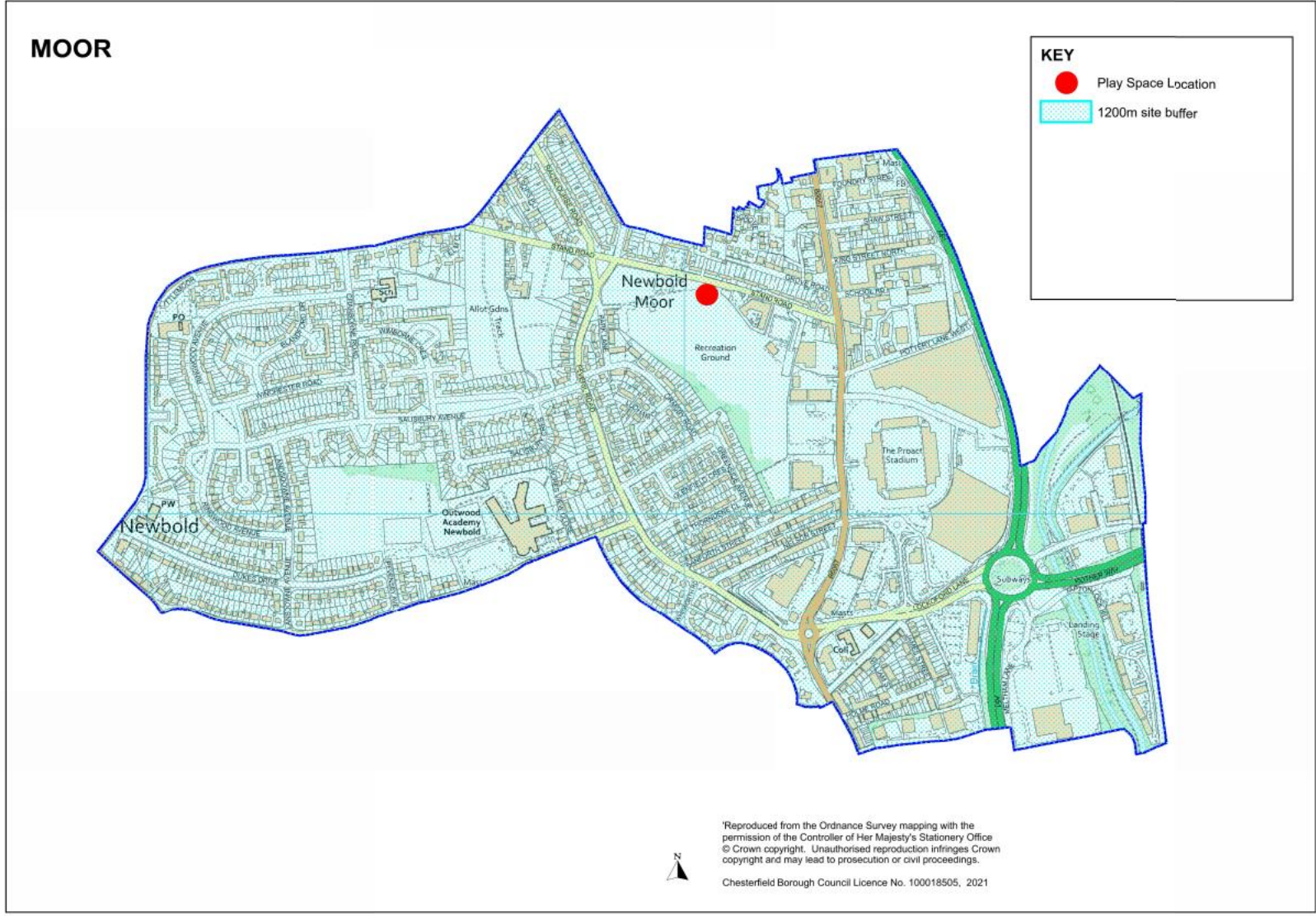


**KEY**

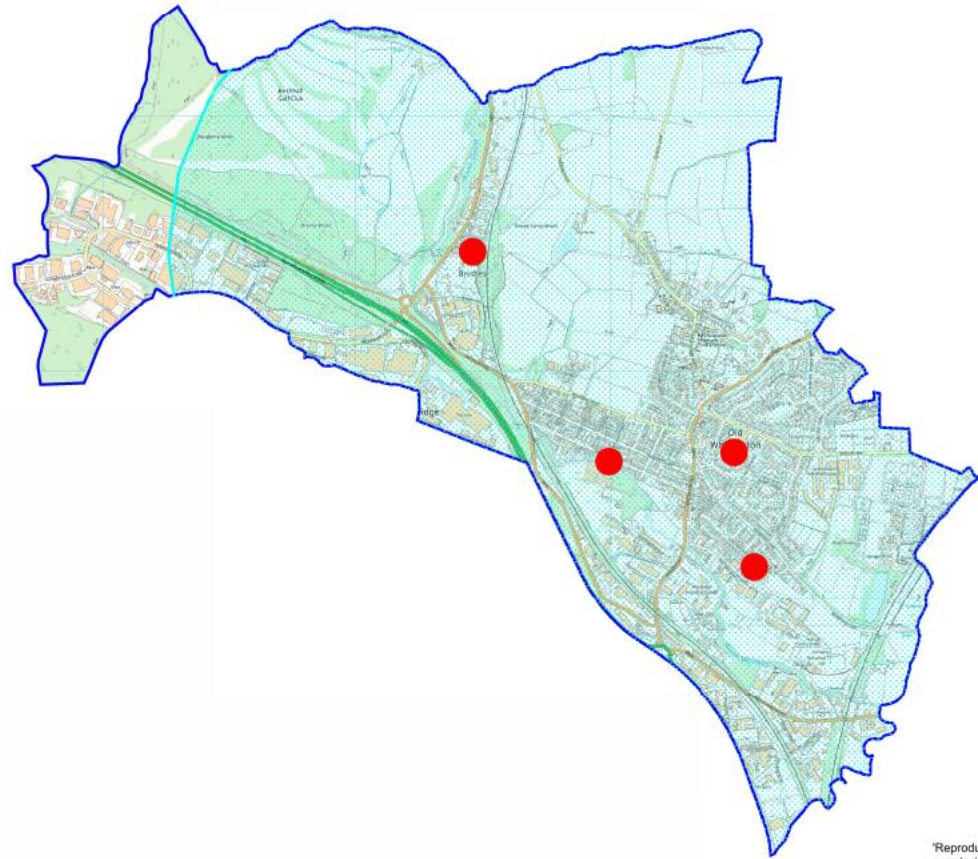
- Play Space Location
- ▭ Ward Boundary
- ▭ 1200m site buffer



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licence No. 100018505, 2021



# OLD WHITTINGTON

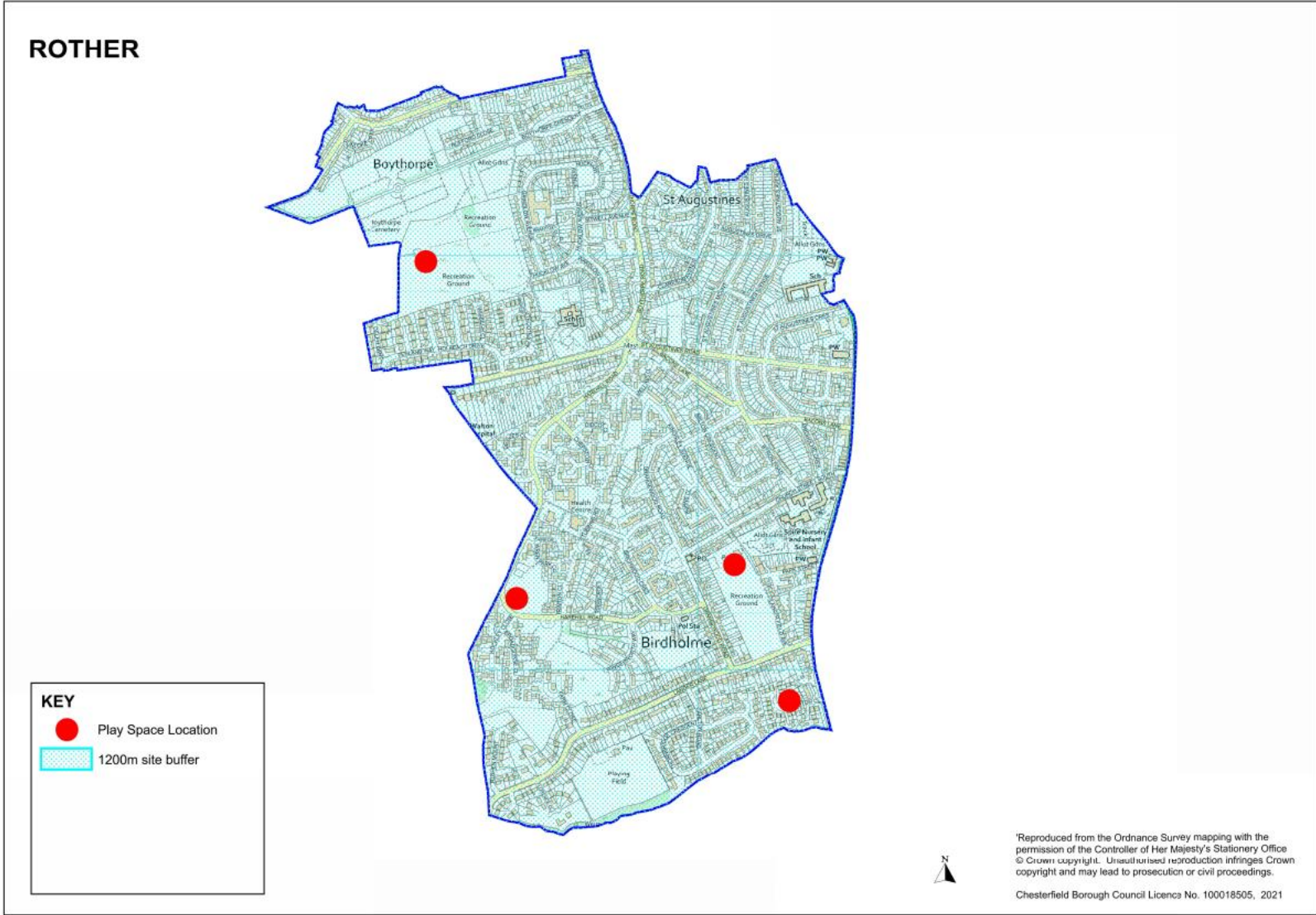


**KEY**

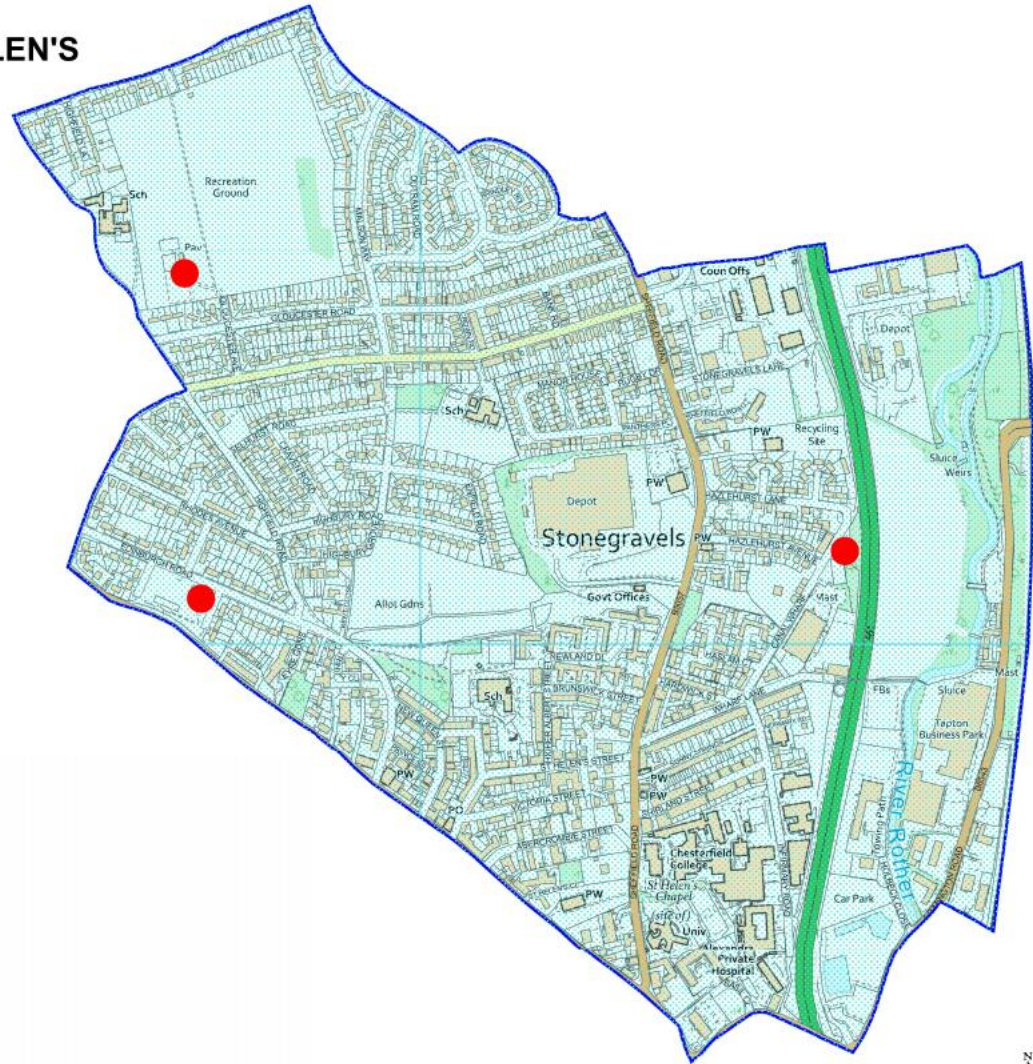
- Play Space Location
- ▭ Ward Boundary
- ▨ 1200m site buffer



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licence No. 100018505, 2021



# ST HELEN'S



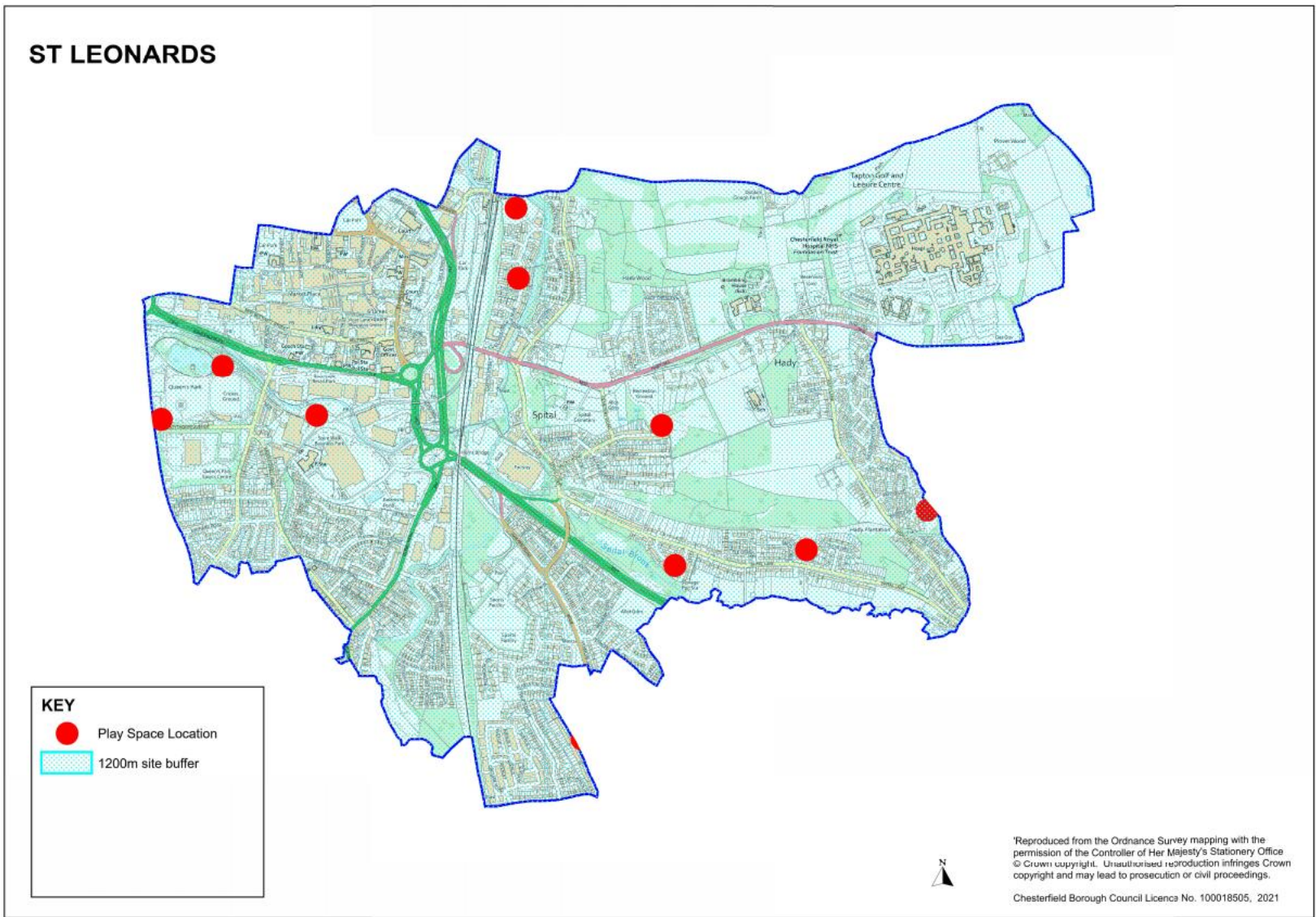
**KEY**

- Play Space Location
- 1200m site buffer

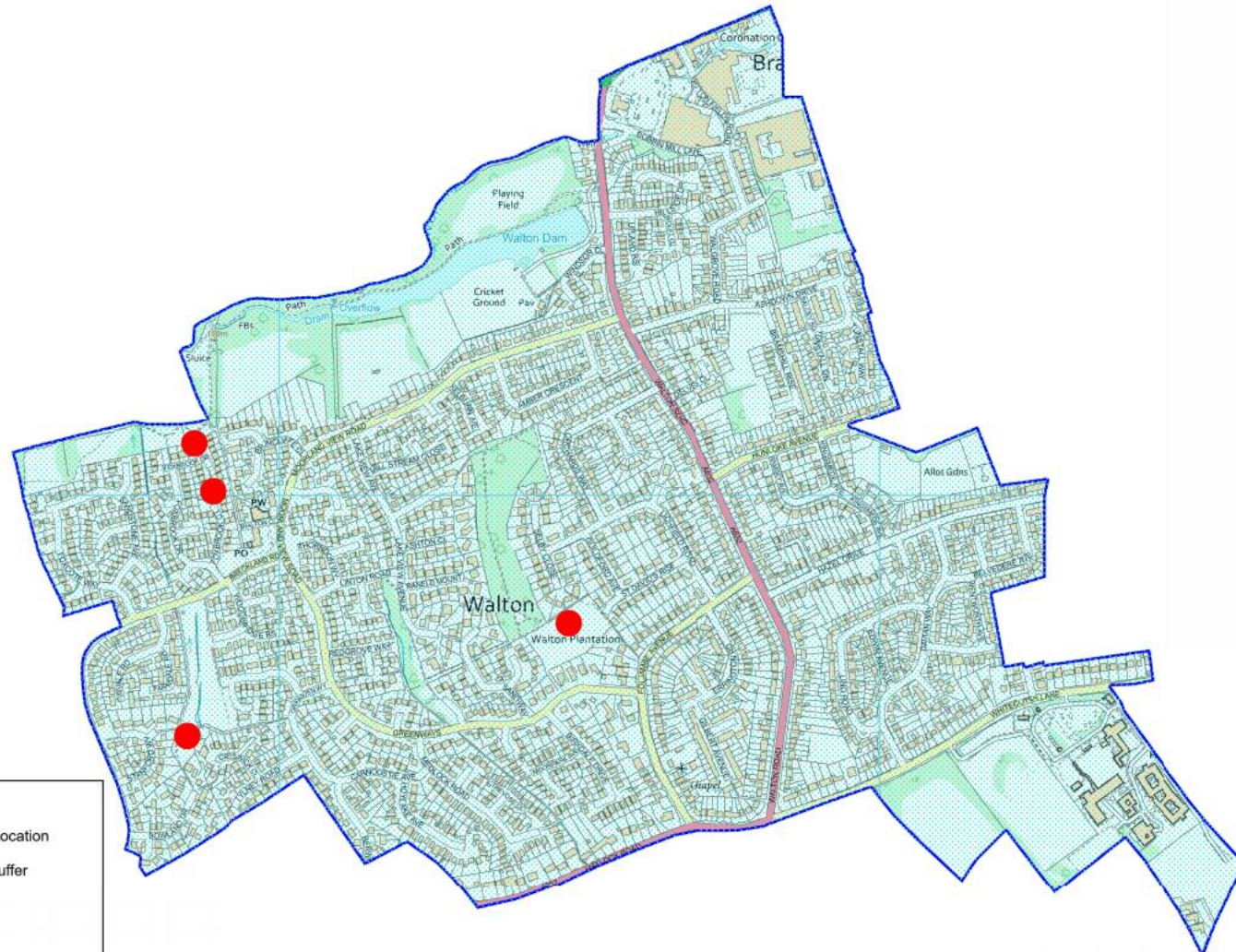


Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licence No. 100018505, 2021





# WALTON



**KEY**

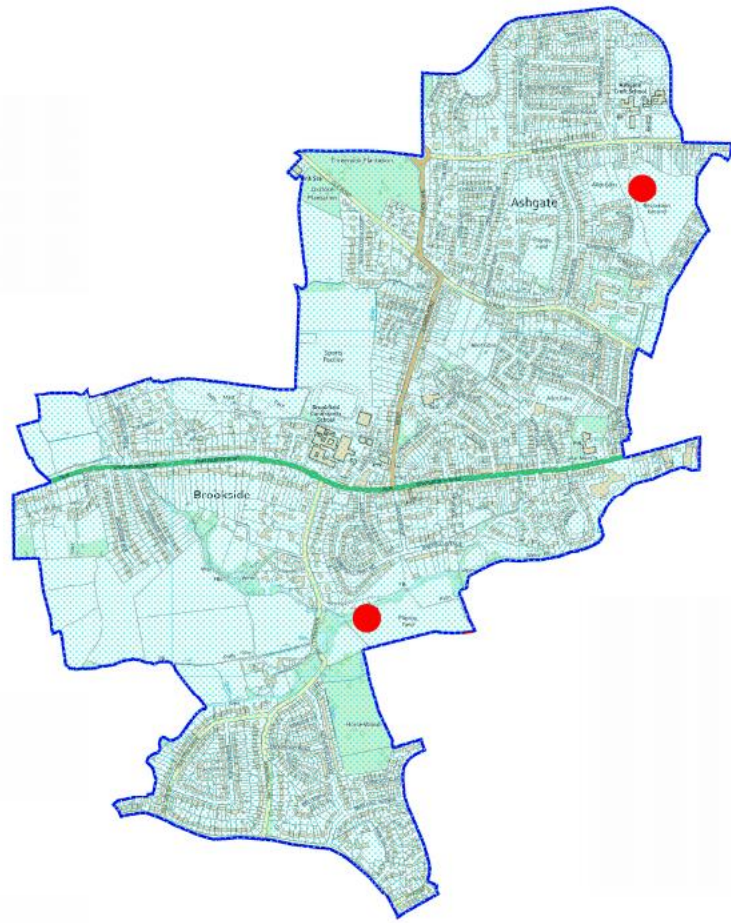
- Play Space Location
- 1200m site buffer



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Chesterfield Borough Council Licenca No. 100018505, 2021

**WEST**



**KEY**

- Play Space Location
- 1200m site buffer



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Chesterfield Borough Council Licences No. 100018505, 2021

# National, Regional and Local Policy

**Policies and Guidance relating to outdoor fixed play space and contributing open space.**

## **National perspective**

Nationally there is a body of evidence which demonstrates the importance of specific representation for children and young people in policy development.

**The Children’s Act (2004)** – establishes the statutory framework for realigning services for children and sets out how statutory bodies and agencies will be accountable

**Every Child Matters: Change for Children** – this cornerstone document interprets the Children’s Act (2004) and establishes programmes of local change and the needs of children

**The National Play Strategy (2008)** – the Children’s Plan (2007) was followed by the launch of the first National Play Strategy, which sets out a vision and plan for delivery under five headings:

- More places to play
- Supporting play throughout childhood
- Playing safely
- Child-friendly communities
- Embedding play in local priorities

**Children and Families Act 2014** – has provided greater protection to vulnerable children, a new system for those with special educational needs/disabilities and help for parent/carer to balance work and family life. It also encourages the childcare sector by allowing childminders to work with agencies and easier for school to provide flexible extended

services. The statutory role of the Children’s Commissioner now has a legal duty to promote and protect children’s rights

**Aiming High for Disabled Children** – this government initiative promotes the principle that disabled children and young people have the same opportunities to develop and fulfil their potential as other children. It supports universal children's services to be more genuinely inclusive of disabled children, including those with complex needs. Resources were made available nationally, this funding was used to improve the play area at Holme Brook Valley Park which provided opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time playing in a mainstream setting.

**Change4Life** — play provision can support health objectives. Change for Life is a campaign aimed at reducing obesity by encouraging everybody to 'Eat well, Move more, Live longer'. It is primarily a marketing campaign with a sub brand, Play4Life, promoting the health benefits of play

### **National Planning Policy**

The current relevant government policy is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which replaced previous policy in 2012. It is a key document for the borough council when making plans and decisions. The NPPF seeks to ensure a network of open spaces (green infrastructure) that amongst other things are of high quality, are safe and accessible, promote social interaction, enable and support healthy lifestyles.

The NPPF in effect requires the borough council to have a robust and up-to-date assessment of the needs for open space (including play provision), sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. This assessment should also identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses. The assessment is then to be used to inform what provision is required in the borough.

The Government currently does not set out detailed guidance on how to carry out such an assessment for all types of open space and explains that it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas<sup>1</sup>. In the absence of current guidance (except for that provided by Sports England on purely sports), when carrying out assessments of open space, councils are relying on practice guidance published in 2002, as this is recognised by many as still relevant. The Chesterfield Borough Open Space Assessment in 2018 is based on the 2002 best practice guidance and provides baseline information for the quantity, quality and accessibility of play provision in the Borough in the context of other types of open space provision. It also is the basis for setting local standards of provision in terms of the quantity and accessibility of open spaces.

### **Local Perspective**

## Local Planning Policy

The current Local Plan for the borough contains a vision for open spaces (including play provision) as follows:

‘Green spaces and open land are enhanced and connected to provide and link high quality and diverse habitats for wildlife and important spaces for sport, recreation, leisure and healthy living. Everyone in the borough can access a variety of green spaces, including local play areas, informal recreational space and larger sports facilities, properly looked after with long term maintenance and management’.

It contains a policy that protect play spaces in a similar manner to the NPPF, requiring certain strict criteria to be met before such spaces can be developed. It also contains a policy that requires a high standard of design for new open spaces, which links to more detailed design guidance<sup>2</sup> adopted by the council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This detailed design guidance contains advice on the following:

- Indicative catchments for play areas and open space
- Use of layout to provide enough space to contain play areas and to create appropriate spaces
- Draws attention to the need to ensure maintenance access to play areas
- Minimum garden size to accommodate children’s play

A specific chapter on public spaces and play areas in terms of a developments layout and play spaces design, covering to a degree natural surveillance, buffer zones, landscaping, natural light and shelter, lighting, management, tree planting.

The Core Strategy is due to be replaced by a new Local Plan in 2020 and its policies should continue to protect play provision where necessary as part of a wider strategy to protect, enhance, link and manage green infrastructure. However, as part of this new Local Plan, standards for how much and what type of open space should be provided in existing communities and in new development will also be adopted by the council.

## Planning Conditions and Legal Obligations

When the council grants planning permission and wishes to impose requirements on a development, this is normally secured by planning conditions and/or a legal contract called a Section 106 Obligation. These requirements usually come in the form of infrastructure provision or a financial contribution towards that provision. This includes the provision of green spaces and facilities for children’s play. Developer contributions have been secured through a Section 106 (S106) Agreement [Town and County Planning Act 1980], which forms part of any planning permission granted.

The limitations of S106 contributions is that the financial contribution or infrastructure provision is directly associated with specific development therefore, can only normally be used to develop or improve play provision within a limited distance from the

development. S106 contributions are also required to be delivered within a set time frame. The result of this can be that areas where new developments are prevalent become saturated with provision for play that is not necessarily delivered in the best place and with the best use of resources considering what is already present in existing localities. Similarly, areas of the borough without new development lack continuous investment in infrastructure and facilities for play.

Chesterfield Borough has a legacy of open spaces provided through planning conditions and S106 Obligations, some of which are owned by the council and others which are privately owned and maintained albeit with public access. However, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 the borough council has operated a different approach to securing new open space for development, called the Community Infrastructure Levy. CIL does not replace the ability of the council to secure new open spaces within new major development when appropriate. When new open spaces are provided by developers and owned and maintained privately (not adopted by the Council), planning conditions and obligations are a necessary control to ensure that the quality of the spaces and their public accessibility are maintained adequately in perpetuity.

### **The Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Community Infrastructure Levy, (CIL) which came into force in 2010, is a tariff-based method of collecting funds from development to pay for necessary infrastructure. CIL funds are capable of being used to fund open space provision, sport and recreation facilities including play. CIL will operate alongside S106 contributions. Developers will be required to contribute through either S106 or CIL depending on which is most appropriate within planning regulations. The monies raised from CIL can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure needed to support new development within the borough, not necessarily in the location where the money is raised.

The council has worked towards introducing CIL in the borough, which will change the way developers contribute to play facilities. The impact on the developer funds available for the provision of play is therefore a changing landscape in Chesterfield.

CIL contributions only begin to be payable upon commencement of CIL-liable schemes. During the lead in time to such development commencing, the council has developed a CIL expenditure strategy, setting out the approach which the council will follow to identify the specific items of infrastructure upon which CIL revenue should be spent in order to support growth and development across the Borough.

The Regulation 123 Infrastructure List sets out the types of infrastructure on which CIL revenue can be spent. Unlike developer contributions from S.106 agreements, CIL does not have to be spent on the site or in the area from which it is collected. CIL must, however, be spent on infrastructure items that are included in Regulation 123 list.

The CIL Regulations set out how monies collected from the CIL should be distributed:

- The council is able to spend up to 5% of CIL income to cover the costs of administration.
- The council must allocate at least 15% of CIL receipts to spend on neighbourhood priorities, either by passing this portion to the relevant parish or town council, or in non-parish areas through allocations to local community projects via the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. Therefore, there will also be the potential for future funding bids for local community scale infrastructure schemes to be routed through this neighbourhood fund.
- The council may spend the remaining 80% on helping to provide the strategic infrastructure needed to support the development of the borough.

The Local Plan identifies the strategic and local infrastructure fundamental to achieving the council's ambitions for shaping the borough and provides the strategic context for infrastructure requirements. The Local Plan Strategy has been agreed to represent the most appropriate focus for prioritising CIL expenditure. This would support the delivery of critical infrastructure necessary to unlock strategic sites and support positive development in Regeneration Priority Areas which will deliver homes and jobs. This should result in transparent spending decisions which accord with the wider direction of policy and support growth on the scale and in the broad locations which the Plan sets out.

### **Fields in Trust benchmark guidelines**

Fields in Trust (FIT) is the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association, whose core principle is to protect outdoor space for sport and recreation. Within its work to protect these spaces, FIT has offered guidance for practitioners on open space provision and design since the 1930's. The 'Six Acre Standard' (minimum standard for outdoor playing space per 1,000 populations) has influenced various reviews of this guidance since the 1930's: *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* (2008) and most recently *'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015)'.

Whilst retaining the primary rates of provision, the 2015 guidance draws out new recommendations for accessibility, the application of standards and the minimum dimensions of formal outdoor space under the following benchmarks:

- quantity descriptions
- accessibility
- quality
- spatial requirements
- buffer zones

Fields in Trust's benchmarks form a suitable basis for informing planning policies, decisions and proposals, which include the provision of outdoor play at borough or



neighbourhood levels. Using the most current guidance will help the council ensure that the provision of outdoor play is of a sufficient size for effective use; is located in an accessible location in proximity to dwellings; and of a suitable quality to maintain longevity for continued use.

The guidance recommends that equipped or designated play spaces are grouped under the following descriptions:

- A **Local Area for Play (LAP)** is a small area of open space, specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live (i.e. within 1-3 minute walking time). The LAP is a doorstep play area. It could be a grassed area, open space, residential street in a home zone or a small designed play area, where young children can play within sight of known adults.
- A **Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)** is an area of open space specifically designated and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live, usually within 5 minutes walking time. It could be a grassed area, small park, local open space designed for play or informal recreation or a school play area open out of school hours. Play features, including equipment, are an integral and attractive part of the LEAP.
- A **Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)** is an area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but with play opportunities for younger children as well. It is designed for children and young people who are used to travelling longer distances independently to get to safely on their own. It might be a park, playing field, recreation ground or natural open space, such as a woodland, moorland or beach - accessible and attractive to older children and young people. It might include ball courts, multi-use games areas (MUGA) or skateboard areas. The area should be capable of meeting the needs of children with a range of impairments.

### **Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces**

Produced by Play England in association with the Free Play Network to support the previous government's Play builder and Pathfinder programme, *Design for Play* explains how good play spaces can give children and young people the freedom to play creatively, while allowing them to experience risk, challenge and excitement.

It shows how good play space can be designed to be affordably maintained, challenging some of the myths and risk averse thinking that has created a culture of uninspiring play spaces with prescriptive equipment that lacks any challenge or adventure.

The guidance is underpinned by ten principles:

- are 'bespoke'
- are well located
- make use of natural elements
- provide a wide range of play experiences
- are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
- meet community needs
- allow different children of different ages to play together
- build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
- are suitable and appropriately maintained
- allow for change and evolution

### **Inclusive design**

A fundamental aspect of accessibility is ensuring that play spaces offer opportunities for children and young people of all abilities. It is tempting to invest more heavily in equipment that can be accessed by children with mobility difficulties at larger sites where there is access to car parking, changing facilities and refreshment facilities. However, a National Playing Fields Association study by Rob Whewey and Alison John in 2004 found that disabled children have a desire to use their closest play areas for everyday play, and to play locally with their friends, not only at neighbourhood or destination play areas, just like other children. They found that there are several social and educational barriers to this, beyond the design of the play area. Some play areas are situated in locations that are just less accessible due to the topography of the area but it may be possible to make physical adjustments to play areas to enable better accessibility. Suitable design and adaptation is also important.

Where possible, new and refurbished play areas will be designed and include equipment that enables all children and young people to experience different types of play, in keeping with *Design for Play* principles.

### **Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide**

This guide shows how play providers can develop an approach to risk management that considers the benefits to children and young people of challenging play experiences, as well as the risks. It aims to help providers achieve two objectives, which are fundamental to play provision: to offer children and young people challenging, exciting, engaging play opportunities, while ensuring that they are not exposed to unacceptable risk of harm.

Fundamental to the approach within this guidance is a commitment to offer opportunities for risk and challenge in the provision of play facilities. This then forms the framework for the use of risk benefit assessments, which are supported by a

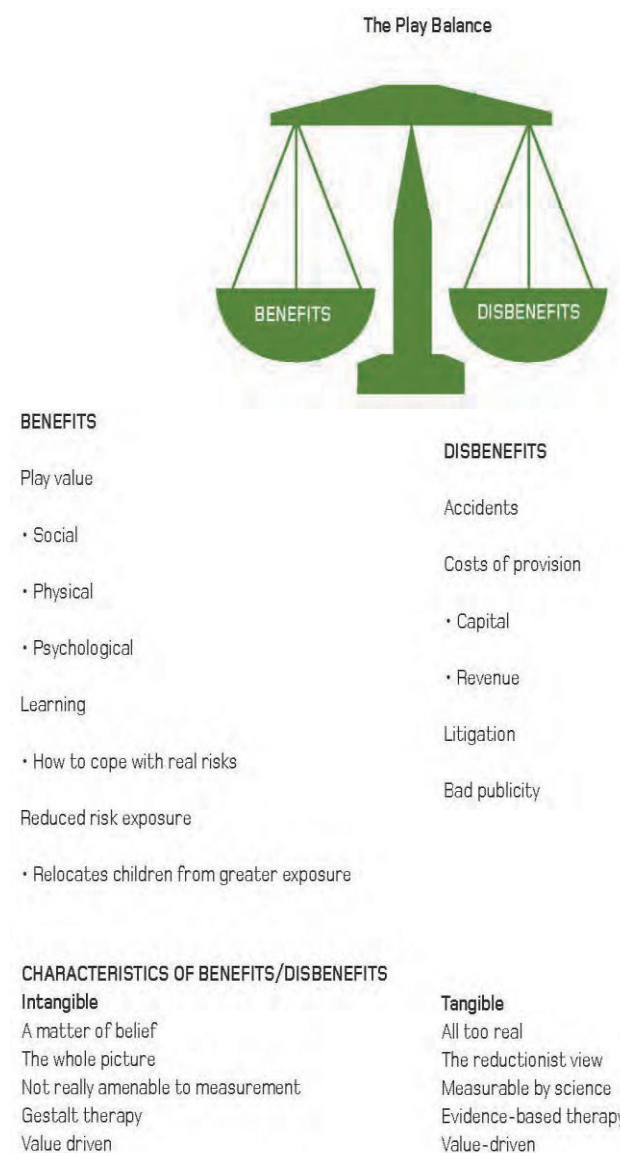
technical play inspection. The council's overall approach to the management of risk is informed by this guidance.

### **Risk management**

Much has been written about our risk adverse society; the increasing need we feel to protect children from risk and the long-term damage this can do to children and to our communities. Exposure to risk is an essential part of ensuring children grow, develop, and are equipped with the skills and ability to fulfil their adult life. Play England are advocates of the risk benefit approach which "allows providers to address the two important objectives of play provision: providing challenge whilst offering protection from unacceptable harm.

The council's approach to play provision is risk adverse. When making improvements to play spaces there is an opportunity for the council to consider how they can become more challenging and make the most of their surrounding environments. The diagram overleaf, shows the delicate balance between benefits and dis-benefits of a risk benefit approach.

By adopting the fundamental principles of risk management outlined in *Managing Risk in Play Provision*, the council can take a risk-benefit approach to play provision. This approach weighs up the potential risk involved in using a play space or item of play equipment against the potential benefit to children's play. It gives the council the opportunity to move away from a risk averse approach that tended to incorporate rubber safety surfacing, fencing and gates, for good economic and insurance reasons, sometimes at the expense of the benefit to children's play. The council recognises that ultimately, children will play and if play spaces do not offer them the level of challenge they desire, they will play elsewhere, possibly in less safe spaces.



A risk benefit assessment approach also illustrates how the process can be used to make decision in relation to surfacing, use of play equipment that doesn't meet industry standards, the presence of children and young people's self-built structures and the inclusions of natural features and landscaping in the play space. If appropriate such an approach can deliver the complementary benefits of reducing costs and creating more stimulating and challenging play environments. Limited resources and funding suggest it may not be viable to retroactively take a risk benefit approach, because of the costs associated with removing fencing etc. Taking a risk benefit approach to play in the future, in relation to both new provision and enhancement of existing, will have considerable benefits for the council.

For example, funds spent on fencing will detract from the amount available for play features. The key question therefore, is what additional value fencing will add to a play space. In some cases, it will be significant, in others, the lack of fencing may well add to the play opportunities available. A risk-benefit analysis, on a site-by-site basis, is the best approach.

## Informal and Naturalistic Play

Not all designated play spaces need traditional fixed play equipment. When thinking of site-specific design, landscaping and the inclusion of natural elements such as boulders, tree trunks and mounds can enhance play spaces. Natural play design can fit well within the wider open space and increase the scope for creative play and imaginative games.

Natural playable space can be encouraged within parks, country parks, nature areas etc, where the provision of traditional play equipment may be regarded as inappropriate. Natural play design can be suitable for both urban and rural settings, but careful consideration needs to be made in relation to sustainability and maintenance.

A natural environment in a children's play space is an environment which includes natural elements. Natural environments may include:

- gardens where children can grow their own plants
- sandpits for sensory, symbolic and physical play
- digging patches where children can use garden equipment
- a range of planting to encourage a variety of modes of play such as playing with gum nuts, small branches, flowers, stones and bark
- small pits of pebbles, gravel, coarse sand and smooth river rocks for fine motor and imaginative play
- plants for smelling and picking
- plants that encourages birds, butterflies and other insects
- trees which provide shade
- worm farms and compost areas for environmental education
- water play areas for sensory play.

Why include natural environments in outdoor spaces?

Current research clearly shows that natural environments and outdoor play are beneficial to children in many ways. Playing outdoors is important for developing capacities for creativity, symbolic play, problem solving and intellectual development. Outdoor play has clear physical benefits for developing children including helping children to acquire gross motor skills, eye-hand coordination and helping to prevent obesity.

Sensory stimulation derived from interacting with natural environments allows children to learn with all their senses. These senses include seeing, hearing, touching and smelling. It is well known that physical activity is beneficial for children in many ways with research linking time spent outdoors to increased physical activity, healthy development and overall wellbeing.

Research also shows that children who have trouble concentrating benefit from playing outdoors, as after playing outdoors these children are better able to concentrate on tasks.

Including natural elements into an outdoor play space does not have to look a particular way; there is no formula that must be followed. The design will take into account the size and configuration of the space, the way in which the space is used at the children's service and the ages of the children who play in the space.

### **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021 – 2030**

This strategy addresses the issue over the medium and long term by establishing standards for both the quality, quantity accessibility of open space provision. This leads directly to the development of priorities for investment and seeks where appropriate to create new open space through planning gain in areas of deficiency. This can also lead to consideration being given to a limited rationalisation of open space in areas that significantly exceed the adopted standards.

Taking into account the findings of various consultation survey, and the proposed quantity and quality standards for open space, the following key principles have been adopted for open space managed by the borough council in previous parks and open spaces strategies.

That a pyramid of open space provision is adopted, this being:

- Destination parks
- Community parks
- Semi natural open space
- Amenity open space

That catchment areas are adopted for each category of open space as follows:

- Destination parks within 1200m of households
- Community Parks within 1200m of households
- Naturalised Open Space within 480m of households
- Local Open space within 240m of households

This strategy is a practical approach to Chesterfield open space provision, and a clear way forward to ensure resources are targeted appropriately to maintain the standards expected by the public.

## **Council Plan 2019 – 2023**

We are guided by our simple but important vision:

‘Putting our communities first’

Chesterfield Borough Council is here to serve and support our communities including our residents, tenants, businesses, visitors, students and voluntary groups. Together we will continue to make our borough a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

The Council Plan includes our priorities for the next four years:

These are the activities on which we will focus our efforts and want to see a real shift in over the four years. The four-year plan allows us time to plan ahead without trying to speculate about what our communities will need and expect in the distant future.

Current Priorities include

- 1 Making Chesterfield a thriving borough
- 2 Improving quality of life for local people
- 3 Providing value for money services

The Play Strategy fits under priority 2 improving life for local people

More specifically we will measure this by improving our environment and enhancing community safety for all our communities and future generations.

This page is intentionally left blank



## Appendix B General Online Survey Results

### Play Strategy Survey Report, October 2021

---

#### Contents

1. Summary .....	1
2. Introduction.....	1
3. Questionnaire results.....	2
4. Social Media.....	8
5. Equality monitoring.....	8

#### 1. Summary

---

*Questionnaire format:* Web/online  
*Responses:* 55 Total  
*Date range:* 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

#### 2. Introduction

---

Over the last few years, the council has refurbished existing or provided new play spaces at a number of locations. We have much more work to do and in response to this we have produced an initial draft Play Strategy based on research of best practice and consultation with partners. Before completing the questionnaire, participants were asked to take a few moments to read the proposed Play Strategy first.

### 3. Questionnaire results

Please indicate how important you think the actions within the proposed themes are.

Theme 1: Raise awareness of play										
	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Improve participation and usage of current and future provision and maximise the benefits of play	43	79.6%	10	18.5%	1	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%
Provide a more inclusive approach to play	35	64.8%	11	20.4%	6	11.1%	2	3.7%	0	0%
Help to educate children, parents and carers of the importance of play in development	35	64.8%	13	24.1%	6	11.1%	0	0%	0	0%
Reduce negative perceptions of children and young people at play	34	63.0%	14	25.9%	5	9.3%	1	1.9%	0	0%

#### Any other comments or suggestions about theme 1:

- Encourage all ages to enjoy outdoor play.
- Creative and imaginative types of play equipment are important
- Level up and make it fair. Some parks (Hasland) get lots more support and events than others (Somersall)
- Play areas provide ideal opportunities for children and their friends to develop social skills and create the chance to offer support to each other
- Tapton park is really in need of a health and safety inspection. Waterside houses are for families, if they have young children their garden sizes are too small so young families are using the park. I child mind for my daughter who has three children of mixed age groups.
- Better information on your website about what play spaces are available - include photos so parents can find out and judge which spaces are best to visit
- Need to invest in existing play spaces rather than removing them. E.g. St David's Rise, Foolow Park, Acorn Ridge, Beeley View, Foxbrook Drive, Stanford Way Park, the Inkerman
- Playgrounds are a safe space for children to explore. Professionally, as a physiotherapist, I believe that they are vital to support neuro development in children. They challenge balance, co-ordination and strength as well as providing vital cardio vascular exercise
- People need to know where these amazing parks are because they are not near me
- There has to be agreement about who the major users of each play park/ play facility are
- You can only raise awareness if play equipment is provided in a particular area. What's the point of making people aware if the play areas are closed down?

<b>Theme 2: Raising the quality of play</b>										
	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Promote children's creativity, physical, mental and emotional well-being and healthy growth	47	87.0%	6	11.1%	1	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%
Recognise children's needs to test boundaries	35	64.8%	16	29.6%	3	5.6%	0	0%	0	0%
Balance opportunities for risk taking with prevention of serious harm	36	67.9%	16	30.2%	1	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%
Promote social interaction and respect for others	47	87.0%	6	11.1%	1	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%
Work with partner agencies to assess the number of children and young people with additional needs	30	56.6%	15	28.3%	8	15.1%	0	0%	0	0%

**Any other comments or suggestions about theme 2:**

- Post lockdown the opportunity for play with others is of great importance particularly for younger children. Areas for young Mums and their children provide the opportunity to offer mutual support and give greater opportunities for their children
- Local play spaces are dilapidated and need serious investment. Provide a safe space for children to play away from dogs and teenagers
- Difficult to match all requirements
- Social interaction can only take place when areas are provided for children to meet and interact in all areas of our town.

<b>Theme 3: Improving the range and accessibility of play provision</b>										
	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Extend children's choice and control	36	66.7%	12	22.2%	6	11.1%	0	0%	0	0%
Make different kinds of play available	43	79.6%	10	18.5%	1	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%
Promote independence and self esteem	43	79.5%	9	16.7%	2	3.7%	0	0%	0	0%
Reduce barriers to play and increases the level of access to play provision	43	79.6%	10	18.5%	1	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%

### Any other comments or suggestions about theme 3:

- Limited choice at playgrounds across the county. My daughter isn't a climber and struggles with some. The baby bits are too easy yet the next stage equipment is too high or too difficult to climb.
- Stop taking out perfectly good play equipment and completely replacing it. Why not add to what is already there giving more choice and diversity.
- Access to sufficient play equipment for all children is vitally important.
- You could make better use of the streams running through Somersall, Holmebrook and Monkey Park. It would be good to see some pond dipping platforms installed for local groups to use.
- Ensure that play spaces are maintained and if they need replacing that there is the support to enable this to happen and no area loses their play space. I would have liked the area to the rear of the Queen's park sports centre included in the list of spaces

### Theme 4: Informal and natural play opportunities

	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Make for effective and efficient use of our play spaces for all types of play	44	83.0%	9	17.0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Provide more opportunities for children and young people in the natural environment	45	86.5%	5	9.6%	2	3.8%	0	0%	0	0%
Stimulate more innovation in play activity	40	75.5%	8	15.1%	5	9.4%	0	0%	0	0%

### Any other comments or suggestions about theme 4:

- Leave space for imaginative play in natural environment, trees, water etc.
- I'd love to see some wild play spaces - similar to those offered at national trust sites. They don't need to be complicated but kids love this kind of play.
- Larger range of activities. Space to use in bad weather. The sand in Queen's park is awful, needs a good clean and is in need of topping up
- Children need play equipment, natural play alongside play equipment is fine but cannot replace play parks and equipment.
- Three, dependent on desired provision?
- This should not be seen as an alternative to providing specific play areas and play equipment.
- Stimulate more innovation in play activity - how much innovation is there at the moment? How is this assessed? The implication is that you think there is an insufficient level at the moment but this is an assumption. Could be better to say "facilitate " or "enable".
- Pond Dipping Platforms

<b>Theme 5: Providing more resources to improve and develop play opportunities</b>										
	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Provide necessary capital funding to develop new play opportunities	49	90.7%	5	9.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Ensure sufficient funding to maintain and manage play sites in accordance with the strategy	52	98.1%	1	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

<b>Any other comments or suggestions about theme 5:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lacking in the play area at Holmebrook Valley Park by the pavilion</li> <li>• It is absolutely useless to provide play facilities then fail to maintain them adequately as happens so often in Chesterfield</li> <li>• Play areas are often vandalised and broken and not repaired. There needs to be more maintenance, also visible maintenance, as this will deter people from causing damage</li> <li>• In Walton we have lost the St David's Rise play area which only leaves the Stanford Way area for a large population. The development of Stanford Way and the reopening of St David's should be seen as important.</li> <li>• Serious under funding means the majority of play spaces in our area are not safe</li> <li>• It'd be lovely to see the park off Foljambe/Greenways/St David's Rise renovated/reopened</li> <li>• Make sure new play equipment is built to last rather than look good short term and follow trends. All of the sturdy swings and slides that have lasted years have been taken out and replaced by smaller less effective equipment which very often doesn't look like it will last</li> <li>• Funding must be made available to update play equipment and manage all our play sites.</li> <li>• It should not be down to communities to have to raise money for new playground equipment. The council should do this. And money paid by developers and house builders should be used to improve local play facilities.</li> <li>• The installation of goal posts and, scooter/bike racks would encourage more play and green commuting</li> <li>• The year of outdoors has provided many extra play opportunities and variety, this needs to continue. Support for friends groups or community engagement to develop play is essential</li> </ul>

<b>Theme 6: Strategic Management and Growth Sites</b>										
	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Identify funding opportunities through community infrastructure levy for sites in proximity to housing growth areas	37	68.5%	14	25.9%	2	3.7%	1	1.9%	0	0%
Continue to negotiate for on-site play provision on new developments with management agreements for ongoing maintenance agreements and/or off-site contributions to play facilities at existing play facilities and/or community parks	45	83.3%	5	9.3%	3	5.6%	1	1.9%	0	0%
Continue to influence excellent design and provision during the planning process	43	79.6%	7	13.0%	3	5.6%	1	1.9%	0	0%

**Any other comments or suggestions about theme 6:**

- Encourage developers to leave more trees and natural spaces.
- More information on your website and social channels about how local residents can get involved in fundraising for local equipment
- Too many play spaces are being lost to make way for new developments
- Very often the play equipment on new housing estates is not fit for purpose, usually a very small space with one or two tiny bits of equipment (usually the springy ride ons which break)
- Why have CBC closed and even removed some play parks?
- It is very important to ensure that proper maintenance is carried out on existing play equipment and provide refurbishment or replacement of play equipment that has become obsolete.
- Most developers do not provide play areas in their new developments and the council seems to have little power to insist on this.
- These are key points and are essential to the management and growth of sites

**Do you have any other suggestions or comments to make about the proposed strategy?**

- With global warming play areas are needing to be shaded. Trees are the best answer but until the trees have grown other shading may need to be provided.
- Maximise participation and support of local voluntary / community groups to coordinate and assist with maintenance of local play facilities and to publicise local facilities and encourage use, providing necessary funding for them to do this.
- Maintenance of existing provision is essential. Too many play areas in Chesterfield are in an unsafe state of repair, with responsibility for fundraising falling to communities.
- The Badger Recreation ground in Brockwell is referred to as a LEAP, however this site has been removed, unless you're now claiming the pub garden, then the ownership in the table is wrong.
- Yes, disabled children play too and are often overlooked. My son is severely disabled and gets bored when we go to the park with his sister as he can't do anything.
- I would like to see more seating areas and areas where people walking their dogs with their children can sit and watch their children play. It is difficult with dogs being banned from play areas, maybe a few benches on the perimeter of play areas would be a good idea
- We are grandparents who have seen the value of play with our own children and now see a lack of facilities for our grandchildren to play with others as a barrier to their social development. Post pandemic their mental health needs would be improved by the chance to play with other children
- Regular inspection of the run-down parks, spend the funding where it's needed most
- Play areas should be utilised more effectively. I've seen parks in Chesterfield with only one play item (play areas should surely have at least three, or one multifunction one), in small spaces some painted paw prints or hopscotch lines or something similar on the ground
- I would be happy to provide more detailed feedback. My two children (aged 8 and 5) love to play outdoors and explore. We have a number of play spaces on and around our estate but these have been neglected for a number of years and are no longer safe.
- All areas need play equipment (not just the ones willing to badger the council until they get what they want). All children should have access to some open green space and play equipment within walking distance of their home.
- Money spent on Brimington Common park was a waste, please tell us where these amazing parks are because there's none in Chesterfield
- Outdoor play is incredibly important and there is a lack of good play areas in the area. One near us is padlocked and another in much desperate need of updating although it is very loved. We need to follow examples such as the Monkey Park in Brampton
- Both prescribed and creative solutions are not mutually exclusive
- As a consultation you should have been asking what residents want to see. This is a series of closed questions creating comments on the outcomes that have already been decided. An open consultation of residents' views should have been conducted prior to the development of the strategy
- The play strategy makes no mention of the work of the "Friends of" groups. Reintroduce Friends Group forums. Sign up all parks to Fields in Trust and the Green Flag Community Award. To reduce stranger danger, install better lighting and CCTV
- Would be fabulous to cater for a range of ages and abilities. Safe environment for toddlers.

#### 4. Social Media

---

Summary of social media impressions/engagements/engagement rate etc

- Impressions - the amount of times our content is displayed. One person could have multiple impressions for a single piece of content.
- Engagement - the amount of comments, likes, post clicks and shares our content gets

Social media platform	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
Facebook	7247	219	3.02%
Twitter	1573	23	1.46%
LinkedIn	244	10	4.09%
Instagram	84	3	3.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9148</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>2.79%</b>

#### 5. Equality monitoring

---

##### Q1 What is your gender?

Q15: What is your gender?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Male	9	23.7%
Female	27	71.1%
Prefer not to say	2	5.3%
<b>Base Number</b>	<b>38</b>	

##### Q2 Is your gender identity the same gender you were assigned at birth?

Is your gender identity the same gender you were assigned at birth?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Yes	38	100%
No	0	0%
Prefer not to say	0	0%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>38</b>	



**Q3 How old are you?**

<b>Q16: How old are you?</b>		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Under 16 years	0	0%
16 to 24 years	0	0%
25 to 34 years	5	13.2%
35 to 44 years	12	31.6%
45 to 54 years	7	18.4%
55 to 64 years	6	15.8%
65 to 74 years	6	15.8%
75 years and over	0	0%
Prefer not to say	2	5.3%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>38</b>	

**Q4 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

<b>Q17: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?</b>		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
No	31	81.6%
Yes	7	18.4%
Prefer not to say	0	0%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>38</b>	

**Q5 What is your ethnicity?**

<b>Q18: What is your ethnicity?</b>		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
White British	33	86.8%
Black or Black British	0	0%
Asian or Asian British	0	0%
Mixed ethnic group	1	2.6%
Any other ethnic group	1	2.6%
Prefer not to say	3	7.9%
<b>Base number</b>	<b>38</b>	

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix C Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

### Play Strategy Survey

#### Theme 1: Raise awareness of play

Improve participation and usage of current and future provision and maximise the benefits of play

Provide a more inclusive approach to play

Help to educate children, parents and carers of the importance of play in development

Reduce negative perceptions of children and young people at play

#### Any comments or suggestions about theme 1:

- Agree with these points, particularly the last point

#### Theme 2: Raising the quality of play

Promote children's creativity, physical, mental and emotional well-being and healthy growth

Recognise children's needs to test boundaries

Balance opportunities for risk taking with prevention of serious harm

Promote social interaction and respect for others

Work with partner agencies to assess the number of children and young people with additional needs

#### Any comments or suggestions about theme 2:

- Agree with all these

#### Theme 3: Improving the range and accessibility of play provision

Extend children's choice and control

Make different kinds of play available

Promote independence and self esteem

Reduce barriers to play and increases the level of access to play provision

#### Any comments or suggestions about theme 3:

- Accessing play equipment over grass can be challenging for some children. The strategy must deliver equality of access and provision.
- Agree with the aspirational nature of these aims
- We need to try and use the natural environment more for play and perhaps incorporate gardening and growing

- Provide more options for play, for example painting lines on the ground or grass that can be used for sports or games. Friends of groups etc to have a stock of equipment to sign out. Run sessions like the Bushcraft to teach natural play and care of the environment.

#### **Theme 4: Informal and natural play opportunities**

Make for effective and efficient use of our play spaces for all types of play

Provide more opportunities for children and young people in the natural environment

Stimulate more innovation in play activity

#### **Any comments or suggestions about theme 4:**

- Recycle and re-purpose things such as felled trees being used to provide natural climbing and play

#### **Theme 5: Providing more resources to improve and develop play opportunities**

Provide necessary capital funding to develop new play opportunities

Ensure sufficient funding to maintain and manage play sites in accordance with the strategy

#### **Any comments or suggestions about theme 5:**

- It can be easier to find funding for capital projects than it is for general maintenance etc, hence why it is necessary to have a separate established budget

#### **Theme 6: Strategic Management and Growth Sites**

Identify funding opportunities through community infrastructure levy for sites in proximity to housing growth areas

Continue to negotiate for on-site play provision on new developments with management agreements for ongoing maintenance agreements and/or off-site contributions to play facilities at existing play facilities and/or community parks

Continue to influence excellent design and provision during the planning process

#### **Any comments or suggestions about theme 6:**

- The last point should be amended to add the words “through consultation” to the end

#### **Do you have any other suggestions or comments to make about the proposed strategy?**

- When consulting with user groups, ie schools, we should listen to the views of the children rather than offering them certain choices which limits their creativity and creates a closed question scenario. We also suggest schools be encouraged to use the parks, open spaces and play areas and to link with friends of groups to see if there are joint projects that would be mutually beneficial.

## Play Strategy 2022 – 2030 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

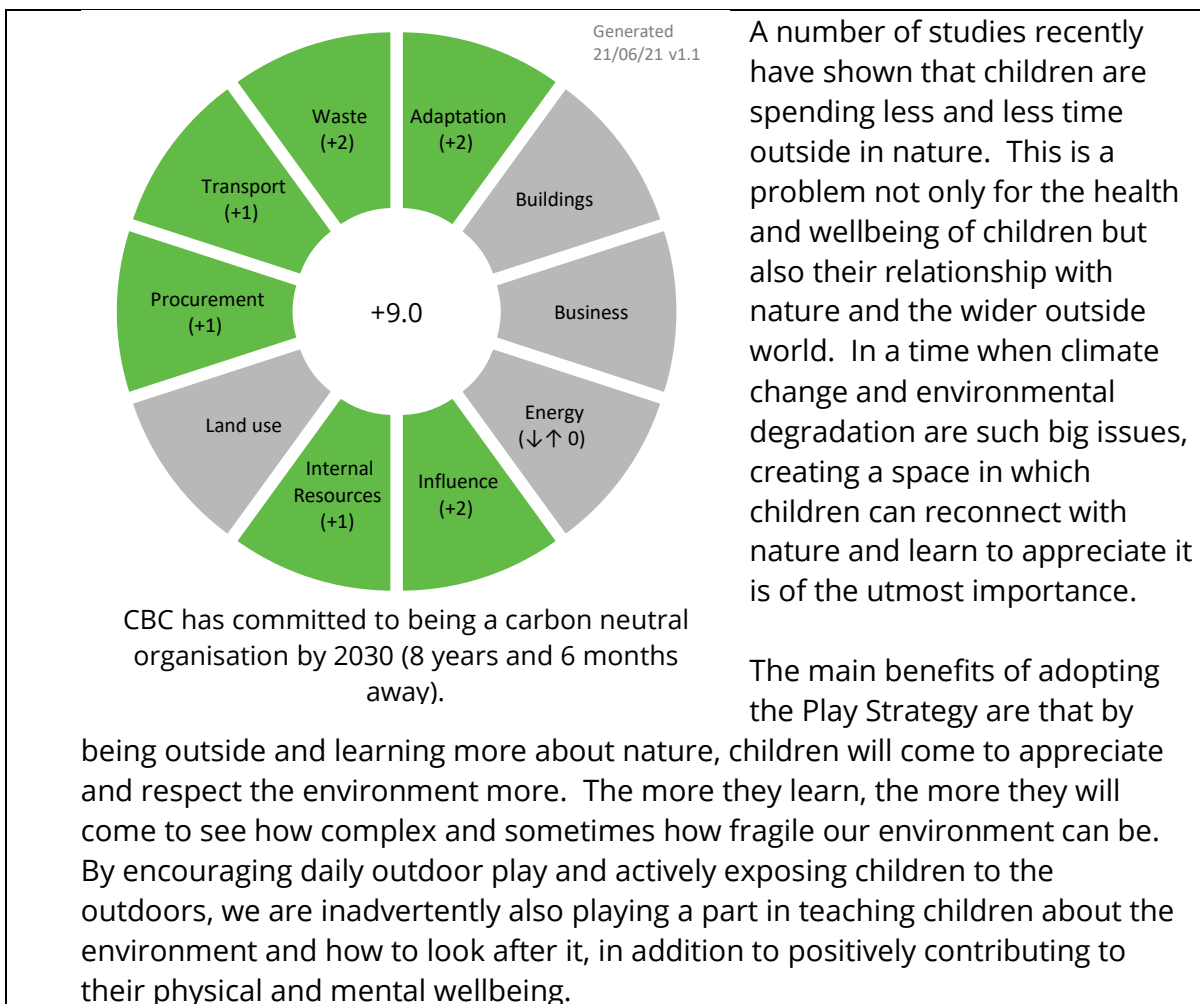
The Play Strategy covers multiple climate change sensitivities, and which results in both positive and negative effects. A summary of the estimated results is available in Table 1.

Table 1. Rationale of adopting the Play Strategy and its impacts for Climate Change.

Category	Rationale summary
Adaptation	Planting trees in parks, open and play spaces can reduce our flooding vulnerability and enable play spaces to be used all year round Planting trees in parks, open and play spaces can reduce our heatwave vulnerability has a cooling effect and provides shade to enable prolonged use
Buildings	
Business	
Energy	
Influence	Through this strategy we can promote the importance of parks, open and play space as places in which children and young people can learn about the natural world and their impact on it  Through this strategy we can raise awareness in our local community about the range of facilities on offer from traditional fixed play to more natural landscape and how we can reduce our impact on it by offering different play experiences. We have an educating role here as we move towards more natural play settings.
Internal Resources	Our main source of external funding for play is the landfill tax credit scheme. We can incorporate elements of biodiversity in natural play settings that could attract additional funding not traditionally accessed through this scheme.
Land Use	
Procurement	We can stipulate to our suppliers that we will only use products that come from sustainable sources i.e. timber, rubber etc. We have been reducing the amount of material we use in ground works through the use of grass matt, we can expand on this where it is appropriate to do so

Transport	By locating play space in locations near to local people that are accessible and removing any barriers to access, then play can play a part in encouraging more active travel
Waste	Through our procurement processes we can reduce further amount of material that goes to landfill and that can be recycled e.g. rubber matting, aggregates. Through our procurement processes we can reduce further the amount of waste that is diverted to landfill e.g. utilising spoil on site to create play mounds.

## Report



## Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

<i>Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>	Play Strategy 2022 - 2030	
<i>Service Area:</i>	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing	
<i>Section:</i>	Environmental Services	
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	John Ramsey	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	May 2021	
<i>Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		
<i>Existing</i>	Yes	
<i>Changed</i>	Yes	
<i>New / Proposed</i>	No	

### Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

#### 1. What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

By adopting this strategy, the Council will have:

A rationale for investment in play provision, set standards for investment in play provision and present a development plan identifying priority for future investment. Additional aims include:

To increase play opportunities for children, young people and families

To widen the understanding of play and enable innovation

Improving play accessibility for our children, young people and diverse communities

To facilitate play opportunities that are inclusive and accessible to all children and young people

Raising the standard, quality and experience of play opportunities across Chesterfield borough

Ensuring that play opportunities are properly resourced and sustainable

<b>2. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and how?</b>
All residents of and visitors to Chesterfield.

<b>3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?</b>
Clarity for local residents and specific interest groups on the Councils vision and strategic direction for the provision, management and improvement of play spaces across the Borough.

**Section 2 – What is the impact?**

<b>4. Summary of anticipated impacts.</b> <i>Please tick at least one option per protected characteristic. Think about barriers people may experience in accessing services, how the policy is likely to affect the promotion of equality, knowledge of customer experiences to date. You may need to think about sub-groups within categories eg. older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment etc.</i>			
	Positive impact	Negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability and long-term conditions	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>



### Section 3 – Recommendations and monitoring

---

If you have answered that the policy, project, service, function or strategy could potentially have a negative impact on any of the above characteristics then a full EIA will be required.

#### 5. Should a full EIA be completed for this policy, project, service, function or strategy

*A brief description of how the proposal has been developed to take into consideration protected groups, outcomes of consultation etc.*

No disproportionate negative impact has been identified for any group with a protected characteristic. We consulted with the Chesterfield Equalities and Diversity Forum on the draft strategy and its themes.

### Section 4 – Knowledge management and publication

---

Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Service Manager and the Policy Service **before** WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager	Name:	John Ramsey
	Date:	28/05/2021
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	Donna Reddish
	Date:	28/06/21
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service	Yes	
Decision information sent to Policy Service	Yes	

This page is intentionally left blank

## For publication

### Housing Capital Programme: New Programme for 2021/22 through to 2026/27 (HC000)

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Councillor Ludlow
<b>Directorate:</b>	Housing
<b>For publication</b>	

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the public sector housing capital programmes for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and to provide an indicative programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27.
- 1.2 To seek approval to purchase and implement a new asset management system.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Housing (Public Sector) revised Capital Programme for 2021/22 is approved.
- 2.2 The Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programme for 2022/23 is approved and its procurement, as necessary, be authorised.
- 2.3 The Housing (Public Sector) Capital programmes for 2023/24 to 2026/27 are provisionally approved.
- 2.4 The in-house delivery share of the Programme be approved.
- 2.5 The Service Directors – Housing and Finance be authorised to vire between programmes and budgets to manage the Capital Programme as set out in the report.

2.6 To approve the purchase and implementation of a new asset management system.

### **3.0 Reason for recommendations**

3.1 The Council as a social landlord has a legal duty to ensure that all its properties are fully compliant and maintained to Decent Homes standards.

3.2 Following the publication of the Social Housing White Paper it will be a requirement that the Regulator of Social Housing undertakes audits on landlord compliance which will require the Council to have a suitable asset management system in place that can satisfy the requirements of the regulator.

### **4.0 Report details**

#### **4.1 Capital Programme**

The 2021/22 programme has been revised to recognise changes during the year. The principal ones are delayed starts on two major schemes, due to the Covid pandemic, (Middlecroft New Build and Newland Dale Estate Improvements). These have been compensated by an increase to the Barrow Hill Estate Improvement Scheme and to the Property Acquisitions budget.

4.1 The delayed works have been incorporated into the 2022/23 programme.

4.2 The introduction of Self Financing in the HRA introduced the potential to borrow to finance investment in the stock up to and beyond the Decent Homes Standard.

4.3 The proposed 2022/23 programme and in each of the following four years continues to broadly reflect the capital programme used in the HRA Business Plan in previous years and addresses needs arising due to the ageing stock as identified in the Stock Condition Survey. Details are shown in Appendix 1.

4.4 Currently 100% of the housing stock meets the Decent Homes Standard at the 2 December 2021 and we fully anticipate this will continue to be 100% at the 31 March 2022.

- 4.5 The focus of the programme remains on the modernisation of properties to maintain the Decent Homes Standard with the balance of activity over the next twelve months concentrating on building elements such as roofs, windows and improvements to external estate environments.
- 4.6 The 2017 Stock Condition Survey carried out by Savills, identified that the condition of the housing stock has improved since the previous survey in 2014. The investment in the stock has been directed into the right areas with significant investment being made in relation to typical decent homes works, such as kitchens, bathrooms, electrical installations, heating and external doors and as such less expenditure is required.
- 4.7 The HRA revenue budget report shows that additional borrowing will be required to finance the capital programme for the 5-year period 2022/23 to 2026/27. The costs associated with this additional borrowing have been included within the revenue budget. There is a risk that balances may be lower than forecast if, for example, housing rent bad debts (write offs) increase above the levels assumed, this would lead to an increased borrowing requirement.
- 4.8 The Housing Capital Programme has been set in accordance with the profile set out in the stock condition survey. By ensuring that work is planned and procured in accordance with this survey, the unit prices identified within the survey, should be achievable and not pose any substantial risk of increase in process due to rising building cost inflation. This will also ensure that sufficient capacity within the workforce, both internal and external contractors, is available and maintained.
- 4.9 Many of the programme for 2022/23 have already been procured in 2021/22 to ensure timely delivery.
- i. The Central Heating Programme will continue in order to remove the risk of large-scale heating failures as a result of the age of the boilers and the non-availability of the required parts.
  - ii. The roof replacement programme will continue to be one of the largest areas of works to ensure that properties maintain the Decent Homes Standard. The roofing programme will run in conjunction with chimneys, soffits and fascia's and rainwater goods, to minimise the need to scaffold.

- iii. The replacement programme for aging UPVC windows and External Wall Insulation will continue.
  - iv. Programmes have been included for external work to blocks of flats, in conjunction with estate environmental improvements, garage site improvements and fences, gates, footpaths and drives for general needs properties. The Blocks Refurbishment Programme is attached in Appendix 3.
- 4.10 Members previously approved a programme of environmental improvements at Barrow Hill, London Boroughs Estate and continued provision has been included for the second phase of this works which is due to complete in September 2022.
- 4.12 New build housing programmes working with external partners will continue with Brockwell Court (21 homes) completing in February 2022. Additional new sites have been identified and developments planned at Markham Court (1 unit), Middlecroft (12 units) and Westwood Avenue (17 units) to start in 2022.
- 4.13 All new housing projects are being designed and built to standards that exceed the minimum standards as set out in Part L Conservation of Fuel and Power of the current building regulations through installation of energy efficient boilers and increased levels of insulation in the floors, walls and ceilings. During construction all materials are locally sourced from sustainable materials. For future use, sustainable features such as cycle stores are introduced, electric car charging points and rainwater recycling through collection points in the garden. Water usage is calculated and features such as perforated taps and low flow baths introduced to reduce consumption.
- 4.14 The investment proposed in the Housing Capital Programme will make a significant contribution to ensure the Council's Housing stock is improved to increase its SAP ratings and ensure all homes are efficient and provide affordable warmth for our tenants. In delivering programmes of work for example the block refurbishment programmes specific consideration will be given to energy efficiency and the components used in window replacements, heating replacement systems will be regularly reviewed to ensure improved SAP ratings and make positive reductions on tenants utility bills.

- 4.15 The successful programme of strategic housing acquisitions remains to allow the purchase of properties which meets housing need and increases the housing stock.
- 4.16 The refurbishment continues of one general needs and two further sheltered housing schemes to ensure that older person's accommodation remains accessible and meets the future needs of our aging population will continue.
- 4.17 The fire risk improvement works to blocks identified in the Compliance Review undertaken by Savills in December 2019 is making good progress and will continue.
- 4.18 The work programmes for 2022/23 until 2026/27 continue to be prioritised depending on the level of investment needed according to the stock condition survey and the amount of recent expenditure on repairs and maintenance in those areas. The area with the highest level of need and expenditure will receive work in the first year, reducing to year 5, with the work being packaged into four distinct types, with routine decent homes internal work e.g. kitchens, bathrooms, heating, rewires continuing on a year by year basis depending on whether that work is required to ensure the property continues to meet the decent home standard. The other packages include:
- Externals – Works to the exterior of a property e.g. windows, doors, roofs, pointing and external wall insulation
  - Blocks – Exterior work as described above to blocks and communal areas of flats
  - Environmental – Fencing, gates, footpaths
- 4.19 Master planning will commence for the investment and upgrading of the Holme Hall estate.
- 4.20 **Asset Management System**  
The Council currently does not have a comprehensive, supported Property Asset Management system for the housing portfolio. The current system in use is no longer supported and a suitable replacement system needs to be implemented.
- 4.21 The Council's failure to maintain its homes and comply with legislation could result in:

- A poor service being offered to tenants
- Loss of reputation
- Adverse legal implications, including HSE investigations and prosecution

In addition the Council needs to be able to readily evidence that they are meeting the Homes Standard for the Regulator of Social Housing.

- 4.22 Option 2 is the Council's Housing Management System of choice and offers a suitable module for Housing Asset Management which would enable full integration of systems. This system has been procured and already operating within the council.
- 4.23 A Property Asset Management System fully integrated with the Council's Housing Management System, this system would allow the benefits of 'one version of the truth' and provide accurate and timely management information for rapid decision making in a supported robust system with provision for disaster recovery.
- 4.24 The full business case to support the proposed new system is attached in Appendix 4.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

- 5.1 An alternative asset management system was considered but the selection of the preferred system would enable full integration with existing council data management systems.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

### **6.1 Capital Programme**

The recommended capital programme for the next 5 years is based on the most recent stock condition survey carried out in 2017. The stock condition survey has been fed into the HRA Business Plan to ensure that it is affordable.

- 6.2 In order to ensure that the Business Plan remains up to date and is based on an up to date understanding of the investment needs of the Housing Stock, a revised stock condition survey will continue to be carried out on a three yearly cycle, with the next survey becoming due in 2022/23 due to



the delays from the Covid pandemic. The costs associated with this survey will be met by the Housing Revenue Account.

- 6.3 The overall financial strategy continues to focus on the maintenance of the Decent Homes Standard, improving the non-traditional housing stock, delivering improvements to the estate environment and increasing the development programme of new council housing. There will be a continued increasing focus on affordable warmth and energy efficiency.
- 6.4 Cabinet will be asked to approve revenue support for the 2022/23 Housing Capital Programme which is £3,377,283 identified in the HRA revenue budget report, which is on this agenda.
- 6.5 The Council has sold 83 homes through the Right to Buy as of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021. At this time last year 34 homes had been sold. The HRA Business Plan for the coming years assumes sales of 50 in 2022/23, 40 in 2023/24, 30 in 2024/25, 25 in 2025/26 and 25 in 2026/27. Additional receipts from Right to Buys exceeding those in the self-financing assumptions (21) can be retained in Chesterfield for the provision of new affordable housing. This money must be spent within 5 years and will require a funding contribution of 60% from the HRA resources. The receipts accumulated to date have been spent on delivery of the new build council house programme and property acquisitions.
- 6.6 The HRA Business Plan is in development and will be presented to a future Cabinet meeting. The preparation of the business plan demonstrated that there will have sufficient funding available to meet this 60% funding contribution on the assumption that all of the mitigating actions to improve the financial viability, are realised. If these retained receipts are not used within 5 years, then they must be returned to DLUHC with 4% plus base rate interest. Therefore, in order to ensure that the receipts are retained in Chesterfield for the provision of new affordable housing, the following actions have and will continue to be undertaken:
- Continue with the planned new build programme within the Housing Capital Programme
  - The five-year programme of new build sites is included in the Housing Capital programme for 2022/23-2026/27.
  - Work with other local Registered Providers in exchange for a proportion of the stock on site and nomination rights.
  - Continue the strategic acquisition programme

- 6.7 The forecast total level of funding available for investment in the stock is enough to maintain the stock at 100% Decency based on the 2017 stock condition survey in the next five financial years (2022/23 to 2026/27). A new Stock Condition Survey will be carried out in 2022/23.
- 6.8 Appendix 1 shows the portion of the Capital programme that is its proposed will be delivered in house to ensure continued operational effectiveness. Consideration has been given to the level of in-house resources allowing for use of external contractors to support the delivery of the Capital Programme to address the backlog of works from 21/22 as a consequence of the Covid pandemic.
- 6.9 The five-year programme will allow planning for future works and make changes to the workforce and work programmes to ensure the capacity and skills are in place to deliver maintenance and investment in the Council homes.
- 6.10 The Council is required to demonstrate value for money for all areas of expenditure including for the Housing Capital Programme. The ways in which value for money will be demonstrated include:
- Cost and quality benchmarking through Housemark and APSE.
  - Sharing work packages with external contractors if they provide overall Value for Money (VFM) to the Authority.
  - Market testing work when and where appropriate through corporately agreed procurement arrangements.
  - Agree an approved corporate approach to how we best test Value for Money and Best Value in 2022/23.

#### 6.11 **Asset Management System**

The estimated cost of implementing the new Asset Management System is £547,161 over a 5 year period, a full cost appraisal is illustrated in Appendix 4.

The current system which becomes obsolete was incurring a £17,000 annual maintenance charge.

### 7.0 **Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 7.1 The Council's failure to maintain its homes and comply with legislation could result in risk to tenant's safety and adverse legal implications,

including HSE and Regulator of Social Housing investigation and prosecution.

## 8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

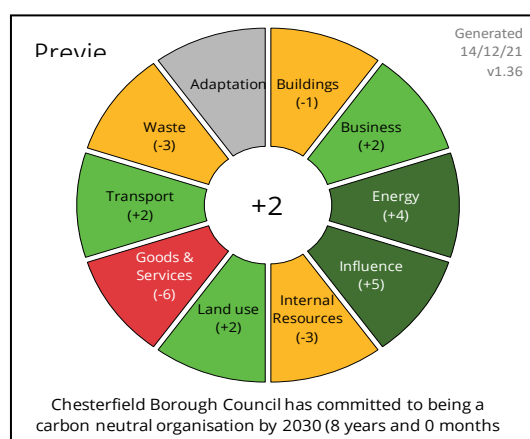
- 8.1 The sustained value of the Capital programme means that some of the work packages will be available to local contractors, subject to their winning the work in competition.
- 8.2 Housing Services continue to take a key role in the council’s corporate arrangements for the procurement of contracts and their management. A clause will be included in contracts to ensure a proportion of local labour.

## 9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

- 9.1 Improving the quality of life for local people.
- 9.2 The Council continues through the Housing Capital Programme to invest in major improvements in our council homes including new kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems, windows and rewiring contributing towards reduced energy usage and costs.
- 9.3 The Council also continues to improve access to and the quality of public spaces and parking through the completion of estate improvements at Barrow Hill and Grangewood.

## 10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

- 10.1 An impact assessment is attached in Appendix 5.
- 10.2 The estimated climate impact score of the Capital Programme is +2.



10.3 Whilst there are clear costs associated with the Capital Programme the benefits outweigh the costs and steps are being taken to minimise the impact on climate change whilst ensuring our buildings are sustainable and fit for purpose in future.

### 11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

11.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 2.

### 12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

12.1

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Failure to maintain Decent Homes Standard targets/invest in stock in a timely manner	Low	Low	The programme has been set based on the most recent 2017 stock condition survey which was derived in order to ensure that the Decent Homes Standard is met. Resources will be targeted to areas at risk of Decent Homes Standard failure.	Low	Low
Worsening Tenant Satisfaction due to re-phased capital programme	Medium	Medium	Ensure that tenants and members are involved in any future reviews of services. Publicise the 5 year programme of works to tenants so they can see when homes in their community will benefit from improvement work.	Low	Low

Declining Stock Condition	Low	Low	A new stock condition survey will continue to be carried out on a 3 yearly basis to inform the HRA Business Plan and to ensure future investment needs are met. This will include a further detailed survey of the non-traditional housing stock in 2022.	Low	Low
Managing slippage on programmes which may result in an underspend on the overall Capital Programme and work being carried forward into future years.	High	High	A 5 year programme of works will allow sufficient time for growth in the workforce to have the capacity to undertake the programmes of work. The 5 year programme will also allow for sufficient planning time to undertake design work, prepare specifications and seek any permission's, undertake any consultations and necessary procurements prior to works starting as soon as possible in any financial years. Regular contract progress meetings	Medium	Low

			with OSD and external contracts to identify any slippage at the earliest stage and to put in place mitigating actions to prevent any further slippage.		
Health Impacts on occupants	Medium	Medium	Ensure Capital Investment continues in the non-traditional housing stock, which exhibit the most issues linked with poor health e.g. cold and damp conditions.	Low	Low
Right To Buy	High	High	RTB assumptions are made within the HRA Business Plan to reflect this loss of stock. Details are shown in paragraph 6.5 of this report.	Medium	High

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1078</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### Document information

<b>Report author</b>	
Vanessa Watson Asset Management and Programmed Works Manager Housing Services	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix 1	Capital Programme

Appendix 2	Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 3	Blocks Refurbishment Programme
Appendix 4	Outline Business Case – Asset Management System
Appendix 5	Climate Impact Assessment

This page is intentionally left blank



HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME - 2022/ 23 + 4 Year plan

PROPOSED INVESTMENT PLAN:	2021/22 ACTUAL	2022/23 Provisional	2023/24 Provisional	2024/25 Provisional	2025/26 Provisional	2026/27 Provisional	NOTES
<b>Future Major Repairs;</b>							
Kitchens	1,193,179	750,000	791,250	822,109	849,238	870,469	Annual inflation added
Bathrooms + WC	700,000	500,000	527,500	548,073	566,159	580,313	Annual inflation added
Central Heating	691,296	550,000	580,250	602,880	622,775	638,344	Annual inflation added
Rewiring , smoke detector and CO detector	407,332	500,000	527,500	548,073	566,159	580,313	Annual inflation added
Electrical testing	200,000	300,000	316,500	328,844	339,695	348,188	Annual inflation added
Blocks Refurbishments inc. environmental works	4,546,363	2,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	Extend existing contract by 18m to 2yr - New contract and blocks to be identified from Nov 2025 onwards
Blocks Cyclical Programme	500,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	Works to HPO from 1st April 2022
Specialist Lift Replacements	58,140	0	0	0	0	0	Delete after 21/22
Communal Lighting Replacement to blocks	2,200,000	500,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
Internal Soil Stacks	0	100,000	105,500	109,615	113,232	116,063	Annual inflation added
Stairlift Replacement	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	Pass to HPO to manage a R+M plus replace contract
Door Entry Cameras / systems	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	Pass to HPO to manage a R+M plus replace contract
Tenant oncosts	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0	Delete after 21/22
Sheltered Refurbishment - LOWGATES	1,837,706	2,520,000	0	0	0	0	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
<b>Externals;</b>							
Roof Renewals inc loft insulation, S&F's, hanging tiles and metal roofs	1,498,322	750,000	791,250	822,109	849,238	870,469	Annual inflation added
DPC/Damp Works and Pointing General	637,523	500,000	527,500	548,073	566,159	580,313	Annual inflation added
Fences + gates, footpaths + drives inc. new off street parking	772,543	750,000	791,250	822,109	849,238	870,469	Annual inflation added
Windows and Doors	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,477,000	1,534,603	1,585,245	1,624,876	Annual inflation added
<b>Future Major Works Total</b>	<b>16,717,404</b>	<b>11,970,000</b>	<b>10,335,500</b>	<b>10,536,485</b>	<b>10,757,138</b>	<b>10,929,817</b>	
<b>Contingent Major Repairs;</b>							
Asbestos Removal Works	200,000	200,000	211,000	219,229	226,464	232,125	Estimate based on Savills expenditure profile
Asbestos Management / R&D Surveys	100,000	500,000	527,500	548,073	566,159	580,313	Estimate based on Savills expenditure profile
Fire Risk Works	2,489,182	1,500,000	1,582,500	1,644,218	1,698,477	1,740,939	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
Fire Risk Assessments	50,000	50,000	52,750	54,807	56,616	58,031	
Compliance	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
<b>Contingent Major Repairs Total</b>	<b>2,939,182</b>	<b>2,350,000</b>	<b>2,473,750</b>	<b>2,566,326</b>	<b>2,647,715</b>	<b>2,711,408</b>	
<b>Environmental Works + Related Assets;</b>							
Footpath Proactive Maintenance	121,454	100,000	105,500	109,615	113,232	116,063	Pass to HPO?
Structural Works	200,000	200,000	211,000	219,229	226,464	232,125	
Holme Hall Estate Improvements	0	100,000	3,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	0	Feasibility required - estimated £10m over 3 years?
<b>Environmental + Related Assets Total</b>	<b>321,454</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>3,316,500</b>	<b>3,828,844</b>	<b>3,839,695</b>	<b>348,188</b>	
<b>Exceptional Extensive;</b>							
External Wall Insulation / Render programme works	300,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	
<b>Exceptional Extensive Total</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	
<b>Adaptations;</b>							
Disabled Adaptations	770,843	750,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
<b>Disabled Adaptations Total</b>	<b>770,843</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	
<b>Improvements;</b>							
Neighbourhood Action Plan-Barrow Hill Imps	2,429,918	500,000	0	0	0	0	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
Common Room Refurbishment	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
<b>Improvements Total</b>	<b>2,479,918</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>New Build;</b>							
New Build - site to be identified	0	1,000,000	2,423,190	2,505,578	2,575,735	2,627,249	Need to re-jig once sites are identified
New Build construction - Brockwell Court	1,219,455	0	0	0	0	0	

New Build construction - Markham Court	160,000	60,000	0	0	0	0	0	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
New Build construction - Middlecroft cluster	1,564,916	0	0	0	0	0	0	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
New Build construction - Aston Court	0	680,000	0	0	0	0	0	
New Build construction - Westwood Avenue	2,210,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
New Build construction - Mastin Moor (Miller, Edale + Lansbury/Rose)	1,250,000	3,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
New Build feasibility (fees)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	
<b>New Build Total</b>	<b>6,454,371</b>	<b>4,790,000</b>	<b>2,473,190</b>	<b>2,555,578</b>	<b>2,575,735</b>	<b>2,627,249</b>		
<b>Miscellaneous spend;</b>								
Property Acquisitions	2,048,355	1,791,645	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Stock condition survey	185,915	20,000	21,000	21,714	22,322	22,768	22,768	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
Northgate Upgrade	258,750	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	Carry all forward remaining from 21/22
<b>Miscellaneous Spend Total</b>	<b>2,493,020</b>	<b>1,871,645</b>	<b>1,081,000</b>	<b>1,081,714</b>	<b>1,082,322</b>	<b>1,082,768</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,476,192</b>	<b>22,931,645</b>	<b>20,429,940</b>	<b>21,318,947</b>	<b>21,652,605</b>	<b>18,449,430</b>		

<b>FINANCED BY</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
Revenue Financing	14,579,031	3,404,994	1,798,005	3,573,878	3,197,919	3,594,694
Borrowing	0	3,598,424	4,651,748	4,521,330	5,201,981	1,559,179
Useable Capital Receipts	6,093,561	4,124,827	2,177,386	1,450,939	1,479,985	1,522,518
Grants and Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major Repairs Reserve	11,803,600	11,803,400	11,802,800	11,772,800	11,772,720	11,773,040
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE</b>	<b>32,476,192</b>	<b>22,931,645</b>	<b>20,429,940</b>	<b>21,318,947</b>	<b>21,652,605</b>	<b>18,449,430</b>
Potential overspend / borrowing	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

<i>Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		Housing Capital Programme for 2022/23 through to 2026/27
<i>Service Area:</i>	Housing	
<i>Section:</i>	Business, Planning & Strategy	
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Liz Cook	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	12/21	
<i>Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		
<i>Existing</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Changed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>New / Proposed</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Page 395

### Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

#### 1. What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

*A brief description of the aims of the policy – use a bullet point list if appropriate*

The Housing Capital Programme finances the major repair and improvements to the Council housing stock. Capital Improvement works include kitchen and bathroom replacements, central heating upgrades, roof/chimney replacements, rewiring, window/door replacements, disabled adaptations, health and safety related works.

#### 2. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and how?

*Eg. specific sections of the community, employees*

The Capital Programme is for the benefit of all Council tenants and in certain instances leaseholders of ex council flats.

**3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?**

*A brief summary of the anticipated outcomes as explained in the accompanying Cabinet/Council report.– use a bullet point list if appropriate*

For all tenants to have the opportunity of a Decent Home, which is accessible and suitable for their needs.

**4. What barriers exist for both the Council and the groups/people with protected characteristics to enable these outcomes to be achieved?**

*Eg. conflicting interests, budget limitations etc.*

Some tenants have specific cultural requirements e.g. Male workers where only a female Muslim is present, carrying out improvements during specific religious festivals (Ramadam), however work can be planned to meet the requirements of the tenant.

**5. Any other relevant background information**

*Eg. related and/or pre-existing projects and EIAs, cumulative impact, scope etc.*

## Section 2 – Collecting your information

---

**6. What existing data sources do you have to assess the impact of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?**

*Eg. information about the workforce affected by the profile, report from prior engagement activity, for example, Are You Being Served.*

The ongoing Tenant Participation programme and in particular the consultation activities which take place with tenants before capital improvement works begin, help us to develop programmes of work tailored to the individual needs of tenants with protected characteristics. We also have data available from previous capital improvement works which can give us an indication of future needs.

## Section 3 – Additional engagement activities

---

**7. Please list any additional engagement activities undertaken when developing the proposal and completing this EIA. Have those who are anticipated to be affected by the policy been consulted with?**

Date	Activity	Main findings
------	----------	---------------

		<i>Brief description of key themes and outcomes of related engagement activity eg. concerns raised and/or how the activity helped to develop the proposal.</i>
Ongoing	Tenant Participation Programme	Range of individual requirements identified with tenants.

## Section 4 – What is the impact?

<b>8. Summary of anticipated impacts.</b> <i>Please tick at least one option per protected characteristic. Think about barriers people may experience in accessing services, how the policy is likely to affect the promotion of equality, knowledge of customer experiences to date. You may need to think about sub-groups within categories eg. older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment etc.</i>			
	Positive impact	Negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability and long term conditions	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>9. Details of anticipated positive impacts.</b>								
a)	<i>Please provide details of any positive impacts identified in the summary table above and tick the group/s the impact applies to. Delete or add rows below as required.</i>							
	Capital improvements work can include adaptations related to age and disability.							
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x Age	<input type="checkbox"/> x Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
b)								
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
c)								
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

10. Details of anticipated <u>negative</u> impacts.								
a)	<b>Negative impact:</b>	<i>Please provide details of any negative impacts identified in the summary table above and tick the group/s the impact applies to below. Delete or add rows below as required.</i> A negative impact could arise where tenants have specific cultural requirements e.g. Male workers where only a female Muslim is present, carrying out improvements during specific religious festivals (Ramadan).						
	<b>Mitigating action:</b>	<i>If action has been identified to mitigate against the negative impact, please provide details</i> Actions are already in place to mitigate these negative impacts, our Customer Liaison Officers work with the tenants to support them through the improvement work and as the work is planned it can be scheduled in to meet the requirements of the tenant.						
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/> X Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Religion							
b)	<b>Negative impact:</b>	As above in Ethnic Groups.						
	<b>Mitigating action:</b>	As above in Ethnic Groups.						
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> X Religion							
c)	<b>Negative impact:</b>							
	<b>Mitigating action:</b>							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Religion							

11. Have all negative impacts identified in the table above been mitigated against with appropriate action?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<i>If no, please explain why:</i>





## Section 5 – Recommendations and monitoring

**12.** How has the EIA helped to shape the policy, project, service, function or strategy or affected the recommendation or decision?

*A brief description of how the proposal has been developed to take into consideration protected groups, outcomes of consultation etc.*

The EIA highlighted the importance for strong Tenant participation at an early stage in improvement planning and additional permanent resources for this purpose are part of the report.

**13.** How are you going to monitor the policy, project, service, function or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?

*Include review date etc if applicable*

The Housing Capital Improvement Programme is monitored annually.

## Section 6 – Knowledge management and publication

Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Service Manager and the Policy Service **before** WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager	Name:	Vanessa Watson
	Date:	02/12/21
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	
	Date:	DD/MM/YY
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decision information sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	



This page is intentionally left blank

### **Appendix 3 - Blocks Refurbishment Programme**

#### **2021/22**

Ashcroft Court	1 block	Old Whittington
Seaton Court	1 block	Dunston

#### **2021/22 (start)**

#### **Ward**

#### **2022/23**

Newland Dale	11 blocks	St.Helens
Dixon /Brearley Court	2 blocks	Old Whittington
Tansley and Birchover Court	2 blocks	Brockwell

#### **2023/24 – 2024/25- 2025/26**

Newland Dale (Ctd)	11 blocks	St.Helens
Phase 1 South Coast Flats	6 blocks	Dunston
Loundsley Green	5 blocks	Newbold
Willow Garth Road Newbold	5 blocks	Dunston
Holme Hall area action plan put together Phase over 2 to 3 years		
Willow Garth Road Newbold	5 blocks	Dunston
Phase 2 South Coast Flats	6 blocks	Dunston
Gratton Court area Woodthorpe	8 blocks	Lowgates and
Staveley Devonshire Close Woodthorpe	14 blocks	Lowgates and
Phase 3 South Coast Flats	6 blocks	Dunston
Darley Close	8 blocks	Middlecroft
Bonsall Court /Willersley Court, etc	13 blocks	Dunston
Green Farm Close	14 blocks	Newbold
Wordsworth Road area Moor area	11 blocks	Newbold
Loundsley Green Flats Phase 1	6 blocks	Newbold
Loundsley Green Flats Phase 2	6 blocks	Newbold
Grangewood top half in 2 phases.	31 blocks	Rother
Flamsteed area 5 storey blocks plus 3 storey	15 blocks	St.Helens
Holme Hall	48 blocks	Newbold

This page is intentionally left blank



## Outline Business Case (OBC)

<b>Project name:</b>	<b>Property (Asset) Management System</b>
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Housing Services</b>

<b>Version Record:</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description of Amendment</b>
0.10	30/10/2020	Multiple	Initial Draft
0.20	04/11/2020	Multiple	Multiple updates following review by IT Services
0.30	11/11/2020	7.3	IT Provider high level indicative costs added
0.40	23/11/2020	7.3	IT Provider detailed indicative costs added
0.50	03/12/2020	7.2 & 7.3	IT Provider costs as from vendor documentation
0.60	04/12/2020	2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1	Updates following review by Commercial Property
0.70	07/12/2020	2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 10.0 7.0 11.0	Updates following review by Housing Services  IT provider detailed costs over 5yrs costs as from vendor added to appendix
0.80	09/12/2020	3.9  1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3	Updated following feedback from Policy  Updates following review by Housing Director
0.85	11/12/2020	7 1-6	Cost Types (Capital/Revenue) added Various updates
0.90	14/12/2020	3.0 7.3 9.2 9.3	Impact of desupport of current system expanded Illustration of interface costs Illustrative project timeline added Indicative project resources added
0.91	04/08/2021	Multiple	Mentor replacement now a separate project with its own OBC. Commercial Properties may implement a Property (Asset) Management system as CBC Housing at a later date post their IT provider implementation as a Mentor replacement.
0.92	06/10/2021	7.1, 7.4 & 12.0	Updated with IT provider quote figures from 04/10/2021
0.93	07/10/2021	7.4	Incorrect summary calculation in table



	Section	Page
1.0	Summary	
2.0	Aims of the project	
3.0	Project Analysis	
4.0	Improvement Options	
5.0	Expected Benefits	
6.0	Work Schedule	
7.0	Financial Appraisal	
8.0	Key Risks and Actions	
9.0	Project Team	
10.0	Role Descriptions	
11.0	Recommendations	

*It is advised that support and feedback is gained from Financial Services.*

## **1.0 Summary**

### **1.1 Purpose of the report**

This outline (high-level) business case is to seek support for a project to implement a modern, supported and fully integrated corporate Property (Asset) Management System for use by CBC Housing with the option to also use for Commercial Properties at a later date.

### **1.2 Key points**

CBC does not have a comprehensive, supported Property (Asset) Management System for their housing and commercial property portfolio.

CBCs failure to maintain its homes and commercial properties and comply with legislation could result in;

- a. a poor service being offered to tenants,
- b. loss of reputation and





- c. adverse legal implications, including HSE investigation and prosecution

In addition, CBC need to be able to readily evidence that they are meeting the Homes Standard for the Regulator of Social Housing.

The various vendor indicative costs of ownership of a modern, supported Property (Asset) Management System are laid out over a 5-year period in section 7; a quote will be obtained from the agreed vendor.

### 1.3 Key decisions required

Decisions required include SMT agreement of the recommended Property (Asset) Management System and approval to progress to detailed project definition, resource planning, budget approval, project implementation and delivery.

## 2.0 **Aims of the project**

- 2.1 The project scope is the implementation of a CBC Property (Asset) Management System to replace the current system, CBCs legacy Housing Asset Management system, with a modern, supported Property (Asset) Management system that is able to satisfy CBCs Housing requirements.

In addition, the CBC Property (Asset) Management System, should be suitable for use by CBCs Commercial Properties at a later date to replace their Excel spreadsheets and databases used to manage their property assets.

The requirements of a Property (Asset) Management System for CBC include;

- a. Surveys, eg stock condition
- b. Planned preventative maintenance, eg planned & costed programme, automated reminders
- c. RSH Compliance with the Homes Standard, eg gas, electric, legionella, fire, asbestos with alerts, appointments, escalation
- d. Energy/EPC checks
- e. Ability to run scenarios/"what-if's" for energy savings, eg if boilers were upgraded, extra insulation added, solar panels, etc.
- f. Storage of certificates making them readily available as required
- g. Track progress of work highlighted from surveys, eg provide the "Golden Thread"



- h. Ability to readily report on the housing stock against the “Decent Homes” standards
- i. Provide a property condition view by individual property or group of properties
- j. Readily available property data/information and indicators

### **3.0 Project Analysis**

#### **3.1 Background to issue**

CBC Housing currently use an older, unsupported version of the current Property (Asset) Management. It does not currently satisfy all CBCs requirements and does not readily provide data/information on CBCs housing properties.

The current IT provider are retiring their system as a product as it is 2 decades old and difficult to further develop, in addition, support for the platform used by the system is ending, at the end of September 2021. The current system will continue to work post September 2021, but support will be “best endeavours only” resulting in issues that include;

1. There will not be any further security patches or bug fixing by the IT provider after September 2021.  
The IT provider have suggested that CBC could utilise a low-cost plug-in to chrome or use compatibility mode in MS Edge, but this is dependent on CBCs appetite for this risk and also spreading the “best endeavours only” support between 2 vendors
2. Asset Management system desupport: any future legislative requirements may not be possible/available in the system once desupported, if supported these may have been developed and released in a later version as part of CBCs support & maintenance.
3. “Best endeavours only” support: is not optimal for a key service area application.

Commercial Properties and Facilities Management currently use a significant number of manual Excel spreadsheets and standalone databases to provide a basic statutory compliance and repair system.

Commercial Properties plan to implement a new system to replace their current system, their legacy Accounts Receivable and lease management system, using modules that are already in use by CBC Housing. At a later date they may also use the Property (Asset) Management System to manage their property portfolio.

The implementation of a Property (Asset) Management System will give CBC a simplified, supported and comprehensive corporate solution for property management. Along with Housing modules



already in use by CBC this will give CBC a single Housing Management System for Housing and the option to expand its use in Commercial Properties.

### 3.2 Strategic Case

CBC has 8,951 homes and 1,169 garages that it manages and rents to tenants. In addition, it manages shared/communal areas associated with these properties and garage sites.

CBC is responsible for ensuring all properties are compliant and meet the Regulator of Social Housing Standards - Home and Tenancy Standards; plus meet the “decent homes” standard. This requires a system of responsive, programmed and planned repairs & maintenance.

The primary compliance areas are:

- a. Gas inspection and certification
- b. Electricity inspection and certification
- c. Fire risk assessment and certification
- d. Water/Legionella testing and certification
- e. Asbestos identification and risk assessment
- f. EPC assessment and certification

CBC do not have a comprehensive, supported Property (Asset) Management System for their housing property portfolio.

In addition, there are many proposed changes to housing/property legislation and it is key to have a robust, supported system able to support any future changes ensuring CBC remains compliant.

### 3.3 Commercial Case

CBCs failure to maintain its homes and commercial properties and comply with legislation could result in a poor service being offered to tenants, loss of reputation and adverse legal implications.

A robust system is required to effectively manage CBCs assets to ensure the required standards are met for the safety and wellbeing of tenants.

Failure to meet compliance requirements may lead to HSE investigation and prosecution.

### 3.4 Financial Case & Implications



Costs for the new system have been included in the Capital Programme budget over a 5 year period.

3.5 Legal Case & data protection implications

Due to the nature of the data held in the system, there are data protection implications. Information stored in the system may imply special category data about the occupant, for example, information about disability adaptations or contact details for a carer can imply some health information. It is important that the platform this data is held in is suitably protected to ensure our data protection requirements are met.

A security and data protection risk assessment of any new system will be needed to ensure that appropriate technical and organisational measures are in place to protect council data.

3.6 Operational / Technical Case

See section 3.2 above.

3.7 Human Resources Implications

*Consult HR at an early stage.*

3.8 Consultation

Stakeholders in CBC Housing and Commercial Properties have been engaged in setting the requirements for Housing/Commercial Property (Asset) Management, the evaluation of third-party Property (Asset) Management Systems against those requirements and the recommendation for CBC's future Housing and potentially Commercial Properties Property (Asset) Management System.

3.9 Equalities impact assessment

The implementation of a modern Asset Management System will not impact on equality.

Members of the public will not directly access the Asset Management System.

There may be a positive impact for disability and long-term conditions in the improved management of the maintenance of adaptations and equipment, eg stairlifts



## **4.0 Improvement Options**

- 4.1 **Do nothing** - retain the current system and upgrade to the latest version and implement for Commercial Properties.

As CBC pay annual support & maintenance for the current system they are entitled to upgrade to the latest version, but it is end of life and will be unsupported from September 2021 except for on a “best endeavors” basis by the IT provider.

This option is not recommended as it would leave CBC with an essential business system that is not fully supported.

- 4.2 **Option 1** – implement the Asset Management for CBC Housing with the option to implement for Commercial Properties at a later date.

This is an established product and The IT provider are developing the Asset Management module(s) for this product to replace the current system. This development is currently taking place, however, this system will not have all the functionality to satisfy CBCs requirements until 2022.

This system, although from the same vendor as the current system, will be an implementation, not an upgrade, however the IT provider are investigating how they can assist with the migration from the current system to the new system.

The new system will be stand alone and to ensure “one version of the truth” will need to be interfaced with other CBC business systems, eg current Housing system; these interfaces maybe complex and costly to develop and maintain.

This system will require interfaces to third parties used by CBC for compliance certification.

Option 1 Asset Management is a good system and able to satisfy CBCs Property (Asset) Management requirements for Housing and Commercial Properties, but this option is not recommended by the Service Areas as CBCs Housing Management System is provider by another supplier and this system would need interfaces to this other Housing system to satisfy CBCs Property (Asset) Management requirements and give a seamless user experience. In addition, CBC ICT have a strategy of ensuring simplicity of business systems and the introduction of multiple, possibly complex interfaces and their continued maintenance does not support that strategy.



- 4.3 **Option 2** – implement Housing Asset Management for CBC Housing with the option to implement for Commercial Properties at a later date.

This system is CBCs Housing Management System of choice. It is an established product and CBCs version has recently been migrated to the cloud and upgraded to the latest supported version. CBC currently use multiple modules and it is currently used by numerous CBC Service Areas including Allocations, Rents, Neighbourhoods, Repairs, Call Centre and Asset Management & Planned Works.

Asset Management is a new module for the current Housing system and some aspects/functionality are still in development for future releases; it also will not have the functionality of the current Asset Management system until 2022.

The Asset Management module is fully integrated with the other existing Housing modules supporting “one version of the truth” without the need for developing or maintaining interfaces.

Option 2 Housing Asset Management is a new modern system able to satisfy CBCs Property (Asset) Management requirements for Housing and Commercial Properties and is recommended by the Service Areas as it will give a fully integrated Housing Management System and supports “one version of the truth”. In addition, as it is fully integrated with the current Housing system it supports CBC ICT strategy of system simplification.

Option 2 Housing Asset Management, as Option 1, will require interfaces to third parties used by CBC for compliance certification.

## **5.0 Expected Benefits (financial and non-financial)**

### **5.1 Benefits;**

The benefits of this project include operational risk avoidance and compliance; CBCs failure to maintain its homes and commercial properties and comply with legislation could result in;

- d. a poor service being offered to tenants,
- e. loss of reputation and
- f. adverse legal implications, including HSE investigation and prosecution

A Property (Asset) Management System fully integrated with CBCs Housing Management System, Option 2, would allow the benefits of “one version of the truth” and provide accurate and timely management



information for rapid decision making in a supported, robust system with provision for disaster recovery.

A robust system to effectively manage CBCs housing assets will assist in ensuring the required standards are met for the safety and wellbeing of tenants.

A modern interfaced/integrated Property (Asset) Management System will lead to a reduction in unexpected repairs in favour of planned repairs generating greater value for money and improved customer satisfaction.

A fully integrated system with readily available tenant and/or property information will allow an improved tenant experience and satisfaction, including contributing to the tenant participation and consultation element of the Fire Safety Act 2021 and Building Safety Bill.

There are many proposed changes to housing legislation and it is key to have a robust, supported system able to support any future changes ensuring CBC remains compliant.

The efficiency gains, whilst unlikely to result in the reduction of staff, will improve the speed, accuracy and performance of the teams.

In addition, the Asset Management system will be hosted giving the following benefits;

- The system would be hosted in a more resilient environment with multiple servers and (if the contract includes this) multiple locations.
- Access to the system can be made available from anywhere rather than relying on initially accessing the Councils network (if the contract includes this) and so does not rely on being on the corporate network.
- Access can be made easier using Single Sign-on technologies
- If the system is hosted in the software vendors environment, they are responsible for the software, the server platform and access to the system making software and hardware upgrades far easier.

## **6.0 Work Schedule**

- 6.1 CBCs current Housing Asset Management System will not be supported after September 2021; the aim is to implement the new



Property (Asset) Management System as soon as possible to mitigate the risk of Keystone support issues from September 2021.

The work schedule will be detailed during further definition activities with the selected vendor.

## 7.0 Financial Appraisal

7.1 Summary of 5-year cost options based on vendor indicative costs for both system;

Vendor & System	Service Ty	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	Cost Type
Current system	S&M	£17,040	£17,040	£17,040	£17,040	£17,040	£85,202	Revenue
IT Provider 1	Purchase	£162,290	£0	£0	£0	£0	£162,290	Capital
	S&M	£41,330	£41,330	£41,330	£41,330	£41,330	£206,650	Revenue
	<b>Overall To</b>	<b>£203,620</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£368,940</b>	<b>Overall</b>
IT Provider 2	Purchase	£250,291	£0	£0	£0	£0	£250,291	Capital
	Annual Co	£64,036	£61,036	£61,036	£61,036	£61,036	£308,182	Revenue
	<b>Overall To</b>	<b>£314,327</b>	<b>£61,036</b>	<b>£61,036</b>	<b>£61,036</b>	<b>£61,036</b>	<b>£558,473</b>	<b>Overall</b>
IT Provider 2	Purchase	£250,291	£0	£0	£0	£0	£250,291	Capital
	Annual Co	£61,774	£58,774	£58,774	£58,774	£58,774	£296,870	Revenue
	<b>Overall To</b>	<b>£312,065</b>	<b>£58,774</b>	<b>£58,774</b>	<b>£58,774</b>	<b>£58,774</b>	<b>£547,161</b>	<b>Overall</b>

**Note:** inflation is not included

A quote has been requested from the IT provider, the vendor of the recommended Property (Asset) Management system.

7.2 Existing Asset Management System Current Costs

Support & maintenance costs currently being paid annually are;

Item	Cost	Cost Type
Annual Support & Maintenance	£5,857.99	Revenue
Annual Support & Maintenance	£1,423.45	Revenue
Annual Support & Maintenance	£1,767.36	Revenue
Annual Support & Maintenance	£1,951.70	Revenue
Annual Support & Maintenance	£2,754.13	Revenue
Annual Support & Maintenance	£1,522.65	Revenue
MINI & Support	£1,763.02	Revenue
Total per Annum	£17,040.30	Revenue





### 7.3 Option 1 Asset Management Indicative Costs

The third-party purchase, implementation and BAU indicative costs for Option 1 are;

Item	Purchase Price	Professional Services
1 Current system Health Check & Evaluation	£0	£4,500
2 Option 1 (incl. migration of licences from Keystone)	£28,000	£50,500
3 Risk Management Module	£12,000	£23,900
4 Web Services API's	£0	£0
5 Contractor Portal	£13,500	£3,700
6 Hosting	£0	£0
<b>Housing Total</b>	<b>£53,500</b>	<b>£82,600</b>
7 Addition of CBC Commercial Assets	£7,790	£18,400
<b>Housing &amp; Commercial Total</b>	<b>£61,290</b>	<b>£101,000</b>
<b>Cost Type</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Capital</b>

**Note:** If all modules are purchased at once there may be a discount available

- **Item 1** - Health check is an advisory service to ensure the current system/CBC is ready to move to Option 1
- **Item 2** – The existing system annual support & maintenance charge will continue with Option 1.
- **Item 3** – API's are provided free with Option 1 Asset Management. The IT provider will set up the limited HMS integration to match that available through the current system as part of the migration to Option 1, however, CBC can utilise the wider API's as they see fit. If the IT provider resources are required for the extra API's, these will be a separate cost.
- **Item 4** - API's are free of charge if taken with Option 1.
- **Item 6** – Option 1 hosting costs include 2 x App Servers, 1 x SQL Server, server support and maintenance and 2 x application upgrades per year



- **Item 7** – This relates to the licence uplift and services required to add all of CBC’s Commercial Properties assets (1,200) into Option 1.
- **Items 2, 3 & 5** – the professional services are fixed cost

The costs over 5 years are;

Item	Service Ty	Year 1	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals	Cost Type
1 Current System Health Check & Evaluation (incl. Data Cleanse)	Purchase I	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Capital
	Prof. Servi	£4,500	£0	£0	£0	£4,500	Capital
	S&M	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Revenue
2 Option 1 Asset Management (incl. migration of licences from current syst)	Purchase I	£28,000	£0	£0	£0	£28,000	Capital
	Prof. Servi	£50,500	£0	£0	£0	£50,500	Capital
	S&M	£17,040	£17,040	£17,040	£17,040	£85,200	Revenue
3 Risk Management Module	Purchase I	£12,000	£0	£0	£0	£12,000	Capital
	Prof. Servi	£23,900	£0	£0	£0	£23,900	Capital
	S&M	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£10,000	Revenue
4 Web Services API's	Purchase I	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Capital
	Prof. Servi	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Capital
	S&M	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Revenue
5 Contractor Portal	Purchase I	£13,500	£0	£0	£0	£13,500	Capital
	Prof. Servi	£3,700	£0	£0	£0	£3,700	Capital
	S&M	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£12,500	Revenue
6 Hosting	Purchase I	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Capital
	Prof. Servi	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Capital
	S&M	£18,000	£18,000	£18,000	£18,000	£90,000	Revenue
<b>Housing Total</b>	Purchase I	<b>£136,100</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£136,100</b>	<b>Capital</b>
	S&M	<b>£39,540</b>	<b>£39,540</b>	<b>£39,540</b>	<b>£39,540</b>	<b>£197,700</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
	Overall To	<b>£175,640</b>	<b>£39,540</b>	<b>£39,540</b>	<b>£39,540</b>	<b>£333,800</b>	<b>Overall</b>
6 Addition of CBC Commercial Assets	Purchase I	£7,790	£0	£0	£0	£7,790	Capital
	Prof. Servi	£18,400	£0	£0	£0	£18,400	Capital
	S&M	£1,790	£1,790	£1,790	£1,790	£8,950	Revenue
<b>Housing &amp; Commercial Total</b>	Purchase I	<b>£162,290</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£162,290</b>	<b>Capital</b>
	S&M	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£206,650</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
	Overall To	<b>£203,620</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£41,330</b>	<b>£368,940</b>	<b>Overall</b>

Note: Inflation has not been taken into account in the above 5 years cost analysis

As Option 1 Property (Asset) Management indicative costs only includes existing interfaces as in the current system to the current Housing system additional interfaces would be required to give the seamless, real-time user experience with “one version of the truth” as required by CBC.

For illustrative purposes, if 20 pieces of key data needed to be exchanged via interfaces and if it took 2 – 5 days to create each API and each piece of key data required may need 2 or 3 API to trigger at a budget for £1250 a day in professional services, then;



Range	Triggers	Days/API	Days/Key Data	Cost/Key Data	Cost for 20 pieces of key data
Upper	5	3	15	£18,750	£375,000
Average	3.5	2.5	8.75	£10,938	£218,750
Lower	2	2	4	£5,000	£100,000

In addition, there would be a cost to maintain the interfaces especially during upgrades of the current Housing and the Property (Asset) Management System when changes may impact the functionality of the interfaces or when changes to legislation or other factors necessitates that additional information is exchanged.

#### 7.4 Option 2 Housing Asset Management Quoted Costs

The third-party purchase, implementation and BAU quoted costs for Option 2 Housing Asset Management are below over 5 years with and without Contractor Mobile licences;

September 2021

Licences Include: 19 Assets Mobile, 47 Risk Mobile, 39 Servicing Mobile, 114 Servicing Scheduler, Contractor Mobile

Item	Cost Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
1 Perpetual licence - New Asset Management Software	Purchase Price	51,058.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,058.81 Capex
	Prof. Services	161,148.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	161,148.75 Capex
	S&M	14,764.72	14,764.72	14,764.72	14,764.72	14,764.72	73,823.60 Opex
2 SaaS Licence: Assets Mobile, Risk Mobile, Scheduler	Annual Cost	37,771.71	37,771.71	37,771.71	37,771.71	37,771.71	188,858.55 Opex
3 Term Licence: Assets Energy Module and the Jaspersoft Licence for Dashboards:	Annual Cost	9,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	35,500.00 Opex
4 Cloud Hosting	Set-up	1,333.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,333.33 Capex
	S&M	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	10,000.00 Opex
<b>Total</b>		<b>277,577.32</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>521,723.04</b>
5 Third Party Integration	Prof. Services	36,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,750.00 Capex
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>314,327.32</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>61,036.43</b>	<b>558,473.04</b>

Note: Inflation has not been taken into account in the above 5 years cost analysis

250,290.89 Capex  
308,182.15 Opex

September 2021

Licences Include: 19 Assets Mobile, 47 Risk Mobile, 39 Servicing Mobile, 114 Servicing Scheduler, No Contractor Mobile

Item	Cost Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
1 Perpetual licence - New Asset Management Software	Purchase Price	51,058.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,058.81 Capex
	Prof. Services	161,148.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	161,148.75 Capex
	S&M	14,764.72	14,764.72	14,764.72	14,764.72	14,764.72	73,823.60 Opex
2 SaaS Licence: Assets Mobile, Risk Mobile, Scheduler	Annual Cost	35,509.32	35,509.32	35,509.32	35,509.32	35,509.32	177,546.60 Opex
3 Term Licence: Assets Energy Module and the Jaspersoft Licence for Dashboards:	Annual Cost	9,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	35,500.00 Opex
4 Cloud Hosting	Set-up	1,333.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,333.33 Capex
	S&M	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	10,000.00 Opex
<b>Total</b>		<b>275,314.93</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>510,411.09</b>
5 Third Party Integration	Prof. Services	36,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,750.00 Capex
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>312,064.93</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>58,774.04</b>	<b>547,161.09</b>

Note: Inflation has not been taken into account in the above 5 years cost analysis

250,290.89 Capex  
296,870.20 Opex

- **Item 1** – The Asset Management Module purchase price is discounted by 65% (verbal confirmation from the IT provider)
- **Item 1** – 212 days of Professional Services for implementation, configuration and project management – fixed cost.
- **Item 1** – The support & maintenance (S&M) for the Asset Management Module is 29% of the discounted price; The IT provider have verbally



confirmed that S&M is usually 25% of the full price and it cannot be reduced further.

- **Item 2** – Asset Mobile, Risk Mobile & Scheduler licences are paid as an annual subscription for SaaS (software as a service)
- **Item 3** – The Asset Energy Module and Licence are paid as an annual subscription for SaaS (software as a service)
- **Item 4** – The cloud hosting allows for 500GB of storage.
- **Item 4** – Professional Services to set up the hosted storage and its annual S&M charge.
- **Item 5** – 52.5 days of Professional Services, fixed cost, to set up interfaces as below;

Bespoke interface 1 - Risk Hub  
Bespoke interface 2 - pdf certificates  
Bespoke interface 3 - ZetaSafe  
Bespoke interface 4 - water compliance contractors  
Bespoke interface 5 - legionella risk assessment  
Bespoke interface 6 - Armstrong York Portal  
Bespoke interface 7 - external asbestos  
Bespoke interface 8 - tenant caution list  
Passing of documents out to the Contractor Portal

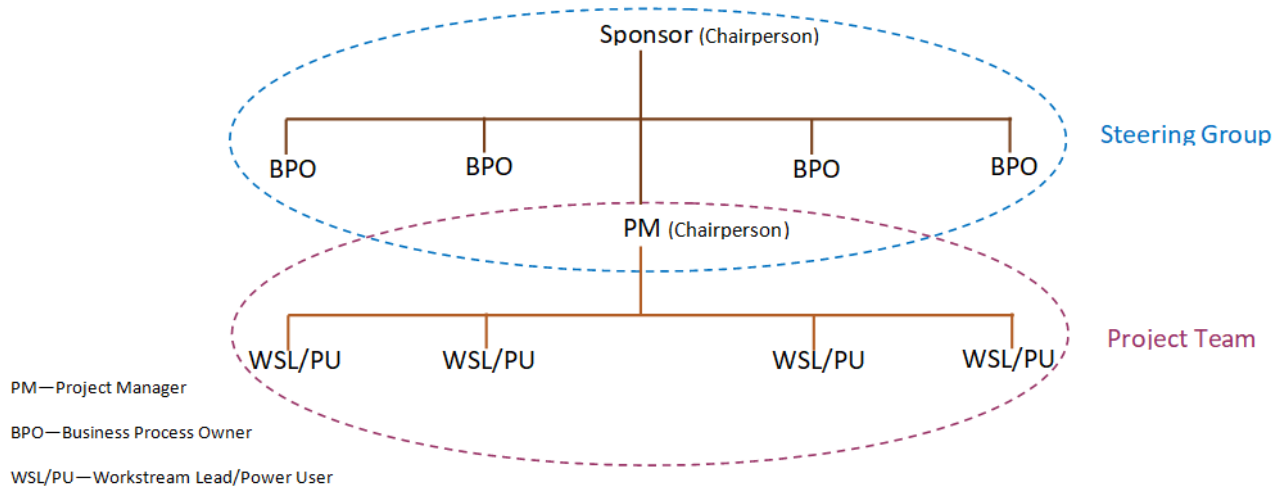
## 8.0 Key Risks and Actions

8.1 Risks associated with this project include:

- There is a short project timeline due to the current support ending September 2021; decision on priority of required resources for project activities verses the appetite for the risk of lack of support
- CBC colleague's availability to support project activities; resource planning and backfill of identified CBC colleagues (Workstream Leads/Power Users) who will be part of the project team
- CBC ICT availability to support project activities; resource planning and "red-circling" project resource
- Data cleansing may identify incomplete/gaps in data required for the new Asset Management System; data may need to be manually sourced/completed for the new Asset Management System
- Data migration from the legacy current Asset Management System to the new Asset Management System; technical review of current data identifying what can be migrated electronically and what will need to be manually input/updated. This has been identified as a major problem area in previous implementations.

## 9.0 Project Team

9.1 The project structure is identified below;



## 9.2 Illustrative Project Timeline

An indicative project timeline for illustrative purposes is;

Task	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10
Workshops	█									
Configuration		█	█							
Interface Development		█	█							
Data Tasks (incl cleanse, collection, creation)			█	█						
Power User Training				█						
User Acceptance Testing					█	█	█			
User Training (Prep & Delivery)							█	█	█	
Go-live Activities									█★	
Close Support										█



A detailed implementation/delivery plan will be developed with the Property (Asset) Management vendor of choice, option 2.

### 9.3 Indicative Project Resources

A resource plan will be fully developed with the Property (Asset) Management vendor of choice, however indicative Service Area resources for the illustrative plan in 9.2 are;

Service Area	CBC Colleague	FTE	Period
Asset Management & Programmed Works	Paul Stepto	50%	10 months
	tbc	30%	10 months
Repairs	tbc	30%	10 months
	tbc	30%	10 months
ICT Systems Mgnt	tbc	40%	10 months
ICT Networks	tbc	50%	10 days

**Note:** there will be peaks & troughs in the time required for project tasks during the project lifecycle

A backfill strategy for Service Area colleagues assigned to the project will be required to ensure that they have sufficient time to complete both project and BAU tasks.

In addition, a Project Manager and Business Analyst will be required for a one-year period to support the implementation;

Project Manager	£46,000
Business Analyst	£38,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£84,000</b>

## 10.0 Role Descriptions

### 10.1 Project Sponsor

- Project Owner
- Owner of the project vision
- Chair of Steering Meeting
- Budget Owner
- Ensure sufficient resources/colleagues are available as required/planned to complete project tasks
- Mitigation of Risks

### 10.2 Business Process Owner

- Owner of business process/area directly impacted by project
- Owner of project delivery for their area
- Reinforcing Sponsor/Advocate for the Project



- Regular 121 with their WSL
- Ensure sufficient resources/colleagues are available as required/planned to complete project tasks
- Removal of project obstacles and blockages in their area
- Mitigation of Risks
- Delivery of project benefit(s)

### 10.3 **Workstream Lead/Power User (WSL/PU)**

- Detailed functional knowledge of their business area
- Project decision making for their business area
- Completion of tasks as planned, including organisation and leadership of their project team colleagues if any
- Resolution of project issues
- Communication of project progress and activities (BPO & Colleagues)
- Change Activities
- Testing, including UAT (user acceptance testing)
- Training Needs Analysis
- User Training (Train the Trainer)
- User Coaching
- First line functional support during & post project

## 11.0 **Recommendation**

The recommendation by the Service Area is to approve the implementation of Option 2 Housing Asset Management to replace CBC Housings legacy current Property (Asset) Management system.

This page is intentionally left blank



## Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool (v1.36)

Developed by Chesterfield Borough Council 2021

Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) is taking the problem of climate change very seriously, and declared a climate emergency in July 2019, with the stated goal of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. As part of our response to climate change, the council committed to introduce climate change impact assessments for all reports where decisions are made. (Climate Change Action Plan item 34). This means that if you develop or change a policy, project, service, function, or strategy, you need to identify the impact of the activity regarding the climate. Our preferred method for doing this is by conducting a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA). This is similar to a risk assessment, or an equalities impact assessment: it is a structured report showing:

- What effects our activities have on the climate (mainly through our emissions of greenhouse gasses) and what we are doing to reduce these effects
- What impacts a changing climate may have on our services and functions and what actions we will take to become more resilient and less vulnerable.

For further information on how to use this tool, see the guidance notes and video tutorials at:

<https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/climate-change-impact-assessment-tool>

This climate change impact assessment tool has been developed by Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) for internal use. While CBC are happy to share this tool free of charge, we make no assertions about its usefulness, reliability, or fitness for purpose. This tool is supplied "as is" with no warranty of any kind under a Creative Commons attributional, non-commercial license.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>



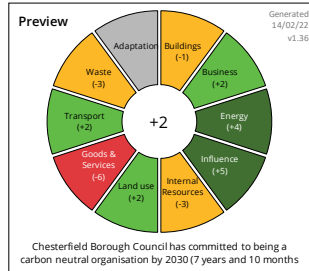
It would be helpful to us if you could send us a copy of any revised or altered version you create and let us know how you are planning to use it. This helps us to gauge the impact of our work and justify similar projects. Please send information via [climate@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:climate@chesterfield.gov.uk)

# Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool (v1.36)

Developed by Chesterfield Borough Council 2021

**Report Name** Housing Capital Programme 2022/23  
**Report date** 03/12/2021  
**Report author** Vanessa Watson  
**Project Notes** Housing Capital Programme including new build, refurbishments, adaptations and programmed works.

**Export filename** *Housing Capital Programme 2022/23*.png



Generated 14/02/22 v1.36  
[Copy to clipboard](#)  
[Save to desktop](#)  
[Copy alt-text](#)

Category	Impact	Notes / justification for score / existing work (see guidance sheet or attached notes for more information)	Score (-5 to +5)
Buildings	Building construction	Large building programme	-5
Buildings	Building use	Adding ev points, insulation etc.	+2
Buildings	Green / blue infrastructure	Small amount of landscaping / suds / habitat creation, net biodiversity gain	+2
Business	Developing green businesses	Local contactors - will include new green technologies	+2
Business	Marketable skills & training		
Business	Sustainability in business		
Energy	Local renewable generation capacity	solar panels where appropriate	+1
Energy	Reducing energy demand	good insulation, low energy light fittings heat reclamation	+2
Energy	Switching away from fossil fuels	no GCH or gas cookers	+1
Influence	Communication & engagement	PR and storytelling re energy efficiency etc	+2
Influence	Wider influence		
Influence	Working with communities	consultations and contractors community events	+2
Influence	Working with partners	improve ability to work with partners on issues like fuel poverty	+1
Internal Resources	Material / infrastructure requirement	Major internal resource use	-3
Internal Resources	Staff time requirement		
Internal Resources	Staff travel requirement		
Internal Resources	External funding		
Land use	Carbon storage	small amount of tree planting	+1
Land use	Improving biodiversity adaptation	small amount of meadow planting	+1
Land use	Natural flood management	SUDS - no net change	
Goods & Services	Food & Drink		
Goods & Services	Products	building supplies	-5
Goods & Services	Single-use plastic	packaging	-1
Goods & Services	Services		
Transport	Decarbonising vehicles		
Transport	Improving infrastructure	EV points, active travel included in design	+2
Transport	Supporting people to use active travel		
Waste	End of life disposal / recycling	Steps to recycle materials where possible	+1
Waste	Waste volume	short term waste from building projects	-4
Adaptation	Drought vulnerability		
Adaptation	Flooding vulnerability		
Adaptation	Heatwave vulnerability		
Other	Other 1		
Other	Other 2		
Other	Other 3		
Other	Other 4		

## Cheat Sheet

1. We are looking at the effects of **this** decision (not our past performance, or actions that represent future decisions)
2. We are looking at the **whole impact** of the decision (regardless of geographical location or organisational boundary)
3. We are only looking at the **climate impact** - other environmental impacts, and social, economic, wellbeing measures are recorded elsewhere.
4. We need to stay **accessible**. Click on the "copy alt-text" button above and then paste the result into the alt text box for your infographic in word. [Click here for a guide](#)
5. Your report must include some explanation as well as the infographic. **If the decision will have consequences past 2030 you must say so in your report.**
6. While there are no other specific rules for writing the summary, some of the things you may want to discuss include:
  - What are the biggest costs and benefits of this activity in terms of the climate?
  - Are there things that we will have to include in future iterations of this action – do you have a recommendation?
  - Are there measures already included in your plan to minimise the costs and maximise benefits with respect to climate change?
  - Are there other costs and benefits which are outside the scope of the CCIA? For example, does the project have high value in terms of economic or social benefit which outweighs the climate cost? Is this a valuable climate action which has a cost elsewhere?
  - What are your ambitions for this activity – what is technically feasible and what do you think we should be aiming for?
  - If we were to carry out the activity in the best possible way for the climate, what would that look like?
  - What method(s) if any are available to monitor our climate performance on this activity? This might include internal data (electricity bills, mileage claims etc.) or an external verification process. Is this feasible? If not, why not?
  - What are the constraints which stop you doing more? Time, money, expertise, political support, partner buy in, something else?

If you get stuck, contact your friendly local climate change officer

[Click here to go to tutorial on adding alt text](#)

Category	Impact	Notes & examples
Buildings	Building construction	How is the building constructed? Positive impacts would include retrofitting existing buildings rather than demolition and replacement, construction using low carbon materials (e.g. low concrete, additional timber) to high standard (BREEAM [Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method], Passivhaus etc.) the inclusion of high grade insulation, low carbon heating, and microgeneration technologies. Negative impacts would generally be business as usual construction techniques. This is distinct from the building use impact in that it is about the fabric of the building rather than how the building is used. If it is not clear whether an impact should be in this category or the building use category below, simply choose one, and make sure you don't report an item in both categories.
Buildings	Building use	How is the building used? Positive impacts would include encouragement of low-carbon living and travel. This could be provision of bicycle storage, water fountains, recycling bins, automatic lighting, or passive cooling etc. Negative impacts would include removal or omission of one or more of these modifications, or alterations that discourage low carbon use (removal of cycle storage for example). If it is not clear whether an impact should be in this category or the construction category above, simply choose one, and make sure you don't report an item in both categories.
Buildings	Green / blue infrastructure	This includes changes to the value of green / blue infrastructure in the built environment (excluding wider land use which is included below). Impacts may include habitat creation within a building (nesting boxes or a green roof for example) the introduction of street trees or sustainable drainage from a development. These are measures which are implemented with good building design but are not necessarily part of the building itself. Negative impacts would include habitat loss, impermeable drainage surfaces etc.
Business	Developing green businesses	Does this activity explicitly support the development of green businesses? This impact covers businesses which are focused on delivering green technologies, research, services etc. It is not simply an existing business implementing incremental changes to established processes and supply chains (which would be counted under sustainability in business below). Examples might be development of a new business installing solar panels, providing energy audits, or manufacturing EV charging points. Negative scores would reflect adverse effects on these businesses.
Business	Marketable skills & training	Does this activity provide training to individuals and businesses to improve their climate change performance, or to developing marketable green skills? For example, this might include land management, waste reduction, low carbon construction, microgeneration technologies etc. Negative effects are unlikely in this category, but could include closure of a local training centre.
Business	Sustainability in business	Does this activity support businesses in applying best practice and sustainable solutions in their existing business model and supply chains? This must be a quantifiable shift in business practice to reduce climate impact (rather than a high score simply because the business is involved in some form of low carbon technology - this would be included under the developing green businesses heading). Examples of this might be successful application to a new certification scheme (FSC, PEFC, ISO 14001 etc.) a switch to a less carbon intensive manufacturing process, successful applications to government decarbonisation schemes etc.
Energy	Local renewable generation capacity	Does the activity include changes to local capacity for renewable electricity heat generation? This might include solar PV panels, heat pumps, biomass boilers, wind turbines, micro-hydro etc. Negative effects would include decommissioning of local capacity, e.g. building on an existing solar farm.
Energy	Reducing energy demand	Does the activity change overall energy demand? This might include installation of more efficient systems, or management to allow reduced heating or lighting energy demand. A negative score would represent a net increase in heating or lighting energy demand.
Energy	Switching away from fossil fuels	Does this activity involve an increase or decrease in static fossil fuel technologies (transport is covered later). For example, replacement of an existing gas boiler with a heat pump of an equivalent rating would be a positive score. Installation of new fossil fuel systems represents a negative score in this category (even if they are more efficient than existing systems).
Influence	Communication & engagement	Does this activity increase awareness of climate change, and our actions to address climate change issues? Does it challenge climate change disinformation, and can we back up what we say with good quality published science? Conversely, is this activity embarrassing from a climate point of view? Is there a climate cost to a positive action that we are delivering for other reasons? Is this reasonable and justifiable?
Influence	Wider influence	Does this activity result in us gaining authority on a climate change issue, could we be a clear example to other local authorities, are we leading on this? A negative outcome would be us missing opportunities, failing to engage with the wider conversation, or re-inventing existing work.
Influence	Working with communities	Does this activity help build awareness, willingness, and skills in our communities to address climate change? Does it have a cost or benefit in terms of our relationships with community groups?
Influence	Working with partners	Are we taking steps in this activity to ensure that we are working with partners with similar values to ours in relation to climate change? Is this activity expanding or limiting our work with partners more generally?
Internal resources	Material / infrastructure requirement	Does this activity result in us using more or less of our existing infrastructure, supplies and council resources? Will this have an indirect impact on the climate change impact of other services? Are we taking the appropriate steps to ensure that we are using the minimum necessary resource, and that it is at the highest possible environmental standard? Is there a clear constraint stopping us from doing more?
Internal resources	Staff time requirement	Council emissions are directly influenced by the amount of time members of staff have to work on an activity - does this activity require more staff time or less? What are the indirect effects? Does this mean that another project will have more or less resources?
Internal resources	Staff travel requirement	Does this activity mean that staff will need to travel more or less? Can this be reduced? Can we modify the project to change the mode of transport (public transport, cycling, walking, remote working etc.) if not, why not?
Internal resources	External funding	Are we able to leverage additional support for the activity from external funders? Does this mean we can achieve more than we could originally? Would support for this project preclude support for something else? How can we use external funding to help us reach our climate goals?
Land use	Carbon storage	Does this project result in a net increase or decrease in land carbon storage? This is likely to be directly correlated with the amount of timber (or mature trees) on the site, but may also be affected by peat formation, wetlands, or peat use as a horticultural medium. Remember that trees take a long time to grow (l) so simply replacing a mature tree with a newly planted one would still result in a loss of carbon.
Land use	Improving biodiversity adaptation	Does this activity help or hinder the natural world's ability to cope with climate change? Are we creating, destroying, or modifying habitats? Are we joining up species rich areas or cutting that connectivity? Are there measures we could be taking to minimise the damage of our activities?
Land use	Natural flood management	Is this activity reducing or increasing the risk of flooding due to changes in land use? Rough vegetation, woodland, and artificial flood storage areas will decrease the risk, impermeable surfaces, open ground, and drainage directly into watercourses will increase it. Are there modifications we could make to the activity to improve its performance?
Goods & services	Food & Drink	Are we working to ensure that we specify lower carbon options when we buy in food and drink? Typically, we want to use food that is less land and carbon intensive to produce, process, and transport. This means we should ideally be reducing red meat and dairy consumption, and keeping supply chains as short as possible (i.e. buying locally produced food where possible). How is the food packaged? Is it wrapped in foil or plastic? Are we increasing the quantities we buy, or decreasing?
Goods & services	Products	Are we increasing overall consumption of products or decreasing them? External businesses providing products have their own carbon emissions. Is the product absolutely necessary? Does the supplier have an environmental policy? Is it better than their competitors?
Goods & services	Single-use plastic	We are committed to phasing out single use plastic where possible. Does purchase of this product increase or decrease our reliance on single use plastic? Is there an effective alternative? What does the supplier pack the product in?
Goods & services	Services	Are we increasing overall consumption of services or decreasing them? External businesses providing services have their own carbon emissions. Does this activity increase or decrease our indirect emissions created by relying on these services? Is the service absolutely necessary? Does the supplier have an environmental policy? Is it better than their competitors?
Transport	Decarbonising vehicles	Does this activity increase or decrease the use of fossil-fuelled vehicles?
Transport	Improving infrastructure	Does this activity increase or decrease the opportunities within the borough for low carbon forms of travel? This may include increased provision of paths, cycle storage and repair facilities, lighting on public rights of way etc. Conversely, does this activity make active forms of travel more difficult? Does it divert traffic, or block access, does it result in a net loss of training and facilities.
Transport	Supporting people to use active travel	Does the activity provide support for people to use active forms of travel (mainly cycling and walking). This may include training and improvements to general health and fitness. Removal of any of these services would result in a negative score.
Waste	End of life disposal / recycling	Do you expect this activity to increase or decrease the proportion of waste which is recycled? Does it increase the amount of mixing of otherwise recyclable material? Does it make recycling easier and more efficient?
Waste	Waste volume	Will this activity increase or decrease the total volume of waste?
Adaptation	Drought vulnerability	By 2050 we expect drier summers. This could mean 34% less rain, with watercourses 65% lower than the current average. How vulnerable is the activity to drought?
Adaptation	Flooding vulnerability	By 2050 we expect the biggest rainfall events to be up to 20% more intense than current extremes (peak rainfall intensity). Average winter rainfall may increase by 29% on today's averages. This means that at their highest, the flow in watercourses could be 30% greater than current extremes. How vulnerable is the activity to flooding both from rivers and surface water?
Adaptation	Heatwave vulnerability	By 2050 we expect summer daily maximum temperature may be around 6°C higher compared to average summer temperatures now. Winter daily maximum temperature could be 4°C more than the current average, with the potential for more extreme temperatures, both warmer and colder than present. How vulnerable is the activity to heatwaves?

This page is intentionally left blank

## For publication

### Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – Budget 2022/23 to 2026/27

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Council
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2022 23 February 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Housing
<b>Directorate:</b>	Finance Housing

#### **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To consider the probable outturn for the current financial year.
- 1.2 To consider the draft budget for 2022/23.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet recommends to the full Council that:  
  
The draft estimates for 2022/23 and future years be approved.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 To keep Members informed about the council's current financial standing for the Housing Revenue Account and the budget estimates for 2022/23.

#### **4.0 Report Details**

- 4.1 Background

- 4.1.2 The Council is required to keep a separate account for its activities as a housing landlord. This is called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The HRA is closely governed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by Determinations made under this Act by DLUHC. This account is ring-fenced and does not receive and subsidy from the Government or from Council Tax, and nor is it allowed to subsidise the General Fund.
- 4.1.3 As a result of the introduction of self-financing in April 2012 the council is required to produce a 30-year HRA Business Plan that is financially viable, that delivers a reasonable standard for tenants and maintains at least the minimum Decent Homes Standard.
- 4.1.4 Self-financing has, in the main, improved the financial position of the HRA. We can determine our own financial future and can also borrow to finance improvements. Initially the level of borrowing was limited by the Government (the £156 million debt ceiling for Chesterfield). However, the borrowing cap was removed by the Government in October 2018 to encourage councils to build new homes. Any extra borrowing must be affordable within the HRA 30-year Business Plan.
- 4.1.5 For 2022/23, 2023/24 & 2024/25 social housing rents will increase by CPI plus 1%, as set out in the Government's National Social Rent Policy which came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, thereafter it has been assumed increases will be at CPI only.
- 4.1.6 On 18th January 2022, Cabinet considered the rent and service charge levels for 2022/23 and agreed a rent increase of 4.1% (based on the latest Government policy highlighted above) and various service charge increases. These changes have been built into the 2022/23 budget forecast.
- 4.1.7 Rent increases are necessary to ensure that the objectives as set out in the Council Plan can be achieved. These objectives include building new Council homes, ensuring that 100% of Council homes will meet Decent Homes standard and carrying out major improvements to Council homes such as new kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems and windows.

## 4.2 Information Included

- 4.2.1 The Statutory HRA Operating Account is summarised at Annexe 1
- 4.2.2 The following budget assumptions, as approved by Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> November as part of the Council's financial strategy, have been used to produce the draft Housing Revenue Account Budgets.

- Rental Income is increased annually by CPI plus 1% - for April 2022/23 rent has been increased by 4.1%
- Water Charges 2% annually
- Energy Inflation as advised by the Facilities Maintenance Manager
- Pay awards at 2% for 2022/23 onwards

4.2.3 Due to the ongoing situation regarding Covid-19, there is an increased cost pressure around the cost of some raw materials. As a result, the revised repairs budget for 2021/22 has been increased by BCIS index of 3.99%. A further contingency of 5% has been included to account for extra costs relating to the pandemic. For 2022/23 and future years the budget has been increased by CPI.

The repairs programme will be reviewed regularly during the financial year and any amendments will be built into the revised budgets. It is expected that a stock condition survey will be carried out in 2022/23 which will mean the levels of repairs per unit can be estimated more accurately in the following years.

#### 4.3 Financial Position at Year End 2021/22

4.3.1 Based on existing policy and the assumptions already outlined, HRA balances for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 22 are estimated as follows. (See Annexe 1 for full details)

	<b>Original Estimate 2021/22 £000</b>	<b>Revised Estimate 2021/22 £000</b>
(Surplus)/Deficit in year on HRA Services	(4,368)	(4,899)
Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue	5,740	14,579
Financing of debt repayment	1,897	1,897
Transfer to Major Repairs Reserve	2,611	2,545
<b>Decrease in the HRA Balance</b>	<b>5,880</b>	<b>14,121</b>
Estimated balance 1.4.22	(9,286)	(20,460)
Estimated balance 31.3.22	(3,405)	(6,339)

4.3.2 As can be seen in the table above, the original 2021/22 budget forecasted a reduction in the HRA balance of £5.9m. The revised 2021/22 budget shows a reduction in the HRA balance of £14.1m, a difference of £8.2m. The revised estimate includes the approved carried forward capital works of £9.6m which were not completed in 2020/21 due to the impact of coronavirus. An increase in revenue funding of £8.8m is included in the revenue budget to fund these works.

Repairs budgets have increased by £0.5m for the increased costs of some raw materials. The movement on bad debts provision has been reduced by £1.3m as this was over provided for in the previous financial year.

4.3.3 As approved as part of the Council's financial strategy (Cabinet, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020), in September 2020 OSD moved to a cost recovery model where the HRA meets in full the costs of providing the service rather than payments being made in accordance with the current schedule of rates. Although there has been a reduction in the number of repairs carried out due to the ongoing problems caused by Covid19, any repairs budget savings have been offset by the additional costs being incurred in working in a Covid19 secure way.

#### 4.4 Financial Strategy 2022/23

4.4.1 The financial strategy for the HRA is to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget which is self-financing in the longer term, and which reflects both the requirements of tenants and the strategic vision and priorities of the council.

4.4.2 The HRA cannot run at an overall deficit and risks will continue to be identified and managed effectively. A minimum balance of 3.4m (inflated yearly) is maintained to avoid the risk of a negative balance in the event of an exceptional cost arising.

4.4.3 It is important to note that the budget projections shown in this report assume that the loss of rental income through bad debts (rent arrears written off) and void (empty) properties continues to be minimised through robust management procedures. Should these losses increase above the assumptions contained in the budget there is the real risk that HRA balances will be lower than forecast.

4.4.4 The HRA Summary Operating Account at Annexe 1 shows that the HRA balance is anticipated to fall to £6.3m in 2022/23 due to the impact of



increased capital spend. Full details are contained in the HRA capital programme budget report elsewhere on the agenda.

#### 4.5 Initial Budget Forecast 2022/23

- 4.5.1 The table below summarises the financial position for 2022/23 and compares to the original forecast for 2021/22  
(Full details are shown at Annexe 1)

	<b>Original Estimate 2021/22 £000</b>	<b>Original Estimate 2022/23 £000</b>
(Surplus)/Deficit in year on HRA Services	(4,368)	(4,916)
Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue	5,740	3,405
Financing of debt repayment	1,897	1,869
Transfer to Major Repairs Reserve	2,611	2,545
<b>Decrease in the HRA Balance</b>	<b>5,880</b>	<b>2,902</b>
Estimated balance 1.4.22	(9,286)	(6,339)
Estimated balance 31.3.22	(3,405)	(3,436)

The original 2021/22 budget forecast showed a reduction in the HRA balance of £5.9m. The original 2022/23 budget shows a decrease in the HRA balance of £2.9m, a difference of £3.0m. Much of the variation relates to a reduction in direct revenue financing of the capital programme of £2.3m.

The surplus on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account for 2022/23 is £4.9m which is an increase of £0.5m. Much of this surplus relates to an increased budget for income of £1.3m.

Management and maintenance costs and the HRA's share of corporate and democratic support increased overall by £0.8m. Included within this increase is the cost of the phase 1 reshape of housing, the additional estimated cost of increases in raw materials and the reduction in the movement of bad debt provision, as well as other inflation increases relating to pay, energy, and facilities costs.

It can be seen from the table above that the HRA balance stays within the parameters set of maintaining a minimum working balance of £3.4m.

#### 4.6 Housing Directorate Reshape

- 4.6.1 As an ambitious council there is a need to continue to strive to make improvements in the way that the council is managed, services are operated and value for money achieved, within the overall budget envelope available to the Council.
- 4.6.2 The housing reshape is to be delivered in two phases. Phase one covers the housing management, careline and statutory housing functions. The associated cost of £0.75m of the phase one reshape has been factored into the HRA budgets, medium term financial plan and the 30-year business plan. The Business Plan shows the cost of the restructure is affordable over both the medium and long-term forecasts. It is envisaged that once the restructure is fully implemented the additional investment in the service will achieve future savings and efficiencies. Further details of the Housing Directorate Reshape is set out in the report to Cabinet on 22 February 2022.
- 4.6.3 The second phase will cover the asset management, capital programme and operational property functions. Phase two is expected to commence in Spring 2022.

#### 4.7 30-year Business Plan

- 4.7.1 There is a requirement for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan to forecast over a 30-year period. Here at Chesterfield our Business Plan is forecast over 40 years to see whether the vision and ambitions for social housing in Chesterfield are affordable and viable. The parameters of the HRA are:
- To ensure that the HRA Reserve Balance does not go into a negative balance (legal requirement to stay positive)
  - HRA loans can be repaid as they fall due (or be refinanced)
  - Interest on loans is affordable within the annual operating surplus
  - A minimum standard of the Decent Homes Standard of investment is maintained
  - All provisions of the White Paper on Social Housing are resourced to ensure that customer standards are achievable.
- 4.7.2 The business plan measures the expected cashflows coming into the Housing Service and those going out on annual basis. The business plan

combines the HRA which accounts for revenue cashflows and the capital programme which provides the investment in the existing stock and the development aspirations of the Council. Taking the two together, we are able to estimate whether there are sufficient revenue balances to fund both revenue and capital plans.

- 4.7.3 Where total spend on revenue and capital in a year exceeds the expected income from both revenue and capital receipts, and reserves have been used, then the Council will either:
- Need to borrow
  - Scale back spending either on service provision or the capital programme.

- 4.7.4 The Business Plan has been refreshed based on the assumptions set out in this report including the increased costs of the Housing Directorate Reshape. The forecasts for the HRA show that the HRA balance can be maintained at or above the minimum set by the Council and that borrowing is affordable and can be repaid in line with current expectations.

## **5 Alternative options**

- 5.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

## **6 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

- 6.1 To provide quality housing and improve housing conditions across the borough.

## **7 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

- 7.1 Financial and value for money implications are detailed in section 4.

## **8 Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 8.1 This budget is set under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by Determinations made under this Act by DLUHC.

## **9 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

- 9.1 There are no human resource implications to consider in this report.

## **10 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

10.1 There are a number of significant risks inherent in any budget forecasting exercise and the risks increase as the period covered increases. The key budget risks for the HRA are detailed below:

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The Impact of Covid 19 on bad debts	Medium	High	Monitoring of debt levels and collection rates. Ensuring sufficient provision	Medium	High
The Impact of Universal credit on bad debts	Medium	High	Monitoring of debt levels and ensuring sufficient provision	Medium	High
Ability to deliver the capital programme and maintain Decent Homes standard	High	High	A 5-year programme of works will allow sufficient time for growth in the workforce. To meet existing demand and backlog.  Regular meetings with both internal & external contractors to identify any slippage at the	Medium	Low

			earliest stage and to put in place mitigating actions to prevent any further slippage.		
Repayment of Right to Buy receipts if the new build programme is not completed as planned	High	Medium	New legislation means repayments of right to buy receipts have been extended to be used 5 years from the financial year end. The planned development uses all of the existing forecasted receipts over the next 5 years.	Low	Low
Future limits on rent increases	High	Medium	Increasing rents within the maximum allowance whilst possible will protect income for future years.	Medium	Medium
Future economic changes	Medium	Medium	Maintaining the adequate working balance of	Medium	Medium

			£3.4m. Budget monitoring to identify cost pressures.		
--	--	--	---	--	--

## **11 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing**

11.1 There are no community wellbeing implications to consider in this report.

## **12 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills**

12.1 There are no economy and skills implications to consider in this report.

## **13 Implications for consideration – Climate Change**

13.1 Individual climate change impact assessments are not required for the budget process. These are included as part of the decision-making processes for specific spending options.

## **14 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

14.1 Individual equality and diversity impact assessments are not required for the budget process. These are included as part of the decision-making processes for specific spending options.

### **Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1079</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### **Document information**

<b>Report author</b>	<b>Contact number/email</b>
Rachael Ayre	01246 936275 Rachael.ayre@chesterfield.gov.uk
<b>Annexes to the report</b>	
Annexe 1	Statutory HRA Operating Account

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETS 2021/22 TO 2026/27

## STATUTORY HRA OPERATING ACCOUNT

2020/21 Actual £		2021/22 Original £	2021/22 Revised £	2022/23 Original £	2023/24 Original £	2024/25 Original £	2025/26 Original £	2026/27 Original £
	<b>INCOME</b>							
(35,390,687)	Net Rent	(36,106,910)	(36,104,300)	(37,407,570)	(39,284,360)	(41,472,540)	(41,521,600)	(42,370,970)
(125,558)	Service Charges	(124,420)	(124,420)	(126,420)	(128,420)	(130,920)	(133,420)	(135,920)
(829,625)	Non-Dwelling Rents	(913,280)	(859,380)	(949,930)	(976,240)	(1,003,180)	(1,030,860)	(1,059,300)
(649,347)	Contributions towards Expenditure	(545,490)	(543,640)	(615,540)	(623,600)	(637,060)	(648,140)	(660,480)
(254,637)	Supporting People Grant	(326,510)	(290,000)	(290,000)	(90,000)	(90,000)	(90,000)	(90,000)
(37,249,854)	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(38,016,610)</b>	<b>(37,921,740)</b>	<b>(39,389,460)</b>	<b>(41,102,620)</b>	<b>(43,333,700)</b>	<b>(43,424,020)</b>	<b>(44,316,670)</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
	Management and Maintenance :							
6,473,749	Supervision and Management -General	7,208,200	7,029,769	8,048,531	8,211,644	8,490,089	8,737,315	9,011,613
2,405,666	Supervision and Management -Special	2,090,980	2,127,840	2,239,834	2,301,305	2,370,531	2,430,668	2,497,866
267,934	Rent, rates, taxes and other charges	222,440	246,440	247,640	251,250	255,110	258,870	262,690
9,603,824	Repairs and Maintenance	8,581,970	9,113,490	9,483,000	9,645,980	9,821,060	9,999,500	10,183,320
9,261,938	Depreciation, Impairment & Reval. of Fixed Assets	9,193,300	9,258,600	9,258,400	9,257,800	9,257,800	9,224,720	9,143,040
37,006	Debt Management Expenses	46,770	48,760	41,520	42,140	42,840	43,620	44,420
316,603	Increase Bad Debts Provision	1,724,150	354,990	369,580	384,760	400,500	416,950	434,050
28,366,720	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>29,067,810</b>	<b>28,179,889</b>	<b>29,688,505</b>	<b>30,094,878</b>	<b>30,637,929</b>	<b>31,111,643</b>	<b>31,576,998</b>
(8,883,134)	<b>NET COST OF SERVICES per Authority</b>	<b>(8,948,800)</b>	<b>(9,741,851)</b>	<b>(9,700,955)</b>	<b>(11,007,742)</b>	<b>(12,695,771)</b>	<b>(12,312,377)</b>	<b>(12,739,672)</b>
	<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account</b>							
43,200	HRA share of Corporate & Democratic Core	49,940	210,510	229,200	234,920	240,970	244,610	249,210
(8,839,934)	<b>NET COST OF HRA SERVICES</b>	<b>(8,898,860)</b>	<b>(9,531,341)</b>	<b>(9,471,755)</b>	<b>(10,772,822)</b>	<b>(12,454,801)</b>	<b>(12,067,767)</b>	<b>(12,490,462)</b>
	(Gain) or loss on sale of HRA fixed assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4,620,689	HRA share of interest payable etc	4,538,880	4,631,700	4,560,760	4,525,760	4,490,570	4,475,340	4,444,800
0	Interest on Working Balance	(8,450)	0	(5,230)	(7,700)	(10,740)	(10,920)	(20,320)
(4,219,245)	<b>(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT in Year on HRA Services</b>	<b>(4,368,430)</b>	<b>(4,899,641)</b>	<b>(4,916,225)</b>	<b>(6,254,762)</b>	<b>(7,974,971)</b>	<b>(7,603,347)</b>	<b>(8,065,982)</b>
	<b>STATEMENT of MOVEMENT on the HRA BALANCE</b>							
	Surplus or Deficit on the HRA Income & Expenditure Account	(4,368,430)	(4,899,641)	(4,916,225)	(6,254,762)	(7,974,971)	(7,603,347)	(8,065,982)
4,150,860	Capital Expenditure Funded from HRA	5,740,550	14,579,030	3,404,990	1,798,010	3,573,880	3,197,920	3,594,690
1,926,040	Provision for Debt Repayment	1,897,150	1,897,150	1,868,690	1,840,660	1,813,050	1,785,860	1,759,070
2,340,752	Transfer to/(from) Major Repairs Reserve	2,611,000	2,545,000	2,545,000	2,545,000	2,515,000	2,548,000	2,630,000
0	Sums Directed by Secretary of State	0						
4,273,117	<b>(Increase)/decrease in HRA balance for the year</b>	<b>5,880,270</b>	<b>14,121,539</b>	<b>2,902,455</b>	<b>(71,092)</b>	<b>(73,041)</b>	<b>(71,567)</b>	<b>(82,222)</b>
(24,733,539)	<b>HRA Balance Bfwd 1st April</b>	<b>(9,285,629)</b>	<b>(20,460,422)</b>	<b>(6,338,883)</b>	<b>(3,436,428)</b>	<b>(3,507,520)</b>	<b>(3,580,561)</b>	<b>(3,652,128)</b>
(20,460,422)	<b>HRA Balance Cfwd at 31st March</b>	<b>(3,405,359)</b>	<b>(6,338,883)</b>	<b>(3,436,428)</b>	<b>(3,507,520)</b>	<b>(3,580,561)</b>	<b>(3,652,128)</b>	<b>(3,734,350)</b>

This page is intentionally left blank