



LDF

Local Development Framework

Evidence Document

Eastbourne

Open Space Assessment



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1. INTRODUCTION

This Open Space Assessment will enable Eastbourne Borough Council to plan and manage the Town's open spaces so that they are of the greatest benefit to the community. It is steered by government guidance and is also informed by regional and county policies, as well as local policies and aspirations.

1.1 Objectives

The Assessment has the following objectives:

- Assess local needs for open space
- Establish current provision of different types of open space
- Set standards for provision of open space that reflect local needs
- Identify any deficiencies in provision
- Make recommendations to address any shortcomings

1.2 Consultations

The study is the outcome of a consultative process involving officers and key agencies, with vital input from members and the wider community. Agencies and groups which have been actively involved in the process include:

- Eastbourne Sports Council
- East Sussex County Council
- Representatives of local schools
- Sport England
- Wealden District Council

Within the Council, officers from the following Service Areas have contributed:

- Communications & Participation
- Community Services
- Downland Trees & Woodlands
- Leisure & Communities
- Parks & Gardens

- Planning Policy (lead and coordination)
- Strategic Development

In addition, consultants have been engaged for specialist and technical work to support the process in the following areas:

- Household Survey of 1,000 residents to assess open space usage, and a follow-up survey of 300 residents (SMSR Ltd 2004 and 2005)
- Specialist advice and assistance (PMP Consultancy Ltd 2005)

2. POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 National Policy

National planning policy is expressed through a series of 'Planning Policy Statements (PPS)' and 'Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG)' on issues which are relevant to planning. The guidance that is central to open space planning is *PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*. A 'Companion Guide' was issued alongside PPG17¹ which sets out how the local assessment should be conducted. A key element of PPG17 is that local authorities must plan carefully and strategically for their open spaces and recreation. It is no longer acceptable for open space to be managed on an ad hoc and operational basis:

"Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreation facilities."

The thinking behind this is explained as follows:

"Assessments and audits will allow local authorities to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas."

The guidance in PPG17 and the Companion Guide has been followed in preparing this assessment.

In addition, planning for some open space may also be influenced by guidance on related matters such as PPG20: Coastal Planning (1992), PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), and PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005).

The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures (Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2007) places an emphasis on providing children's play spaces for children to go and play. It aims to invest £225 million over

¹ *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17*; Kit Campbell Associates, Sept 2002

the next three years to create new and safer places to play and safe routes to play areas. This will offer every local authority capital funding that would allow up to 3,500 playgrounds to be rebuilt or renewed and made accessible to children with disabilities.

The Children's Plan recommends the review of statutory planning guidance with regard to children's play areas, including the participation of children, families and communities in their design. This includes the production of guidance for planners on good play space and highlights to chief planning officers the importance of outdoor play for children. Additionally, it recommends that child-friendly public space is made a feature of major new housing developments. It also recommends working in partnership with Registered Social Landlords to improve the quality of play environments in some of the most deprived areas.

2.2 Regional Policy

The draft South East Plan is the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. It sets out a vision for a 'Healthy Region', with policies recognise the role that open spaces can play in promoting sustainability, driving the urban renaissance, improving health, and enhancing quality of life in the South East. Policies of direct relevance to this open space assessment include:

Policy NRM4: Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity

"... local authorities shall actively pursue opportunities to achieve a net gain (in biodiversity) across the region by... establishing accessible green networks and open green space in urban areas to create habitats of importance to local communities"

Policy C3: Landscape and Countryside Management

"... active and high quality management of the region's open countryside will be encouraged in order to... protect and enhance its distinctive qualities... encourage the sustainable management of land and habitats in ways which contribute to landscape conservation and renewal... "

Policy BE1: Management for an Urban Renaissance

"... in particular local authorities should give attention to specific measures to improve the public realm and public spaces"

Policy S2: Supporting Healthy Communities

Plans should recognise the key role the planning system can play in improving community health and should *"... tackle the causes of ill health at the source, for example by providing access to open space or recreational opportunities at an early stage in new development..."*

Policy S5: Cultural and Sporting Activity

"Increased and sustainable participation in sport, recreation and cultural activity should be encouraged by local authorities... to improve the overall standard of fitness, enhance cultural diversity, and enrich the overall quality of life"

Policy T10b: Mobility Management

Local transport planning should be based on *"... a package of measures drawn from the following... the extent and quality of pedestrian and cycling routes... local services and e-services to reduce the need to travel..."*

2.3 County Policy

The *East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Structure Plan 1991-2011* is the key statement of County planning policy. Although it was approved prior to national guidance being issued through PPG17, it includes policies that are relevant to open space as a leisure and landscape resource.

Leisure & Tourism

Policy LT1: *"Leisure and Tourism activities and facilities will be strengthened and developed to meet the needs of residents and visitors and bring economic benefits... "*

Policy LT13: *"Proposals which involve the loss of sporting facilities, such as playing fields, will not be permitted unless it can be shown that the overall supply of such facilities remaining within the area is adequate and*

where appropriate, meets national guidance or that appropriate alternative provision will be made in the area."

Policy LT11: *"Proposals for new sports facilities will be supported, particularly... where they fill 'gaps' in existing provision... where they would help to meet local needs... provision for dual use, by both the institution and community, in educational facilities."*

Built Environment

Policy EN26: *"... support will be given to proposals which identify... open and 'green' spaces which are of importance to the character of the urban area and the community (including areas of wildlife interest), and seek to protect, restore and enhance these areas... "*

Transport

Policy TR1 (Integrated Transport and Environment Strategy): *"The priorities of the integrated transport and environment strategy are... encouragement of and provision for greater use of walking, cycling and public transport... with housing areas including school and other community facilities close by to encourage walking and cycling."*

Policy TR4 (Walking): *"Improved access and facilities for pedestrians will be encouraged and supported... "*

The transport policies above support the provision of local facilities such as children's playgrounds within walking distance of the people who will use them.

2.4 Local Policy

Eastbourne Community Strategy 2005-2020

The Community Strategy is the overarching strategy for Eastbourne and has been prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership. One of the seven main themes in the Strategy is *Environment* which has a vision as follows:

"In 2020 Eastbourne residents will: Enjoy a higher quality of life through having a clean, safe and accessible natural, urban and marine environment; Value and protect the environment, conserving and enhancing it for future generations; See all new developments being planned and designed with minimum adverse impact on either the historic or the natural environment."

A second theme, *Inclusive Community*, envisages Eastbourne as "... a place where everyone can access natural greenspace, cultural and recreational facilities in a way that is suitable to them... "

Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001-2011

Although the Borough Plan will be superseded progressively by a Local Development Framework, its policies are still current and relevant for open space planning. The Borough Plan recognises the value of open space for recreation and leisure through policies such as:

LCF2 (Resisting Loss of Playing Fields): *"Proposals which result in the net loss of playing fields will not be permitted"*. However the policy also outlines a number of 'exceptional circumstances' where planning permission may be granted.

The Borough Plan also supports a network of accessible and well-equipped children's playgrounds across Eastbourne through the following policy:

LCF3 (Criteria for Children's Playspace): *"When considering the provision of new playgrounds or the upgrading of old ones, the following will be taken into account: safety and security... the need to provide playground facilities which are conveniently located... the need to provide a range of equipment to cater for the needs of different age groups... the impact on the amenity of adjoining residential areas... the convenience and accessibility to the playground of the children and adults who will be using it... the views of adjoining residents... "*

New residential development is required to provide open space to meet the additional need generated by the development, but this can be through a financial contribution:

LCF4 (Outdoor Playing Space Contributions): *"Where appropriate and necessary... residential developments will be required to make provision for outdoor playing space at a level to satisfy adopted standards, in order to meet the needs generated by the new development.... where on-site provision is not feasible a contribution towards the cost of providing or upgrading such facilities elsewhere will be sought."* The adopted standards to calculate additional provision are set at 0.8ha per 1,000 for playgrounds and 1.21ha per 1,000 for playing fields.

The Plan also recognises the contribution of open space to Eastbourne's townscape through policies such as:

UHT8 (Protection of Open Space): *"Development which would result in the loss of important areas of public amenity space shown on the Proposals Map will not be permitted."* Again, the policy outlines exceptional circumstances where planning permission may be granted. Historic parks and gardens are separately protected through Policy UHT9 (*Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens*).

Although prepared in advance of PPG17, that guidance was foreshadowed in the Borough Plan. For instance paragraph 12.7 refers to *"... a more detailed assessment of local needs for outdoor playing space which the Borough Council is proposing to undertake shortly... "*. The adopted standard (above) suggested a shortage of playing fields which could be addressed by allocating new sites at Sevenoaks Road, Shinewater and Elm Grove (Policy LCF1).

'Outdoor Playing Space Provision' Supplementary Planning Guidance (Adopted 1999) was produced to expand on policies regarding open space in the Borough Plan and to ensure that leisure and recreation facilities meet local needs. It states that open space must be provided along with new housing development to ensure future needs are met, and that

significant areas of open space must be replaced if any are used for development. The document also gives information on how payment will be sought.

Council Performance Plan 2007

The Council's Performance Plan is the corporate statement about how the Council itself will contribute to Eastbourne's well-being. The Plan aligns itself with the main themes of the Community Strategy and includes a number of statements of direct relevance to open space planning. The Council will aim to:

Health and Social Care

- *Increase the use of green space for recreation and exercise*
- *Increase physical activity, especially in disadvantaged groups and teenagers*
- *Promote activities which contribute to the health and well-being of the over 50s e.g. physical and leisure activities, and active involvement in wider community life*

Inclusive Community

- *Deliver a wide and affordable range of sporting and leisure facilities in partnership with the public and private sector to meet the need of all of the Eastbourne community*
- *Use public space to deliver wider objectives on social cohesion, inclusion and renewal through securing and promoting a range of activities for young people and supporting social, cultural and sporting events*

Environment

- *Keep public open space free of litter, refuse and graffiti*
- *Support the conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including its character and local distinctiveness, as part of wider environmental responsibilities*
- *Maintain play facilities that are safe and easily accessible*

Other Plans and Statements

Health Improvement/Inequalities & Modernisation Programme (Eastbourne Health Improvement Partnership, 2003/5)

The Health Improvement Partnership identified 'Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles' as one of three local priorities. The objective is:

"To increase the health of the people in Eastbourne through access to physical activity, healthy lifestyle awareness-raising, and encouragement of family friendly/work life balance policies within the workplace."

Open space in Eastbourne already plays a vital role in meeting this objective. More than half of respondents to the 2004 Survey visited beaches, parks, downland, and natural areas at least once a month². The overwhelming majority of these visits were for recreation and leisure purposes such as a 'gentle walk', 'active leisure' and 'informal sport'.

Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (East Sussex CC)

East Sussex CC (the transport authority) gives high priority to walking as a legitimate means of transport and one which can reduce the need to travel by car. The draft Local Transport Plan includes a *Walking Strategy* which aims to "... promote walking and increase the proportion of all journeys made on foot, emphasising the benefits to personal health and the environment". A specific aim is to "... increase the number of journeys made by foot". The existing plan states that "... shops, workplaces and community facilities will be fully accessible (by foot)".

² SMSR, October 2004

3. METHODOLOGY

The Open Space Assessment has been guided by the Government's advice as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance No 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation* (PPG17). The advice given in PPG17 is summarised in the Figure 1. This study addresses most of Steps 1-4 as set out there³.

The Open Space Assessment was carried out in two parts. The first section was undertaken in 2004 and involved the identification and classification of the Open Spaces in Eastbourne, an initial site audit and a household survey. The second section, conducted in 2005, included a quality and value assessment for each site and an additional household survey.

3.1 Part One: Open Space Assessment 2004

Identification and Classification

In the first part of the assessment, all publicly accessible Open Spaces in Eastbourne were identified using Borough Plan policies, aerial photographs and contract specifications, and coded into a GIS database.

The typology agreed for Eastbourne's audit was based on Planning Policy Guidance 17. The typology was modified to take into account local circumstances, particularly the value of Eastbourne's beaches and Downland as open space, and is set out in Table 3.1. The table shows the way in which Eastbourne's classification matches the Government's guidance.

³ *Minimum Size Standards; Site Area Multipliers; Normalised Costs; and Design Standards will need to be carried out as a next step*

CARRYING OUT A LOCAL ASSESSMENT

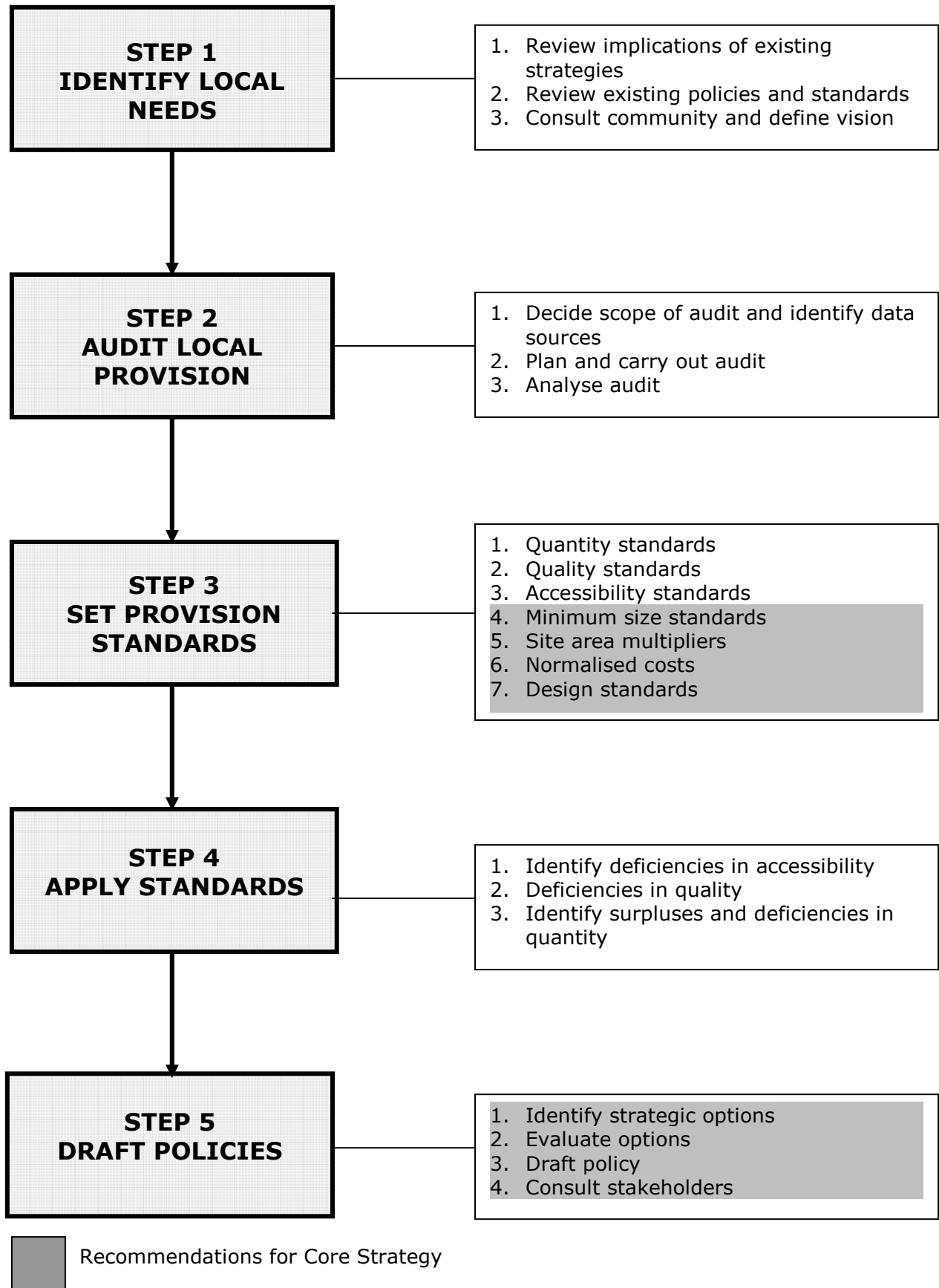


Figure 1 – Carrying out a Local Assessment

Table 3.1 – Types of Open Space

EASTBOURNE	DEFINITION	PPG17
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability and health	Allotments, Community Gardens & Urban Farms
Amenity Areas	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas	Amenity Greenspace
Cemeteries	Areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity	Cemeteries, Disused Churchyards & Other Burial Grounds
Natural Areas	Areas of wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness, walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspaces including Urban Woodland
Parks & Gardens	Traditional managed public parks and garden, accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events	Parks & Gardens
Play Areas	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, including playgrounds and skateboarding areas	Provision for Children & Young People
Sports Pitches	Areas for participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls or athletics	Outdoor Sports Facilities
Beaches	Shingle, groyned beaches, including promenades, for public recreational use	n/a
Downland	Open access downland owned and managed by Eastbourne Borough Council for public recreational use	n/a
n/a		Green Corridors
n/a		Civic Spaces

The main criteria for identifying land as open space has been guided by Planning Policy Guidance 17 ("... all open space of public value"). Each site was graded by its 'primary purpose' (e.g. sport, play, amenity, park etc), but its secondary purpose was also recorded where relevant. Other critical parameters were as follows:

- Sites of less than 1,000m² were not included in the audit (except for Play Areas)
- Only publicly accessible areas of the Downland and Eastbourne Park were included (not farm and agricultural land)

Site Audit

An audit sub-group of officers from Sport & Leisure, Planning Policy, and Parks & Gardens was set up to manage and carry out the audit of open spaces. Criteria were set down on which open spaces to include in the Audit. The group decided that there should be a size threshold of 1000m² (with the exception of Play Areas as these tend to be small areas and the majority are smaller than the threshold), and that only publicly accessible areas of the Downland and Eastbourne Park should be included in the audit.

This resulted in 250 sites being identified which were visited and recorded in the spring/summer of 2004. The survey was supplemented by information from a web consultation, a leisure card survey of users, and an indoor facilities audit.

The first audit in summer 2004 gathered basic information for each site enabling a comprehensive database to be built up for future planning and management. The audit included data on site location, area, landscape features, usage, resources, and habitat.

Household Survey, October 2004

In April 2004, Eastbourne Borough Council commissioned SMSR, an independent research company, to survey residents on their usage, evaluation and the accessibility of outdoor spaces and facilities within Eastbourne. The aim was to establish usage patterns, attitudes to existing provision and expectations for the future. The consultation was undertaken following advice in the good practice guidance *Assessing Needs and Opportunities – A Companion Guide to PPG17*.

The consultation was undertaken as a telephone survey using a questionnaire, which was designed by SMSR in conjunction with officers from Eastbourne Borough Council. Members of SMSR's tele-interviewing team administered the questionnaire during the month of June 2004.

The questionnaire covered the following three aspects:

- Section A Outdoor places and facilities in Eastbourne
- Section B Expectations and needs
- Section C About the place you use most often

A total of 1,001 questionnaires were completed with a balanced sample which reflected Eastbourne's demographic and area profile. The sample was based on a profile agreed with Officers from the Council and was based on Census 2001 Borough figures. The consultation covered all wards within the Borough. The full results for this consultation can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Part 2: Open Space Assessment 2005

The Quality and Value Assessment

The sites physically inspected for the Quality and Value Assessment were selected from the previous Open Space Audit in 2004. For this assessment, sites that had been identified and had an area of over 0.1 hectares were chosen, with the exception of Play Areas, which were all included as they often tend to be smaller than the threshold.

Initial survey forms for the Quality & Value Assessment were prepared using consistent criteria but which differed slightly depending on the type of open space. The criteria are listed in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 – Criteria for Assessing Open Spaces

CRITERIA	ELEMENTS CONSIDERED	TYPE OF OPEN SPACE
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access • Entrance / Points of Access • Boundaries • Roads & Paths • Social Inclusion • Parking 	All Sites
Vegetation / Appearance & Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenery / Planted Areas • Biodiversity • Scenic value & Views • Erosion • Water Features • Boundaries 	All Sites
Ancillary Facilities & Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities • Special Features • Toilets • Information • Lighting & Security • Seats & Shelters 	All Sites
Cleanliness & Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanliness • Bins • Maintenance • Graffiti/vandalism 	All Sites
Pitch Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size • Surface • Fencing • Clubrooms / Pavilion • Equipment / Line markings • Floodlighting • Grass • Drainage 	Sports Pitches only
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Equipment • Security • Information 	Play areas only
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to townscape • Other open spaces in locality • Special features • Links with other uses • Uniqueness of asset 	All Sites

Allotments were dealt with separately because they are a distinctive open space with specialised characteristics. They were scored in terms of:

- Number of Tenants - *% of sites occupied*
- Problems - *vandalism / disrepair*
- Neighbouring Sites - *proximity to other neighbourhoods*
- Condition & Importance - *facilities / pathways / fencing / car parking*

For each criterion, a score would be given between 1 and 4. Table 3.2 below shows how this score was achieved.

Table 3.3 – Quality and Value Scores

SCORE	QUALITY ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
4	Excellent	Very Important
3	Good	Important
2	Fair	Relevant
1	Poor	Not Important

A pilot survey was undertaken using a small number of sites to assess how well the survey forms performed. After the initial pilot survey, the forms were amended and a second pilot survey was undertaken. This was seen to work successfully and the main audit was carried out using this amended form. All sites were inspected by the same officer to obtain a consistent result. The sites were inspected according to their type, so all sites of each type were surveyed at one time to ensure further consistency.

Surveying the site meant walking around the whole site to get a 'feel' for the open space, and then scoring the site for each criterion. On a few sites such as schools, site access was difficult and the site was inspected from viewpoints around the site.

The data collected was entered into a database along with local ward information and the weather on the day of the audit.

It was necessary to update and amend data on some sites. Some open spaces had to be combined, changed and deleted from the assessment

because their status and characteristics had changed over the 12-18 months since the first assessment. Others had not been identified for the initial audit and were added and inspected using the same process as before.

Beaches were reviewed to ensure a consistent boundary. In common with other audits, Mean Low Water mark was used as the boundary to ensure a consistent approach.

By the 2005 audit, some areas of Eastbourne Park had become more accessible to the public since the previous audit in 2004, and could now be included. Council Officers from Parks & Gardens, Leisure & Communities, and East Sussex County Council were consulted and determined the areas to be included and where the boundaries should be.

As part of the Quality & Value Assessment, a score for Special Features and Usage was included. Special Features recognised a site's status in Borough Plan and recorded the number of relevant policies associated with the site.

Usage was scored using data from the previous audit during which each open space was assessed for usage. The first audit make comments regarding the level of activity of each open space in terms of regularity of use, number of users and duration of use. A brief assessment of expected usage was made during the Quality and Value Assessment in 2005, which was based on local knowledge, and this subjective assessment was combined with the data from the previous audit and a score for usage was allocated for each open space, based on the following:

- Minor Usage Score 1
- Moderate Usage Score 2
- Frequent Usage Score 3
- Very Frequent Usage Score 4

Special Features were recognised through Borough Plan policies as follows:

- NE20 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
- D1 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- D2 Heritage Coast
- D3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- UHT8 Protection of Amenity Space
- UHT9 Protection of Historical Parks and Gardens
- UHT15 Protection of Conservation Areas
- UHT16 Protection of Areas of High Townscape Value
- UHT20 Archaeological Sites and Scheduled Monuments
- LCF1 Playing Field Allocations
- LCF2 Resisting Loss of Playing Fields
- LCF5 Eastbourne's Sports Park
- LCF7 Water Recreation
- LCF13 Retention of Allotments
- LCF14 Sites for Allotments

When the audit had been undertaken, the quality & value scores for each open space were calculated. This was done by multiplying the score given for each criterion in the audit by the weighting for that criterion. Weightings for the criteria were designed and agreed in advance by officers who are involved with the planning, management, and use of open spaces, based on the relative importance of each criterion.

The scores were then added up and then turned into a percentage of the maximum score achievable. This resulted in each open space receiving an overall quality score of between 0 (being the poorest) and 100 (being the best).

Each Open Space was then given a grade from Poor to Excellent according to the score received in the Quality and Value Assessment.

Table 3.4 – Scoring of Open Space

OPEN SPACE GRADING	MINIMUM SCORE	MAXIMUM SCORE
Poor	0	25
Fair	26	50
Good	51	75
Excellent	76	100

Household Survey, October 2005

SMSR Consultants were commissioned to carry out a second, limited survey to further test local attitudes in July 2005 to establish the distances that people travel to reach open spaces in Eastbourne. They interviewed a cross section of 300 residents from across the town to obtain detailed information on the amount of open space in Eastbourne, and accessibility to that open space.

The survey asked how long they would travel to each type of open space in 5-minute intervals and the mode of transport used. For each type of open space, the 75 percentile for the time travelled was identified and then converted into a distance threshold for the most popular mode of travel for that type of open space. For instance, if more than 75% of respondents take 10-15 minutes to walk to a play area and the favoured travel mode is walking, then the distance threshold would be 800-1200m because average walking speeds are 400m in five minutes. A special steering group was then convened to agree distance thresholds as the basis for assessing the adequacy or otherwise of Eastbourne's provision for each open space type. This resulted in the accessibility standards being applied on maps for each type to indicate gaps in provision. Maps highlighting these gaps are included in the report.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Site Audit 2004

The basic findings for the first Site Audit in 2004 are set out in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 – Open Space Audit: Basic Findings

TYPE	No SITES	%	AREA (HA)	%
Allotments	13	5.2	17.6	1.6
Amenity	76	30.4	42.5	3.8
Cemetery	4	1.6	18.0	1.6
Natural Areas	19	7.6	96.1	8.6
Parks	13	5.2	68.6	6.1
Play Areas	39	15.6	5.4	0.5
Sports Pitches	63	25.2	305.0	27.2
Beach	12	4.8	81.7	7.3
Downland	11	4.4	487.5	43.3
TOTAL	250	100.0	1,122.4	100.0

Amenity Spaces are the most common type of open space and account for 30% of all spaces, followed by Sports Pitches (25%), and Play Areas (16%). Cemeteries, Allotments, Natural Areas, Parks, Beach and Downland all have only a small number of sites.

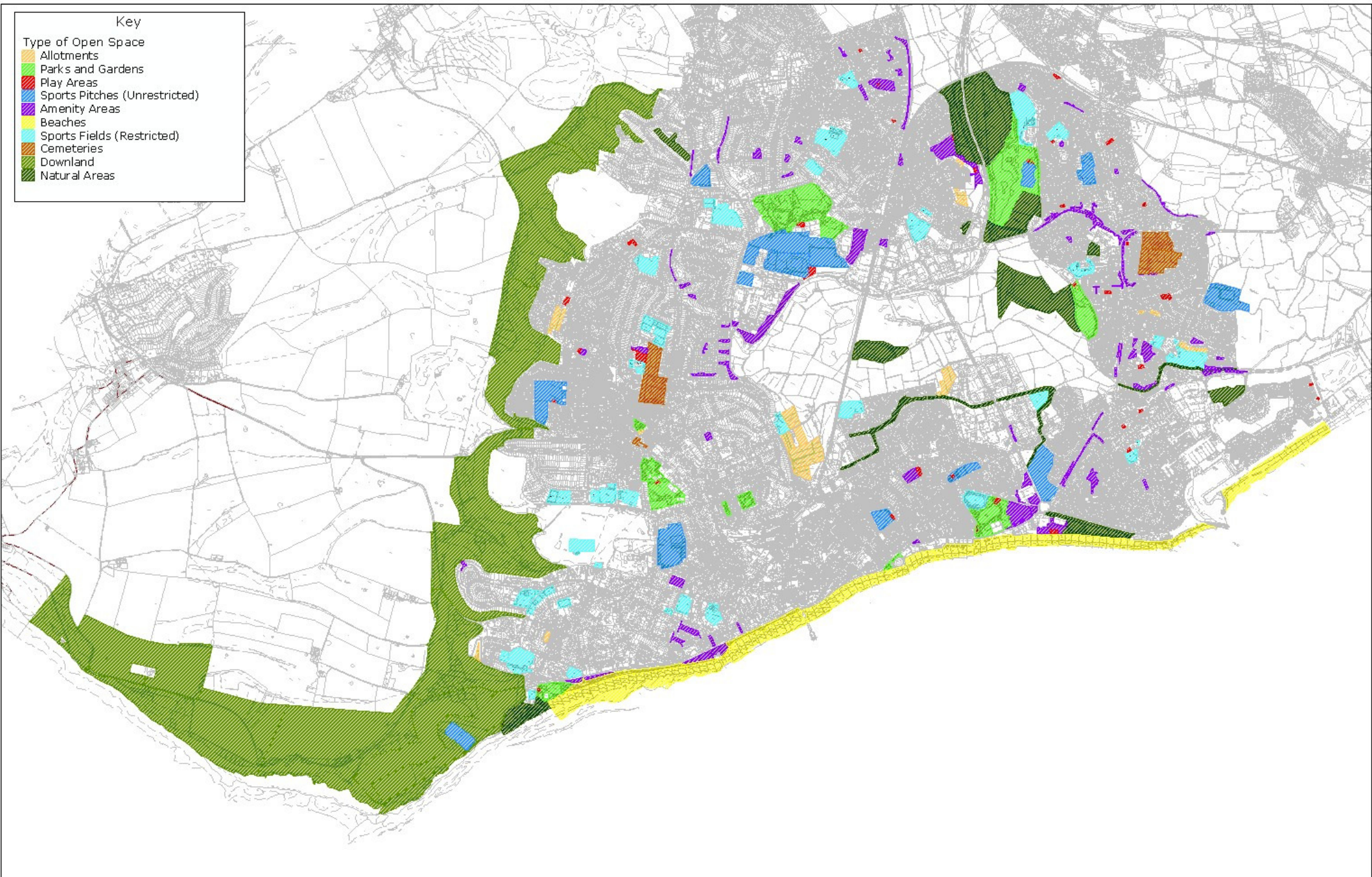
However, when the area of open space within each category is considered, then the picture is much different. Downland and Sports Pitches have by far the greatest proportion of total open spaces and the household survey shows that some of these categories are very highly valued, especially the Downland, Beaches, and Parks. On the other hand, many of the Amenity Areas are very small, and the Quality & Value audit shows that many of these are of low quality and value.

A complete listing of the individual sites is included in Appendix 4.

Key

Type of Open Space

- Allotments
- Parks and Gardens
- Play Areas
- Sports Pitches (Unrestricted)
- Amenity Areas
- Beaches
- Sports Fields (Restricted)
- Cemeteries
- Downland
- Natural Areas



Scale
 0 400 800 1200 1600 m
 Scale: 1:30000

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
Map 1 - All Sites

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material in the possession of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. (C) Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

4.2 Household Survey 2004⁴

Key findings relevant to need were as follows, with complete details in Appendix 2:

People seem generally happy with the quality of Eastbourne's open space

There is extremely high resident satisfaction with the downland, natural areas, beaches, and parks & gardens with 90-96% of respondents rating the overall quality as very good or fairly good. The rating of other spaces is still high but generally a little lower, including amenity spaces (80%), playgrounds (75%), and outdoor sports facilities (71%).

People see little scope to improve open space

The great majority of respondents (81-90%) indicated there were no problems that stopped them visiting open spaces. Of those that replied, parking and transport were the most common problems. Half of all respondents did not name any improvements they wanted.

Most age groups are well catered for, with the exception of teenagers.

Some 43% of respondents feel that teenagers are 'not very well' provided for and 13% feel that facilities for children are similarly underprovided. This compares with about 5% for all other groups.

These findings are reinforced by the 2002 Best Value Review of Leisure Services and the 2003/4 General Survey of residents (PFA Research, June 2004). The former found that many people were dissatisfied with playgrounds, and the latter found that many residents feel that we are failing children and teenagers and those facilities for young people are getting worse.

4.3 Household Survey 2005⁵

The findings from the survey are set out below, with complete details in Appendix 3.

⁴ *Report into Findings of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Consultation with Residents of Eastbourne Borough Council; SMSR Ltd, October 2004*

⁵ *Eastbourne Open Spaces Survey; SMSR Ltd, July 2005*

Table 4.2 – SMSR 2005 Findings

OPEN SPACE TYPE	MAIN MODE OF TRAVEL	TRAVEL TIME⁶	% NEEDING MORE⁷
Allotments	Walk	15-20 mins	35
Amenity Space	Walk	10-15 mins	37
Beaches	Walk	10-15 mins	n/a
Downland	Drive	15-20 mins	n/a
Natural Areas	Drive	15-20 mins	40
Outdoor Sports	Walk	10-15 mins	43
Parks & Gardens	Walk	10-15 mins	33
Playgrounds	Walk	10-15 mins	47

Key findings include:

Walking is the main travel mode.

Some 55% of respondents walk to open space and 40% drive. The remaining 5% travel by bicycle or public transport.

People typically travel 10-15 minutes to reach open spaces.

Travel times to Downland and Natural Areas are a little longer, typically 15-20 minutes.

One-third of users feel that Eastbourne does not have enough open space.

The highest rating was for playgrounds, where nearly half respondents believe that more are needed. However, this may reflect the uneven distribution of open spaces across Eastbourne where some areas are very well provided for, and other parts such as Devonshire and Meads that have virtually no play areas, have inadequate facilities by any standards. One in five users thinks that 'a lot more' playgrounds and outdoor sports facilities are needed.

Intensity of Use

The intensity of use of open space is a further indicator of need. For instance, heavy use of the Hampden Park playground reflects the fact that it serves such a large area. However this also reflects that the playground is well-equipped and linked to a range of other facilities such as the formal gardens for picnics and a refreshment

⁶ Based on the 75% percentile i.e. at this level, 75% of users travel less than this time (as per PPG17)

kiosk. Alternatively, if open spaces are rarely or infrequently used, then this may indicate limited need for that facility. However this is not the entire story and allotments for instance are used only by a small minority of the population (4%) but meet an important need for recreation, health and leisure for users.

Surveys show that Eastbourne's downland, beaches, and parks & gardens are the best used open spaces as well as being its most popular spaces. For instance the SMSR 2004 Survey asked respondents about the types of open space they visited and how often.

Table 4.3 - Usage

Open Space Type	Never Used %	Used %	At Least 1 x Month %	Used Most Often %
Beaches	8	92	79	37
Parks & Gardens	10	90	76	37
Downland	21	79	61	16
Natural/Woodland	33	67	53	2
Amenity	58	42	34	2
Play	62	38	30	2
Sports	69	31	21	3
Allotments	96	4	2	1

The low usage of amenity space, playgrounds, sports and allotments may appear a cause for concern, but it may again reflect their uneven distribution or the age profile of Eastbourne. However these spaces are immensely valued by particular groups and they sometimes have a special role for their visual contribution to the town.

Residents were also questioned about the place they visit most often. This revealed that the most popular places are the Seafront (26%), and parks and gardens such as Hampden Park (17%), Princes Park (11%), and Gildredge Park (6%). Beachy Head is also popular with some 8% respondents visiting it most frequently.

⁷ Respondents who thought that a 'lot more' was needed or that provision was 'almost enough'.

4.4 Quality and Value Assessment

The second audit was carried out in summer 2005 and concentrated on the 'Quality & Value' of each site. Each site was inspected and scored on factors, which were then 'weighted', given a total score out of 100, and then ranked as excellent, good, fair, or poor on the basis of that score. A summary of the audit is given below and a complete analysis is given in Appendix 5 (also refer to Map 2).

Table 4.4 – Quality & Value: Summary

TYPE	NO OF SITES	SUMMARY
Allotments	13	<i>Good to Excellent</i>
Amenity	76	<i>Fair to Poor</i>
Beach	12	<i>Good & Excellent, but some Fair to Poor</i>
Cemeteries	4	<i>Good & Excellent</i>
Downland	11	<i>Good with some Excellent</i>
Natural Areas	19	<i>Fair & Poor with some Good</i>
Parks	13	<i>Good & Excellent with a few Fair</i>
Play Areas	39	<i>Good & Excellent with a few Fair</i>
Sports Pitches	63	<i>Good to Fair</i>
TOTAL	250	<i>Mainly Good to Fair with some Poor & Excellent</i>

Although this survey is a technical perspective and does not necessarily reflect resident attitudes, the overall picture from this survey is favourable. It shows that the quality & value of key areas such as downland, parks, play areas, allotments and cemeteries is generally very good with few exceptions. However, the survey also shows that:

- There are problems with amenity areas where many sites are assessed as poor;
- About one in five of Eastbourne's open spaces are ranked as poor (19%)⁸;
- Some 12% of sites are assessed as excellent;
- There are problems with two or three beaches and sports areas, which scored particularly poorly.

These findings need to be considered in conjunction with residents' attitudes to agree an appropriate course of action for poor quality open spaces. It may be that

⁸Three-quarters of these are amenity spaces which are generally less intensively used.

resources can be found to improve their quality or to encourage better use of these sites, or maybe there are better, cost effective ways to manage these spaces.

Alternatively, if sites are graded as poor and residents can be shown to place little value on them then they could be investigated further. In line with government guidance, they would be assessed for their capacity to meet other open space needs. If no need is identified then they could be declared surplus to needs. They would then be assessed for their suitability for sale for other uses, but this may often be restricted because of factors such as site contamination, limited access, or legal covenants. If suitable, then the funds released could be used to improve open spaces elsewhere in Eastbourne and to provide play and amenity spaces where none are currently available.

The table below shows the types of sites that are graded as poor. As can be seen, three-quarters of the sites are Amenity Areas, some of which are alongside highways and some of which consist of several linked sites. Of the remainder, they are spread between different types of open space but do not include any Allotments or Downland.

Table 4.5 – Sites Graded ‘Poor’

TYPE	No SITES	%
Amenity Areas	31	66%
Beaches	2	4%
Natural Areas	5	11%
Parks & Gardens	1	2%
Play Areas	6	13%
Sports Pitches	2	4%
Allotments, Downs etc	0	0%
TOTAL	47	100%

The long-term intention should be to improve the standard of Eastbourne's open spaces so that all open spaces meet the local Quality Standard. In the short-term, any popular and valued open spaces should be targeted to raise their standard (although the method of identifying such sites should eliminate any that are of particular value) or to investigate low value and poor quality sites for disposal as surplus to needs. The particular sites that should be investigated further are identified in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 – Sites for Further Investigation

NAME OR STREET	OVERALL SCORE	SPECIAL FEATURES⁹	AREA (M²)	ID REF	TYPE
Princes Road	24	1	7,288	am129	Amenity Area
Rear Sturdee Close	24	0	1,872	am171	Amenity Area
Burton Road	24	1	3,202	am240	Amenity Area
Fountains Close	24	0	1,637	am308	Amenity Area
Lottbridge Drove SNCI	24	1	5,014	na8	Natural Area
Goudhurst Close	23	0	1,171	am104	Amenity Area
Lindfield Road	23	1	1,617	am178	Amenity Area
Etchingham Road	23	1	1,255	am365	Amenity Area
Lottbridge Drove	23	1	1,751	am98	Amenity Area
Maywood Avenue	21	1	3,532	am335	Amenity Area
Holly Place	21	1	398	pl35	Play Area
Fishermen's Green	20	0	34,030	be6	Beach
Sovereign Harbour	20	1	131,110	be9	Beach
Bodiam Crescent	20	1	1,649	pl9	Play Area
Elm Grove	19	2	26,909	am319	Amenity Area
Ringwood Road SNCI	19	1	4,348	na3	Natural Area
Fisherman's Green Tennis & B'ball	19	0	5,668	sp63	Sports Pitch
Coach Park	17	0	5,358	am108	Amenity Area
Slindon Crescent	17	2	6,049	am155	Amenity Area
Princes Road	17	1	10,566	am185	Amenity Area
Shinewater CC, Milfoil Drive	17	0	1,135	am405	Amenity Area
Fern Close	17	0	1,150	am407	Amenity Area
Coach Park	17	0	5,654	am86	Amenity Area
Larkspur Drive	17	0	1,332	am99	Amenity Area
NPFA Playing Field, Shinewater Lane	17	1	29,674	sp25	Sports Pitch
Hazelwood Avenue	16	0	9,512	am224	Amenity Area
Kings Drive	16	0	1,119	am238	Amenity Area
Leeds Avenue SNCI	16	1	25,660	na13	Natural Area
Buckhurst Close	16	0	2,748	na15	Natural Area
Ringwood Road SNCI	16	1	3,196	na2	Natural Area

⁹ 'Special Features' is a score for the number of designations the site has in the Local Plan e.g. Conservation Area, SNCI, SSSI, Heritage Coast, AONB, Amenity Space, Playing Fields, Allotments, High Townscape Value, Historic Parks & Gardens, Heritage Coast etc

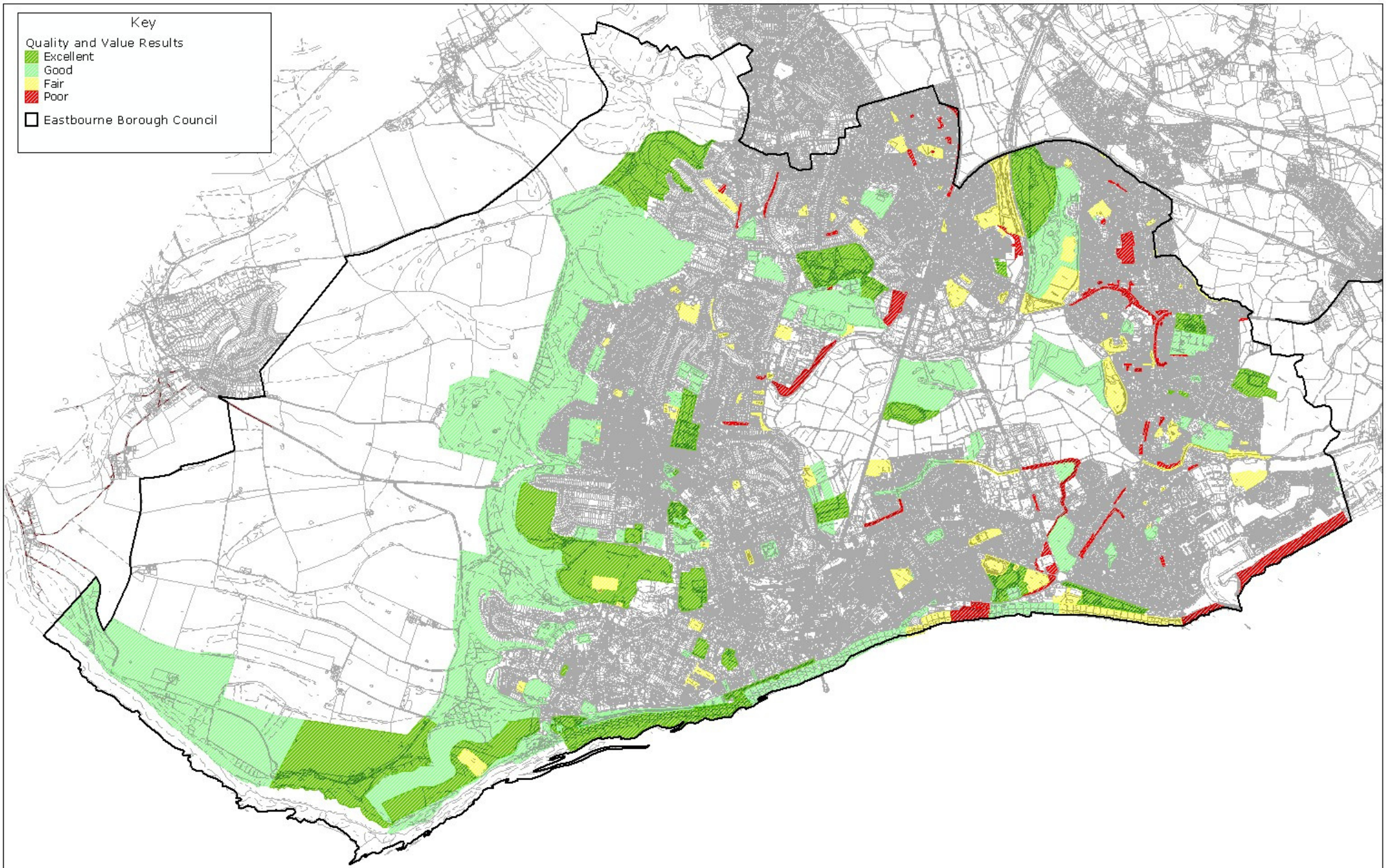
NAME OR STREET	OVERALL SCORE	SPECIAL FEATURES⁹	AREA (M²)	ID REF	TYPE
Primrose Close	16	1	664	pl7	Play Area
Faversham Road	13	0	1,366	pl27	Play Area
Austen Walk	12	0	1,391	am117	Amenity Area
Willingdon Roundabout	12	1	3,294	am134	Amenity Area
Cross Levels Way	12	2	34,483	am190	Amenity Area
Hide Hollow	12	0	1,017	am227	Amenity Area
Highfield Recreation Ground	12	1	11,461	am314	Amenity Area
Langney Rise	12	0	1,378	am350	Amenity Area
Tintern Close Green	12	0	1,502	am419	Amenity Area
Langney Verges	12	1	30,668	am426	Amenity Area
Wartling Road	12	0	1,313	am79	Amenity Area
Hampden Park Education Garden	12	0	1,758	pa14	Park & Garden
Langney Rise	11	0	2,271	am366	Amenity Area
Pensford Drive	7	0	321	pl4	Play Area
Pevensey Bay Road	5	0	1,328	am362	Amenity Area
Croxden Way	4	0	452	pl12	Play Area
Wish Hill	0	0	1,401	am138	Amenity Area
TOTAL			431,671		

Key

Quality and Value Results

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Eastbourne Borough Council



Scale
0 400 800 1200 1600 m
Scale: 1:30000

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
Map 2 - Quality and Value

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5.0 STANDARDS OF PROVISION

The standards of provision that are appropriate for Eastbourne need to be identified, taking into account local needs and existing provision. Standards should be identified for quantity, quality, and accessibility. It is also useful undertake an exercise that compares the level of provision of each type of open space in Eastbourne with the provision in other similar Local Authorities.

5.1 Creating Standards

The best known standard for open space is that developed and defended by the National Playing Fields Association - the 'Six Acre Standard'.

"The Six Acre Standard is a guide to ensure that sufficient land is set aside in appropriate locations to enable people of all ages, especially the young, to participate in outdoor play, games, sports and other physical recreation. It is a minimum standard for outdoor playing space of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) for 1000 people, comprising 1.6 hectares (4 acres) for outdoor sport and 0.8 hectares (2 acres) for children's play."¹⁰

Although the standard has been criticised for being inflexible and not related to local needs, it is a useful measure against which local authorities can begin to assess their current provision.

Table 5.1 – NPFA Standard

	OUTDOOR SPORT	CHILDREN'S PLAY	POPULATION
NPFA 'Six Acre' Standard	1.6 ha/1,000	0.8 ha/1,000	n/a
Eastbourne	1.52 ha ¹¹	0.06 ha	89,667 (2001)

Against the NPFA standard, provision for outdoor sport in Eastbourne looks adequate; however provision for children's play is lacking. If other

¹⁰ NPFA website

¹¹ Excludes Golf Courses

indicators reinforce this conclusion, then this would be an issue that Eastbourne needs to address as a priority.

Table 5.2 compares the standards for open space provision at other local authorities, with proposed provision in Eastbourne. The comparison of provision showed that Eastbourne had low provision of Play Areas, Amenity Space and Outdoor Sports. However, when Beaches and Downland are taken into account, the picture is more favourable as the space provided by these natural areas compensates for deficiencies in other areas. This is reflected in the residents' survey (SMSR 2004) which showed that open spaces such as parks & gardens, downland, and beaches are very popular and very well-used. In general, people seem happy with the quality of Eastbourne's open space.

The standards proposed take account of this high level of satisfaction and suggest that standards should be set at existing, or just higher than, current provision. However the proposed standards also indicate that more children's play areas are required, as demonstrated by:

- Provision is measured at 0.06ha per 1,000 (lower than other benchmarked Local Authorities and below their standards);
- The 2002 Best Value Survey showed that many residents were dissatisfied with play facilities;
- The 2004 BVPI General Survey showed that many residents thought that facilities for young people were getting worse.

Additional provision should not be done in an unplanned way, but should be guided by a Young People's & Children's Play Strategy. This idea is developed later in this report and will look particularly at how new provision can be 'cost neutral'.

The policy implications of adopting these standards, alongside standards for quality and accessibility, are that Eastbourne needs to resist any loss of existing open space and to marginally improve provision for some types of open space. In particular it needs to embark on a coordinated programme of reviewing and increasing its provision of children's play areas.

Table 5.2 - Quantity Standard: Comparison with other Local Authorities
Hectares/1000 Population¹²

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PARKS & GARDENS	NATURAL OPEN SPACE	AMENITY GREENSPACE	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	ALLOTMENTS	OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES
Chelmsford	2	2	0.81	0.81	0.3	1.25
Congleton	0.75	2	1	0.5	0.04	2.5
<i>Eastbourne Existing</i>	<i>0.76</i>	<i>1.07</i>	<i>0.47</i>	<i>0.06</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1.52 (excl golf)</i>
EASTBOURNE PROPOSED	0.75	1.0	0.6	0.10	0.2	1.5
Halton	1.25	2.75	1	0.2	0.09	n/a
Harborough	0.5	1.5	0.9	0.3	0.35	0.57
Kirklees	0.4-0.7	2	1	0.6-0.8	n/a	3
Knowsley	0.8	1.2	1.2	0.2	0.05	1.85 (excl golf)
Maidstone	1.89	n/a	0.32	n/a	0.5	n/a
Newark & Sherwood	0.6-0.8	10	0.6	0.75	0.5	2.5
Oswestry	0.35	0.9	1.2	0.3	0.05	2.5 (excl golf)
Rugby	1.5	2.5	1.1	0.2	0.65	3.5
Tamworth	0.6	2.7	1.15	0.5	0.05	1.5 (excl golf)
Vale Royal	0.9	7	1.3	0.2	0.05	n/a

¹² SMSR 2005

5.2 Benchmarking for Standard of Provision

This measures need by comparing Eastbourne's open space provision with that of other similar local authorities. Ideally this would be a comparison with local authorities that share similar characteristics such as their location on the coast, their socio-economic profile, or other towns in the South East. However this has been difficult to achieve because at the time few other local authorities had completed their open space assessments and none of eight similar local authorities¹³ who were contacted had done so.

In view of this shortcoming, an analysis was carried out on a list of Local Authorities which have been assessed by PMP Consultants. The comparison needs to be treated with some caution because none of these are seaside towns and all except for Maidstone are from the North and Midlands where the local 'culture' may be different. Details can be found in Appendix 3 and are summarised below:

- Parks & Gardens - 8th out of thirteen
- Natural Areas - 12th out of twelve
- Amenity - 12th out of thirteen
- Play Areas - 11th out of twelve
- Allotments - 6th out of thirteen
- Outdoor Sports - 12th out of twelve
- Overall - 13th out of thirteen

The comparison shows that Eastbourne is not well supplied with conventional open spaces such as amenity areas, play areas, and sports pitches. However it has better provision for parks & gardens and allotments.

Although this is a rather unfavourable picture of Eastbourne's open space provision, this is only a part of the story.

For instance, if Downland (5.44 ha/1,000) and Beaches (0.91 ha/1,000) are included in these calculations then Eastbourne's overall total provision

is boosted to 12.52 ha/1,000 rather than 6.31 ha. This would place Eastbourne 7th and in the middle of the thirteen measured local authorities.

This comparison with other local authorities suggests that Eastbourne may be underprovided with play areas, amenity space, and outdoor sports. However, this is not necessarily borne out by our survey which shows that residents are generally satisfied with local open space. Further, Eastbourne has extensive areas of Beach and Downland right on the edge of the town which undoubtedly reduce residents' reliance on conventional parks & gardens and open spaces. Finally, as a coastal town Eastbourne has access to open sea which provides opportunities for water sports and recreation and contributes significantly to the town's physical appeal.

The findings from this overview of need suggest that Eastbourne has some gaps in provision of open space. The most serious shortfall is for play areas, particularly in view of under provision for amenity space (informal play areas) which can sometimes act as a substitute for local playspace. There may also be under provision for outdoor sports facilities.

However, there are also some very positive findings about Eastbourne's downland, beaches, and parks & gardens. They achieve exceptionally high levels of satisfaction among residents, are very well-used, and in many ways compensate for the shortfall in provision in other areas.

A summary of findings is set out in Table 5.3 below.

¹³ Other local authorities contacted were: Great Yarmouth, Hastings, Penwith, Shepway, Thanet, Wealden, Weymouth & Portland, and Worthing.

Table 5.3 – Need for Open Space: Summary of Findings

OPEN SPACE TYPE	SMSR 2004	SMSR 2005	NPFA STANDARD	COMPARED TO OTHER LAs
Allotments	n/a	Need more		Good
Amenity Space	Satisfied	Need more		Poor
Beaches	Highly Satisfied	n/a		n/a
Downland	Highly Satisfied	n/a		n/a
Natural Areas	Highly Satisfied	Need more		?
Outdoor Sports	Satisfied	Need more	Close to standard	Poor
Parks & Gardens	Highly Satisfied	Need more		Fair
Play Areas	Satisfied	Need much more	Well short of standard	Poor
OVERALL	Generally satisfied but teenagers and children not well catered for			

5.3 Applying the Standards

There are three standards to be applied to the Open Spaces:

- Quantity
- Quality and Value
- Accessibility

Applying the Standards: Quantity

The standards indicated earlier are based on current provision and local needs as identified through research for this study. In general, the research showed that people were generally satisfied with open space, with the exception of provision for children and young people. Although provision is low compared to other local authorities, this does not translate through to local residents being dissatisfied with Eastbourne's open space, except in play and provision for younger people and in some limited areas such as Sovereign Harbour. The research suggests that the presence of vast areas of beach and downland surrounding Eastbourne more than compensate for any theoretical under-supply of open space within the town. The under provision of 'natural areas' in Eastbourne could

be solved by the enhancement and improved access to Eastbourne Park, and the development of outdoor sports provision in areas associated with Eastbourne Park such as Shinewater and Langney.

The overall quantity standards therefore generally reflect existing provision. However, in the case of provision for young people and children and natural areas, the standards anticipate a significant increase in provision.

Recommended Quantity Standards

Table 5.4 – Recommended Quantity Standards

TYPE	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Parks & Gardens	0.76	0.75
Natural Areas	1.07	1.0
Amenity Areas	0.47	0.6
Play Areas	0.06	0.10
Allotments	0.2	0.2
Sports Pitches	1.52	1.5

Provision for children and young people is proposed to be increased substantially by adopting these standards. However, Eastbourne's standard would still be low compared to other benchmarked local authorities and half that of the second lowest local authority. It is therefore not surprising that residents feel that more should be done for young people and children.

Applying the Standard: Quality and Value

The Quality & Value standard sets out a qualitative measure that all open spaces in Eastbourne should achieve. The ranking system provides a practical and simple measure that can be applied consistently over the years and which can be easily understood. The grading system identified four different grades, (Excellent, Good, Fair and Poor), and found that Eastbourne's open spaces achieved rankings of 13%, 35%, 33%, and 19% respectively.

The proposed Quality Standard would aim to raise all of Eastbourne's open spaces to a 'Good' standard over the next ten years.

Using a consistent and approved formula, as outlined in the Methodology, in line with the government's guidance, sites achieve a rating of between 0 and 100 and those scoring 50 or less would be graded as Fair or Poor.

The standard proposed above would require significant investment in Eastbourne's open spaces as at present some 130 sites did not achieve the desired standard. However, there is a solution to this which is through a rigorous and defensible Section 106 contributions policy which requires new housing schemes to provide funds to improve or provide open space that is needed for the residents of that housing.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 supports this approach provided that it is 'evidence based'. It is therefore proposed that a Supplementary Planning Document be prepared to support this approach. Appropriate guidance which is carefully drafted and applied consistently could achieve contributions of at least £2,500 per new dwelling and could secure annual funding of between £50-250,000 to improve Eastbourne's open spaces. This would be the means through which a Quality Standard of 'Good' could be achieved.

Applying the Standard: Accessibility

The third and final standard for open space is the accessibility standard, which represents the maximum distance people should be required to travel to reach each type of open space. This is important because it ensures that there is a reasonable distribution of different types of open space across the town. For instance, it is not helpful to parents or young children if there are plenty of playgrounds overall but the nearest one to them happens to be 20 minutes' walk away, which is the situation for many young families where our research shows that between 3,000 and 4,000 children do not have access to a local playground in areas such as the Town Centre, Meads, Upperton and Willingdon.

Accessibility to open spaces can be enhanced through the provision of a 'Green Network' across the town. The Green Network will be a planned network of formal and informal green spaces that spread out along green corridors and 'stepping stones' that allow flora and fauna to migrate to different habitats so they don't become isolated, and which will supply food and shelter for wildlife. The Green Network will also provide shared corridors for walking and cycling that will connect people with home and schools or their places of work, to sports fields and recreation areas and other services, as well as to the seaside and countryside.

Eastbourne Biodiversity Assessment Report (2007) recommends that the creation of a Green Network can be achieved through the enhancement, restoration and creation of habitats using existing amenity space, through contributions from development proposals and from the use of innovative design within the townscape.

The creation of a Green Network should be based around the central Eastbourne Park and western Downland preserves involving eight recommended corridors to achieve better interlinkage.

The aim for the Green Network would be to provide:

- functional corridors linking amenity space;
- habitat linkage; and
- new habitats to buffer/enhance particular corridors, and complement particular habitat types.

Appropriate standards for accessibility can be calculated using information from the household survey that was carried out in summer 2005. The survey asked residents from across Eastbourne whether they used each type of open space, how they travelled, and how long they travelled for. The results can then be translated into recommended distance thresholds based on local needs¹⁴ and this is included as Appendix 6.

¹⁴ The most popular mode of travel was first identified, this being either walking or driving. The travel time for 75% of respondents was then identified as per PPG17 guidance, in Eastbourne's case, this being either the 10-15 or 15-20 minute bracket. This was then translated into distances based on typical walking/driving speeds provided by the DoT, with the final distance being confirmed by the Steering Group.

Recommended Accessibility Standards

From this analysis, the following are the recommended accessibility standards for Eastbourne:

Table 5.5 – Recommended Accessibility Standards

TYPE	TRAVEL MODE	TRAVEL TIME	RECOMMENDED DISTANCE
Parks & Gardens	Walk	10-15	1.0km
Natural Areas ¹⁵	Drive	15-20	6km
Amenity Greenspace	Walk	10-15	1.2km
Play Areas	Walk	10-15	800m
Outdoor Sports	Walk	10-15	1.2km
Allotments	Walk	15-20	1.6km

These standards are then translated into maps that show the coverage for each type of open space across Eastbourne. The coverage for each type of open space, and the gaps in provision that these highlight, is analysed below.

English Nature has standards for 'Accessible Natural Greenspace' as follows:

1. Everyone living within 300m of a natural greenspace
2. Everyone living within 2km of a 20ha natural greenspace
3. Everyone living within 5km of a 100ha natural greenspace
4. Everyone living within 10km of a 500ha natural greenspace

If these standards are applied locally, then Eastbourne generally meets these standards. Because it is surrounded by large swathes of the Downs, the beach, and Eastbourne Park, the town has ample large natural greenspaces within accessible driving distance (Standards 2-4). When applying the 300m standard (Standard 1), almost the whole town is covered except for the Town Centre and Sovereign Harbour. In these areas, it could be argued that the pedestrian precinct and the waterfront respectively compensate for the shortfall of open space.

¹⁵ Including Beaches and Downland

Accessibility to Natural Areas

An accessibility standard of 2km was agreed which means that there is only one gap, in the Old Town area (refer Map 4). Given Old Town's proximity to the Downs, no action is seen as necessary to improve access to natural areas.

Accessibility to Parks & Gardens

An accessibility standard of 1.0km was defined for parks & gardens and this yields coverage as shown on Map 3. Five gaps in provision can be identified, with Sovereign Harbour being on particular concern. The long term solution for these 'gaps' could be as follows and these sites are highlighted on Map 3a:

Table 5.6 – Parks & Gardens Gaps: Potential Solutions

GAP	NAME	POTENTIAL SOLUTION
1	Sovereign Harbour	Former landfill site (na16) could be converted into a park
2	Ocklynge/Old Town	Improving access to surrounding downland; Mini-park at Avard Crescent (pl20) or Palesgate Way (pl39).
3	Bridgemere Estate	Upgrading of the Hornsey Channel to a 'linear park' (na5) e.g. near Bridgemere Community Centre; Provision as part of improvements to Eastbourne Park.
4	Town Centre	No obvious answer, however the upgrading and 'greening' of civic open space in the pedestrian precinct could provide a solution.
5	Willingdon Trees	Upgrading of amenity site at Holly Place (am346).
6	Meads	Community access to Grange Gardens (am342) might be negotiated.

Accessibility to Amenity Areas

An accessibility standard of 1.2km was agreed for amenity space. This yields complete coverage for residents across Eastbourne and no action is required in terms of new areas (refer Map 5). However as explained earlier, Eastbourne has low overall provision for amenity space and as this type of space is important to young people for informal play and

socialising, this role should be recognised and developed. A Young People's & Children's Play Strategy should investigate this issue and look at ways in which amenity spaces can be used more effectively to meet teenagers' needs. This is particularly important as many of these spaces are graded as 'Poor' in the Quality & Value audit and could come under consideration for disposal if they are surplus to needs. The Strategy is needed to ensure that teenagers' needs are properly taken account of and to look at ways of providing appropriately for their recreation and informal play.

Accessibility to Play Areas

An accessibility standard of 800m (10 minutes walking distance) was agreed for play areas. For other local authorities, this may not be an ambitious target but as explained earlier, Eastbourne has a notable under-provision and there are many gaps in coverage, as shown on Map 6. Sites which should be investigated to address these shortcomings are listed below and shown on Map 6a.

Table 5.7 – Playground Gaps: Potential Solutions

GAP	NAME	POTENTIAL SOLUTION
1	Ratton 2	New playground e.g. amenity space at Woodland Avenue (am296) or part Westlords Sports Ground (sp60) or Buckhurst Close (na15).
2	Tutts Barn	Negotiate with St Thomas R Beckett School (sp49) for new playground or St Anne's Road amenity area (am304).
3	Upperton	New playground e.g. Upperton Gardens (pa7) or Hartfield Square (pa8) or St Anne's Road (am304).
4	Town Centre 1	New playground e.g. Wishtower/Western Lawns on seafront at am174 or am172.
5	Town Centre 2	New playground e.g. Upperton Gardens (pa7) or Grange Gardens (am 342) or Saffrons (sp33).
6	Meads 1	New playground e.g. ROMPA site (sp23).
7	Meads 2	New playground e.g. Grange Gardens (am 342) or Eastbourne College (sp2) or Saffrons (sp33).
8	Sovereign Harbour	New playground e.g. Sov Harbour Natural Area (na16)

Accessibility to Outdoor Sports

A standard of 1.2km was adopted for outdoor sports fields which is equivalent to a 15 minute walking distance. When applied to 'unrestricted' sports pitches (i.e. those that are freely available to the community), this standard yields complete coverage of Eastbourne except for three small gaps (refer Map 7). The strategy for these areas is to obtain better access to existing sports fields which currently have 'restricted' community use because they are privately owned, or because they are school sites. Those sites which are well-located to address these gaps and which could deliver much better access to open space for the community are listed below and shown on Map 7a. It should be stressed that these are potential solutions and their availability cannot be guaranteed.

Table 5.8 – Outdoor Sports Gaps: Potential Solutions

GAP	NAME	POTENTIAL SOLUTION
1	Sovereign Harbour	Negotiate with school sp46 (eastern part of Bishop Bell School) to secure greater community access to facilities.
2	Willingdon Trees	Negotiate with Eastbourne Technology College (sp43) to release outdoor playing space for community use or new site at Holly Place reserve (am346) in conjunction with park.
3	Meads	Upgrade and improve access to ROMPA site (sp27).

Accessibility to Allotments

An accessibility standard of 1.6km or a 20 minute walking distance was agreed for allotments. This provides adequate coverage across Eastbourne as shown on Map 8.

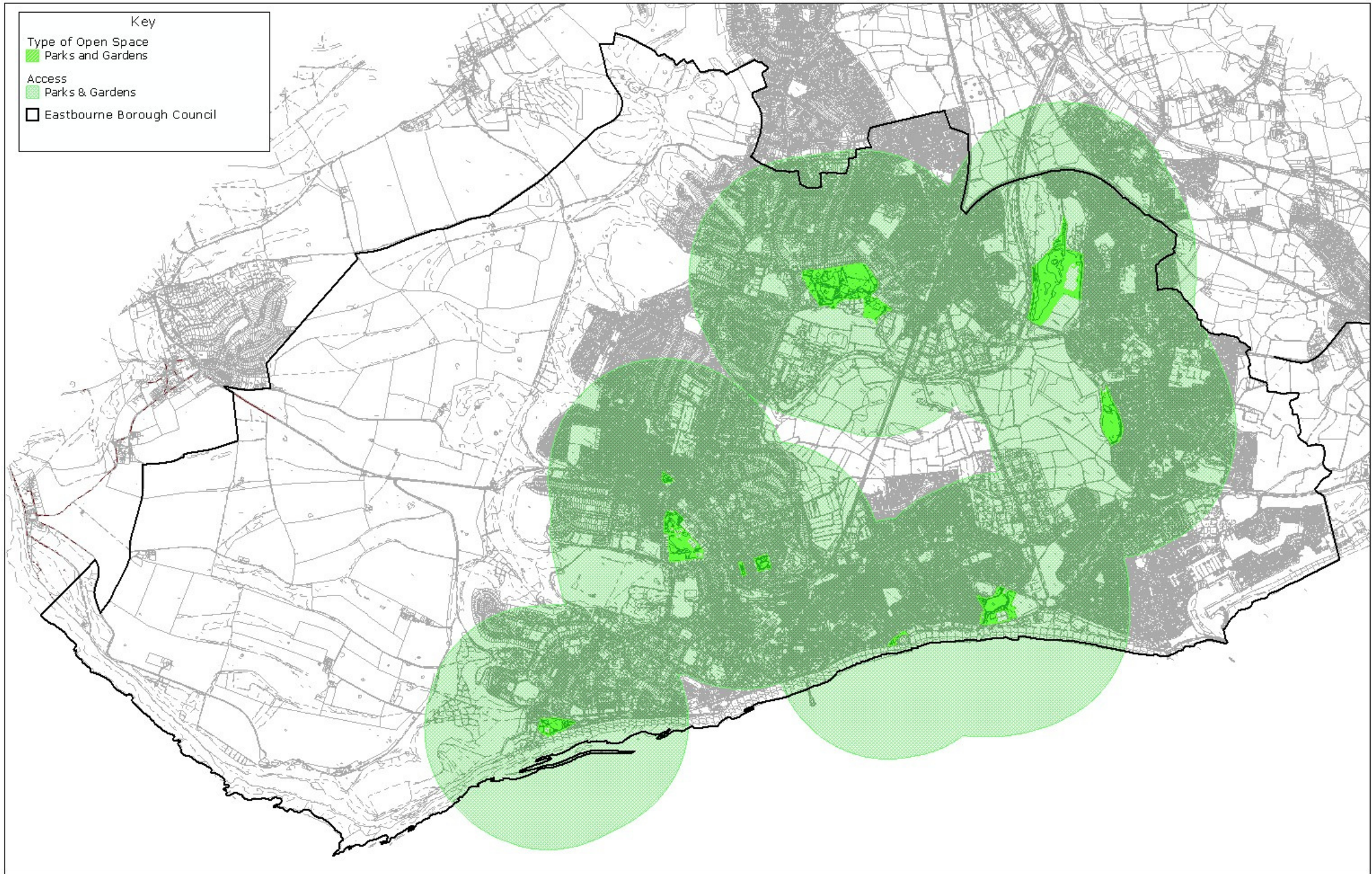
Accessibility to other types of Open Space

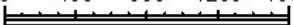
Standards of 6km or 15 minutes driving time were identified for beaches, downland, and natural areas. Everyone in Eastbourne would be within 15 minutes drive of a beach or downland using these standards and more than half the town is only a five minutes (2km) drive away.

Key

Type of Open Space
 Parks and Gardens

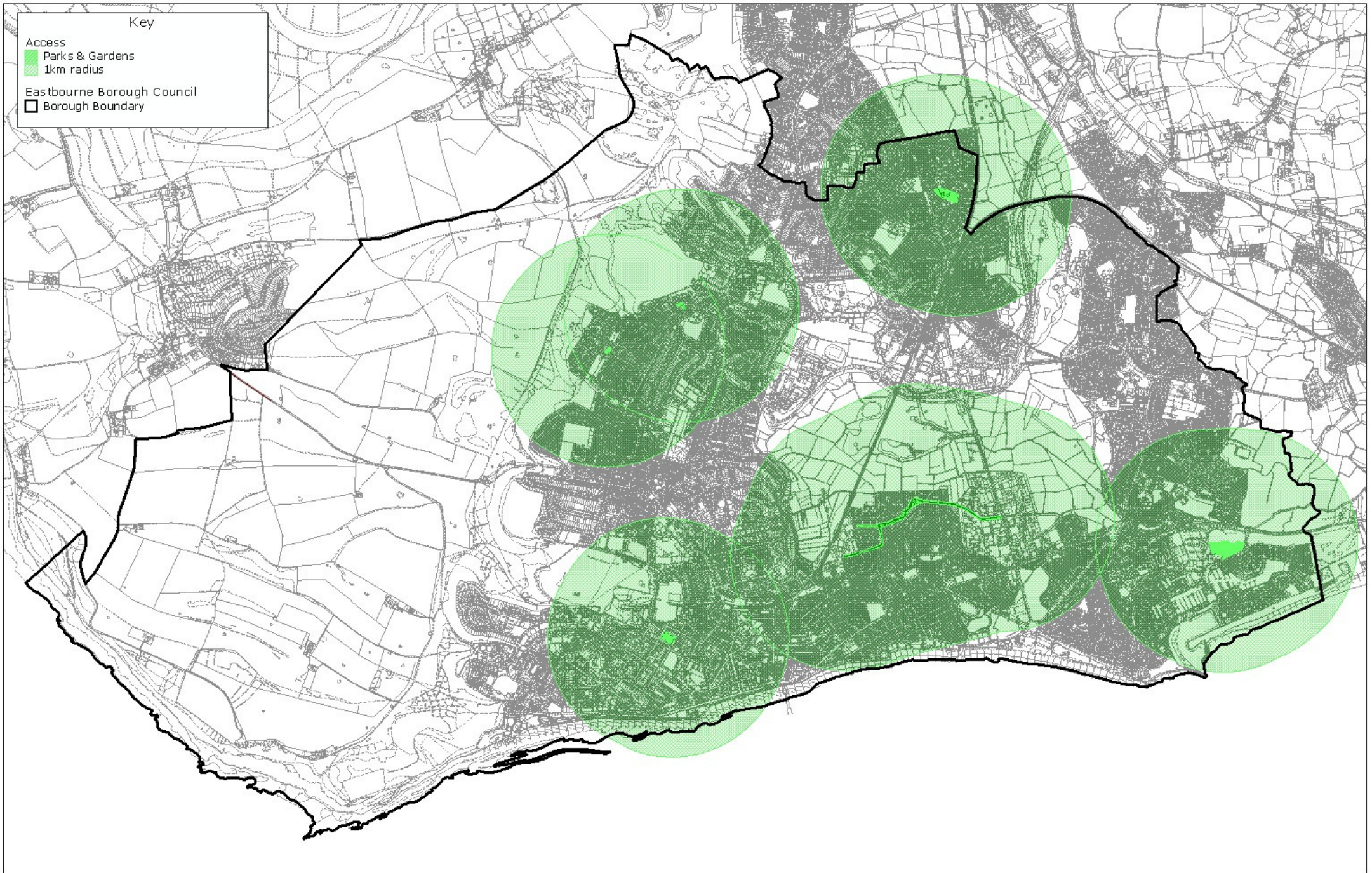
Access
 Parks & Gardens
 Eastbourne Borough Council



Scale
 0 400 800 1200 1600 m

 Scale: 1:30000

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
Map 3 - Parks and Gardens

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Scale
 0 400 800 1200 1600 m
 Scale: 1:30000

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
MAP 3A: ADDRESSING GAPS - PARKS AND GARDENS

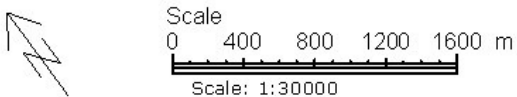
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Key

Type of Open Space
 Natural Areas

Access
 Natural Areas


 Eastbourne Borough Council



OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
Map 4 - Natural Areas

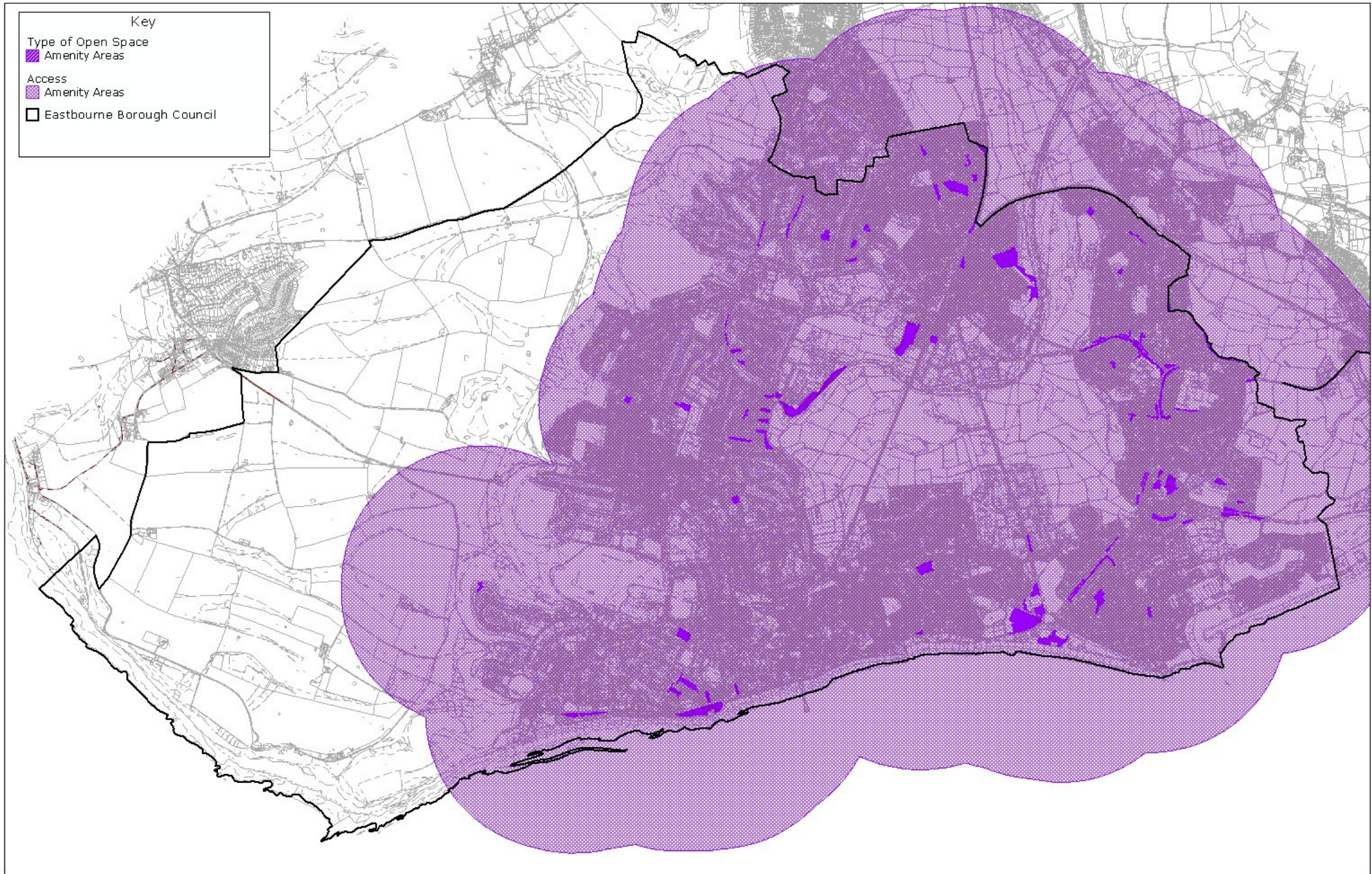
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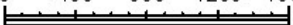
Key

Type of Open Space
 Amenity Areas

Access
 Amenity Areas

 Eastbourne Borough Council





Scale
 0 400 800 1200 1600 m

 Scale: 1:30000


OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
Map 5 - Amenity Areas

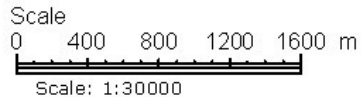
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Key

Type of Open Space
 Play Areas

Access
 Play Areas

 Eastbourne Borough Council



OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
Map 6 - Play Areas

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Scale
 0 400 800 1200 1600 m
 Scale: 1:30000

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
MAP 6A: ADDRESSING GAPS - PLAY AREAS

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Key

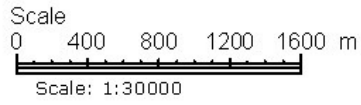
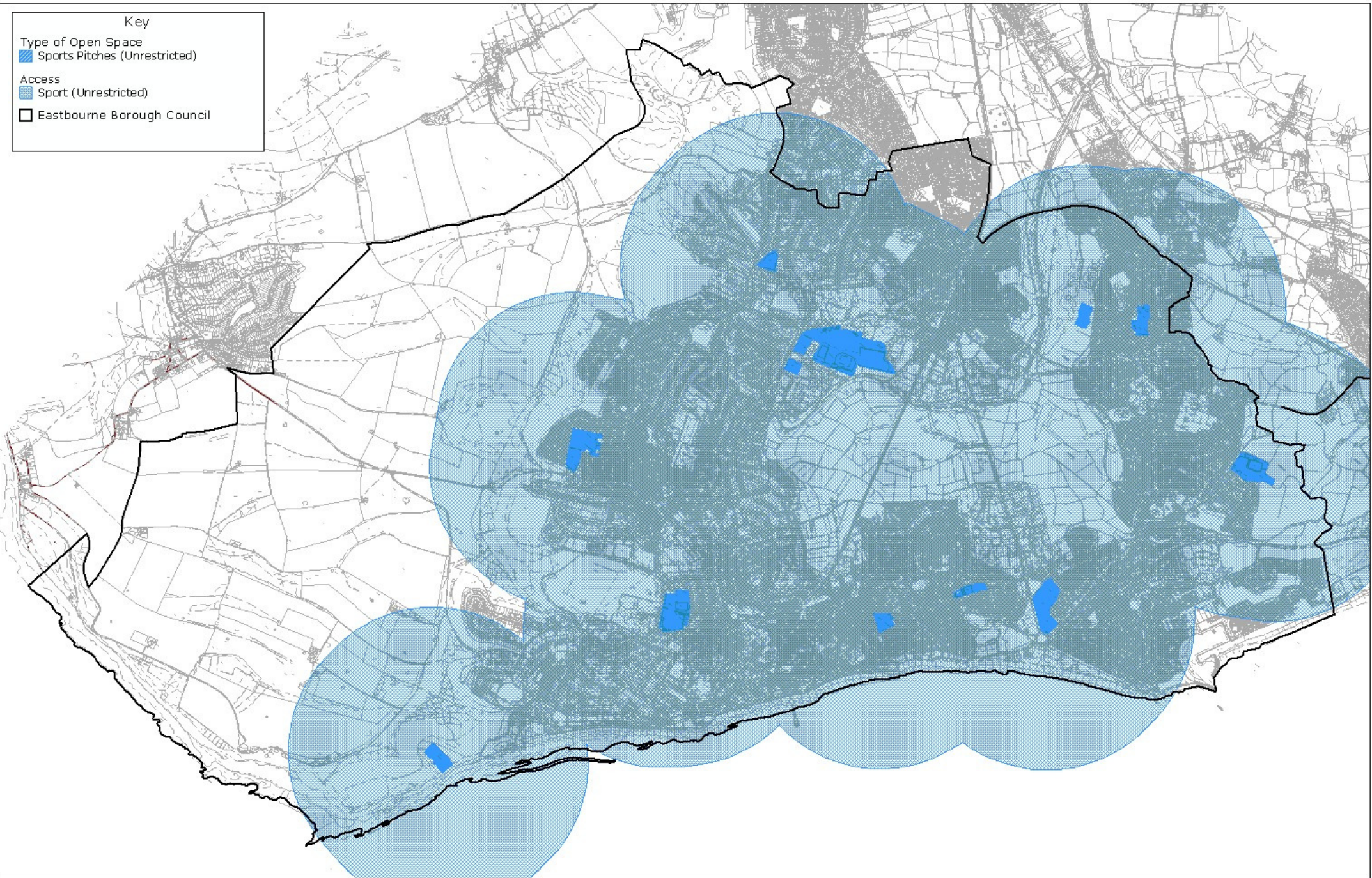
Type of Open Space

- Sports Pitches (Unrestricted)

Access

- Sport (Unrestricted)

- Eastbourne Borough Council



OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Map 7 - Sports Pitches (Unrestricted)

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Scale
 0 400 800 1200 1600 m
 Scale: 1:30000

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
MAP 7A: ADDRESSING GAPS - SPORTS PITCHES

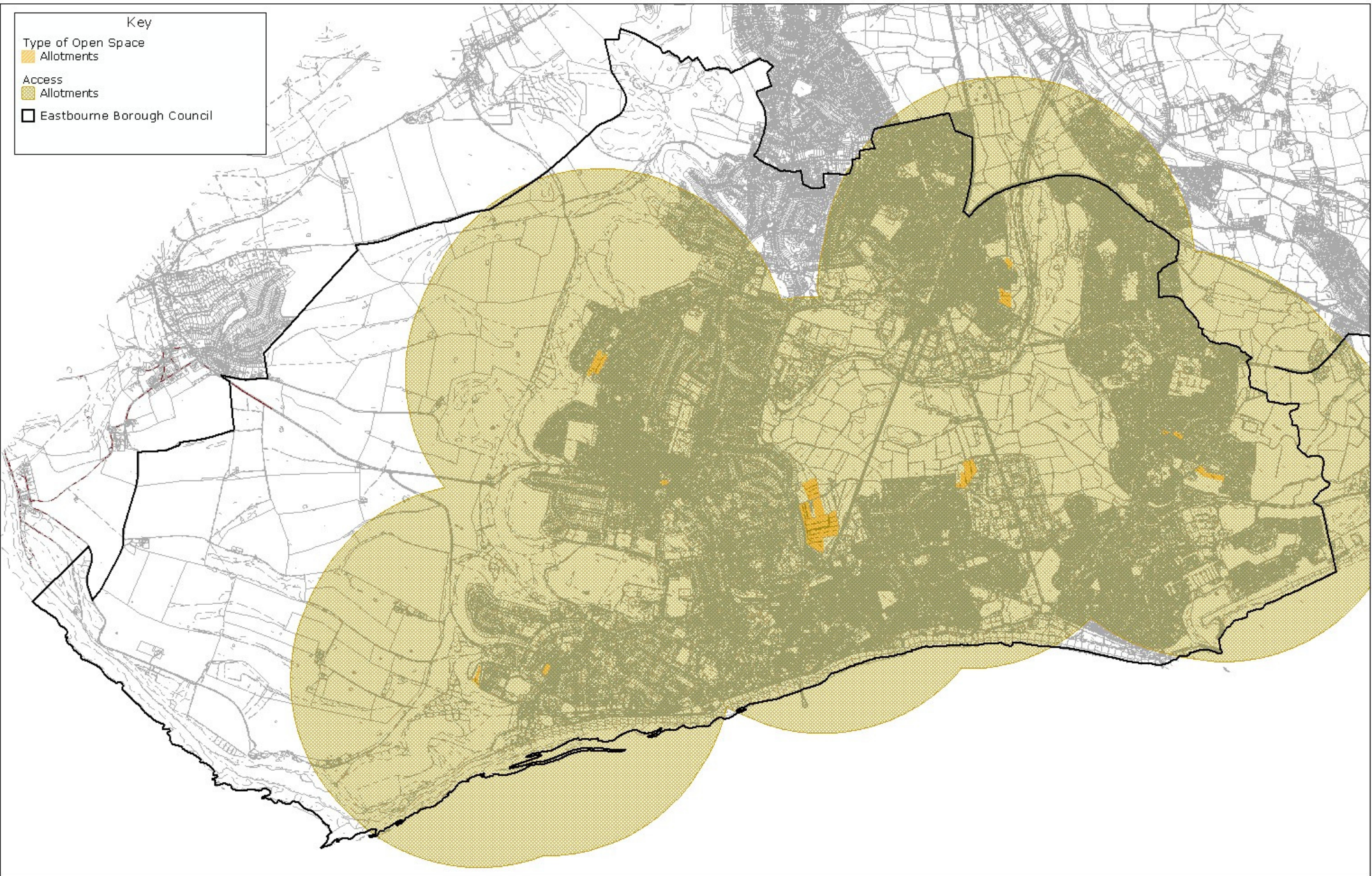
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Key

Type of Open Space
 Allotments

Access
 Allotments

 Eastbourne Borough Council



Scale
 0 400 800 1200 1600 m
 Scale: 1:30000

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT
Map 8 - Allotments

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6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

This Open Space Assessment has carried out an audit of Eastbourne's open spaces, assessed them on their quality and value, and considered the local population's accessibility to them.

The findings from this study have showed that people are generally happy with Eastbourne's open spaces. They are generally popular and well used particularly the downland, beaches, and parks and gardens.

However, research has also brought to light a number of problems areas. People feel that teenagers and children are not well catered for and this is backed up by needs assessments, which show that between 3,000 and 4,000 children in Eastbourne do not have access to a local playground. The town compares poorly in terms of its provision for play areas, amenity areas, and sports field, and there are areas which do not have a local park, a local sports ground, or local play areas. Children's playgrounds are unevenly distributed with many playgrounds around Langney but serious shortfalls in older parts of the town around Old Town, Meads, Ratton, Upperton and Devonshire. Sovereign Harbour and Bridgemere also emerge as areas where new spaces are needed.

6.2 Recommendations

The next step is to take this work further so that everyone in Eastbourne has decent access to the open space that they need, and to ensure that those spaces are 'fit for purpose'.

To ensure that this goal is achieved, a number of recommendations have been drawn up which are practical, effective, and cost neutral (i.e. they do not require new funds which are not there). This will require initiatives on a number of fronts including:

- Effective pursuit of development contributions (S106 funds)
- Identifying new and realistic funding opportunities
- Disposal of surplus open space assets to finance improvements elsewhere - a '*Dispose To Improve*' programme of upgrading Eastbourne's open spaces

The recommendations have been divided into 'Planning Recommendations' that can be addressed through the planning system, and 'Other Recommendations' that will need to be addressed in other ways.

Planning Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Integrate the findings of the Open Space Assessment into the Local Development Framework through the Core Strategy and a 'Sustainable Design' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The findings from this study are needed to inform the Core Strategy and a specific section of a 'Sustainable Design' Supplementary Planning Document. The Core Strategy might reflect that Eastbourne is not especially well provided with open space and that people generally feel that slightly more open space is needed. Policy should therefore have stringent controls against loss of open space. Policies might also reflect the need for additional playgrounds, parks & gardens, and sports pitches in some areas, and the need to upgrade Eastbourne Park's open spaces.

Recommendation 2: Integrate the findings of the Open Space Assessment into a 'Planning Obligations' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The 'Planning Obligations' Supplementary Planning Document would calculate a scale of charges for development contributions and how these contributions might be applied. The SPD would flesh out detail for these policies, particularly with an explanation for how and when development contributions will be sought for improvements to open spaces and the 'green network' and at how those contributions will be calculated.

Recommendation 3: Prepare a programme to deliver a green network of open spaces across Eastbourne and integrate green network policies into the Core Strategy.

The programme would provide a planned network of formal and informal green spaces that spread out along green corridors and 'stepping stones' that allow flora and fauna to migrate to different habitats so they don't become isolated, and which will supply food and shelter for wildlife. It would also deliver a balanced and equitable green network that will include parks, play areas, and playing fields across Eastbourne in line with identified community needs. All residents would be able to

visit these green spaces conveniently and easily. The programme would ensure that those who currently do not have local access to a play area, a sports pitch and a park would be better provided for.

Other Recommendations

Recommendation 4: Allocate responsibility for distributing development contributions for open space to a specialist officer / co-ordinator.

A specialist officer or co-ordinator that is responsible for the allocation and distribution of monies arriving from development contributions should be given the task ensuring appropriate funding is given to the improvement and enhancement of the open spaces. This includes the creation and maintenance of the 'green network'. There would also be opportunities to seek external funding for open spaces through agencies such as Sport England, the Play Council, the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme and the Lottery. Further details on resources for open space are included in Appendix 7.

Recommendation 5: Promote better use of the open space database through Parks & Gardens, Community Services, and Planning Policy, and continually update and improve the system.

The open space database that has been developed through this study is a valuable asset with applications for several Council departments including Community Services, Parks & Gardens, Planning Policy, and Estates.

Recommendation 6: Carry out a Young People's & Children's Play Strategy

Facilities for children and teenagers have emerged as the most important open space priority. The shortfall in this area has been seriously exposed by this study and this is out of step with Eastbourne's future which is as a younger, family orientated town with a healthy and sporty lifestyle. Residents are well aware of this shortcoming and feel that more should be done for these groups. A Young People's & Children's Play Strategy could be carried out to identify how gaps in provision can be filled, how playgrounds should be equipped and managed, and how teenagers' open space needs can be better met. The study could also identify existing open spaces which are surplus to needs, and which of these can be disposed of to generate funds to improve provision elsewhere.

Recommendation 7: Carry out a Playing Fields Strategy

The situation regarding outdoor sports and playing fields is finely balanced. Eastbourne is dependent upon the goodwill of local schools to provide venues for junior football and without that goodwill, provision would be inadequate. If government policies to promote sports and active lifestyle are successful then provision will be stretched beyond capacity and some venues are facing long term maintenance drainage and problems which will need to be addressed. Sport England encourages Local Authorities to prepare a 'Playing Pitch Strategy' to assess current and future demand and to look strategically at the issue. It provides match funding to carry out these studies and this approach is recommended.

Recommendation 8: Investigate better provision for parks & gardens (Table 5.6).

A priority would be to investigate suitable sites for new provision for parks and gardens and how those sites could be paid for.

Recommendation 9: Investigate better provision for play areas (Table 5.7).

This recommendation would be taken up as part of the Young People's & Children's Play Strategy.

Recommendation 10: Investigate better provision for sports pitches (Table 5.8).

A further priority would be to investigate sites for outdoor sports pitches. The first option would be to negotiate with school sites in suitable areas for greater community access to their facilities, and how this could be achieved to the benefit of all parties.

APPENDIX 1

SMSR 2004 - KEY FINDINGS

SMSR HOUSEHOLDER SURVEY; OCTOBER 2004

1 USAGE

How often are different types of open space visited?

	AT LEAST 1 X PER MONTH	OCCASIONALLY
Allotments	2%	4%
Amenity	34%	42%
Beaches	79%	92%
Downland	61%	79%
Natural/Woodland	53%	67%
Parks & Gardens	76%	90%
Play	30%	38%
Sports	21%	31%

2 MAIN REASON FOR VISIT

Main reason for visiting open space?

	GENTLE WALK	TAKE FAMILY OUT	ACTIVE LEISURE/ INFORMAL SPORT	SPECIAL VISIT	FORMAL SPORT
Allotments	22%	2%	-%	75%	-%
Amenity	36	31	26	4	4
Beaches	70	22	7	1	-
Downland	71	16	12	1	-
Natural/Woodland	65	23	11	2	-
Parks & Gardens	66	23	9	-	-
Play	8	86	2	3	-
Sports	14	21	49	6	9

3 RATING OF QUALITY

How good to people rate each outdoor space?

	VERY/FAIRLY GOOD
Parks & Gardens, Natural areas, Downland, Beaches	90-96%
Outdoor sports, Amenity Space, Playgrounds	71-80%
Allotments	55%

4 IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents were asked to name specific improvements they would like to see.

From 6-9% of respondents (30-50 replies) nominated the following as a priority:

- Better control of dogs/dog fouling
- More/better toilets
- Cleaner/tidier/litter free streets & beaches
- More/better/cheaper car parking
- More for children/secure playgrounds
- Better maintenance
- More litter bins

5 PROBLEMS

People were asked to identify problems or barriers to visiting each type of open space.

Some 80-90% did not identify any problems or restrictions, but of those that replied the following were nominated:

- Lack of time (27-32%)
- Parking (11-55%, especially Beach and Downland)
- Health/old age (18-27%, especially Outdoor Sport)
- Transport (11-26%)

6 CATERING FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS

Respondents were asked to state how well open spaces cater for different age groups.

	% NOT VERY WELL/NOT AT ALL
Teenagers	50%
Young children	15%
Young families	8%
Middle aged	6%
Elderly	6%

7 MOST POPULAR/MOST FREQUENT

Respondents were asked which space or facility they use most often:

- Parks & Gardens, Beaches (37% each)
- Downland (16%)
- Sports, Amenity areas, Playgrounds, Natural areas/woodland, Allotments (all 1-3%)

8 FAVOURITE LOCATIONS

They were then asked the particular place they visited most often:

- Seafront (26%)
- Hampden Park (17%)
- Princes Park (11%)
- Beachy Head (8%)
- Gildredge Park (6%)
- Butts Brow (5%)
- Sovereign Harbour (4%)
- Eastbourne Beach, Old Town, Motcombe Gardens, Manor Gardens (all 1-2%)

9 FREQUENCY OF VISIT TO FAVOURITE LOCATION

Of the five most popular locations above:

- 4 out of 10 visit 'several times a week'
- A further 4 out of 10 visit once a week
- Nearly all of the remainder visit at least once a month

10 MODE OF TRANSPORT

How people travelled to the five most popular locations was questioned:

Walking (52%) and car (43%) were the main modes of transport. Travel by bicycle and bus was negligible (2-4%).

11 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

SMSR highlighted the following as key findings:

- Maintain beaches in good condition
- Older residents hardly ever use natural/amenity spaces
- Very few use bikes/bus to get to open space
- Few people actually use outdoor sports facilities (70% never visit)
- Main importance is to parents and families
- Amenity/play/sports/allotments/not rated highly
- Clear need for children's playgrounds to be closer
- Lack of facilities for teenagers
- Overall rating of main open spaces was high but raised questions about adequacy for amenity, play, and sports areas
- Improvements sought for children and teenagers, cleaner, parking, and toilets

OVERALL

SMSR concluded that Eastbourne is "currently performing well in most areas", but that improvement are needed in two distinct areas:

Operational

- Cleanliness
- Cheaper and better parking
- Better toilets

Strategic

- Improved provision for teenagers
- Increased use of public transport and bicycles
- Increased use of facilities for 'active exercise'
- Improved location of playgrounds closer to residents

APPENDIX 2

SMSR JULY 2005 - FINDINGS

EASTBOURNE OPEN SPACES SURVEY; SMSR LTD, JULY 2005

Question 1 (301 replies)

I want to find out how you travel to Eastbourne's open spaces and how long it takes to get there.

TYPE	TOTAL USERS	TRAVEL MODE				TRAVEL TIME				
		Walk	Drive	Cycle	Bus/Train	0-5 mins	5-10 mins	10-15 mins	15-20 mins	More than 20 mins
Beaches	255	52%	43%	3%	3%	18%	32%	31%	9%	11%
Parks & Open Spaces	261	67	30	2	2	29	36	17	9	9
Downland	201	36	59	1	3	13	29	20	21	17
Natural Areas/Woodland	172	36	58	2	4	14	23	22	18	24
Amenity Green Space	160	63	32	1	3	31	35	15	9	11
Children's Playgrounds	115	78	18	3	1	33	37	16	10	5
Outdoor Sports Facilities	135	49	48	2	1	26	36	22	12	5
Allotments	41	61	29	7	2	20	15	37	20	10

Question 2 (301 replies)

I now want to find out whether you think we have enough of each type of open space.

TYPE	Lot More Needed	Almost Enough	About Right	More Than Enough	Don't Know
Parks & Open Spaces	12	19	63	2	4
Natural & Semi-Natural Green/Woodland	14	23	52	3	9

Amenity Green Space	13	20	51	3	14
Children's Playgrounds	19	13	22	3	33
Outdoor Sports Facilities	22	12	42	2	22
Allotments	9	5	24	2	61

APPENDIX 3
EXISTING PROVISION
COMPARISON WITH OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES
HECTARES/1,000 POPULATION

LOCAL AUTHORITY¹⁶	Parks & Gardens	Natural Areas	Amenity	Play Areas	Allotments	Outdoor Sports
Chelmsford¹⁵¹ (Urban)	0.84	3.12	0.74	0.09	0.26	1.75
Congleton¹⁷³ (Urban)	0.64	1.43	0.86	0.44	0.03	2.33
Eastbourne	0.76	1.07	0.47	0.06	0.20	1.52
Halton	1.21	4.77	1	0.07	0.08	3.37
Harborough²²²	0.25	8.92	0.77	0.12	0.29	5.21
Kirklees (Urban)	0.4-0.6	.4-10.9	.49-1.0	.03-.09	.11-.22	2.5-6.6
Knowsley	8.37	1.19	1.28	0.11	0.03	3.15
Maidstone⁹⁴	2.27	n/a	0.65	n/a	0.21	n/a
Newark & Sherwood¹²⁴	1.9	15.8	0.6	0.36	0.22	2.06
Oswestry⁹⁰	0.25	3.11	0.97	0.18	0.03	4.25
Rugby⁷⁷ (Urban)	9.81ha	20.1ha	0.56ha	0.16ha	0.79ha	15.9ha
Tamworth²³¹	0.51	13.56	1.15	0.27	0.05	1.92
Vale Royal¹⁷⁵	0.88	6.43	0.93	0.06	0.05	5.87

¹⁶ Each Local Authority's similarity with Eastbourne was checked and the numeric score next to the name of the Local Authority is an indication of their similarity - the lower the figure, the greater the similarity. Those without a numeral have a score greater than 250 (out of 350 for the whole of the country) and so have low socio-economic similarity.

APPENDIX 4

LISTING OF ALL SITES

REF	STREET	COMMON NAME	AREA (ha)
ALLOTMENTS			Total 17.59
AL1	Priory Road		0.97
AL2	Midhurst Road		0.27
AL4	Rise Park Gardens	Ashgate Road	0.32
AL5	Churchdale Road		2.19
AL7	Tutts Barn Lane	Tutts Barn	2.22
AL8	Gorringe Road	Gorringe Road	5.19
AL9	Tutts Barn Lane	Marchants Field	1.79
AL10	The Village		0.28
AL11	Manor Road	Manor Road	1.00
AL14	Bay Pond Road		0.15
AL15	Wellcombe Crescent	Wellcombe Allotments	0.39
AL16	Filching Road	Green Street South	1.67
AL17	Gorringe Road	Summerdale	1.16
AMENITY AREAS			Total 42.53
AM11	Pevensey Bay Road		1.02
AM17	Lincoln Close		0.20
AM50	Heron Close		0.13
AM68	Hever Close		0.12
AM69	Langney Rise	Lydd Close Amenity	0.11
AM79	Wartling Road		0.13
AM84	Pennine Way		0.40
AM86	Coach Park		0.57
AM91	Tidebrook Gardens		0.10
AM97	Netherfield Avenue		0.30
AM98	Lottbridge Drove		0.18
AM99	Larkspur Drive		0.13
AM104	Goudhurst Close		0.12
AM105	Sovereign Centre		1.49
AM108	Coach Park		0.54
AM117	Austen Walk		0.14
AM129	Princes Road		0.73
AM134	Willingdon R A B		0.33
AM138	Wish Hill		0.14
AM155	Slindon Crescent		0.60
AM160	Beverington Close		0.12
AM166	Royal Parade		0.10
AM167	Howard Square		0.15
AM170	Meadowlands Avenue		0.21
AM171	Rear Sturdee Close		0.19
AM172	King Edward's Parade		1.19
AM174	Grand Parade	Western Lawns (Wish Tower)	0.90
AM175	Woodgate Road		1.04
AM178	Lindfield Road		0.16
AM185	Princes Road		1.06
AM186	Tovey Close		0.22
AM187	Willingdon Road		0.14
AM190	Cross Levels Way		3.45
AM191	Westfield Road		0.14

AM224	Hazelwood Ave		0.95
AM227	Hide Hollow		0.10
AM228	Kings Drive		0.18
AM237	Rodmill R A B		0.17
AM238	King's Drive		0.11
AM239	Burton Road		0.22
AM240	Burton Road		0.32
AM241	King's Drive		0.32
AM242	Kings Drive		0.21
AM261	Percival Road		0.22
AM281	Cotswold Close		0.11
AM296	Woodland Avenue		0.45
AM304	St Annes Road		0.32
AM306	Wilmington Square		0.23
AM308	Fountains Close		0.16
AM312	Hood Close	Langney Point Public Open Space	0.92
AM313	Saxby Close	Langney Village Recreation Ground	1.18
AM314	Midhurst Road	Highfield Recreation Ground	1.15
AM315	Sheffield Park Way		0.26
AM316	Wilton Avenue	Winkney Farm Recreation Ground	2.56
AM318	Broadway	Church	0.19
AM319	Elm Grove		2.69
AM326	Croxden Way		0.13
AM335	Maywood Avenue		0.35
AM337	Macmillan Drive		0.53
AM342	Grange Gardens		0.81
AM346	Holly Place	Holly Place Amenity Area	1.52
AM350	Langney Rise		0.14
AM362	Pevensey Bay Road		0.13
AM365	Etchingham Road		0.13
AM366	Langney Rise		0.23
AM370	Victoria Gardens		0.22
AM379	Wiltshire Court	Etchingham Road	0.33
AM405	Milfoil Drive	Shinewater Cc	0.11
AM407	Fern Close		0.11
AM419	Tintern Close		0.15
AM420	Jevington Gardens		0.37
AM421	Wilmington Gardens		0.77
AM423	King Edwards Parade	Crows Nest	0.69
AM424	Royal Parade	Princes Park	2.87
AM426	Langney Rise/Willingdon Dr	Langney Verges	3.07
AM428	Marshall Road	Brampton Industrial Estate	0.32
BEACHES			Total
			81.69
BE1	Seafront Promenades	Holywell	18.54
BE2	Seafront	Western Lawns	4.30
BE3	Seafront	Wish Tower - Pier	8.17
BE4	Seafront	Pier To Pavilion Tearooms	8.60
BE5	Seafront	Pavilion Tearooms - Treasure Island	3.91
BE6	Seafront	Fishermen's Green	3.40
BE7	Seafront	Princess Park	6.61
BE8	Seafront	Sovereign Park	8.82
BE9	Seafront	Sovereign Harbour	13.11
PR1	King Edwards Parade	Holywell - Wish Tower	3.79
PR2	Middle Western Parade	Wish Tower	0.72
PR3	Parades	Wish Tower - Pier	1.73

CEMETERIES			Total 18.00
CE1	Hide Hollow	Langney Cemetery	6.05
CE2	High Street	St. Mary's Churchyard	0.36
CE3	Hide Hollow	Eastbourne Crematorium	3.59
CE4	Willingdon Road	Ocklynge Cemetery	8.02
DOWNLAND			Total 487.55
DO1	East Dean Road	Compartment 4	32.29
DO2	East Dean Road	Compartment 11	72.84
DO3	East Dean Road	Compartment 6	7.33
DO4	Beehive Plantation	Compartment 14	32.27
DO5	East Dean Road	Compartment 5	26.19
DO6	East Dean Road	Compartment 3	68.47
DO7	East Dean Road	Compartment 1	59.25
DO8	Cherry Garden Plantation	Compartment 12	37.87
DO9	Further Plantation	Compartment 13	52.30
DO10	East Dean Road	Compartment 7	37.53
DO11	East Dean Road	Compartment 2	61.21
NATURAL AREAS			Total 96.06
NA1	Dallington Road	Lakelands Pond	0.45
NA2	Ringwood Road	SNCI	0.32
NA3	Ringwood Road	SNCI	0.43
NA4	Lottbridge Drove	Southbourne Lake	6.19
NA5	Bridgemere Road	SNCI	2.56
NA6	Bridgemere Road	SNCI	1.25
NA8	Lottbridge Drove	SNCI	0.50
NA9	Priory Road		1.86
NA10	Kingfisher Drive	Langney Pond	0.90
NA11	Parkway	Woodland Belt	2.01
NA12	King Edward's Parade	SSSI (Holywell)	6.07
NA13	Leeds Avenue	SNCI	2.57
NA14	Prince William Parade	Sovereign Park	5.96
NA15	Buckhurst Close		0.27
NA16	Sovereign Harbour	Sovereign Harbour	3.26
NA17	Larkspur Drive	Shinewater Lake	21.97
NA18	Willingdon Drove	Willingdon Drove Natural Area	9.95
NA19	Percival Road	Winkney Lakes	10.02
NA20	Sevenoaks Road	West Langney Lake	19.50
PARKS & GARDENS			Total 68.56
PA1	Larkspur Drive	Shinewater Park	20.89
PA2	Sevenoaks Road		6.05
PA3	Compton Place Road	Gildredge Park	5.13
PA4	Compton Place Road	Manor Gardens	2.79
PA5	Hampden Park Drive	Hampden Park	20.81
PA7	Upperton Gardens	Upperton Gardens	0.48
PA8	Hartfield Square	Hartfield Square	1.53
PA9	Motcombe Road	Motcombe Gardens	0.62
PA10	Royal Parade	Floral Display	0.49
PA11	King Edwards Parade	Holywell Retreat	0.60
PA12	King Edwards Parade	Helen Gardens	2.53
PA13	Royal Parade	Princes Park	6.47
PA14	Hampden Park Drive	Hampden Park Education Garden	0.18
PLAY AREAS			Total 5.43

PL2	Larkspur Drive	Shinewater Playground	0.15
PL3	Hampden Park Drive	Hampden Park Playground	0.23
PL4	Pensford Drive	Pensford Drive Playground	0.03
PL5	Oak Tree Lane	Oak Tree Lane Playground	0.16
PL6	Milfoil Drive	Play Area	0.05
PL7	Primrose Close	Primrose Close Playground	0.07
PL8	Hadlow Avenue	Hadlow Avenue Playground	0.11
PL9	Bodiam Crescent	Bodiam Crescent Playground	0.16
PL10	Wilton Avenue	Winkney Farm Playground	0.10
PL11	Mulberry Close	Mulberry Close Play Area	0.04
PL12	Croxden Way	Croxden Way Playground	0.05
PL14	Edmund Close	Edmund Close Playground	0.06
PL15	Chiltern Close	Chiltern Close Playground	0.06
PL17	Egbert Close	Egbert Close Playground	0.07
PL18	Borough Lane	Gildredge Park Playground	0.17
PL19	King Edwards Parade	Helen Garden Playground	0.04
PL20	Avard Crescent	Avard Crescent Play Area	0.24
PL21	Macmillan Drive	Play Area	0.72
PL22	Longland Road	Old Town Playground	0.09
PL23	Victoria Gardens	Victoria Gardens Playground	0.09
PL27	Faversham Rd Playground		0.14
PL28	Carroll Walk		0.31
PL30	Priory Road	Priory Road Playground	0.13
PL31	Gardner Close	Gardner Close Play Ground	0.09
PL32	Royal Parade	Princes Park Play Area	0.17
PL33	Seaside	Seaside Recreation Ground Play Area	0.09
PL34	Wartling Road	Wartling Road Play Area	0.15
PL35	Holly Place	Holly Place Play Area	0.04
PL36	Fitzmaurice Avenue	Roselands Play Area	0.22
PL37	Seaside	Archery Play Area	0.06
PL38	Sevenoaks Road	Sevenoaks Road Play Area	0.16
PL39	Palesgate Way	Palesgate Way Play Area	0.20
PL40	Samoa Way	Samoa Way Playground	0.06
PL41	Vancouver Road	Vancouver Road Playground	0.04
PL42	Prince William Parade	Sovereign Centre Skate Park	0.20
PL43	Cross Levels Way	Cross Levels BMX Park	0.52
PL44	Holly Place	Holly Place Hang-Out Area	0.02
PL45	Larkspur Drive	Xtreme Supreme	0.11
PL46	Sevenoaks Road	Basketball Area	0.03
SPORTS PITCHES			Total 304.99
UNRESTRICTED			Total 64.80
SP9	Seaside	Seaside Recreation Ground	2.11
SP16	Priory Road	Langney Sports Club (Eastbourne Borough Football Club)	6.20
SP25	Shinewater Lane	NPFA Playing Field	2.97
SP33	Compton Place Road	The Saffrons	7.80
SP48	Longland Road	Old Town Recreation Area	6.40
SP55	Seaside	Archery Recreation Ground	1.85
SP57	Hampden Park	Hampden Park Playing Field (Pt Sports Park)	15.51
SP58	Broadwater Way	Hampden Park Playing Field (Pt Sports Park)	1.30
SP59	Cross Levels Way	Eastbourne Sports Park	6.64
SP60	Willingdon Road	Westlords Sports Ground	2.09

SP62	Larkspur Drive	Shinewater Park Playing Fields	2.10
SP68	Lottbridge Drove	Five Acres Field - Princes Park	6.86
SP70	Dukes Drive	Whitbread Hollow	2.97
SPORTS PITCHES (RESTRICTED)			Total 11.60
SP6	Sidley Road	The Oval (Eastbourne United AFC)	2.91
SP8	Darley Road	All Saints Playing Field	0.82
SP22	Compton Place Road	Dental Estimates Board	1.75
SP23	Carlisle Road	ROMPA	0.89
SP26	Blackwater Road	International Lawn Tennis Centre	1.71
SP27	Carlisle Road	ROMPA	1.17
SP69	Paradise Drive	Golf Course Ruby Fields	2.35
SPORTS PITCHES (EDUCATION)			Total 54.89
AD1	Welkin Brighton University	Gaudick Road	0.22
SP1	Ocklynge School	Baldwin Avenue	2.37
SP2	Eastbourne College	Grange Road	1.56
SP4	St. Johns Meads School	Rowsley Road	0.48
SP5	Moira House School	Carlisle Road	1.74
SP11	Ratton School	Park Lane	4.25
SP12	Cavendish School	Eldon Road	3.27
SP14	Motcombe School	Macmillan Drive	0.67
SP15	Eastbourne College	Paradise Drive	2.01
SP17	Eastbourne College	Compton Drive	2.10
SP19	Eastbourne College	Paradise Drive	0.61
SP21	Eastbourne College	Grange Road	0.25
SP31	Haven School	Wade Close	0.94
SP34	Parkland School	Brassey Avenue	1.14
SP36	Oakwood School	Maywood Avenue	1.29
SP37	Causeway School	Larkspur Drive	5.63
SP38	St. Andrews School	Darley Road	3.73
SP39	Shinewater School	Milfoil Drive	1.70
SP43	Eastbourne Tech College	Brodrick Road	4.21
SP45	Langney School	Keymer Close	0.76
SP46	Bishop Bell School	Priory Road	4.08
SP47	West Rise School	Sevenoaks Road	2.08
SP49	St Thomas Beckett School	Tutts Barn Lane	1.41
SP52	Stafford School	Ringwood Road	2.32
SP53	Highfield School	Dallington Road	3.08
SP54	University Of Brighton	Denton Road	0.75
SP61	Tollgate School	Leeds Avenue	1.83
SP64	St Bede's Prep School	Dukes Drive	0.41
BOWLS			Total 2.27
SP7	Royal Parade	The Parade Bowls Club	0.37
SP10	Victoria Drive	Victoria Drive Bowling Club	0.14
SP28	Compton Place Road	Gildredge Park Bowls Club	0.47
SP65	King Edwards Parade	Helen Gardens Bowls Club	0.19
SP66	Royal Parade	Princes Park Bowls Club	0.98
SP67	Motcombe Lane	Motcombe Bowls Club	0.12
GOLF			Total 168.29
SP32	Paradise Drive	Royal Eastbourne Golf Course	53.94
SP41	East Dean Road	Downs Golf Course	52.48
SP42	Southdown Road	Willingdon Golf Course	39.19
SP44	Lottbridge Drove	Eastbourne Golfing Park	22.68
TENNIS			Total 3.15

SP3	Compton Place Road	Manor Gardens Tennis Club	0.15
SP13	Longland Road	Old Town Tennis Courts	0.24
SP29	Compton Place Road	Goffs Tennis Club	0.24
SP56	Hampden Park Drive	Hampden Park Bowls & Tennis Clubs	1.95
SP63	Royal Parade	Fisherman's Green Tennis & Basketball	0.57
OPEN SPACE			Total 1122.41

APPENDIX 5

QUALITY & VALUE AUDIT - FINDINGS

Types of Open Space

TYPE	NO	EXCELLENT		GOOD		FAIR		POOR	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Allotments	13	4	31	8	62	1	8	0	0
Amenity Areas	75	1	1	9	12	34	45	31	41
Beaches	12	4	33	4	33	2	17	2	17
Cemeteries	4	2	50	2	50	0	0	0	0
Downland	11	3	27	8	73	0	0	0	0
Natural Areas	19	3	16	4	21	7	37	5	26
Parks & Gardens	13	5	38	5	38	2	15	1	8
Play Areas	34	1	3	13	38	14	41	6	18
Sports Pitches	64	8	13	33	52	21	33	2	3
TOTAL	245	31	13%	86	35%	81	33%	47	19%

Sub-categories of Sports Pitches

SPORTS PITCHES	NO	EXCELLENT		GOOD		FAIR		POOR	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
<i>Unrestricted</i>	13	2	15	5	38	5	38	1	8
<i>Education</i>	28	2	7	15	54	11	39	0	0
<i>Bowls</i>	6	2	33	4	67	0	0	0	0
<i>Tennis</i>	5	0	0	2	40	2	40	1	20
<i>Golf</i>	4	1	25	3	75	0	0	0	0
<i>BMX</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0
<i>Other Restricted</i>	7	1	14	4	57	2	29	0	0
TOTAL SPORTS PITCHES	64	8	13%	33	52%	21	33%	2	3%

APPENDIX 6

ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS - TRAVEL TIME, DISTANCE & MODE OF TRANSPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PARKS & GARDENS			NATURAL AREAS			AMENITY GREENSPACE			PLAY AREAS			OUTDOOR SPORTS			ALLOTMENTS		
	Travel Time (mins)	Distance (km)	Transport	Travel Time (mins)	Distance (km)	Transport	Travel Time (mins)	Distance (km)	Transport	Travel Time (mins)	Distance (km)	Transport	Travel Time (mins)	Distance (km)	Transport	Travel Time (mins)	Distance (km)	Transport
Ellesmere Port & Neston	10	0.4	Walk	15	6	Drive	5	0.4	Walk	5-10	0.4-0.8	Walk	15	6	Drive	10-15	4-6	Drive
Vale Royal	15	6	Drive	15	1.2	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	10-15	4-6	Drive	15	6	Drive
Kirklees	10	4	Drive	10	4	Drive	5	0.4	Walk	5-10	0.4-0.8	Walk	10-15	4-6	Drive	10-15	4-6	Drive
Harborough	10	4	Drive	20	1.6	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	5-10	0.4-0.8	Walk	10	4	Drive	10	4	Drive
Tamworth	15	1.2	Walk	15-20	1.2-1.6	Walk	5-10	0.4-0.8	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	15	6	Drive	15	1.2	Walk
Halton	15	1.2	Walk	15	1.2	Walk	5	0.4	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	15	1.2	Walk	20	1.6	Walk
Oswestry	15	1.2	Walk	10-15	0.8-1.2	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	15	6	Drive	15	1.2	Walk
Knowsley	15	1.2	Walk	15	1.2	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	15	6	Drive	20	1.6	Walk
Chelmsford	10	4	Drive	20	1.6	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	5-10	0.4-0.8	Walk	10-15	4-6	Drive	10	2-4	Drive
Congleton	15	1.2	Walk	15	1.2	Walk	5-10	0.4-0.8	Walk	10	0.8	Walk	10-20	8-10	Drive	15	1.2	Walk
Maidstone	15-20	1.6	Walk	10-15	1.2	Walk	5-10	0.8	Walk	10-15	1.2	Walk	10-15	1.2	Walk	n/a	n/a	n/a
EASTBOURNE	10-15	0.8-1.2	Walk	15-20	6-8	Drive	10-15	0.8-1.2	Walk	10-15	0.8-1.2	Walk	10-15	0.8-1.2	Walk	15-20	1.2-1.6	Walk
Recommendation	1.0km			6km			1.2km			800m			1.2km			1.6km		

APPENDIX 7

RESOURCING THE STRATEGY

From Green Spaces for Maidstone Strategy; PMP Consultants 2005

The Green Spaces Strategy can be resourced in a number of ways. Initially it may be necessary to allocate funding from within existing budgets for the management of parks and open spaces. The Council may consider it appropriate to follow the review of budgets (Priority-Based Budgeting approach) referred to elsewhere in this report. This funding will be used to 'pump-prime' that which is available from external sources, much of which will come from governmental organisations or quangos which require match-funding from local authorities.

Other sources of income are outlined below.

1. Sale of Publicly owned Land

Generating and reinvesting resources obtained from land which is surplus to requirements is a principle that has been successfully adopted in the London Borough of Bromley and Glasgow City Council.

This is, however, likely to be a long process, and ultimately may prove difficult to achieve in Maidstone. If considered feasible at some future stage, reinvestment would:

- Secure political credibility for the sale of land, even though redundant
- Provide sufficient funding to carry out significant rather than purely cosmetic strategy improvements. It should, however, be realised that the process may take two/three years to introduce, owing to planning, legal and other restrictions which could delay its implementation.

2. Private and Voluntary Sector Investment

Voluntary sector management of outdoor sports facilities could be considered. This could include an extension of the delegated management of football, cricket and other sports facilities through local clubs. Also, opportunities should be sought for the marketing of cafeterias and other outlets in parks and open spaces.

3. Use of Redundant Buildings

Sympathetic use of redundant facilities for leisure and recreational purposes is also possible. This could include the establishment of small commercial sports facilities (e.g. tennis) in parks. Another example could be the use of a redundant sports pavilion as a children's nursery.

4. Business Funding/Sponsorship

Examples from other boroughs include sponsorship of Cardiff City Council's events and festivals programme, and the Body Shop Playground Project in Auchinlea Park, Glasgow.

5. Partnership Arrangements with the Voluntary Sector

This could include the formation of further parks 'friends' groups. An example is that of Rossmere Park, Hartlepool, where the community was encouraged to take ownership. The park was promoted and became heavily-used, attracting investment from funding bodies.

6. Section 106 Planning Agreements

Section 106 agreements can be used to achieve environmental improvements. Once a Strategy framework has been established, the process of obtaining improvements will be enhanced because they can be used to achieve specific purposes, e.g.:

- By opening linear routes to connect green chains
- Providing walking and cycling routes
- Creating open space in areas of deficiency
- Funding open space improvements.

There are maintenance considerations to be taken into account i.e. significant costs may arise, particularly if new open space is acquired. It may therefore be necessary to obtain an endowment fund wherever possible to cover these ongoing costs.

It should of course be noted that such Agreements have to meet the test of Circular 1/97, and "Developers should not be expected to pay for facilities which are needed solely in order to resolve existing deficiencies".

7. Lottery Funding

This could include the Heritage Fund if works are carried out which are of outstanding interest and importance to the national heritage. Funding is provided for whole-park projects, the conservation of park features or park activities. Grants are available from £50,000 to £5 million for a period of up to five years. Projects must be designed to involve all stakeholders, must demonstrate sustainability, and must demonstrate the heritage value of the park in question.

8. Review of Pricing

The Strategy timetable includes provision for a review of pricing. This needs to cover all charges where a significant income is obtained, including outdoor sports, allotments and burial. The review needs to consider:

- Charges for similar provision in other local authorities
- The quality of provision
- Whether the service can be improved to justify a price increase
- The extent to which the market will bear any future increase
- Whether differential pricing can be used to encourage off-peak usage
- Concessions for minority groups, or those which the council particularly wishes to encourage
- Pricing at a level which does not deny access
- Higher charges for non-borough residents.

9. Living Spaces

The 'Living Spaces' grant scheme was launched in May 2003, and covers schemes with a value of £1,000 to £100,000. It is suitable for small local parks, and is open to existing neighbourhood groups. The scheme supports:

- Improving local parks
- Creating or improving pocket parks or community gardens
- Creating or improving play or seating areas
- Cleaning up neglected residential land
- Restoring village greens
- Carrying out planting schemes on estates or verges
- Creating or improving nature areas or city farms
- Restoring local cemeteries
- Restoring paths, gateways, ponds or boundaries.

10. The 'People's Places' Scheme

The 'People's Places' scheme runs until the year 2006, and is administered by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It is provided for local community groups, and is for the transformation of derelict, underused or unsightly land or buildings. The scope of grant available is for schemes with a value of £3,000 to £10,000.

11. The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme was revised in April 2003, and allows registered landfill operators to contribute 6.5% of their annual landfill tax liability to environmental bodies approved by the organisation ENTRUST.

The scheme must be used for social, environmental and community based projects complying with specific 'approved objects'. These objects are the provision and maintenance of public amenity, and restoration and repair of buildings open to the public with historical or architectural significance.

The project must be within 10 miles of a landfill/extraction operation. There are two known operators in the Maidstone area: Hanson Environmental Fund and Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN).

12. Local Heritage Initiatives

Local Heritage Initiatives are to assist local communities in the preservation of their environment, landmarks and traditions including archaeological, natural, built and industrial heritage. A community group could investigate and celebrate a historic park, prepare a public exhibition in a park, and repair a feature. Up to 100% of project costs between values of £3,000 and £25,000 are payable.

Your Heritage Grants are available from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and are for projects of between £5,000 and £50,000 in value. The countryside, parks and gardens are all eligible.

English Heritage supports the Heritage Grant Fund for historic parks and gardens where there is a significant risk of losing important landscape features.

13. Lottery Small Grants Scheme

The Lottery Small Grants Scheme offers Awards for All grants of between £500 and £5,000 for small projects which involve people in their community, and can include local environmental work and community park projects.

14. Barclays Sitesavers

Barclays Sitesavers is a grant mechanism for community projects which transform derelict land into community leisure and recreation facilities. Between £4,000 and £10,000 is available.

15. The Tree Council

The Community Trees Fund from the Tree Council funds up to 75% of all expenditure on tree planting schemes with a value of £100 to £700.

16. The Esmee Fairburn Foundation

The Esmee Fairburn Foundation aims to improve quality of life, particularly for people who face disadvantage. Eligible activities include the preservation and enhancement of open space, and good management of woodlands, gardens and allotments. The size of grant is not limited, with the average award for the year 2002 being £33,500.

17 Other Funding Sources

These could include:

- Increased income from events and activities
- Strategy improvements negotiated as 'added value' from service providers as part of a grounds maintenance procurement plan.

The degree of funding will define the scope and timescale over which the Strategy can be implemented. It is therefore essential to carefully consider all possible sources of funding.