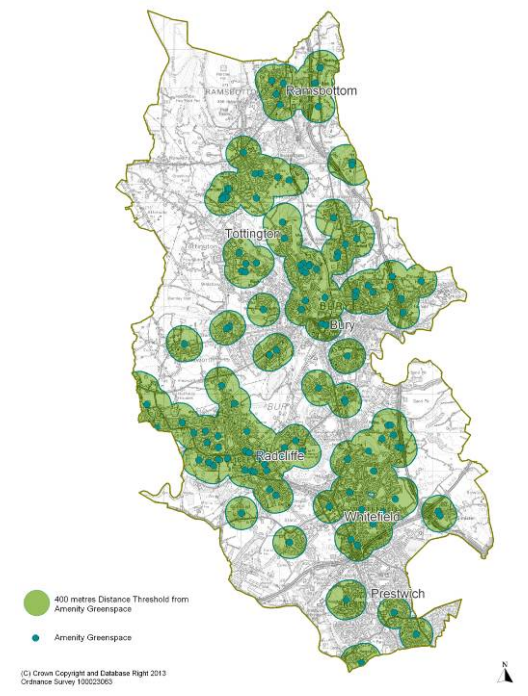


BURY GREENSPACE AUDIT AND STRATEGY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

February 2015



Introduction

The Borough is blessed with a wealth of open space, sport and recreation facilities with access to wider countryside beyond via the West Pennine Moors and through the principal river valleys of the Irwell and the Roch, providing a valuable resource to local residents as well as visitors.



This resource - if well-located, accessible, well designed and maintained - can make a major positive contribution to people's lives. High quality open space, sport and recreational facilities can aid in ensuring that Bury is a place where people want to live, work and visit, and can offer opportunities to enjoy healthy lifestyles.

As such, there is a need to protect and enhance the areas of open space, sport and recreation that is important to the residents, landowners, businesses and other users in the Borough. New provision is also required, where possible, to meet demand in areas where there are shortfalls, and in turn where new housing development creates additional demand on existing sites.

Background

Government guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework requires the Council to compile a robust and up-to date assessment of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities which identify specific needs and deficits or surpluses of quantity or quality.

This Greenspace Audit and Strategy report includes an audit and assessment of open space, sport and recreation. It also assesses the long-term requirements in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of the various types of open space, sport and recreation for future provision in meeting local need where appropriate, through establishing minimum standards to be achieved.

Aims

- *Meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for open, space, sport and recreation and the methodology set out in the PPG17 Companion Guide.*
- *Use the findings to direct funding and contributions from developers to those areas in need of new or enhanced provision.*

The Audit

An audit was carried out in Summer/Autumn 2012 which assessed the quality of 446 open space, sport and recreation facilities, including:

- **Parks and Gardens;**
- **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace;**
- **Outdoor Sports** e.g. playing pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts;
- **Amenity Greenspace;**
- **Provision for Children and Young People** e.g. equipped play, multi-use games areas and skate parks;
- **Allotments;**
- **Cemeteries and Churchyards;**
- **Civic Spaces.**

Chapter 4 of the report displays the results of this audit including an overview of the quantity and quality of existing provision and sets standards for quantity, quality and accessibility that we should be aiming for based on consultation and benchmarking from national guidance. The table below summarises the key conclusions from Chapter 4:

Table 1: Summary of existing provision and recommended standards

Typology	No.	Area (Ha.)	Quantity standard (Ha./1000)*	Accessibility threshold
Parks and Gardens	52	134.6	0.73	400 m to 1,200 m
Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	74	722.54	3.9	1,200 m
Outdoor Sports	113	128.19	0.83	800 m
Amenity Greenspace	124	93.08	0.5	400 m
Provision for Children and Young People	97	11.47	0.25	400 m
Allotments	30	16.23	3.9 plots ¹	1,200 m
Cemeteries & Churchyards	28	45.62	N/A	N/A
Civic spaces	9	1.25	N/A	N/A

Population: 185,422 (2011)²

¹ Quantity of Allotments given as plots per 1,000 population

² Provision for children and young people based on population aged 0-19 (2011)



Chapter 5 compares the standards set for quantity, quality and accessibility in Chapter 4 with the existing levels of provision which were recorded in the audit on a township-by-township basis. This allows us to identify the areas where there may be deficiencies in how much open space, sport and recreation we have (the '**quantity**'), the condition of the sites we have (the '**quality**'), and how easy it is to travel to them (the '**accessibility**').

Analysis of Provision

Table 2 compares the standards set for **quantity** of provision against the existing levels of greenspace and is colour-coded to reflect the degree of excess or deficiency of provision. Where a township is shown to have a 'quantitative excess' of one typology, this should not be seen as a justification for disposal as the standards set out are a minimum for future provision.

Table 3 compares the standards set for **quality** of provision (60% is the minimum standard to be reached) against the scores given to sites in the assessment and is colour-coded to reflect the degree to which site scores meet this standard. It is important to note that the assessments are merely a 'snap shot' of the perceived quality of the site on the day of the survey in 2012. Since that time, quality may have changed as a result of refurbishment or, conversely, through deterioration.

Table 4 lists the neighbourhoods which have **accessibility** deficiencies i.e. these areas are outside the recommended maximum distance threshold that residents can reasonably be expected to travel to a particular type of open space, sport and recreational facility.

Graphs 1 to 18 illustrate the variations between the level of greenspace and required standards in more detail for both quantity (1-6) and quality of provision (7-12).

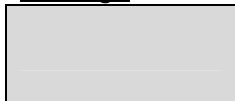
Table 2: Comparison of Existing Levels of Greenspace against Required Levels of Greenspace

	Population (aged 0-19 in brackets)		Parks and Gardens (Ha.)	Natural and Semi- Natural Greenspace (Ha.)	Outdoor Sports (Ha.)	Amenity Greenspace (Ha.)	Provision for Children and Young People (Ha.)	Allotments (plots)
Provision Standard per 1,000 population			0.73	3.90	0.83	0.5	0.25	3.9
Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor	31,363 (7,290)	Required	22.77	122.21	26.02	15.74	1.80	122
		Existing	23.43	131.53	23.33	19.36	2.45	126
		Balance	+0.66	+9.31	-2.69	+3.61	+0.65	+4
Bury West	21,843 (5,038)	Required	15.86	85.12	18.12	10.96	1.25	85
		Existing	34.14	38.01	11.07	3.10	0.90	67
		Balance	+18.28	-47.10	-7.05	-7.86	-0.35	-18
Bury East	34,178 (9,193)	Required	24.81	133.18	28.35	17.16	2.27	133
		Existing	40.96	57.46	36.54	8.49	1.42	86
		Balance	+16.15	-75.73	+8.19	-8.67	-0.85	-47
Radcliffe	33,673 (8,554)	Required	24.44	131.22	27.94	16.90	2.11	131
		Existing	18.89	183.86	23.16	28.21	1.56	31
		Balance	-5.55	+52.65	-4.78	+11.31	-0.56	-100

	Population (aged 0-19 in brackets)		Parks and Gardens (Ha.)	Natural and Semi- Natural Greenspace (Ha.)	Outdoor Sports (Ha.)	Amenity Greenspace (Ha.)	Provision for Children and Young People (Ha.)	Allotments (plots)
Provision Standard per 1,000 population			0.73	3.90	0.83	0.5	0.25	3.9
Whitefield and Unsworth	29,986 (7,117)	Required	21.77	116.85	24.88	15.05	1.76	117
		Existing	6.38	118.89	17.61	26.73	3.39	81
		Balance	-15.39	+2.04	-7.27	+11.67	+1.63	-36
Prestwich	34,379 (9,221)	Required	24.96	133.97	28.52	17.26	2.28	134
		Existing	10.80	192.80	16.50	7.20	1.76	212
		Balance	-14.15	+58.83	-12.02	-10.06	-0.52	+78

Key

Average



+/- 1 Ha. or +/-
1 allotment plot

Excess

SLIGHT
SIGNIFICANT
MAJOR

1.01 to 10 Ha. or 1 to 10
allotment plots

10.01 Ha. to 50 Ha. or 11 to 50
allotment plots

50.01 Ha. + or 51+ allotment
plots

Deficiency

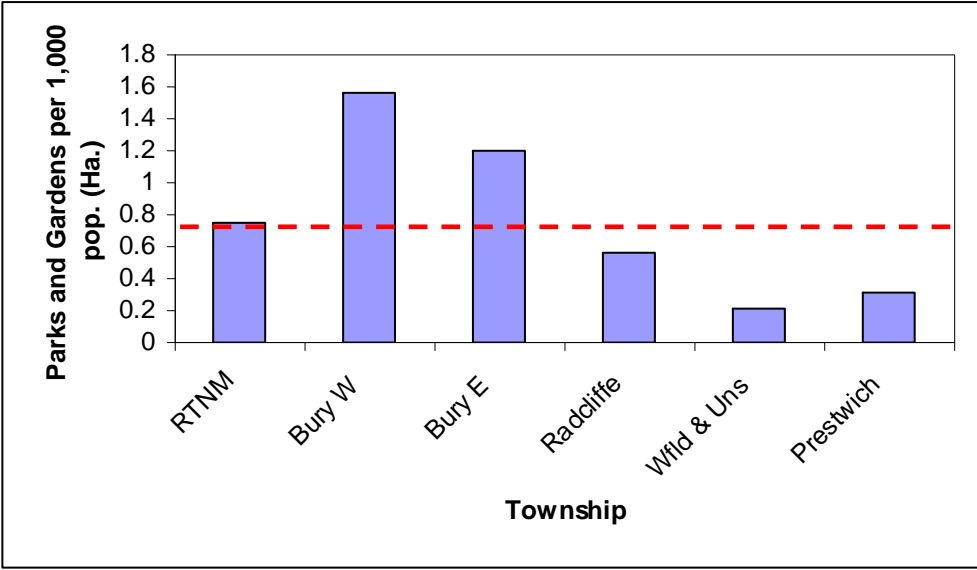
SLIGHT
SIGNIFICANT
MAJOR

1.01 to 10 Ha. or 1 to 10 allotment
plots

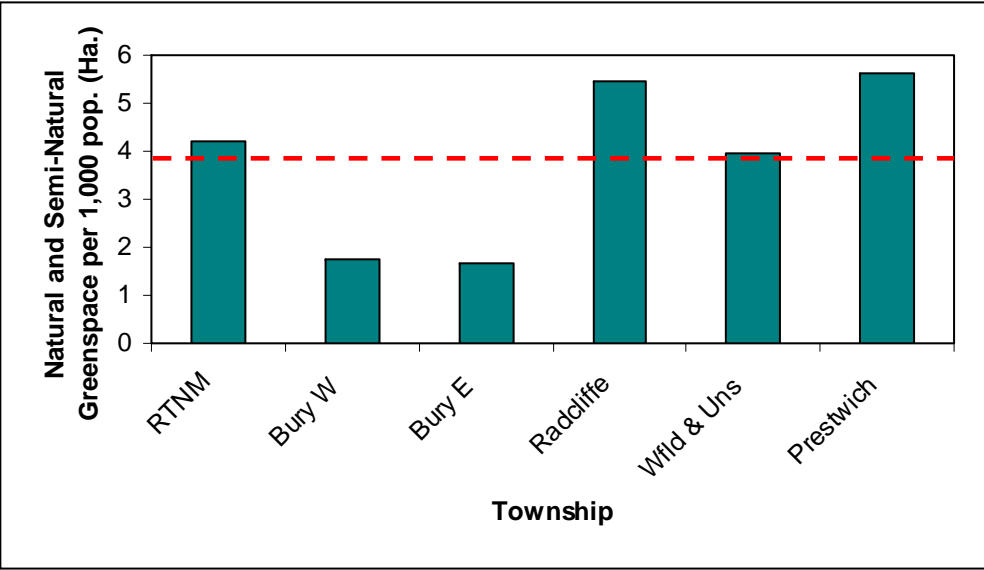
10.01 Ha. to 50 Ha. or 11 to 50
allotment plots

50.01 Ha. + or 51+ allotment
plots

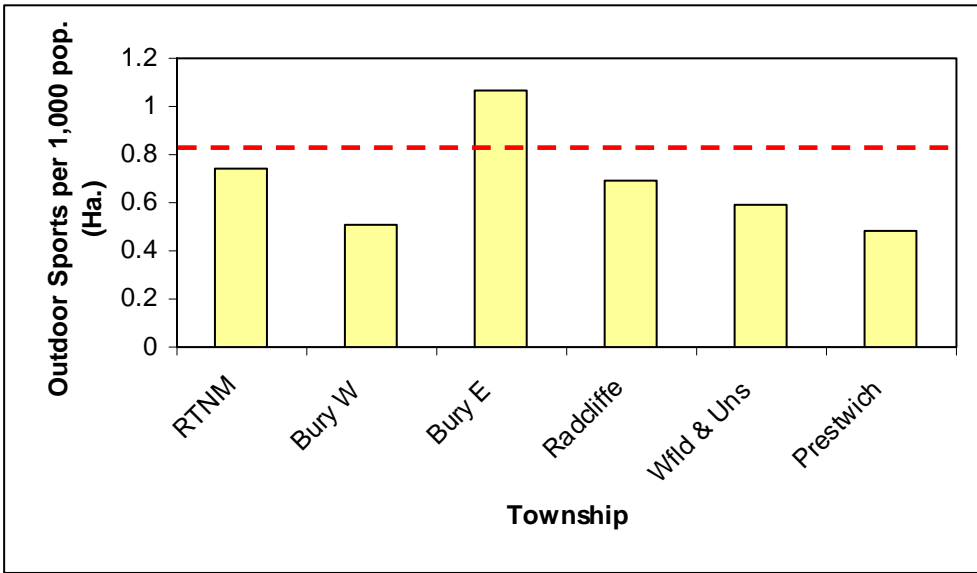
Graphs 1 to 6: Actual Levels of Greenspace against Required Levels of Greenspace



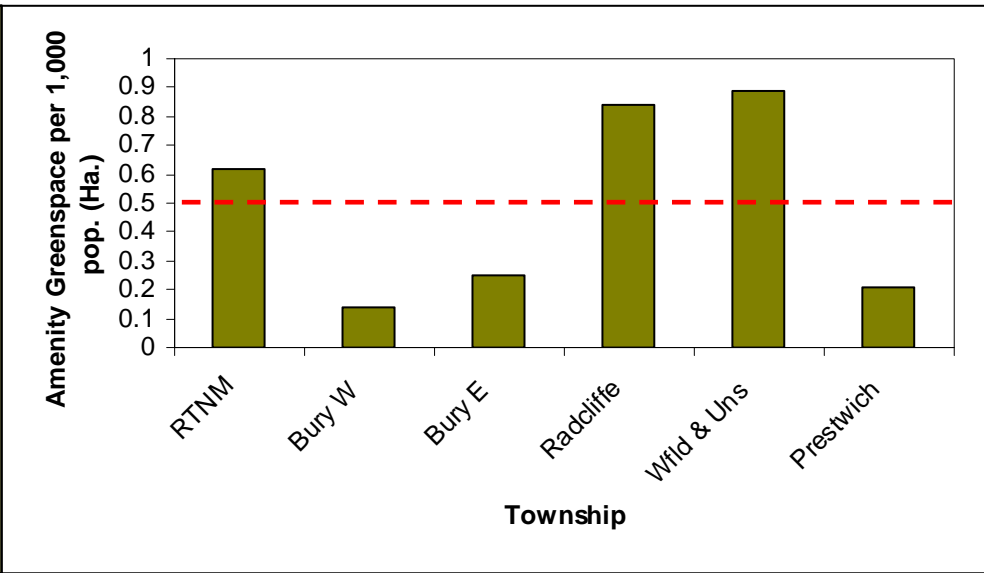
1. PARKS AND GARDENS



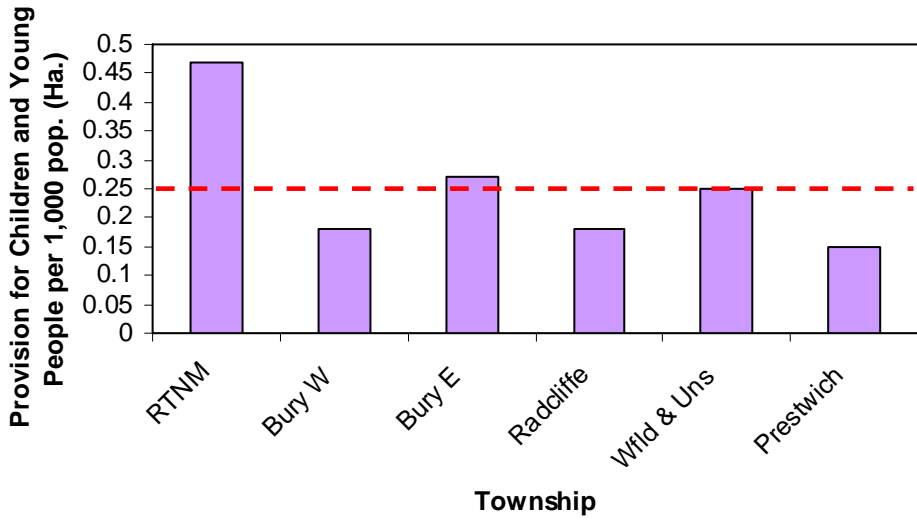
2. NATURAL & SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE



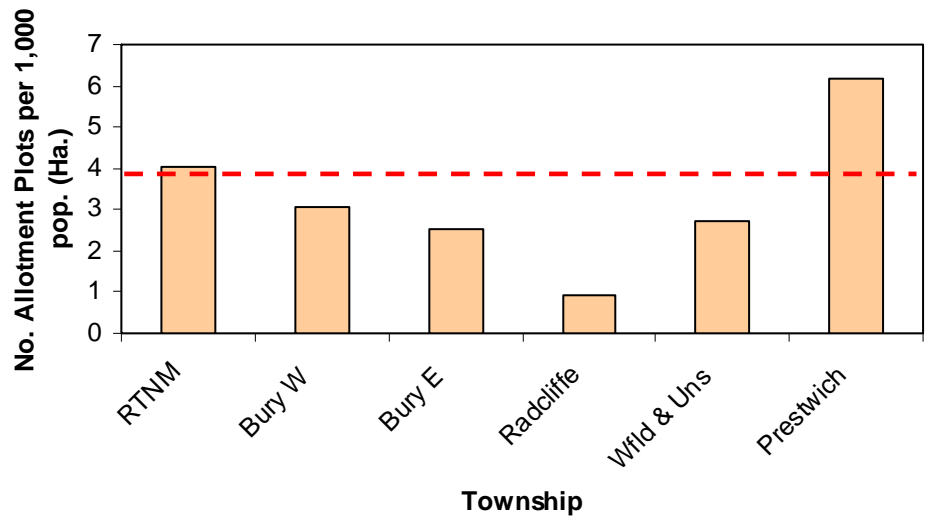
3. OUTDOOR SPORTS



4. AMENITY GREENSPACE



5. PROV. FOR CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE



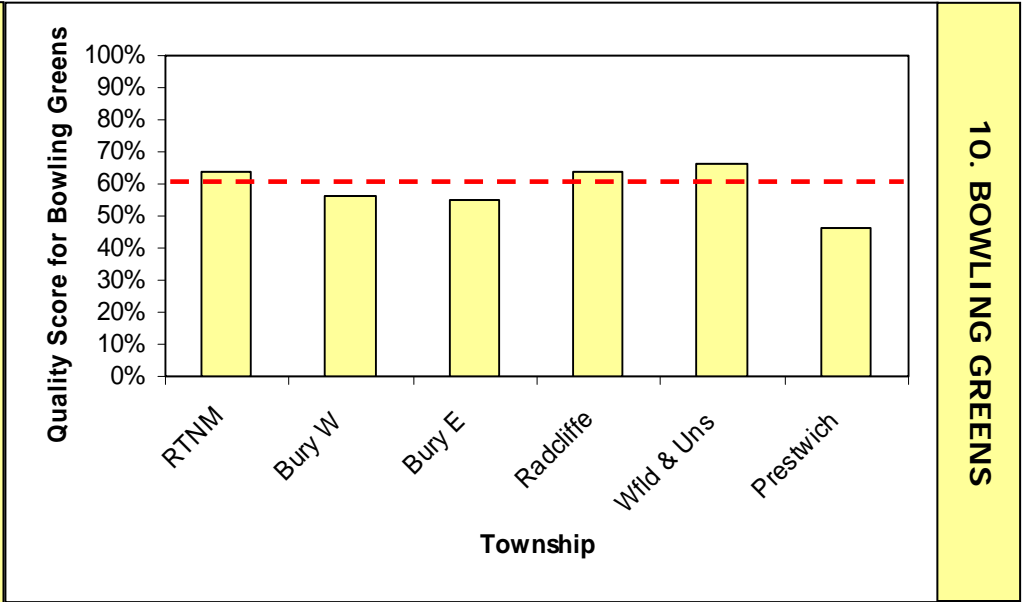
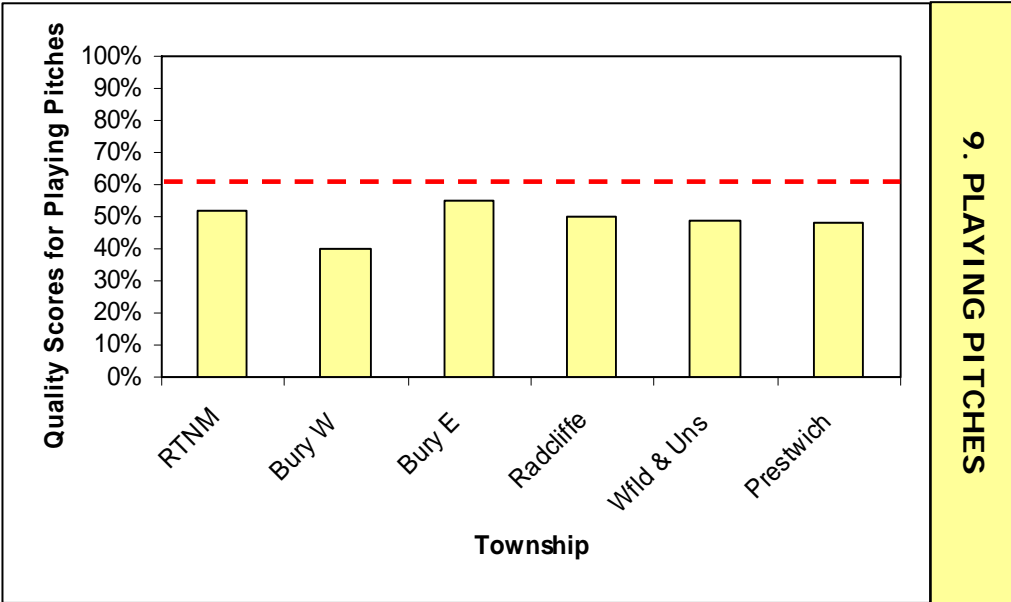
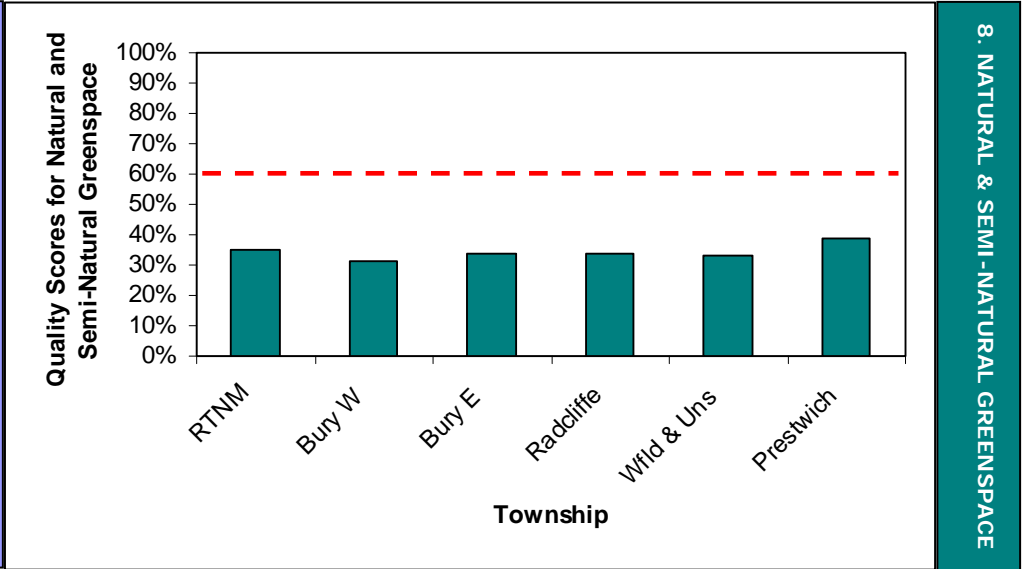
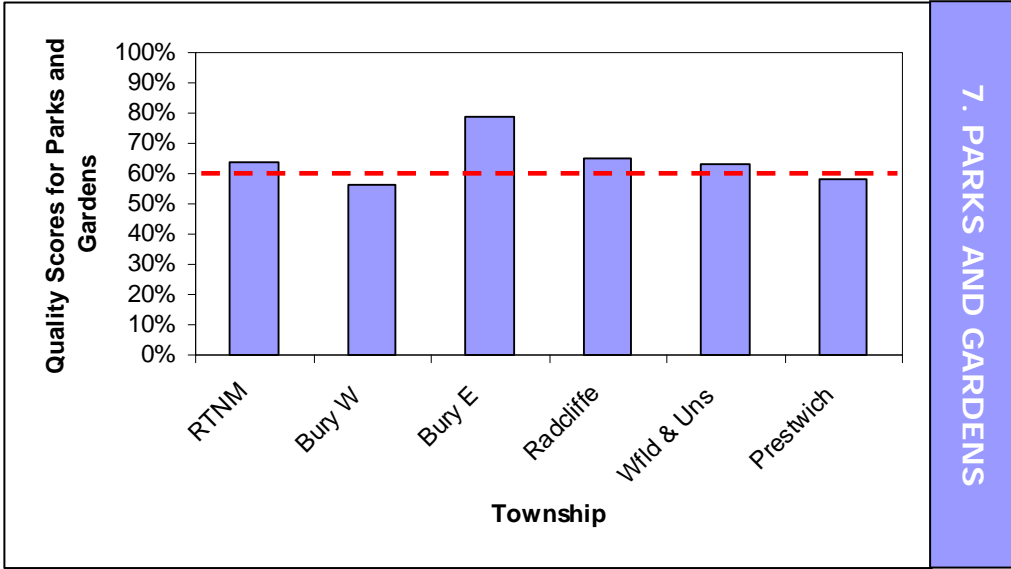
6. ALLOTMENTS

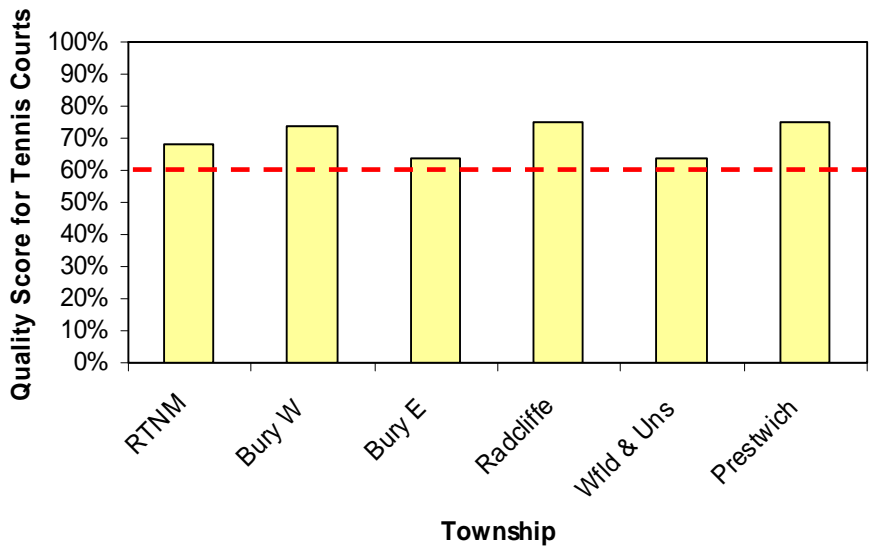
Table 3: Summary of Quality Results and Comparison with Required Standards for Quality

	Parks and Gardens	Natural/ Semi-Natural Green-space	Playing Pitches	Bowling Greens	Tennis Courts	Amenity Green Space	Equipped Play Areas	MUGAs	Skate Parks	Allotments	Cemeteries/ Churchyards	Civic Spaces
RAM	64%	35%	52%	64%	68%	56%	74%	62%	82%	37%	68%	75%
BUR W	56%	31%	40%	56%	74%	64%	70%	61%	N/A	90%	N/A	63%
BUR E	79%	34%	55%	55%	64%	57%	70%	69%	53%	48%	60%	79%
RAD	65%	34%	50%	64%	75%	60%	69%	53%	52%	39%	74%	86%
WFD	63%	33%	49%	66%	64%	63%	76%	57%	N/A	53%	69%	N/A
PRE	58%	39%	48%	46%	75%	54%	65%	67%	53%	64%	57%	79%

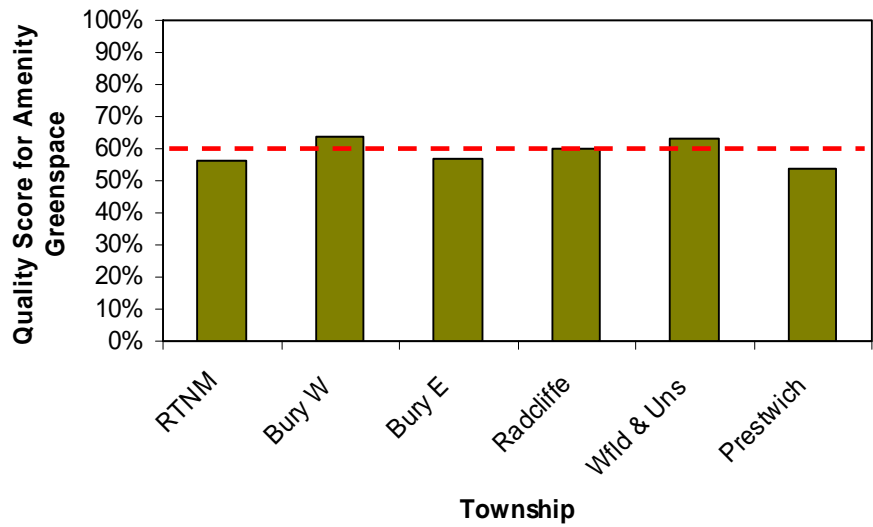
0 to 19%	20 to 39%	40 to 59%	60 to 79%	80+%
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Extensively Below Minimum Standard	Significantly Below Minimum Standard	Below Minimum Standard	Meets Minimum Standard	Exceeds Minimum Standard

Graphs 7 to 12: Average Quality of Greenspaces against Required Minimum Quality Standard

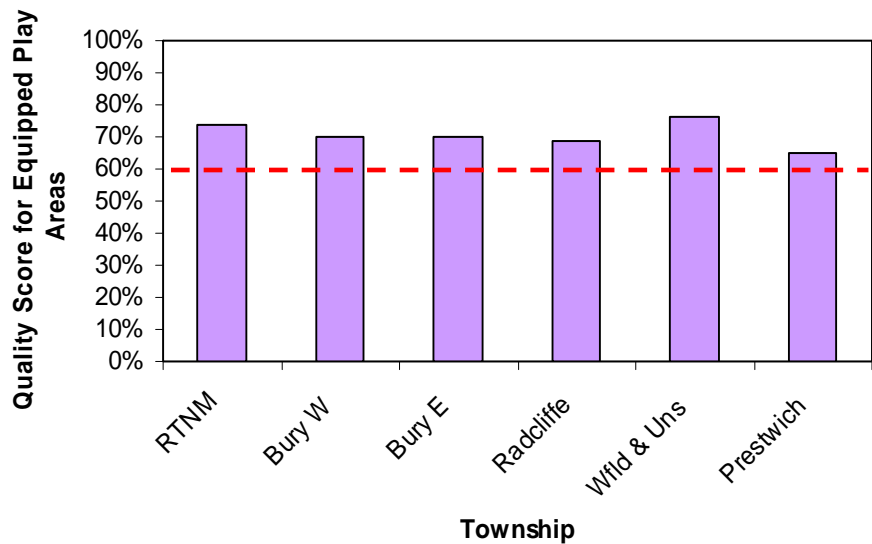




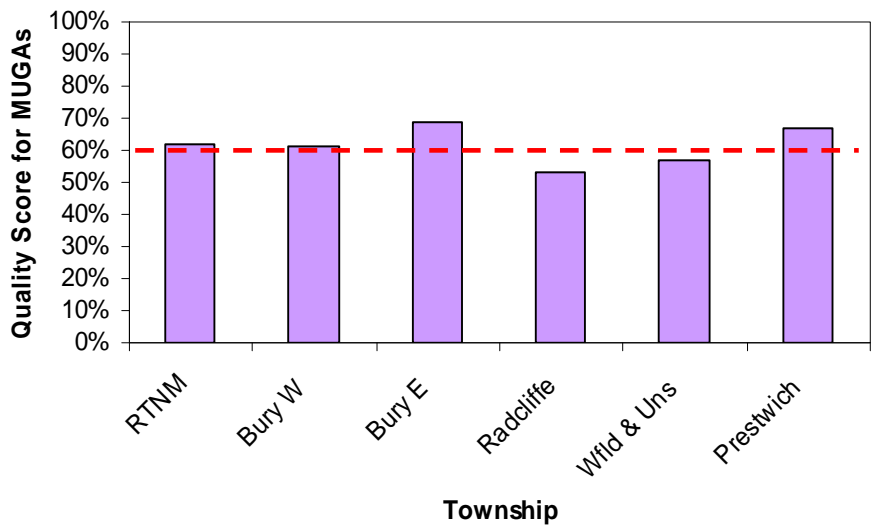
11. TENNIS COURTS



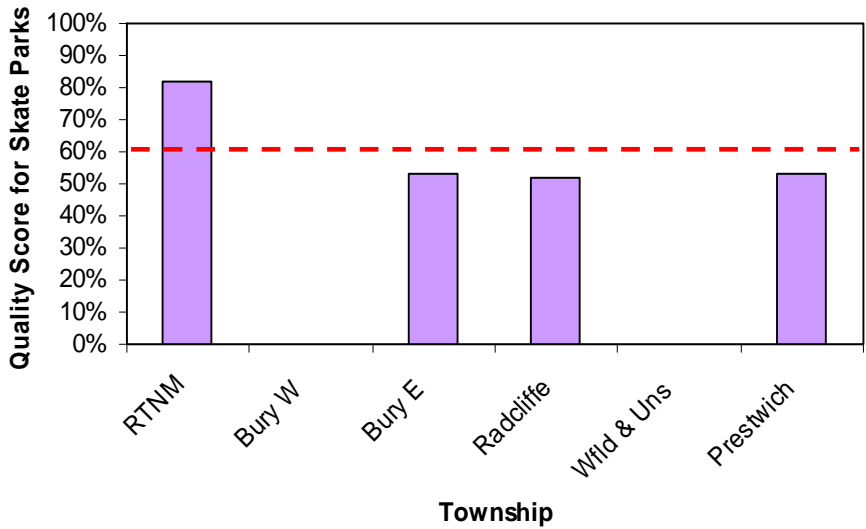
12. AMENITY GREENSPACE



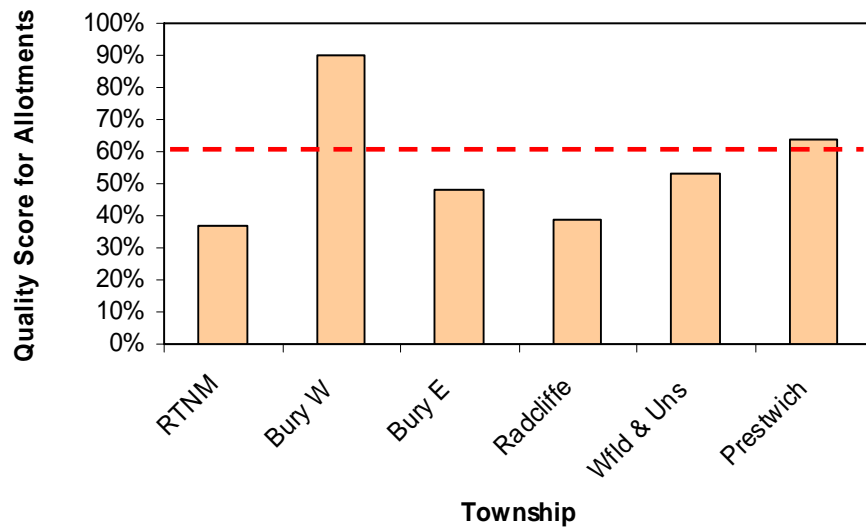
13. EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS



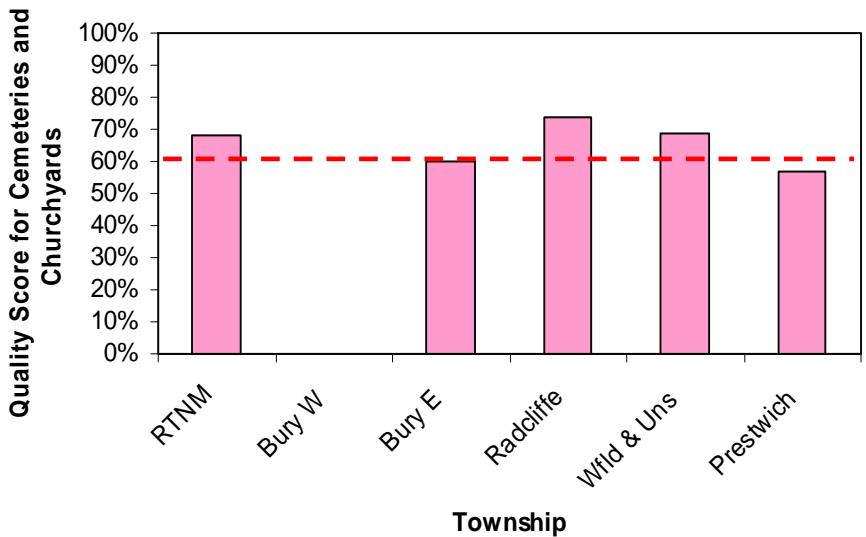
14. MULTI-USE GAMES AREAS



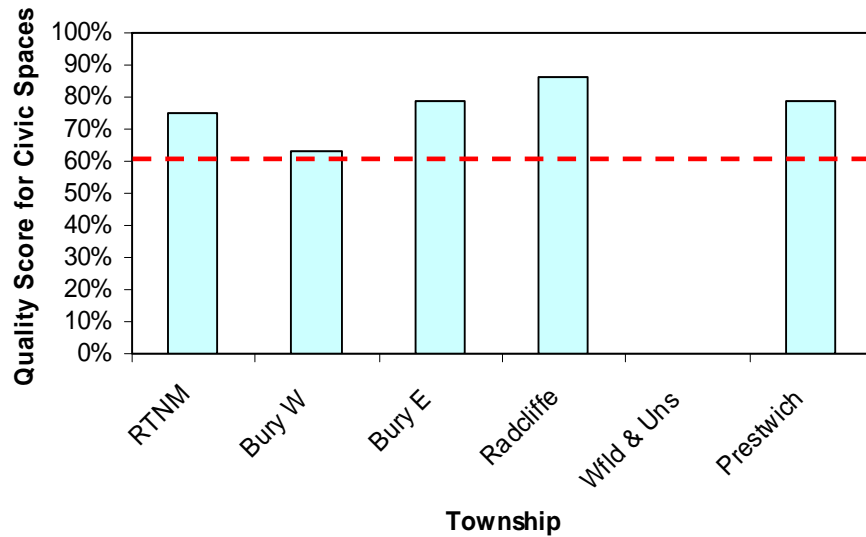
15. SKATE PARKS



16. ALLOTMENTS



17. CEMETERIES & CHURCHYARDS



18. CIVIC SPACES

Table 4: Neighbourhoods outside the recommended distance threshold for accessibility

	Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Outdoor Sports	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
Threshold	400 m – 1,200 m	1,200 m	800 m	400 m	400 m	1,200 m
RAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shuttleworth • Holcombe • Hawkshaw • Summerseat • Nangreaves • Scobell St 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shuttleworth • Nangreaves • Affetside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holcombe • Hazelhurst • Nuttall • Holcombe Brook (west) • Hawkshaw • Summerseat (north) • Baldingstone • Tottington • Hawkshaw • Bolholt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shuttleworth • Ramsbottom • Hazelhurst • Nuttall • Affetside • Holcombe Brook • Summerseat (east) • Walshaw • Bolholt • Mather Road area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkshaw • Affetside • Holcombe Brook (east) • Summerseat • Baldingstone • Walmersley
BUR W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowercroft • Seddons Farm (west) 	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woolfold • Elton • Seddons Farm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woolfold • Brandlesholme (south) • Lowercroft • Seddons Farm (west) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandlesholme (north) • Lowercroft • Seddons Farm (west)
BUR E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jericho • Redvales 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jericho • Fairfield (east) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chesham (north) • Jericho • Fairfield • Wash Lane area • Pimhole • Manchester Old Road area • Gigg Lane area • Blackford Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limefield (west) • Chesham (east) • Freetown (north) • Jericho • Redvales • Radcliffe Road area • Dumers Lane (east) • Gigg Lane area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jericho (east) • Manchester Road area • Fishpool/Gigg Lane • Redvales • Dumers Lane (east)
RAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley Fold • Cemetery Road area 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starling Road area • Stopes Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starling Road area • Bury Road area • Dumers Lane area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ainsworth (east) • Starling Road area • Grindsbrook Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ainsworth • Starling Road area • Bradley Fold

	Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Outdoor Sports	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outwood 		area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radcliffe New Road/ Nipper Lane area • Chapelfield • Outwood Road (south) 	area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley Fold • Cemetery Road area • Cross Lane area • Greendale Drive area • Outwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outwood Road area/Outwood
WFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollins • Unsworth (north) • Sunny Bank • Mersey Drive area • Oak Lane/Thatch Leach Lane area • Stand 	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand (east) • Pinfold Lane/ Moss Lane area • Hollins • Unsworth (south) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand (north and west) • Sunny Bank (west) • Lily Hill (west) • Unsworth (north) • Parr Lane area • Mersey Drive area • Ribble Drive area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand • Hollins • Unsworth (north)
PRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simister • Kirkhams • Rainsough • Sheepfoot Lane area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middleton Road area • Sheepfoot Lane area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simister • Sheepfoot Lane area (east) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterstile Lane area • Bury New Road • Hilton Lane • Sedgley Park • Heywood Road area • Polefield/Kirkhams • Sheepfoot Lane area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M60 Junc 17 area • Prestwich village • Heys Road/ Heywood Road area • Polefield • Simister (east) • Middleton Road area • Prestwich Hills • Hilton Road area • Sedgley Park • Sheepfoot Lane area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainsough • Sheepfoot Lane area (east) • Middleton Road area

The Strategy

Chapter 6 of the report brings together the main themes of the audit from Chapter 5, considers the local context and the challenges and opportunities which the Borough faces, before outlining a strategy for how the Council intends to act on the findings.

The aims of the Greenspace Strategy are to:

PROTECT our open space, sport and recreation provision guided by national planning policy, the Local Plan and evidence in supporting audits and strategies.

- *Our parks and gardens, natural/semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace are particularly important in providing a range of functions and helping to serve areas deficient in other types of recreation.*

ENHANCE our existing sites, and **PROVIDE NEW** facilities using Section 106 contributions for recreation and via external funding mechanisms where possible.

- *For enhancement, the Council will endeavour to focus on those sites scoring as 'Poor' and 'Very Poor' in the quality assessment (see Appendix 9) where opportunities arise.*
- *For new provision, the focus will be the 'significant' and 'major' deficiencies in quantity, subject to the typology strategies on pages 70 to 82 of the report (see 'Priorities for investment').*

MAINTAIN Council-owned sites as far as operational resources will allow.

ALLOCATE AND DESIGNATE sites and areas for recreational use for protection and enhancement through the Local Plan process including a Strategic Green Infrastructure network.

PROMOTE COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP in helping to protect, enhance and maintain sites.

- *Council services are expected to be much reduced due to budget constraints and in line with the Council's 'Plan for Change', which means that the reliance on these services will need to change. The community groups that currently play a pivotal role in managing and maintaining parks, countryside and allotment sites around the Borough are invaluable and this will need to continue and expand in coverage across more sites if current standards are to be upheld.*

PRIORITISE DEPRIVED AREAS with acute health problems.

- *The Council will work with partners in Public Health and the Health and Wellbeing Board to act on the findings of the report and on the recommendations of supporting strategies where appropriate.*

What does this mean for my area?

	Key findings/commentary	Actions
RAM/TOT/N MANOR	<p>There are no significant issues arising from the audit in quantity terms aside from a slight shortage of outdoor sports facilities, although there are some recorded shortfalls in the quality of natural and semi-natural greenspace and allotments.</p> <p>The majority of typologies meet or exceed the required levels of provision and quality of facilities is generally good.</p> <p>However, many neighbourhoods are beyond the recommended travel distance of a range of typologies, particularly play facilities and amenity greenspace.</p>	<p>Priorities Enhanced provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace; • Allotments. <p>Objective OS1 Greater community use of sports pitches required in support of Sports Pitch Strategy.</p>
BURY WEST	<p>The audit found that allotments and natural and semi-natural greenspace are significantly below required levels, with the latter being rated as poor quality.</p> <p>Allotment quality is above required standards.</p> <p>Very few neighbourhoods in Bury West have problems with accessing recreation facilities, except in the case of amenity greenspace sites which are beyond 400 metres of most households.</p> <p>There is also no skate park in the area but other facilities in the Borough are accessible via public transport.</p>	<p>Priorities New provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace; • Amenity Greenspace (on-site); • Allotments. <p>Enhanced provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace. <p>Planned intervention Local Nature Reserve designation at Kirklees Valley Phase 2.</p> <p>Objective PG2 Long term development plan for Burrs Country Park.</p>

	Key findings/commentary	Actions
BURY EAST	<p>According to the audit, Bury East has the largest deficiency of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the Borough compared with the standards set for quantity. Whilst the urban character of the Township restricts opportunities to remedy this, new provision will be sought via developer contributions where possible.</p> <p>Quality is also significantly below expected levels for natural and semi-natural greenspace sites.</p> <p>Provision for other typologies meet or exceed the targets, particularly parks and gardens which is to be expected given the high proportion of Green Flag parks in the area.</p> <p>Accessibility problems have been found for amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments.</p>	<p>Priorities New provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace; • Amenity Greenspace (on-site); • Allotments. <p>Enhanced provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace.
RADCLIFFE	<p>Radcliffe is recorded by the audit as being particularly under-represented in terms of the quantity, quality and accessibility of allotment provision.</p> <p>Natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace perform much better however in quantitative terms.</p> <p>The quality of natural sites and allotment plots is significantly below required standards.</p> <p>Play provision is slightly below the required quantitative standard and is over 400 metres away from many neighbourhoods in Radcliffe.</p> <p>The quality of cemeteries and churchyards and civic spaces represent an improved picture as these types of recreation received the highest overall scores in the audit.</p>	<p>Priorities New provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments. <p>Enhanced provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace; • Allotments. <p>Planned interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to civic spaces as part of town centre regeneration proposals; • Local Nature Reserve designation at Chapelfield. <p>Objective OS1 Greater community use of sports pitches required in support of Sports Pitch Strategy.</p>

	Key findings/commentary	Actions
<p>WHITEFIELD & UNSWORTH</p>	<p>Parks and gardens provision is the lowest in the Borough, but this is not considered a problem as its residents are within easy travelling distance to Heaton Park in Manchester and there are large Local Nature Reserve sites such as Philips Park and Hollins Vale which fulfil a number of functions of the parks and gardens typology.</p> <p>Allotment sites are also at a premium as is the case for much of the Borough, although it is not an issue for parts of Whitefield and Unsworth close to the M60 corridor as these areas are within the recommended distance of a considerable quantity of plots in nearby Prestwich.</p> <p>The proportion of amenity greenspace and play provision exceeds required standards and, as does the quality of equipped play areas in particular. Despite this, many parts of Whitefield and Unsworth are beyond the distance threshold of these play facilities.</p> <p>There is also no skate park in the area but other facilities in the Borough are accessible via public transport.</p>	<p>Priorities New provision of: • Allotments.</p> <p>Enhanced provision of: • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace.</p> <p>Planned intervention Local Nature Reserve designation at Parr Brook.</p>

	Key findings/commentary	Actions
PRESTWICH	<p>Quantity shortages were found in the audit for parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities and amenity greenspace. Heaton Park satisfies any demand for park provision and for outdoor sports to some extent although there is also pitch facilities in Salford closeby.</p> <p>Prestwich comfortably exceeds expected levels of provision for natural and semi-natural greenspace and for allotments.</p> <p>Quality of facilities is generally good, although natural and semi-natural greenspace is significantly below the standard that has been set.</p> <p>There are parts of the Prestwich township with access deficiencies to a range of typologies although these areas are adjacent Heaton Park and are therefore not considered a priority for action.</p>	<p>Priorities New provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Sports; • Amenity Greenspace (on-site). <p>Enhanced provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace. <p>Objective PG2 Long term development plan for Philips Park.</p>

Volunteering

The Greenspace Strategy promotes the invaluable work that community groups and other local volunteers undertake in improving greenspaces around the Borough and highlights that their continuing interest is pivotal in maintaining standards and in view of the budget restrictions that the Council is facing.

The Council are therefore keen to hear from individuals or groups who have an interest in improving their local environment. Volunteering is a great way to try something new, gain experience and help others in your community. Visit our website at www.bury.gov.uk/1637 to see how you can get involved.

I Will If You Will



'I Will If You Will' is an initiative from Sport England aimed at increasing the participation of Bury's women and girls in sport. The campaign was launched in September 2013 and it was announced in January 2015 that this will be extended for a further 2 years. The programme will be backed by significant capital investment in new facilities for table tennis, outdoor gyms, athletics, tennis and netball courts within parks. Visit www.iwillifyouwill.co.uk to find an activity near you.

Conclusion

The Greenspace Audit and Strategy highlights the needs and opportunities for open space, sport and recreation throughout the Borough and devises a framework for how these issues can be addressed. In particular, the application of the provision standards that have been established for quantity, quality and accessibility will provide:

- The broad framework for future planning of open space, sport and recreation, and
- Guidance for the targeting of resources and investment, as far as is practicable, by identifying deficiencies in provision.

However, not all shortfalls in provision can be addressed and therefore only those judged to be the most significant have been targeted for action as the Council's resources are in short supply due to budget constraints. The Strategy outlines future priorities and actions for the delivery of an appropriate supply of greenspace and will subsequently play an important role in informing future policies and allocations developed as part of the Bury Local Plan.

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