BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk

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12th August 2015

To: *Councillor Nick Brown (Chair), Councillor Amanda Hack (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Alex DeWinter, Sam Maxwell, Stuart Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Gary Sanders, Robert Waterton and Bill Wright.*

Dear Councillor

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** to be held in the Fosse Room at Braunstone Civic Centre on **Thursday, 20th August 2015** commencing at **7.30pm**, for the transaction of the business as set out below.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Officer & Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies
To receive apologies for absence.

2. Disclosures of Interest
To receive disclosures of Interest in respect of items on this agenda:
a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests,
b) Other Interests (Non-Pecuniary).

3. Public Participation
Members of the public may make representations, give evidence or answer questions in respect of any item of business included on the agenda. At the discretion of the Chairperson the meeting may be adjourned to give members of the public present an opportunity to raise other matters of public interest.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held 11th June 2015
To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held 11th June 2015 to be signed by the Chairperson (**Enclosed**).

5. Future Options for the Library and Customer Service Shop
To consider the position and any decisions to be made in respect of an agreement with Blaby District Council on the Customer Service Shop. To receive an assessment of options for the Town Council to run Braunstone Town Library, including an assessment of risks (**Enclosed**).

1

6. Narborough Road South – Subways

To consider progress with launching a community art project for the subways under Narborough Road South (**Enclosed**).

7. Council Reserves

Following recommendations from the Internal Audit Report, to update the reserves section of the balance sheet to reflect the intended uses, movement during 2014/15 and the current balances (**Enclosed**).

8. Holmfield Park – Improvements

To consider the current position with regard to external funding and to determine other options for funding the project (**Enclosed**).

9. Update on Replacement of Stolen Playground Equipment

To receive a verbal update concerning the Insurance Claim and the replacement of a stolen slide and swings at Mossdale Meadows and a stolen slide at Franklin Park.

10. Thorpe Astley Community Centre - Medical Rooms

To receive a verbal update on progress for opening the Medical Facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre and to determine whether the Town Council needs to take any further action.

11. Legal Transfer of Open Spaces (Barratt Homes) Thorpe Astley

To receive a report in respect of finalising the legal transfer of open space at Thorpe Astley from Barratt Homes to the Town Council **(Enclosed)**.

12. Highways Grass Cutting

To consider an offer from Blaby District Council concerning two verge cuts - one to be funded by Blaby District Council and one to be funded by the Town Council following the reduction in verge cuts by Leicestershire County Council from 7 to 5 per season (**Enclosed**).

13. Local Council Award Scheme

To consider which level the Council wishes to apply for when the current award (Foundation level) expires in January 2016 and to consider actions required to meet the relevant criteria (**Enclosed**).

14. Open Space Audit - Consultation

To receive the draft Blaby District Open Spaces Audit for consultation (**Enclosed**).

15. Blaby District Parish Remuneration Panel

To consider whether the Town Council wishes to accept an offer from Blaby District Parish Remuneration Panel to review the allowances paid to Town Councillors (**Enclosed**).

16. Blaby Housing Strategy – Consultation

To receive the draft Blaby District Housing Strategy for consultation (**Enclosed**).

17. Financial Comparisons

To receive Financial Comparisons for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st July 2015 **(Enclosed)**.

18. Millfield Hall Roof Refurbishment

RECOMMENDED:- That in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). Reasons for exception – Commercial Interests)

To consider the current position with the contract for the refurbishment of Millfield Hall roof and alternative options **(Enclosed for Councillors)**.

19. Long Term Lease Agreement – Braunstone Town Library

RECOMMENDED:- That in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). Reasons for exception – Legal Advice)

To provide advice concerning the long term lease agreement for Braunstone Town Library within the context of the decisions being made by both the landlord and the tenant **(Enclosed for Councillors)**.

20. Termination of the Meeting

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME FOUNDATION

NOTE:
CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime and Disorder implications of all its activities and to do all that it can to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area.
EQUALITIES ACT 2010
Braunstone Town Council has a duty in carrying out its functions to have due regard to:-

- *eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;*
- *advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and;*
- *foster good relations between different groups*

To ensure that no person receives less favourable treatment on the basis of race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.

3

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 11th JUNE 2015 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Brown (Chair) and Councillors Anthea Ambrose, Shabbir Aslam, Roger Berrington (substituting for Amanda Hack), Sam Maxwell, Stuart Maxwell, Phil Moitt, Chetan Parmar (substituting for Alex DeWinter), Gary Sanders, Robert Waterton and Bill Wright.

Officers in Attendance: Darren Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk.

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alex DeWinter and Amanda Hack.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of any Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members.

3. Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Order 3.6, members of the public may attend the meeting for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions in respect of any item of business included on the agenda.

There was one member of the public present at the meeting, Mr. John Dodd. Mr. Dodd raised his concern, and that of the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group, that the County Council potentially would reject the Town Council's proposals for Braunstone Town Library. He added that the Group fully supported the work of the Town Council in seeking to provide a long term solution acceptable to all that would see the continuation of Library Services. Mr. Dodd concluded that the Braunstone Heritage Archive Group would meet to discuss how it could assist the Town Council in this respect.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held 16th April 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th April 2015 were circulated (item 4 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record.

5. Library / Customer Service Shop Update

The Committee received an update on progress with the Town Council's proposals for a Combined Public Services Facility and to consider further actions as necessary (item 5 on the agenda).

It was noted that the date of Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet meeting to discuss the Future Strategy for Libraries was 16th June 2015 (not 9th July as stated in the circulated report).

RESOLVED

1. that, should Blaby District Council wish to progress the model in respect of the Customer Service Shop and Social Inclusion activities, the Executive Officer and Town Clerk liaise with Blaby District Council on further detailed arrangements for the model, including service levels and standards, the mechanism for identifying and reviewing the costs of the service and the contributions made by each organisation and submit the final proposal to Policy & Resources Committee for determination;
2. that, in the event of 1 above, the Town Council's budget allocation for the Combined Public Services Facility proposal be allocated to funding the agreement with Blaby District Council for the Customer Service Shop;
3. that an assessment of options for Town Council to run Braunstone Town Library, including an assessment of risks, be presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 20th August 2015;
4. that legal advice be sought in connection with the property lease in the context of the decisions being made by both the landlord and the tenant and that this advice be reported to a future meeting of Policy & Resources Committee; and
5. that the Leader of the Council write to the County Council Lead Member expressing the Town Council's disappointment that officers had proposed to Cabinet that the Town Council's proposals not be accepted and urging the Cabinet to reconsider and explore the opportunities further with the Town Council.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To enable those Council's which have a wider vision to direct resources to create community cohesion and social inclusion through maximising access to services, to ensure that the systems, processes and agreements would be made to avoid unnecessary delay.*
2. *To ensure that funding was allocated where a social and community need had been identified.*
3. *To consider different outline models and fully assess the risks and opportunities of the options.*
4. *To consider options for the lease to ensure that any future agreement on the Library service could be implemented.*
5. *To ensure that Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet were made aware that the County Council had a long term financial commitment under a property lease and that the proposed model made efficiency savings to the strategic partners in excess of 50% by utilising current commitments in a partnership framework which would provide for longer opening hours and further social inclusion initiatives.*

6. Parks & Open Spaces – Unauthorised Traveller Encampments

The Committee received an update on actions following unauthorised traveller encampments on the Council's parks and open spaces and considered further preventative measures (item 6 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that new substantial gates with "anti tamper" locks be installed on the vehicular entrance gates to Mossdale Meadows and Holmfield Park;
2. that an assessment of simple measures for preventing unauthorised encampments be undertaken and included within the Winter Works Programme for 2015/2016; and
3. that measures to prevent unauthorised encampments be factored into future Capital Improvement Projects in respect of the Council's parks, open spaces and car parks.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To take reasonable preventative measures in accordance with advice offered by the Multi-Agency Traveller Unit, recognising the importance of not turning Parks and Open Spaces into fortresses and that a discretionary power existed under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 for the Police to direct people to leave land providing certain criteria was met, which in the case of land used for public recreation and play was covered by the criteria under the Act.*
2. *To enable possible preventative measures to be assessed on a cost benefit basis and installed as part of a wider programme of parks improvements and maintenance.*
3. *To ensure that future designs met high standards and best practice while reasonably preventing unauthorised encampments.*

7. Report of the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee

The Leader of the Council and the Executive Officer & Town Clerk gave a verbal report to the Committee on the meeting of the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee which was held immediately prior to the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Review of Systems of Internal Control and Management of Risk

The Sub-Committee having received a report confirming action taken in completing a review of the systems of internal control in line with Section 2 of the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015 were confident that to the best of their knowledge and belief, there were sound systems of internal control and management of risk.

External Audit 2013/2014

The Sub-Committee noted that the Council's External Audit had been completed by Grant Thornton UK LLP on 5th September 2014 and an unqualified opinion had been given.

Internal Auditor's Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2015

The Sub-Committee received the Internal Auditor's Report and associated Improvement Action Plan and approved the recommendations for improvement.

Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2015/2016

The Sub-Committee re-appointed North West Leicestershire District Council as the Internal Auditor for 2015/2016.

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015

The Sub-Committee received the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015 and recommended approval to this Committee and to the Full Council meeting on 25th June 2015.

8. Internal Auditor's Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2015

The Committee received the Internal Auditor's Report and associated Improvement Action Plan in respect of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2015 (item 8 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the observations of the Internal Audit be noted and that the recommendations for improvement, as set out in the Improvement Action Plan, be adopted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the observations of the Internal Audit would be addressed with appropriate and balanced measures.

9. Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015

The Committee received the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015 in order to determine whether to recommend approval to the Full Council meeting on 25th June 2015 (item 9 on the agenda).

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMEDNED TO COUNCIL that the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2015 be adopted.

Reason for Decision

The Committee received a report from the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee, who had carried out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit process and the Council's systems of internal control and risk management, and concluded that there were sound systems of internal control.

10. Access to Meridian Leisure via Mossdale Meadows

The Committee considered the practicality, merits and mitigating works for provision of a pedestrian access from Mossdale Meadows to Meridian Leisure Park (item 10 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that no further action be taken by the Town Council at present in relation to potential mitigating measures for a gateway from Meridian Leisure into Mossdale Meadows;
2. that the Town Council promote and raise awareness of any Planning Application by Meridian Leisure and its consideration by the Plans & Environment Committee; and
3. that subject to publication by Meridian Leisure of their planning proposals, a future meeting of Policy & Resources Committee consider the mitigating measures being offered and determine whether the Town Council as the land owner could permit access onto Mossdale Meadows.

Reasons for Decision

1. *The circumstances for the Town Council have not changed and therefore there was currently no justification for the Town Council to be initiating change.*
2. *To ensure that the merits of any variation to planning consent were considered and consulted upon on their own merits through the normal arrangements for responding to planning applications.*
3. *To ensure that mitigating measures could be discussed between the neighbouring land owners in the context of the merits of the scheme having been separately consulted upon and determined.*

11. Annual Satisfaction Survey

The Committee considered a proposed annual satisfaction survey for circulation with the Annual Report for 2014/2015 (item 11 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that, subject to the overall opinion and general comments section being the last section of the satisfaction element, the Annual Survey as submitted be approved for circulation.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that satisfaction with the Council's services was measured in order to identify where there was need for improvement and to ascertain general opinion of the Town Council's current initiatives.

12. Thorpe Astley Community Centre - Medical Rooms

The Committee received an update on progress for opening the Medical Facility at Thorpe Astley Community Centre and considered whether the Town Council needed to take any further action (item 12 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that a letter be sent from the Leader of the Council to Tim Sacks, Chief Operating Officer for East Leicestershire CCG, thanking him for his statement, expressing concern about the length of time being taken to establish GP services from Thorpe Astley Community Centre and urging him to give priority to implementation.

Reason for Decision

There was considerable frustration among Councillors and the community at the length of time being taken by the NHS to establish an outreach GP surgery at Thorpe Astley Community Centre, despite there being an identified need for such services and five years having elapsed since the original agreement was reached with the NHS to provide services at the Centre.

13. Shakespeare Park - Improvement & Development

The Committee considered the next stages in the Improvement and Development Project for Shakespeare Park (item 13 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the scope of the Improvement & Development project be as set out in the Capital Programme;
2. that membership of the Working Group be extended to a representative from Shakespeare Park Bowling Club and Braunstone Junior Girls Football;
3. that further representatives contributing towards the Tennis and Play facilities be identified and invited to participate as appropriate; and
4. that a report be submitted to the first meeting of the Working Group setting out options and proposing timings and funding sources for the project.

Reasons for Decision

1. *To clearly define the scope of the project.*
2. *To ensure that key stakeholders were engaged and could contribute ideas to the scheme.*
3. *To identify potential partners who could assist with developing proposals for improvements to the tennis and play facilities.*
4. *To ensure that the Group have the necessary information to assist with discussion and develop deliverable proposals.*

14. Electoral Review of Leicestershire - Consultation on Division Patterns

The Committee received and considered whether to respond to the consultation on division patterns for Leicestershire County Council and also whether to give delegated authority to the Executive Officer and Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader to respond to the consultation on draft recommendations given the consultation was scheduled for a period when the Committee would not meet (item 14 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that there was no specific response to the consultation on Division boundaries at this stage; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to respond on behalf of the Town Council to the Electoral Commission's draft recommendations.

Reasons for Decision

1. *There was limited scope for changes to the Division boundaries, potentially any change to the Division boundary which cut through the Parish would involve adjustments along Parish and District Ward boundaries; therefore, there was limited input the Town Council could provide at this stage of the process.*
2. *To allow for the Town Council to submit a response to the draft recommendations, avoiding the requirement to call an extraordinary meeting.*

15. Blaby District Scrutiny

The Committee received Blaby District Council's Annual Report of Scrutiny Commission 2014-15 and considered whether it had any suggestions for Blaby District Scrutiny in the forthcoming year (item 15 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that Blaby District Council's Annual Report of Scrutiny Commission 2014-15 be noted; and that no items be suggested for Blaby District Council's Scrutiny Work Programme.

Reason for Decision

There were currently no new significant issues identified by the Town Council which needed further investigation by scrutiny.

16. Signatories List

The Committee considered updating the Council's Co-operative No.1 and No.2 Bank accounts signatories list to include all current members of the Council and to remove those names who are no longer members of the Council.

RESOLVED

1. that Mrs. Jo Fox and Mr. Neville Chamberlain be removed from the account signatories list; and
2. that all current Town Councillors be authorised to become signatories for the Council's Co-operative No.1 and No.2 Bank accounts.

Reasons for Decision

1. *Mrs. Fox and Mr Chamberlain were no longer members of the Council.*
2. *To enable payments to be authorised avoiding unnecessary delay.*

17. Fanklin Park Community Orchard Pathway

RESOLVED that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reason for exception – Commercial Interests.*

The Committee considered quotes for upgrading the standard of the pathway through Franklin Park Community Orchard/Meadow (item 17 on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the quote from Kingsway Carpentry, Joinery and Building Ltd to install a mill waste path through Franklin Park Community Orchard be accepted and arrangements be made for the works to be carried out as detailed in the specification.

Reason for Decision

Kingsway Carpentry, Joinery and Building Ltd offer a suitable solution for a competitive price.

18. Millfield Hall Roof Refurbishment

RESOLVED that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reasons for exception – Commercial Interests.*

The Committee considered tenders received in order to select a preferred supplier for the refurbishment of Millfield Hall roof (item 18 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the tender from G Cooper (Wolverhampton) Ltd to undertake the Millfield Hall roof refurbishment as detailed in the tender specification be accepted, subject to satisfactory references; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to liaise with the successful contractor, award the contract and determine the detailed timings and arrangements for the works.

Reason for Decision

1. *The tender from G Cooper (Wolverhampton) Ltd represented best value and the contractor demonstrated in their submission ability to undertake the works to the required standard. References would be obtained to independently verify their standard of work.*
2. *To allow flexibility for the work to be carried out in conjunction with other refurbishment works on the Hall minimising disruption to service users.*

19. LED Lighting

RESOLVED that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reasons for exception – Commercial Interests.*

The Committee considered a scope of works, timetable, funding and selection of contractor for the installation of LED lighting in the Council's Community Centres and whether to commission LED lighting for car parks and footways as part of the County Council's rollout of LED Lighting (item 19 on the agenda).

RESOLVED

1. that the tender from Voltacon power conversion & lighting to install LED lighting at the Council's Community Centres be accepted;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to liaise with the successful contractor, award the contract and determine the detailed timings and arrangements for the works;
3. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to commission installation of LED lighting at the Council's Car Parks and Footpaths through Leicestershire County Council's LED Street Lighting project (subject to the cost being within the delegated spending limits set out in the Financial Regulations); and
4. that conversion to LED lighting at the Council's sports pavilions be considered as part of relevant Capital Projects for the respective sites.

Reason for Decision

1. The tender from Voltacon power conversion & lighting represented best value and the contractor demonstrated in their submission ability to undertake the work to the required standard.
2. To allow flexibility for the work to be carried out minimising disruption to service users.
3. To enable the Town Council to make economies on installation costs through a larger contract, which would meet the requirements of the County Council Street Lighting Service, who manage and maintain our Car Park and Footpath lighting.
4. It would be more efficient on the installation cost/ongoing saving ratio to undertake the work at the Pavilions as part of wider Capital refurbishments.

20. Organisation Review

RESOLVED that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reasons for exception – Personal Information / Legal Advice.*

The Committee received proposals for a review of the Organisation's staffing structure, including terms and conditions of employment, to be circulated for consultation (item 20 on the agenda).

The Organisation Review Panel met on 2nd June 2015 to consider the draft proposals in detail.

RESOLVED

1. that Review objective 11 "*With the exception of growth funding for establishing the living wage and including the proposed staffing budget for the combined Library/Customer Services Shop, the proposals should be met from within the existing staffing budget*" be deleted;
2. that the Organisation Review Proposals, enclosed as an Annex be approved for consultation with staff and Councillors and that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk to undertake the consultation;
3. that the Organisation Review Panel be established as the Organisation Review Sub-Committee and be given delegated authority to consider and adopt the final post consultation proposal for implementation; and
4. that the revised timetable for the review be as follows:
    - prior to 12noon on Monday 15th June, meetings with individual staff where their current post would be significantly affected by the proposals;
    - by Monday 15th June at 12noon, proposals circulated to all staff and Councillors;
    - minimum Consultation Period, including consultation meetings with staff: Monday 15th June (12noon) – Monday 6th July 12noon;
    - Week Commencing 13th July – Organisation Review Sub-Committee meets to consider and adopt final proposal;
    - 27th July – 7th August – Slotting in arrangements and internal interviews (if appropriate);
    - August – External Interviews and recruitment.
    - September – allocation of contracted hours and shift rotas for affected employees.

Reasons for Decision

1. *While the cost at implementation stage was lower than the current structure, re-evaluation of posts based on organisation need resulted in a potential increase of £17,640 in costs over subsequent years.*
2. *To fully engage staff and Councillors with the context for the proposed changes and to seek views on alternative models, which complied with the objectives and to enable staff and Councillors to identify any issues or gaps in the proposals which may impact upon implementation.*
3. *To enable the sub-group established to oversee the review to make the final decision post consultation avoiding unnecessary delay or the need to call an extra-ordinary meeting of Policy & Resources Committee.*
4. *To enable the Review to go ahead with clear and realistic timescales to avoid any unnecessary delay with implementation.*

21. Equality Act 2010 – Reasonable Adjustments for Councillors

RESOLVED that in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press/public be temporary excluded and they be instructed to withdraw (Standing Orders 3.5 and 3.7 apply). *Reasons for exception – Personal Information.*

The Committee considered a request from a Councillor for reasonable adjustments, in accordance with Section 20 of the Equality Act 2010, to enable that Councillor to undertake duties.

RESOLVED that the request from a Councillor (details of which were held on confidential files filed with these minutes) for reasonable adjustments, enabling a claim for reimbursement of travel costs to and from Town Council meetings, training and briefing sessions, in accordance with Section 20 of the Equality Act 2010, be approved.

Reason for Decision

The Councillor concerned had a health condition which prevented independent travel to and from evening meetings, training and briefing sessions and was considered as a request for reasonable adjustments under Section 20 of the Equality Act 2010. By providing reimbursement of the original cost, the Town Council was able to act under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 which gave the Council the power "to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions".

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22. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

NOTE:
CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime & Disorder implications of all its activities and to do all that it can to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area.
EQUALITIES ACT 2010
Braunstone Town Council has a duty in carrying out its functions to have due regard to:-

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and;
- foster good relations between different groups

To ensure that no person receives less favourable treatment on the basis of race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.

These issues were considered in connection with each of the above decisions. Unless otherwise stated under each item of this report, there were no implications.

SIGNED _____ (CHAIR)

DATED _____

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20th AUGUST 2015

Item 5 – Future Options for the Library and Customer Service Shop

Purpose

To consider the position and any decisions to be made in respect of an agreement with Blaby District Council on the Customer Service Shop. To receive an assessment of options for the Town Council to run Braunstone Town Library, including an assessment of risks.

Context

Following rejection by Leicestershire County Council on 16th June 2015 of the Town Council's Business Case to incorporate County Council lease commitments into a combined public services facility sharing the Customer Service Shop, Library and social inclusion outreach services, the Executive Officer and Town Clerk has been in further discussions with County and District Officers concerning the model and potential alternatives.

Library Services

Policy & Resources Committee on 11th June 2015 (minute 5) agreed that an assessment of options for the Town Council to run Braunstone Town Library, including an assessment of risks, be presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 20th August 2015. This assessment is set out in the next section.

In addition the Committee agreed that legal advice be sought in connection with the property lease in the context of the decisions being made by both the landlord and the tenant and that this advice be reported to a future meeting of Policy & Resources Committee. This advice is contained in a separate confidential item on the agenda.

Furthermore, the Committee resolved that the Leader of the Council write to the County Council Lead Member expressing the Town Council's disappointment that officers had proposed to Cabinet that the Town Council's proposals not be accepted and urging the Cabinet to reconsider and explore the opportunities further with the Town Council. A response, dated 18th June, was received from the County Council Lead Member stating that the County Council were prepared in principle to investigate our proposals further, encouraging us to submit a further registration of interest complying with their published offer and addressing the need of the County Council to make savings.

The County Council have opened a second round of expressions of interest, which closes on 4th September and will be considered by Cabinet on 13th October 2015.

Customer Service Shop and Social Inclusion

Blaby District Council are continuing to work on their future Customer Access Strategy and delivering priorities set out in the Blaby Plan 2015-2018, such as building strong communities contributing to safety, improving opportunities for all,

and ensuring a proactive approach to service provision and development. Blaby District Council have received the proposal for the Combined Public Services Facility as set out in Appendix 1 of item 6 of 16th April 2015 and in principle support the vision set out, which meets many of the objectives set out in the Customer Access Strategy and Blaby Plan.

Policy and Resources Committee on 11th June agreed that the Executive Officer and Town Clerk liaise with Blaby District Council on further detailed arrangements for the model, including service levels and standards, the mechanism for identifying and reviewing the costs of the service and the contributions made by each organisation and submit the final proposal to Policy & Resources Committee for determination. It is anticipated that Blaby District Council will consider their Customer Access Strategy at the Cabinet Executive on 21st September 2015. Policy and Resources Committee will be able to consider the proposed service model from the Town Council's perspective on 1st October 2015.

It is possible, in its current form, to move to an agreement with Blaby District Council in connection with the future of the Customer Service Shop and Social Inclusion services, Policy & Resources Committee has already agreed to the allocation of the Town Council's budgeted financial support to this project. There remains the option to incorporate the Library service at a later date should Leicestershire County Council agree to this.

Resources

The Town Council's position in wishing to provide more efficient and effective services in partnership with the principal authorities is in line with the Council's Vision to help develop a strong, secure, self reliant, self confident community and to ensure that local services reach the highest possible standards within the resources available.

In the current financial context the Town Council has to give regard to the financial risks identified in the medium to long term financial strategy approved by Council on 6th November 2014, the strategy highlights risks to the sustainability of the Council's services with the following pressures:

- Council Tax Support Grant
- Thorpe Astley Open Space Maintenance
- Pensions Auto Enrolment

In addition the Council's Capital Programme, approved on 25th January 2015, highlights significant capital investment projects the Town Council will need to invest in to ensure that infrastructure is fit for purpose in the forthcoming years.

Ensuring the provision of sustainable services in the long term can only be achieved through long term planning and prudent financial management, which includes the assessment of long term risks with mitigating actions.

<u>Assessment of Options – Braunstone Town Library</u>

Given the difference between the Town Council and County Council's positions, it is prudent for the Town Council to consider possible alternative options and assess their viability, including wider risks, and these are set out in the table below.

Option	Opportunities	Risks	Recommendations	Reasons
Combined Public Services Facility: Library, Customer Service Shop, Social Inclusion activities and hub (based on model developed and submitted to Leicestershire County Council and Blaby District Council)	Provides efficiency savings for all organisations while providing for greater access to services and a base for social inclusion and community outreach at a central community location.	County rejection for not adhering to Community Library funding model.	Keep offer on the table and continue to offer to negotiate around detailed arrangements and costs.	Represents best value to the tax payer by providing significant savings to all parties while offering longer service hours and opportunities for further social inclusion initiatives.
Town Council provide a separate Library Service on existing opening hours at the existing premises, with County Council providing premises costs as set out in the lease	Clear distinction can be made between County Council published offer and County Council commitments under the lease.	Doesn't address the need to make changes to the Service Shop model and doesn't engage the County Council in Social Inclusion initiatives. Need to find additional funding for staffing which will need consideration in the 2016/2017 budget estimates.	Develop an alternative offer to the County Council based on this model (providing the existing Library while the County Council continues to be responsible for and to fund its commitments under the lease agreement)	While it doesn't represent best value, it retains the Library service in its current form while continuing to protect the Town Council from inheriting substantial liabilities which it cannot afford in the current financial climate.
Town Council submit a proposal to provide a paid staff facility, which is compliant with the County Council's funding model for Community Libraries	Acceptance by the County Council with transfer likely given the Town Council is a constituted and competent organisation.	Significant financial liabilities inherited by the Town Council for service provision and premises costs, particularly major premises costs such as energy efficiency and roof replacement likely to occur more than once over the lifetime of the lease.	Reject	The Town Council's Medium to long term financial strategy identifies significant future financial pressures and risks. Taking on the full liability for the Library places significant risks to the long term sustainability of the services provided by the Town Council.

Option	Opportunities	Risks	Recommendations	Reasons
Town Council submit a proposal to provide a volunteer library facility, which is compliant with the County Council's funding model for Community Libraries	Acceptance by the County Council with transfer likely given the Town Council is a constituted and competent organisation.	Significant financial liabilities inherited by the Town Council for premises costs, particularly major premises costs such as energy efficiency and roof replacement likely to occur more than once over the lifetime of the lease. The Town Council will not be able to make efficiency savings on the Customer Service Shop or services provided by the Town Council and District Council will be at risk in order to make capacity to manage a volunteer Community Library.	Reject	The Town Council's Medium to long term financial strategy identifies significant future financial pressures and risks. Taking on the liability for the Library premises costs presents risks to the long term sustainability of the services provided by the Town Council. In particular the level of efficiency savings for the Customer Service Shop would not be met.
Town Council support a Constituted Community Library Group with provision of support in kind, Capital Grants and Community Grants	Potential to retain Library Services while not inheriting risks by providing capacity support to a Community Group. Some funding allocated to the Library through the combined service model could be allocated for grant funding.	Community Group may not come forward. If support extended to premises costs, risks as identified above. County Council commitment to funding model, e.g. excluding the lease raises the same issues concerning agreement.	Officers to develop an outline scheme of support involving Capital Grant funding to a Community Group running public services. Review whether any implications for Community Grants Scheme for revenue funding.	In line with the Town Council's vision and objectives to develop a strong, secure, self reliant, self confident community; to promote social inclusion and to direct grants to organisations where this will be of benefit to Braunstone Town citizens.

Recommendations

1. That, should Blaby District Council wish to progress the model in respect of the Customer Service Shop and Social Inclusion activities, the Executive Officer and Town Clerk liaise with Blaby District Council on further detailed arrangements for the model, including service levels and standards, the mechanism for identifying and reviewing the costs of the service and the contributions made by each organisation and submit the final proposal to Policy & Resources Committee for determination;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer & Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to finalise and submit an Outline Business Case to Leicestershire County Council to run Braunstone Town Library Service based on two alternative models:
   (a) Combined Public Services Facility: Library, Customer Service Shop, Social Inclusion activities and hub; and
   (b) Town Council providing a separate Library Service on existing opening hours at the existing premises, retaining the lease agreement with Leicestershire County Council who retain responsibility for premises obligations and costs;
3. that an outline scheme of support involving Capital Grant funding to a Community Group running public services be drafted and implications for the current Community Grants Scheme for revenue funding be assessed and a report submitted to a future meeting of Policy and Resources Committee setting out the options, costs and implications; and
4. that a progress report, setting out timescales and decisions to be made, be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of Policy and Resources Committee (scheduled for 1st October 2015).

Reasons

1. To enable those Council's which have a wider vision to direct resources to create community cohesion and social inclusion through maximising access to services, to ensure that the systems, processes and agreements would be made to avoid unnecessary delay.
2. To use our offices, powers and influence to keep the Braunstone Town Library open and also provide a better service that would be more responsive to the needs of local residents. The deadline for an Outline Business Case to be submitted to Leicestershire County Council was Friday 4th September 2015.
3. To ensure that capacity support could be provided where a social and community need had been identified, which would benefit the Citizens' of Braunstone Town.
4. To consider different outline models and fully assess the risks and opportunities of the options.

Background Papers

- Letter from Leader to County Lead Member (12th June 2015) re: rejection of Outline Business Case.
- Response to Leader from County Lead Member (18th June 2015).

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20th AUGUST 2015

Item 6 – Narborough Road South – Subways

Purpose

To consider progress with launching a community art project for the subways under Narborough Road South.

Background

Complaints about the condition of the underpasses along Narborough Road South had been received by Braunstone Town Council and Blaby District Council. Full Council on 6th November 2014 (Minute Reference 5273) referred the issues to Policy & Resources Committee 15th January 2015 for further consideration. It was noted that Leicestershire County Council would not remove graffiti on a regular basis unless it was considered offensive. The merits of artwork being installed in the underpasses, involving local schools was discussed and it was proposed to undertake a community art project with young people to paint the subways (report reference 12). Leicestershire County Council, who own the subways, have given permission in principal to go ahead with the project and the police are fully supportive of the initiative.

Artist

The Town Council has contacted an artist who had been recommended by Blaby District Council and had been involved in another project and we are currently waiting for a response. The intention is to arrange a site visit and obtain a quotation on the costs of undertaking the project.

Partnership support

Blaby District Council has undertaken a similar project on a subway between Blaby and Whetstone, this project had cost around £2,000. The District Council are able to offer practical support and advice and provide some funding for the project.

Consultation/community engagement

Consulting and involving young people will be key to ensuring ownership of the project and ascertaining who may be interested in taking part. The BB19 bus will be attending Braunstone Town weekly from September and presents an opportunity to attend at least one of these sessions to explain the project and involve young people.

The Local Police Beat team are supportive of the project and local officers will be able to talk to young people they meet on the beat to raise awareness and encourage involvement in the project.

It is also important to fully engage local residents, some of which have been active in raising issues with the subways with local councillors and in the press. The Town Council can use all its usual media outlets to do this (notice boards, website, social media, Braunstone Life and Citizens' Advisory Panel).

Funding Sources

Once a quotation for the work had been received it is possible to approach possible grant funding sources, which include:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Police
- Braunstone Town Council
- Blaby District Council
- Asda
- Sainsburys
- Fosse Park Management
- Everards

Next Steps

- Ensure we receive a quote from a potential artist
- September – publicity and invitation to become involved and have a say in Braunstone Life, website, social media, notice boards, BB19 bus.
- September – investigate potential funding sources.
- 1st October – update report to Policy & Resources Committee
- 8th October – consultation with Citizens' Advisory Panel
- October – further meetings with partners to discuss the next stages of the project.

Recommendations

1. That a consultation exercise be undertaken by the Town Council along with its partners, including using notice boards, website, social media, Braunstone Life, Citizens' Advisory Panel and the BB19 bus; and
2. that quotes and potential sources be identified and a report submitted to the next meeting of Policy and Resources Committee (scheduled for 1st October 2015).

Reasons

1. To ensure users, local residents and young people all have a stake in the project and its objectives, to encourage involvement, and to enable other ideas to be submitted.
2. To ascertain the costs and potential funding streams in order to assess the viability of the proposed project.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20th AUGUST 2015

Item 7 – Council Reserves

Purpose

Following recommendations from the Internal Audit Report, to update the reserves section of the balance sheet to reflect the intended uses, movement during 2014/15 and the current balances.

Background

On 28th May 2015, the Internal Auditor issued the Council's Internal Audit Report, which included statement *"a review of the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 was carried out and they were found to have been prepared on the correct basis and were supported by adequate audit trails to underlying records. However, whilst the balances carried forward figure (line 7 in Section 1 of the Annual Return) agrees to the total reserves on the balance sheet, the breakdown of the reserves does not currently reflect the intended uses of the reserves or the balances of the specified reserves"*.

The Action Plan therefore included an action *"the reserves section of the balance sheet is updated to reflect the intended uses, the movement during 2014/15 and the current balances"*.

Reserves 2014/2015

The table below summarises the movement during 2014/15 and the balance at the end of the financial year:

Table A – Council Reserves 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015	
Balance 31st March 2014	*£388,143.00*
plus Commuted Sums Income	£1,510.00
plus Other Income (inc Precept)	£747,711.05
minus Commuted Sums Exp (Inc wages)	£38,792.00
minus other exp	£674,302.29
Balance 31st March 2015	**£424,269.76**

The table below summarises the current balances and intended uses:

Table B – Reserves 2015/2016		
Earmarked Reserves	Millfield Hall Refurbishment	£30,000.00
	Holmfield Park Improvements	£10,000.00
Thorpe Astley Commuted Summs		*£136,555.12*
General Reserve		*£247,714.64*
Balance of Reserves		**£424,269.76**

Recommendations

1. That the movement on the Council's reserves during 2014/15 and balance at 31st March 2015, as set out in Table A in the report, be noted;
2. that the current balances and intended uses, as set out in Table B in the report, be approved; and
3. that an updated current balance and intended uses be reported to Council as part of the Medium to Long Term Priorities and Financial Planning Report and the Annual Budget Estimates.

Reasons

1. To acknowledge the context and current position.
2. To ensure that the reserves section of the balance sheet reflects the intended uses of the reserves and the balances for the specified reserves, as recommended in the Internal Audit Report 2014/2015.
3. To ensure that the Council has up to date balances and earmarked reserves information when considering its financial strategy and setting the budget and precept.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20th AUGUST 2015

Item 8 – Holmfield Park – Improvements

Purpose

To consider the current position with regard to external funding and to determine other options for funding the project.

Context

Policy & Resources Committee on 15th January 2015 approved the specification and awarded the contract for improvement works to the playground and park entrance at Holmfield Park (report reference 7). The total cost of the works is £25,906. In addition the Committee agreed to pursue grant funding along with part funding the improvements by allocating up to £10,000 from the Council's Reserves.

Funding Sources

The following are funding applications were made:

Funding Source	Amount	Result
Biffa Awards	*£10,687*	*Declined*
Big Lottery Fund – Awards for all	*£9,500*	*Declined*
Blaby Capital Grants – Community Action Fund	£5,000	Approved
Section 106	£3,896	Approved
TOTAL AWARDED	**£8,896**	-

£8,896 has been awarded from external funding sources, with £10,000 allocated from reserves; there remains a shortfall of £7,010. Should the Council seek further external funding this will result in a time day to the project and impact upon grant applications for projects in the current year. The Blaby Capital Grant needs to be used during the current Financial Year.

Recommendation

That the outstanding balance of £7,010 be funded from the Council's Reserves, with the earmarked total being revised to £17,010.

Reason

To enable the improvement works to be carried out prior to the winter. Seeking further external funding would result in a delay to the work to at least spring 2016 and may limit our options for external grant funding for other projects during the current financial year.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20th AUGUST 2015

Item 11 – Legal Transfer of Open Spaces (Barratt Homes) Thorpe Astley

Purpose

To receive a report in respect of finalising the legal transfer of open space at Thorpe Astley from Barratt Homes to the Town Council.

Background

Following the Council's decision to take over responsibility for parks and open at Thorpe Astley, the Council has received commuted sums from the developers and has been responsible for management and maintenance of the open spaces. Legal transfer however, has not yet been completed for all areas. Policy & Resources Committee on 21st August 2014 approved the legal transfer of open space from Persimmon Homes (report reference 6b) and the Council's Seal was applied to the documents at the subsequent Council meeting on 4th September. Barratt Homes are currently in the process of transferring the legal titles for 12 areas of open space and is the subject of this report. The Council is still awaiting plans from David Wilson.

Barratt Homes – Transfer of 12 areas of open space

The report of the Council's solicitor is attached as Appendix 1. A map showing the location of the open space concerned is attached as Appendix 2.

While the 12 areas identified matches the records held by the Town Council, there is some detail remaining to be clarified and also some inconsistencies in the documentation which requires resolving to ensure the titles and maps are correctly registered with the Land Registry.

The Executive Officer and Town Clerk has raised the following issues:

1. West of Tuffleys Way (LT 275292): the plan shows an area of land adjacent to the footpath to be transferred, a section of this has been fenced off by one of the householders. Barratts' solicitor has confirmed they will remove this area from the transfer document and plan.
2. East of Tuffleys Way (LT 275292): the plan shows responsibility for shrubbery adjacent to a private drive and the junction of three footpaths not being our responsibility with responsibility for land beyond and part of one of the footpaths beyond the junction. Clarity is being sought on whether the lines on the plan are correct.
3. Cookes Close (LT 275292): while the title is shared with Tom Paine Close and Cobbet Road, Cookes Close is not highlighted on the plan, clarity is being sought that this is an error and that the plan will be revised.
4. Area referred to in Solicitor's report as "8 – Hilcott Green (LT 275292 & LT 272738)": there is a parcel of land on Hilcot Green (LT 322122), however, Hilcott Green (LT 275292 & LT 272738) is not Hilcott Green and is adjacent to Withers Way and Lubbesthorpe Way. A request has been made to rename the title, for example "land adjacent to Lubbesthorpe Way".

There are no other concerns within the titles or plans, the risks associated with shared boundaries has been dealt with by the Town Council at the time of the Persimmon Transfer and will apply to all areas of Open Space at Thorpe Astley.

Recommendation

That subject to confirmation that the four issues raised by the Executive Officer and Town Clerk have been satisfactorily resolved; that the legal transfer of the 12 open spaces from Barratt Homes be completed and that it be recommended to Council that the Common Seal be applied to the transfer documentation.

Reason

To enable the transfer to be completed and for the Town Council to become the legal owner of the public open space.

Report to Braunstone Town Council
In connection with the acquisition of 12 parcels of land to form open spaces at Thorpe Astley, Leicestershire

A. Enclosures

1. Tuffleys Way
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT383694
(c) Deed of Grant 29.11.07

2. Cookes Close
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT275292

3. Tom Paine Close
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT275292

4. Cobbet Road
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT275292

5. Hilcot Green
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT322122

6. Haskell Close
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT279535

7. Marshall Close
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT337389
(c) Official copies LT272738

8. Hilcott Green
(a) Transfer plan
(b) Official copies LT275292
(c) Official copies LT272738

B Legal Titles

The parcels of land being acquired are part of BDW's development at Thorpe Astley and as such are complicated by the many and various transactions which have taken place with the land over the years. Whilst there are numerous entries on each of the registered titles this report seeks to limit itself to matters which may be of concern to the Council going forward or issues

with the title itself and does not purport to set out all matters which affect each of the parcels of land.

1. Tuffleys Way – LT383694

There are a number of open space elements to be transferred from this title all of which are shown edged in red on the Transfer plan.

None of the entries on the registered title cause any concern for the Council, however the Council should note the covenants which I have highlighted in the Third Schedule of the Deed of Grant which affect that part of the land to be acquired which is shown hatched in blue on the Transfer plan.

2. Cookes, Close – LT 275292
3. Tom Paine Close – LT 275292
4. Cobbet Road – LT 275292

As the Council will appreciate in developments such as this that there are numerous restrictions which have been placed on the land both historically and in more recent years by the various developers involved in this site. I would draw the Councils attention to the following matters affecting the land at Cookes Close, Tom Paine Close and Cobbett Road namely:

(a) The land is burdened by restrictive covenants comprised in a Conveyance dated 15th July 1926. I would draw your attention to the highlighted section in the Schedule of Restrictive Covenants relating to the restrictions imposed on the land.

(b) The land is also subject to further restrictions contained in an Agreement dated 9th March 1992 which appears to have been the main disposal of the site to the developers. It is perfectly possible that the Council already holds a copy of this Agreement which is substantial. If you do not and wish me to forward a copy to you please let me know and I will do so. This Agreement also makes reference to a Section 106 Agreement and a Section 278 Agreement for the original development of the site. Again in view of the involvement of the Council in these matters I assume you already have copies of such documents as are relevant to you. I have not at present been able to obtain copies.

(c) The land is also subject to restrictive covenants contained in a transfer dated 23rd December 1994 that the land should not be developed other than for residential or ancillary commercial and social purposes. This covenant expires in December 2015.

(d) Finally, I would draw your attention to the Deed of the 2nd July 1993 purporting to incorporate pre-emption rights. I understand from the developers that to the best of their Clients knowledge the provisions of this Agreement have expired and no party continues to benefit from the pre-emption and I have accordingly not enclosed a copy of this.

5. Hilcot Green – LT322122

Whilst I have provided a copy of the Official copies to the title of this land there are only a small number of entries which are pertinent namely:

(a) The Land is subject to restrictive covenants contained in a Conveyance dated 1st February 1927 details of which are set out at the top of page 9 in the Schedule of Restrictive Covenants and which I am sure will not cause you any concern.

(b) The land is also subject to the same provisions of a Deed dated 9th March 1992, the Transfer of 23rd December 1994 and the Deed 2nd July 1993 referred to above. I do not propose to comment further.

(c) Entry 16 of the Charges Register to this title makes a small part of the land to be acquired by you subject to the covenants in favour of Severn Trent as set out at the bottom of page 7 and page 8 in the Official copies. In view of your proposed use of the land I do not believe this will cause any problems, but if you require any further guidance please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss.

6. Haskell Close – LT279535

There are two open spaces on Haskell Close to be transferred to the Council. The only matters I would draw to your attention are the covenants contained in the Charges Register to the title comprising:

(a) Covenants comprised in the Conveyance of 15th July 1926 which has been referred to previously.

(b) The land is also subject to restrictive covenants contained in a Conveyance dated 1st February 1927 which although a separate document imposes exactly the same covenants as the 1926 Conveyance referred to previously.

(c) The land is also subject to the same covenants contained in the Deed of 9th March 1992, Transfer of 23rd December 1994 and Deed dated 22nd July 1993 referred to previously in the report.

7. Marshall Close – LT337389 & LT272738

The open space in this title primarily falls within LT337389 and only a tiny slither falling into LT272738.

The points at issue are largely those previously referred to on the other titles being:

(a) The covenants comprised in the Conveyance 1st February 1927
(b) The covenants comprised in the Deeds 9th March 1992, 2nd July 1993 and Transfer of 23rd December 1994.

(c) In addition to the above the land is subject to the restrictive covenants in a Transfer dated 22nd October 1997 details of which are set out in the Schedule of Restrictive Covenants on page 8. You will see that the covenant is not for a period of 21 years from 22nd October 1997 to develop the property other than for residential or ancillary commercial or social purposes. I do not believe this will cause the Council any issues.

(d) So far as LT272738 is concerned I have already provided you with the relevant details relating to this in the previous open spaces on this site and these have not caused you any concerns. I do not therefore propose to go through them in detail again unless you particularly wish me to do so.

8. Hilcot Green - LT275292 & LT272738

As you will see the Hilcot Green open space is divided between two legal titles which we have already considered in relation to Marshall Close and Cobbett Road and there is therefore nothing further to add in this respect.

******

I have endeavoured in this report as it covers much of the ground dealt with previously in relation to the acquisition of 19 open spaces at Thorpe Astley to keep my report to a minimum on the basis that I have already reported to you in great detail in relation to much of the background title already.

I am satisfied that we have established that all the land shown on the Transfer plans is available for the developer to Transfer to the Council and I shall be grateful if you would carefully check the Transfer plans to satisfy yourselves that this properly sets out the extent of the open spaces as you understand they are set out on site.

I have raised enquiries before contract with the developers Solicitors and have gone through their replies and would draw to your attention the following points raised in those replies namely:

(a) They make reference to rights in favour of Severn Trent Water to operate and maintain drainage equipment I have provided details of this in the report as I believe it relates to the open space at Hilcot Green.

(b) The developer indicates that the areas of land in question are already laid out as public open spaces and have been since 1997. No doubt you will confirm this is the case.

(c) I am informed that a ROSPA Report has already been supplied to you in respect of play equipment although I have not seen this.

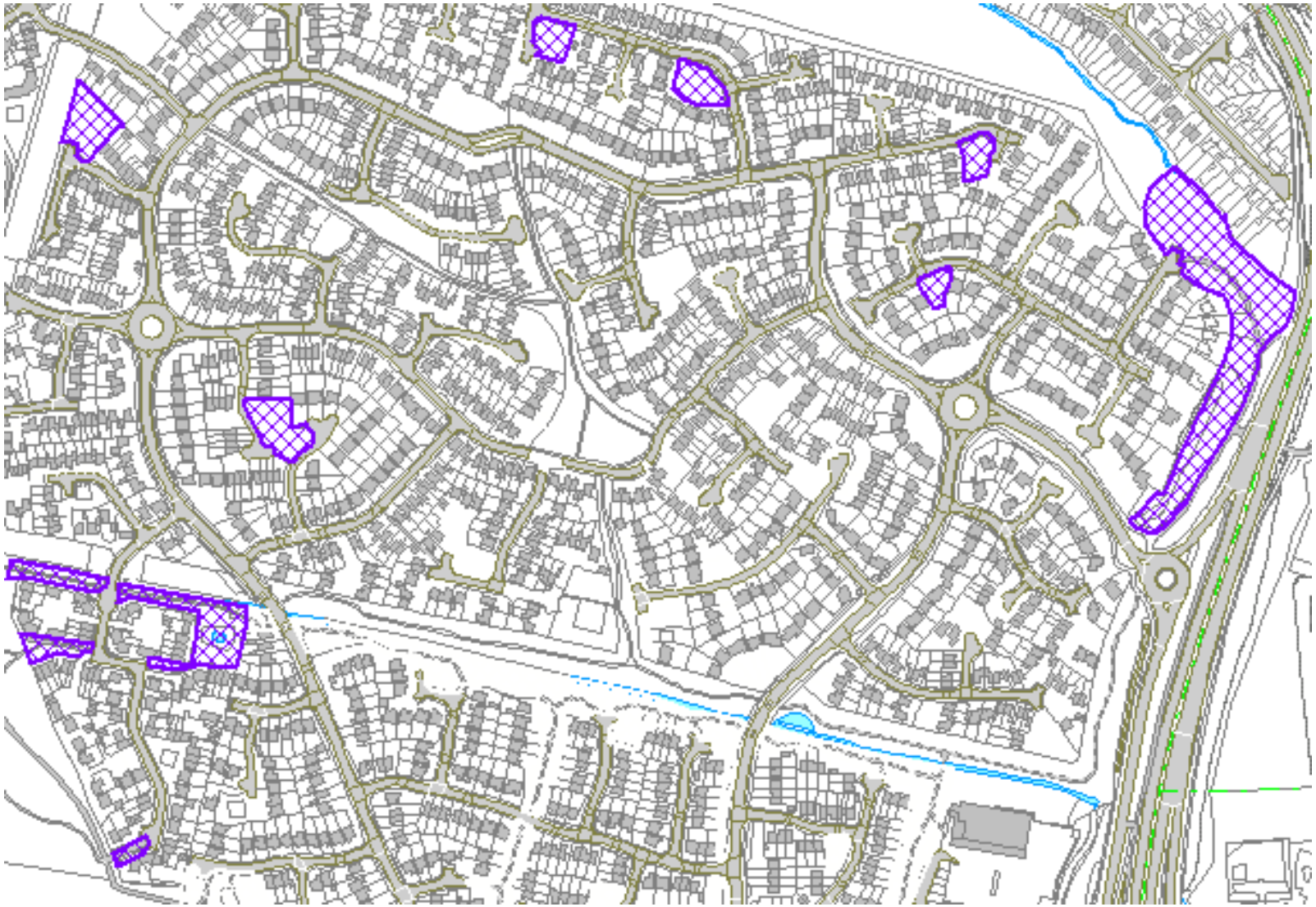
As we have discussed previously due to the expense which will be incurred by the Council in view of the fact the open spaces form part of a residential area which will no doubt be heavily mortgaged I have not carried out the usual suite of searches (Local, Environmental, Drainage & Chancel) in relation to the open spaces to be acquired. The likely cost for each parcel of land would be in the region of £175 and if you wish me to put these searches in hand then this can be arranged, and for the reasons I have set out above I believe that you have decided that it is not necessary. Unless you specifically confirm that you wish me to put these searches in hand I will take no further action in this respect.

I note that when we were initially instructed in 2012 there was some suggestion that the Council were to be paid a commuted sum of £69,614.70 although I am not sure if this related specifically to the open spaces now being adopted. I should be grateful if you would kindly confirm whether the commuted sum referred to above is still envisaged, and if it is whether the amount remains the same and also whether or not this sum has in fact been paid to you already. I do have a note on my file that a commuted sum was paid in September 2011. I should be grateful however if you would confirm the situation in order that I may ensure that I collect any outstanding monies due to the Council upon completion.

Once you have had the opportunity of considering the enclosed papers I should be grateful if you would kindly confirm whether or not the Council is satisfied to proceed, or whether you require any further information.

Once I have confirmation that you are satisfied to proceed I will arrange to prepare the Transfer papers and forward these for execution by the Council in readiness for completion.

Appendix 2 – 12 areas of Land for transfer from Barratt Homes



BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20th AUGUST 2015

Item 12 – Highways Grass Cutting

Purpose

To consider an offer from Blaby District Council concerning two verge cuts - one to be funded by Blaby District Council and one to be funded by the Town Council following the reduction in verge cuts by Leicestershire County Council from 7 to 5 per season.

Background

Leicestershire County Council have an agreement with Blaby District Council to carryout urban and rural grass cutting on the County Council's behalf within Blaby District. From this financial year, the County Council have reduced the number of verge cuts from 7 cuts per season to 5 cuts per season.

Blaby District Council believe that this reduction in frequency will have a detrimental effect on the overall appearance of the area and have decided to fund an additional cut where the Parish wish to do the same in order to retain the number of seasonal cuts at 7.

Areas Covered

The areas covered are all the small strips of grass that run between the road and the footpaths; and any unsponsored traffic islands.

There are also four jitties:

1. From: Next to No. 9 Staplehurst Ave
   To Next to No. 200 Woodcote Road
2. From: Next to No. 14A Avon Road
   To Mossdale Meadows Recreation Ground
3. From: Lubbesthorpe Way [subway]
   To Kingsway North
4. From: Next to No. 23 Braunstone Lane
   To Recreation Ground (Shakespeare Park)

The m2 of land is:

- Braunstone Town – 78,398
- Thorpe Astley – 7,975

The cost for one additional cut of highway verge within Braunstone Town would be £1,676 and within Thorpe Astley would be £171.23, totalling £1,847.23.

The two additional cuts for major highways junctions cutting, e.g. Lubbesthorpe Way, Narborough Road South, was being funded by Blaby District Council.

Options and Issues

Match finding half of a 6th cut is not an option, because of how the allocation of staff time and schedules is managed. The choice is between 5 cuts per season funded by the County or 7 cuts per season with Blaby paying for an additional cut and the Town Council paying for an additional cut.

There is no ongoing commitment other than one financial year so the Town Council could commit to this year with no obligation for future years. Equally the Town Council could decline the offer this year and in light of events could determine whether to accept an offer next year if the scheme is continued.

The cost to Blaby District Council of cutting a square metre is 2p. If the Town Council does not accept this offer then the final cut has now been undertaken and the areas won't be cut until next April.

The Town Council in its budget, medium to long term planning and policy statements has not identified highways grass cutting as a priority to it or Town residents. However, until services are reduced, residents don't tend to consider an issue to be a priority. Therefore, given the Town Council has not made budgetary provision, and there is an option to join the scheme next financial year, it may be appropriate to ascertain the reaction of residents to the reduction in the number of verge cuts.

Recommendation

1. That Blaby District Council's offer to continue to provide 7 seasonal highways verge cuts, provided this was match funded by the Town Council, not be accepted at this stage; and
2. that a further report be submitted to Policy and Resources Committee on 14th January 2016 setting out any issues and concerns which had arisen as a result of the reduction in the number of Highways Verge Cuts and making any recommendations as necessary to be considered as part of the budget estimates for 2016/2017.

Reasons

1. The issue had not been identified as a priority for the Town Council and no budgetary provision had been allocated.
2. To recognise that following the reduction in cuts to 5 seasonal cuts, Town residents would become aware of the impact and may have issues, which the Town Council may consider is worth addressing.

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20th AUGUST 2015

Item 13 – Local Council Award Scheme

Purpose

To consider which level the Council wishes to apply for when the current award (Foundation level) expires in January 2016 and to consider actions required to meet the relevant criteria.

Background

In January 2015 it was confirmed that a new Local Council Award Scheme would replace the Quality Council Scheme, which the Town Council had been awarded. At the time as an existing Quality Council we were able to renew our certificate at Foundation Level until January 2016 for no fee. On 15th January 2015 Policy & Resources Committee agreed to renew for a further year and determine at a later stage which level the Council should apply for beyond January 2016.

The three levels which can be applied for are Foundation, Quality or Quality Gold. The full criteria and details of the Local Council Award Scheme is attached as Appendix 1.

Assessment of Award Level

An assessment of the areas for each level is attached as Appendix 2.

Foundation

The Council is in a good position to be reaccredited with the Foundation Level, while there are some areas of the criteria we currently don't strictly comply with, measures to comply with these can be introduced relatively quickly and within the timescales. Most of these measures can be introduced as part of daily operational management, there are some areas which will require a Committee decision and these can be presented to Policy & Resources Committee for consideration on 1st October 2015 and are highlighted in the Appendix.

Quality

The Council is also in a relatively good position to be accredited with the Quality Level, given we are currently meeting most of the criteria. There are some areas where we will need to review our activities and some of this will require Committee involvement and approval. The most significant area is 10. Evidence of helping the community plan for its future, such as a Parish Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. It is possible to undertake a desktop review with Citizens' Advisory Panel, who have a

couple of meetings scheduled this autumn. The areas which require Councillor and public involvement are highlighted in the Appendix.

Quality Gold

There is significant work which needs to be undertaken to achieve the Quality Gold criteria and this would not be achievable in the timescale. Where we don't meet the criteria currently we would need Committee and in some cases public involvement. For example, the Council doesn't have a Business Plan as described in 1. While it would be possible to collate and present information this way and present it as part of the forthcoming budget estimates it wouldn't have effect until April 2016 and we would take at least another year to demonstrate that we manage the performance of each individual staff member to achieve the business plan. Therefore, we couldn't achieve this award until summer 2017 at the earliest.

However, if the Council wishes to aspire to achieve the Quality Gold level then it is important that it considers this question now, since it will always require a significant lead in time and steps can be taken now to put processes and procedures in place.

Recommendation

1. That the Town Council expresses an interest in registering for the Foundation Level Award and that the Executive Officer & Town undertake actions at Operational Level to ensure compliance with the criteria and also present relevant items to Policy & Resources Committee on 1st October 2015 for determination to ensure compliance; and
2. that the Executive Officer & Town undertake actions at Operational Level to ensure compliance with the Quality Award criteria and that an action plan and timescales be presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 1st October 2015 to determine whether the Town Council would be in a position to express an interest in registering for the Quality Level Award.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the Town Council retains the level of award that it currently holds and was comparable to the award under the previous Quality Council Scheme.
2. To recognise the important role the Council currently has and aspires to continue to develop in terms of reputation, competency and ability to lead a community and work in partnership with principal Councils to deliver local services and an environment which reaches the highest possible standards.

THE LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

Appendix 1

The Local Council Award Scheme exists to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. All local councils want to serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Award Scheme has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is only through the sector working together, to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

The scheme was created in 2014 and is managed on behalf of local councils by the Improvement and Development Board (IDB).

Councils can apply for an award at one of three levels.

- The **Foundation Award** demonstrates that a council meets the minimum requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.
- The **Quality Award** demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.
- The **Quality Gold Award** demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

The scheme sets out criteria to meet at each level covering selected aspects of the council's work. Councils can seek to progress through the tiers over time thereby raising standards. Councils of any size can aspire to an award appropriate for their budget and level of activity.

To support transparency, councils achieving an award at any level must use an online facility for publishing documents and information. In all instances the council confirms that the required documents, information and conditions are in place (whether published or not) by resolution in public at a full council meeting. For **Quality Gold**, councils also provide statements for submission to the panel demonstrating excellence in their activities. The panel may ask for additional information to check the accuracy of claims.

Contents:

Award criteria

This section sets out in brief what is required for each award and then explains in more detail the evidence that an accreditation panel is looking for. Councils should find this additional guidance helpful in identifying what is required. The final section describes the accreditation process from registration to re-accreditation.

The criteria in blue have been chosen to demonstrate **good governance** in managing the business and finances of a council.

The criteria in green have been chosen to represent a council's role in the community. This includes community engagement, activities that serve the community, **community leadership** and promotion of the democratic process.

The criteria in red have been chosen to represent **council improvement** through the management and development of staff and councillors.

Accreditation process

The Quality Parish Scheme is a form of peer review. Councils are reviewed by experienced peers through the work of an accreditation panel.

The aim of this accreditation process is to be as simple, efficient and flexible as possible. It also seeks to ensure that every council that wishes to take part in the scheme is able to, and is assessed in a reasonably consistent way.

This guide describes the ideal standardised process for accreditation. These are not strict rules, and County Associations can tailor this to local need in consultation with NALC.

Fees

There are two fees:

- A registration fee paid to the National Association of Local Councils
- An accreditation fee paid to the organisation responsible for administering the local or regional accreditation process.

The fees stated in this guide are estimates; the final fees will be set in December after a short pilot programme.

Evaluation and improvement

The aim of the evaluation and improvement process is to allow the sector to feel ownership of the scheme, and to see the scheme changing to meet the feedback and needs expressed by the sector. It should also allow the scheme to be dynamic and able to respond over time to changes in the sector, national policy and other relevant issues.

The Foundation Award

To achieve a Foundation Award a council demonstrates that it has the minimum documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The council also has policies for training for its councillors and officers and so has the foundations for improvement and development in place.

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it publishes online:

1 Its standing orders and financial regulations
2 Its Code of Conduct and a link to councillors' registers of interests
3 Its publication scheme
4 Its last annual return
5 Transparent information about council payments
6 A calendar of all meetings including the annual meeting of electors
7 Minutes for at least one year of full council meetings and (if relevant) all committee and sub-committee meetings
8 Current agendas
9 The budget and precept information for the current or next financial year
10 Its complaints procedure

11 Council contact details and councillor information in line with the transparency code
12 Its action plan for the current year
13 Evidence of consulting the community
14 Publicity advertising council activities
15 Evidence of participating in town and country planning

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it has:

16 A risk management scheme
17 A register of assets
18 Contracts for all members of staff

19 Disciplinary and grievance procedures
20 A policy for training new staff and councillors
21 A record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year
22 A clerk who has achieved 12 CPD points in the last year

The council notifies the accreditation panel co-ordinator when the resolution has been agreed and provides a link to its website.

What is the accreditation panel looking for?

The panel seeks assurance that a council acts lawfully and according to standard practice. Unless it is a matter of law, the panel is not making a judgement on the quality of the evidence at this level; it simply carries out spot-checks to confirm that the documentation and information is in place, up-to-date and complies with the guidance below. For those documents that are not posted up online, the panel will ask to see the evidence if it is considered necessary.

- All policies should comply with current legislation and guidance and note the date of the next review.
- **Standing orders, financial regulations, the Code of Conduct, publication scheme and complaints procedure** are public documents tailored to the specific council. Standing orders or financial regulations explain procedures for contracts and internal controls. All policies and procedures should demonstrate compliance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 including an open media policy which does not restrict engagement with the press. For councils with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 they also demonstrate compliance with the transparency code for smaller authorities.
- The council does not need to publish the councillors' **registers of interests** on their own online site provided that there is a link to the registers on the principal authority's website.
- The council's online site should include the name of the clerk and **contact details** (address, phone, e-mail) for the council as a corporate body. It should also publish the names of councillors and councillors' responsibilities in compliance with the transparency code.
- The council posts up a scanned copy of the last **annual return**. The panel checks that the council has a limited assurance (unqualified) opinion from the external auditor; the opinion may contain recommendations for consideration as long as a qualified opinion is not given. The panel checks the arrangements for internal audit and internal controls. From 2017, councils with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 will not be required to complete an annual return. Panels check that these councils comply with the transparency code for smaller authorities.
- **Information on all payments** must be transparent and in accordance with financial regulations and statutory proper practices. The panel will check the minutes of meetings, financial regulations, the annual return (if relevant) and compliance with the transparency code.
- The **calendar** (in any format) includes the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish/Town Meeting and both meetings must be held during the correct statutory period. The calendar also shows that the council has at least four full council meetings a year.
- Similarly the **minutes** for full council meetings over the last year include the Annual Meeting of the Council. If relevant, the council also posts up the minutes of its Finance Committee to demonstrate transparency according to statutory regulations and of its Planning Committee showing that procedures for reviewing planning applications are correct. The panel checks that minutes and **agendas** demonstrate the lawful convening of meetings and decision making and that all meetings allow the public to make representations to the council.
- The council can post up the current or next year's **budget** (or both). Budget documents would normally show columns comparing the year in question with the two previous years; they include information on income and expenditure (or receipts and payments) and show how the precept was calculated.

- The council must publish an **action plan**; as a minimum this is a one-page document listing the council's objectives for the current year. It is not a parish plan which is a plan for the future of the community; the council can extract objectives for action from the parish plan depending on its areas of responsibility.
- The panel seeks at least one piece evidence from council publicity that it consults and actively serves its community. Publicity might include an annual report, web material or news bulletins. The information gives a flavour of any council **activity** such as lobbying principal authorities, giving grants to community groups, the provision of a service or helping with community events. Similarly any form of **consultation** is suitable including surveys, online polls, focus groups or public meetings.
- Council documents demonstrate that the council participates in the **planning system** by, for example, commenting on planning applications or working on a neighbourhood plan. Decisions on planning matters must be made in properly convened meetings and, if required, by delegation to a committee. Some decisions may be delegated to an officer.
- **Contracts, disciplinary/grievance procedures, a risk management policy and register of assets** can be based on a model but tailored to the specific council. They are not published.
- A **training policy** for new staff and councillors can be a short statement of intent while a **training record** gives dates, titles and providers of development activities undertaken by named individuals in the last year, including, for example, updating events, online courses, CPD activity and qualifications. Councillors should note that they should undertake training on financial management for which they are all responsible. In particular, the **clerk**'s training record includes evidence of CPD (Continuing Professional Development) such as training, conference attendance, mentoring and studying for qualifications. CPD points are allocated according to a system published by the IDB.

The Quality Award

To achieve the Quality Award a council demonstrates that it meets all requirements of the Foundation Award and has additional documentation and information in place for good governance, effective community engagement and council improvement. A council with a Quality Award is eligible to use the general power of competence.[1]

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it meets all requirements for the Foundation Award and that it also publishes on its website:

1 Draft minutes of all council and committee meetings within four weeks of the last meeting
2 A Health and Safety policy
3 Its policy on equality

4 Councillor profiles
5 A community engagement policy involving two-way communication between council and community
6 A grant awarding policy
7 Evidence showing how electors contribute to the Annual Parish or Town Meeting
8 An action plan and related budget responding to community engagement and setting out a timetable for action and review
9 Evidence of community engagement, council activities and the promotion of democratic processes in an annual report, online material and at least four news bulletins a year
10 Evidence of helping the community plan for its future

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it has

11 a scheme of delegation (where relevant)
12 up-to-date insurance policies that mitigate risks to public money
13 addressed complaints received in the last year

14 at least two-thirds of its councillors who stood for election
15 a printed annual report that is distributed at locations across the community

16 a qualified clerk
17 a clerk (and deputy) employed according to nationally or locally agreed terms and conditions
18 a formal appraisal process for all staff
19 a training policy and record for all staff and councillors

The council notifies the accreditation panel's co-ordinator when the resolution has been agreed and provides a link to its website.

[1] Localism Act 2011 ss1-8

What is the accreditation panel looking for?

The accreditation panel checks that the criteria for the Foundation Award are in place if the award was granted more than a year ago. It then considers the additional criteria for the Quality Award.

The panel assesses the quality of documents and information with a light touch, seeking reassurance that the council is acting lawfully and according to good (rather than best) practice. The panel carries out spot-checks to confirm that the documentation and information is in place and up-to-date and complies with the guidance below. For those documents that are not posted on the website, the panel will ask to see the evidence if it is considered necessary.

- All council policies should comply with current legislation and guidance and note the date of the next review.
- **Draft minutes** (marked *Draft*) of all council and committee meetings keep people up-to-date with decisions and action should be posted up as soon as possible after the meeting and within at least four weeks. The minutes will show that the council monitors its actions, internal controls and performance against the budget at least every three months.
- A **community engagement policy** demonstrates the council's commitment to hearing what people in the community think and communicating its own actions and decisions. The council also gives grants to community organisations and publishes a **grant awarding policy**.
- **Councillor profiles** normally contain a photo and reference to the ward represented (if relevant) but personal contact details are not required.
- The council is required to publish its **Health and Safety** policy which includes its duty of care to staff and its **equality** policy which shows compliance with legislation.
- Evidence that electors can contribute to the **Annual Parish or Town Meeting** can come in any form; for example, it could be an invitation to attend and participate in discussions or a record of how community groups spoke about their use of grant funding over the last year.
- The **action plan** (or similar forward plan) summarises findings from community engagement and sets out aims and objectives that respond to community views. The action plan includes a timetable for actions to be completed with dates for reviewing the plan. The council's **budget** shows how the action plan is put into practice and manages risks to public money.
- The council is expected to produce an **annual report, online material** and at least four **news bulletins** a year. The annual report and news bulletins must be online even if they were also distributed in hard copy such as in printed newsletters or village magazines. If the council uses social media such as Facebook or Twitter, this will be evident from the council's online site. The accreditation panel will read the materials looking for evidence of community engagement, council activities and promoting democratic processes. The panel expects to see that the council consults the community in at least three different ways (such as surveys, focus groups, online or street polls and community workshops) and engages with other organisations including community groups and the principal authority(ies). It will look for at least three positive actions for the community in the last year.
- The **annual report** should be distributed widely. It is accepted that it cannot always be distributed to all households, but copies can be left at prime locations in a community including a library, doctors' surgeries, schools, pubs, shops or residential homes.
- The panel seeks evidence from council documents and online information that it supports the **community** in **planning** for its future. This can include at least one contribution to creating, implementing or reviewing a parish or town plan, a design statement or a

neighbourhood plan, holding community planning events, facilitating debate in the community about planning applications or registering community assets.

- The panel also seeks evidence of **promoting elections** and the value of the democratic process; this might include explaining how the system works, advising people of election dates and promoting the value of being a councillor.
- At the time of making the resolution, at least two-thirds of the seats on the council must be filled by **councillors who stood for election** at either the last ordinary elections or a by-election. This shows that the council represents the community through the democratic process. Councillors who stood for election, even if elected unopposed, do count, while councillors who were co-opted or appointed cannot count. If two thirds is not a whole number, then it must be rounded up to the next whole number using the table below.

Total council seats	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Two thirds	4	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	13	14

- The panel may wish to check that a council properly operates the delegation of decision-making to committees, sub-committees and officers (where relevant). Arrangements for delegation may be set out in standing orders or in a separate **scheme of delegation**.
- The panel may wish to check that **insurance** policies have been reviewed and are up-to-date and that the council recognises insurance as a way of mitigating risks to public money.
- The panel may also seek evidence that any formal complaints received by the council during the last year have been properly addressed.
- A **qualified clerk** is defined in Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. The clerk (and deputy clerk) should be properly remunerated with a contract in accordance with terms and conditions set out in the national agreement or in a local government scheme.
- The panel can ask to see the document setting out the formal **appraisal process** that must be in place for all staff. It checks that the council has a training budget and may ask to see a general **training policy** for staff and councillors with a detailed **record of all training** undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year. The panel seeks assurance that a training culture is embedded in the council. The clerk is expected to achieve at least 12 CPD points every year.

The Quality Gold Award

To achieve a Quality Gold Award a council demonstrates that it meets all requirements of the Foundation and Quality Awards, and is at the forefront of best practice by achieving an excellent standard in community governance, community leadership and performance management.

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it meets all requirements for the Foundation and Quality Awards and also publishes on its website:

1 A business plan covering a financial forecast for at least three years linked to revenue and capital plans for the council and its community

2 An annual report, online material and at least four news bulletins a year with evidence of
   a engaging with diverse groups in the community using a variety of methods
   b community engagement leading to positive outcomes for the community
   c a broad range of council activities including innovative projects
   d co-operating constructively with other organisations

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting, that it has prepared statements (of no more than one page each) to be presented to the accreditation panel showing how it

3 Ensures that the council delivers value for money
4 Meets its duties in relation to bio-diversity and crime & disorder

5 Provides leadership in planning for the future of the community

6 Manages the performance of the council as a corporate body and of each individual staff member and councillor to achieve its business plan.

The council notifies the accreditation panel when the resolution has been agreed and provides a link to the online site.

What is the accreditation panel looking for?

The accreditation panel checks that criteria for the Foundation and Quality Awards are in place if an award was assessed more than a year ago. It then considers the additional criteria for Quality Gold.

The panel assesses the quality of documents and information in some depth. It seeks reassurance that the council is acting lawfully and aspires to excellence. Complying with the guidance below, the panel carries out spot-checks to confirm that up-to-date documentation and information for Quality Gold is in place. The panel may ask for further information, talk to councillors and staff or visit the parish. The panel will be interested to note whether the council already has a reputation for being at the forefront of best practice. Councils seeking the Quality Gold Award should be aware that the panel is a peer group applying their own standards of excellence to the criteria explained below.

- In confirming excellence, the panel ensures that the council operates within the law as explained in standard works of reference, demonstrates transparent, efficient and effective decision-making and governance and exercises sound financial management.
- The panel also seeks reassurance that the council is not experiencing destructive internal conflict or that nothing has occurred to bring the council into disrepute.
- The council works to a forward plan (or **business plan**) created for at least three years even if this takes the council beyond the next election. This plan explicitly responds to community engagement. It sets out the council's aims and objectives for both the council and the community and shows how they will be achieved including financial forecasts for both revenue and capital for the duration of the plan.
- The **annual report, web material and news bulletins** publicise the work and achievements of the council and contain substantial evidence that the council, takes the lead in actively representing and serving all parts of its local community. The council therefore addresses the **diversity** of its community including, for example, different age groups, service users, physical locations, housing types, language, employment status and skills.
- These sources of information also show that the council seeks out and responds to views and ideas expressed by its community. The council uses a variety of ways (at least four) of consulting and involving local people to understand their views. There should be evidence that the council identifies local needs and views through **community engagement** that are then addressed in constructive **council action**. These sources also show that the council promotes local democracy.
- The panel seeks at least four **positive outcomes** achieved for the community in the last six months and a broad range of council activities. The council is innovative; this is the case if the council undertakes actions that are still relatively unusual for a local council of its size in that county. The panel also checks that the council is co-operating with **other organisations** including community groups, its principal authority(ies) and other agencies to provide an effective service to the community. Co-operation includes but is not limited to partnerships.
- The statement on ensuring **value for money** explains how the council reviews the quality and costs of its activities to confirm that the costs are appropriate. This could include, for example, the cost of the clerk's role in serving the council, the purchase of computer equipment or a grass cutting contract.
- The statement on duties related to **biodiversity and crime & disorder** demonstrates knowledge of the law and includes ways of reminding councillors of these duties and examples of how they are implemented.

- The statement on leadership in **planning for the future** shows how the council engages with a range of activities that influence the planning system and facilitate community-led planning. Activities may include, for example, identifying and representing community views on planning applications and local plans, working on parish or town plans, or holding community-led planning activities such as Planning for Real ® or community conferences. The statement should include the council's approach to neighbourhood planning.
- Finally, the statement on **performance management** explains the process by which the performance of the council as a corporate body is constantly improved and shows how the performance, skills and knowledge of each individual in the council is managed to help the council achieve its objectives on behalf of the community. This includes confirming that each member of staff has their own professional development plan and that the majority of councillors participate in a member development programme. It is important to show evidence that the council is a good employer.

A guide to the accreditation process

The Local Council Award Scheme is a form of peer review. Councils are reviewed by experienced peers through the work of an accreditation panel.

The aim of this accreditation process is to be as simple, efficient and flexible as possible. It also seeks to ensure that every council that wishes to take part in the scheme is able to, and is assessed in a reasonably consistent way.

This guide describes the ideal standardised process for accreditation. These are not strict rules, if you would like to adapt to process to fit local need then do get in touch with Charlotte at the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), and we can discuss the best way to do this.

Registration

The council registers its intention to apply for a specified award with Charlotte Eisenhart, the dedicated co-ordinator at NALC, by emailing charlotte.eisenhart@nalc.gov.uk or calling 020 7290 0319.

The council pays a registration fee to NALC to cover the costs of managing the national scheme, including: administration, national online resources, quality assurance and review processes.

NALC provides the applicant with the contact details of the co-ordinator of the appropriate accreditation panel.

NALC provides the co-ordinator with a link to the appropriate online documentation and guidance for the level of award the council is applying for.

When a council is ready to make its application to the accreditation panel, its clerk notifies the co-ordinator that the council has passed a resolution confirming that all the documentation and information is in place for a specified award and provides a link to its online facility. The council also pays the accreditation fee which covers the costs administering the local service.

The co-ordinator keeps a record of all applications and monitors their progress.

Online connectivity

The Award Scheme requires councils to publish certain information and documents online. In exceptional circumstances a council may not be able to put documents online because of poor digital connectivity in the local area. In this case, the council applies to the panel co-ordinator for permission to submit evidence for an award in an alternative format. The co-ordinator must be confident that poor digital connectivity is the problem rather than an unwillingness to use an online service for publicising council documents.

The accreditation panel

The accreditation panel is set up by a regional group of CALCs. The aim of this is to facilitate training, promote consistency and help manage the workload. It also ensures that where an individual CALC is unable to support the scheme, a council will be able to submit their application to an appropriate regional panel. If in a region the CALCs would prefer an alternative approach this can be discussed with NALC's Improvement and Development Manager.

One of the local CALC's lead officers is the co-ordinator and administrator for the panel. The co-ordinator advises NALC of the required contact details. The co-ordinator manages a pool of up to ten potential panel members, in the expectation that between three and five members are required to review each application. The panel includes experienced councillors and clerks as well as someone independent of the sector with an understanding of local government. Panel membership should be reviewed by the regional coordinator every two years.

At the beginning of the accreditation process a panel is drawn together from the pool of potential members. The panel could choose a lead panellist or chair if needed to facilitate decision making.

All panel members are expected to use an online service to read a council's documents and also act in the spirit of a Code of Conduct; for example, they do not assess an award for their own or a neighbouring council.

Some CALCs may have a local support offer for councils considering applying to the scheme; this may require an additional fee from the council. The decision to offer support and its nature will be determined by each CALC.

The regional accreditation panel determines how often an accreditation process takes place, or an appropriate trigger for this to take place. For example, a panel may decide to convene every two months or may wait until the receipt of 10 applications (as long as this is no later than two months after an application has been received). Panels should note that all costs of administering the panels must be met from application fees. So, to minimise costs, usually the panel will convene and conduct its business remotely rather than face-to-face. The online resource provided by NALC will support this way of working.

The regional panels have discretion over the detail of how they organise the accreditation process. In consultation with the panel coordinators, NALC will provide regularly updated guidance and support for accreditation panels.

Accreditation

The emphasis of the scheme is on encouraging and supporting the improvement of councils. The aim of the panel is therefore to help councils to achieve awards and panels are urged to be constructive.

The panel checks that the criteria for the relevant award have been met in published and/or requested information. Most documents and information will be posted on a website. Where it is not appropriate for a document or information to be on a website, the panel is permitted to ask to see electronic versions.

As all information and documents are available online or in electronic format, the panel's work can be done without meeting. Each member of the panel completes a template form showing their responses provided by NALC to the co-ordinator. This form will indicate where the panel member thinks that follow-up questions should be asked or further information sought; this is most likely for the award of Quality Gold. Panels may wish to consider sharing out the criteria giving members an opportunity to specialise and controlling the workload. The co-ordinator reviews the completed forms from the panel who decide whether additional information or documents are required.

Panel members do not need to examine every document in detail but are advised to carry out spot checks enabling them to make recommendations.

For Quality Gold, the panel may wish to discuss the council's activities with councillors, or staff or visit the parish but the cost of doing so must be covered by the fee.

The outcome

When the panel is satisfied that it has seen sufficient information, the findings are presented in a report agreed by the panel. The panel makes one of three recommendations to the council:

- The Award is achieved.
- The Award is achieved but the council is advised to make some small changes.
- The Award is not achieved until specified improvements have been made and submitted to the panel for checking.

If a council has applied for a higher award but has not achieved all the criteria, the panel can award a lower award if appropriate.

The aim of the scheme is to be supportive and help councils achieve the status they have applied for and so it is expected that achieving a lower (or no) award would be an exceptional circumstance. The panel should let the council know as soon as possible if it appears that they have omitted necessary evidence or it appears likely that they will not achieved the award, and the council should be given some time to respond to that feedback.

The co-ordinator informs the council of the outcome within two months of being notified of the application. They also inform NALC of the outcome and successful councils are included in the published list. NALC also issues a certificate and provides resources to help the council celebrate and promote their achievement which is sent to the co-ordinator

Councils and accreditation panels will be contacted by NALC for feedback on the process and the benefits of receiving the awards.

A council may appeal to the IDB (with an additional fee) if it feels that the panel's decision is unjustified. The IDB will appoint two representatives to review the appeal and the IDB's decision is final.

Upgrading accreditation, re-accreditation and removal of accreditation

Accreditation lasts for four years.

If a council wishes to apply for a higher award, it makes a fresh registration and application.

A council can make a fresh application for a higher award at any time. If this is within one year of the previously successful accreditation, the panel does not need to revisit evidence that was previously approved.

The council may seek re-accreditation at the same level after four years. If it does not achieve a new accreditation or re-accreditation within three months of the four-year end-date, it loses its award.

The council is expected to maintain its reputation by meeting the criteria throughout the four years. Although some circumstances may change, the council will not lose its award unless a significant

event such as an audit, employment tribunal, court case or police investigation demonstrates the council's poor performance. In this case, a panel co-ordinator asks the IDB to appoint two representatives to review the situation. The IDB assesses the severity of the case before deciding whether to impose a sanction which may include the removal of all awards or returning the council to a lower award. The council can appeal to the IDB if the decision to remove an award is taken in which case two different IDB representatives review the case and their decision is final.

Fees

There are two fees:

- A registration fee paid to the National Association of Local Councils
- An accreditation fee paid to the organisation responsible for administering the local or regional accreditation process.

The fess stated here are estimates; the final fees will be set in December after a short pilot programme.

The registration fee paid to NALC is £50 paid by all councils for each level regardless of size.[2]

The accreditation fee for all councils for the Foundation Award is the same but the fee for the Quality Award and Quality Gold Award varies according to

- the award applied for
- the income of the council[3]
- the council's accreditation history

The IDB will review fee levels annually.

	Small	Medium	Large
Foundation Standard:	£50	£50	£50
Quality Standard:	£60	£80	£100
Quality Gold:	£100	£150	£200

The fee is reduced by 20% if the council sought accreditation at a lower level within the previous twenty four months as the checking process covering criteria for the previous standard requires less work.

[2] All figures quoted are excluding VAT.
[3] Small councils have an annual income of <£25,000. Medium councils have an income of £25,000 to £250,000. Large councils have an income of >£250,000.

Evaluation and Improvement

The aim of the evaluation and improvement process is to allow councils to feel ownership of the scheme, and to see the scheme changing to meet the feedback and needs expressed by the sector. It should also allow the scheme to be dynamic and able to respond over time to changes in the sector, national policy and other relevant issues.

Quality assurance

Twice a year, representatives of the IDB will check at random a small sample of awards by carrying out spot checks of documents and information posted on a council's website. The findings will not affect a council's award but will be used to improve the training for accreditation panels and to inform regular reviews of the scheme.

Evaluation

At the end of each accreditation process the council and the panel will be sent a short evaluation questionnaire. This will aim to gather feedback on the process, the criteria, the resources provided by NALC and how they could be improved.

One year after accreditation the council will be contacted again. The council will be encouraged to apply for the next level of award, to make use of the fee discount. The council will also be asked to describe the benefits they have felt from being accredited by the scheme and their feedback on the scheme as a whole.

Improvement

The feedback collected will be used to inform improvements to the scheme. The whole scheme, including the content and accreditation process, will be reviewed every 6 months. These reviews will alternate between.

- A light touch approach only making urgent required changes where these are considered critical to the scheme.
- A wider ranging review aiming to best address collected feedback from all parties.

The Improvement and Development Board will oversee all changes to the scheme

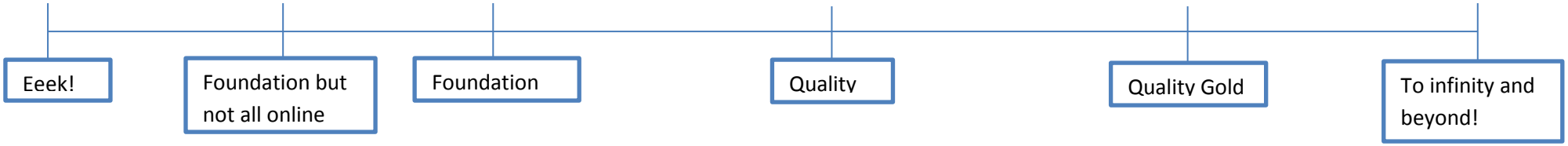
LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

APPENDIX 2

A helpful guide to starting your improvement plan

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

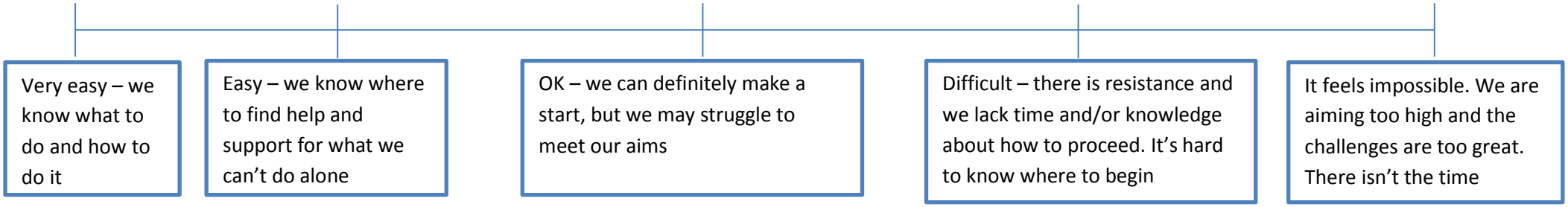
Mark on the line: Where is our council now? And place a separate mark for where we want to be.



How much time can we commit to spend on improving?

_____ hours per month from the Clerk (and other staff)	_____ hours per month from Councillors	_____ hours per month from volunteers	_____ hours per month from other people

How difficult does it feel?



The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it publishes online:

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
1	Its standing orders and financial regulations	Yes					
2	Its Code of Conduct and a link to councillors' registers of interests	Subject to publishing the link	Upload documents/publish link	9/15	No	No	No
3	Its publication scheme	No	Review open media compliance	10/15	Advice from LRALC	For Policy Changes	No
4	Its last annual return	Subject to external Audit	Scan in returned copy	10/15	No	No (unless qualified)	No
5	Transparent information about council payments	Subject to publication of current year	Subject to publication of current year	10/15	Advice from LRALC	For Policy Changes	No
6	A calendar of all meetings including the annual meeting of electors	Yes					
7	Minutes for at least one year of full council meetings and (if relevant) all committee and sub-committee meetings	Yes					

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
8	Current agendas	Yes					
9	The budget and precept information for the current or next financial year	No	Show previous two years and how precept calculated	10/15	No	No	No
10	Its complaints procedure	No	Need a procedure for Appeals at Committee	10/15	No	Yes	Yes
11	Council contact details and councillor information in line with the Transparency Code	No	Need to include Councillor responsibilities	9/15	No	No	No
12	Its action plan for the current year	No	Put together using existing documentation	9/15	No	Yes	Yes
13	Evidence of consulting the community	Yes					
14	Publicity advertising council activities	Yes					
15	Evidence of participating in town and country planning	Yes					

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it has:

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
16	A risk management scheme	Yes					
17	A register of assets	Yes					
18	Contracts for all members of staff	Yes					
19	Disciplinary and grievance procedures	Yes					
20	A policy for training new staff and councillors	Yes					
21	A record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year	No	Needs updating	10/15	No	No	No
22	A clerk who has achieved 12 CPD points in the last year	Needs Calculating	Needs Calculating	9/15	No	No	No

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it publishes online:

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
1	Draft minutes of all council and committee meetings within four weeks of the last meeting	No	Mark "Draft". I Report Actions to Council	10/15	No	No	Yes
2	A Health and Safety policy	Yes					
3	Its policy on equality	Yes					
4	Councillor profiles	Yes					
5	A community engagement policy involving two-way communication between council and community	Review Involve and Consult Document	Review Involve and Consult Document	10/15	Citizens Advisory	Yes	No
6	A grant awarding policy	Yes					
7	Evidence showing how electors contribute to the Annual Parish or Town Meeting	Yes					

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
8	An action plan and related budget responding to community engagement and setting out a timetable for action and review	No	Undertake following Annual Survey at Citizens Advisory	12/15	No	Yes	Yes
9	Evidence of community engagement, council activities and the promotion of democratic processes in an annual report, online material and regular news bulletins	No	Publish “Life” articles online	9/15	No	No	No
10	Evidence of helping the community plan for its future	No	Review actions in Parish Plan	3/16	Yes	Yes	Yes

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it has:

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
1	a scheme of delegation (where relevant)	Yes					
2	up-to-date insurance policies that mitigate risks to public money	Yes					
3	addressed complaints received in the last year	Yes					
4	at least two-thirds of its councillors who stood for election	Yes					
5	a printed annual report that is distributed at locations across the community	Yes					
6	a qualified clerk	Waiting for Result	Waiting for Result	9/15	No	No	No
7	a clerk (and deputy) employed according to nationally or locally agreed terms and conditions	Yes					
8	a formal appraisal process for all staff	Check Policy and update records	Check Policy and update records	11/15	No	No	No

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
9	a training policy and record for all staff and councillors	Check Policy and update records	Check Policy and update records	11/15	Yes	No	Yes

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY GOLD

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it publishes online:

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
1	A business plan covering a financial forecast for at least three years linked to revenue and capital plans for the council and its community	No	Create Business Plan: Surveys, Citizens' Advisory, Committees	6/16	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	An annual report, online material and at least four news bulletins a year with evidence of						
	a engaging with diverse groups in the community using a variety of methods	No	Review Consultation/ engagement to cover	6/16	Yes	Yes	Yes
	b community engagement leading to positive outcomes for the community	Examples but need to deliver results	Examples: Library/Service Shop	6/16	Yes	Yes	Yes
	c a broad range of council activities including innovative projects	Yes					
	d co-operating constructively with other organisations	Yes					

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting, that it has prepared statements (of no more than one page each) to be presented to the accreditation panel showing how it

	Criteria	Does the council meet these criteria?	Do you know how to meet these criteria?	How long will it take you?	Do you need help?	Do decisions need to be made by the Councillors?	Can the Councillors help with these criteria?
1	Ensures that the council delivers value for money	Yes					
2	Meets its duties in relation to bio-diversity and crime & disorder	No	Need to include in committee reporting	4/16	Advice from LRALC	Yes	Yes
3	Provides leadership in planning for the future of the community	No	Proactivity, e.g. Neighbourhood Plan	6/16	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Manages the performance of the council as a corporate body	No	Need a Statement	5/16	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Manages the performance of each individual staff member to achieve its business plan	No	Revisions to Appraisal Policy and Procedure	5/16	Yes	Yes	Yes

Item 14

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd.

Blaby District Council

Open Space Audit

Consultation Draft

July 2015

CONTENTS

	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	**1**
1	**INTRODUCTION**	**17**
2	**THE BLABY CONTEXT**	**21**
3	**LOCAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES**	**26**
4	**WIDER STRATEGIC INFLUENCES**	**36**
5	**DEMAND FOR OPEN SPACE IN BLABY**	**41**
6	**OPEN SPACE SUPPLY IN BLABY**	**61**
7	**THE SUPPLY-DEMAND BALANCE**	**123**
8	**PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**	**153**
9	**ACTION PLAN**	**156**
APPENDIX I	**PARISH MAPS**	**164**
APPENDIX II	**QUALITATIVE AUDIT METHODOLOGY**	**186**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aims of the assessment

1) The aims of the assessment are to:

- To review the standards set out in BDC's Core Strategy Policy CS15 for the open space and sports facilities requirements of local communities, covering quantity, quality and access.
- To audit the district's open space and sports facilities, including an assessment of the current quality of provision.
- To use the local standards of provision to evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision in the district, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies.
- To undertake a districtwide and parish-specific assessment, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies in provision at both levels.
- To map all forms of provision at parish levels using Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, to show catchments based upon the adopted accessibility standards.
- To identify the costs of provision of different types and scales of provision based on previous local projects.
- To produce a calculator tool to establish what developer contributions for open space should be made on a site-specific basis, for the purposes of development management and the Section 106 contributions that will be made for individual planning applications.

What the assessment covers

2) The assessment covers the following types of publicly accessible open space:

- Parks and gardens.
- Natural greenspace.
- Accessible open space.
- Play provision for children and young people.
- Allotments.
- Play provision for children and young people.
- Churchyards and cemeteries.
- Grass pitches (football, cricket and rugby).
- Synthetic turf pitches.
- Bowls greens.
- Tennis courts.
- Golf courses.
- Village and community halls.

About Blaby district

3) **Population -** Based on the 2011 Census, Blaby district has a population of 93,900 (ONS, 2012). Whilst the age structure is relatively similar to national norms, the slightly older than average age profile suggests that demand for less vigorous forms of sport and physical activity are likely to be proportionately higher.

4) **Ethnicity -** Black and minority ethnic groups comprise 11.5% of the local population, well below the national average. Minority ethnic groups traditionally have lower rates of involvement in physical activity, which should reduce local levels of demand. However, the relatively high proportion of people of south Asian heritage, with their traditional affinity with cricket, may have a specific impact on demand for this sport.

5) **Growth -** The Office for National Statistics projections Blaby forecast that the population of the district will increase by 9.7% by 2029, which will create additional demand for open space. However, significant changes towards a more elderly age profile will alter demand patterns.

6) **Health -** Local health indices that are close to the national norms locally underline the importance of ensuring access to open spaces, as part of a wider strategy to ensure that the local population remains physically active and increases its participation.

7) **Deprivation -** Deprivation indices for the district are relatively low. Since deprivation is associated with lower rates of sport and physical activity, local demand is likely to be relatively high.

Meeting local and wider priorities

8) **The Blaby Plan 2015-2018 (2015) -** The Blaby Plan includes a strong high-level policy commitment to 'improve access and use of sports, recreation and open space facilities'.

9) **Core Strategy (2013) -** The Local Plan Core Strategy contains positive policies on the provision and retention of open space.

10) **Green Spaces Strategy (2012) -** The Strategy for Blaby District provides a valuable steer on the management of open spaces and identifies nine strategically important sites.

11) **Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) Study (2009) -** The study provides a useful preliminary assessment of the adequacy of open space provision in the district, based upon adopted local standards.

12) **Neighbouring areas -** Open space assessments in the six neighbouring local authorities, show that there are some significant shortfalls in adjoining areas, particularly in Leicester, Oadby and Wigston and Hinckley, which might cause demand to migrate to Blaby district.

13) **National Planning Policy Framework (2012) -** Government policy on open spaces is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, which makes clear the importance of protecting and enhancing open space through evidence-based assessments of local need to inform the statutory planning process.

14) **Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity -** National policy in *'Planning Practice Guidance'* (2014) underlines the significance of linkage between open spaces, both within the district and in relation to sub-regional networks.

15) **Sport -** Sport England's target to increase participation rates year-on-year will drive up demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities if it is achieved.

Local demand

16) **Demand for open space -** Surveys for the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) identified that the informal open spaces in Blaby district are the most frequently used types of provision.

17) **Views on provision -** The quality of the provision and management of parks and open spaces in Blaby district is rated very highly in a 2013 local residents' survey, although conversely, they are given a relatively low rating in terms of their priority in relation to other public services delivered by BDC.

18) **Rates of physical activity -** Local rates of participation in sport and physical activity recorded by the *'Active People'* survey (2015) are well above the regional and national averages.

19) **Local variations -** There are some quite significant local geographical variations in participation rates. Whetstone, Narborough and Braunstone have high participation rates, whereas Blaby, Glen Parva and Enderby are below the national average.

20) **Sport-specific demand -** Sport-specific demand is as follows:

- **Football -** Local participation rates for youth football and mini-soccer are particularly high. 233 teams draw their membership from within the district.
- **Cricket -** 85 cricket teams draw their membership from within the district.
- **Rugby Union -** 40 rugby teams play in the district, mostly concentrated in the urban areas. There is limited scope for expansion at several clubs at present because of limited pitch capacity.
- **Hockey -** There are no hockey clubs in the district, but local needs are met by five clubs located nearby in the City of Leicester.
- **Bowls -** Seven clubs play in the district, the majority of which have experienced declining membership in recent years.
- **Tennis -** Four clubs are based in the district and there are also opportunities for casual play on parks courts.
- **Golf -** Five clubs are based in the district. All have spare capacity and allow 'pay-and-play' usage of their courses.

21) **Parish and town councils -** The majority of parish and town councils believe that existing open space provision is adequate to meet local demand, although a shortage of allotments was identified in several areas.

22) **Schools demand -** On-site open space and outdoor sports provision does not meet the needs of 80% of schools respondents, although none makes significant use of off-site provision to compensate for this. There is a strong local community use ethos amongst schools, which is reflected in extensive use of their facilities by community users and a willingness to extend this where demand arises.

Local supply

23) **Park and gardens -** There are five parks and gardens in the district, totalling 14.16ha, primarily in the urban parts of the district. However, there is no provision in several of the larger parishes, including Enderby, Glen Parva and Leicester Forest East. The quality of provision is generally good. Given the limited number of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 16 minute driving time catchment from the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) embraces only around half of the district population.

24) **Natural greenspace -** There are 40 natural greenspace sites, totalling 221.0ha, or 2.35ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but two parishes, although per capita levels of provision are generally better in the more rural parishes. The quality of around one in five sites is rated as below 'average'. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 25 minute driving time catchment from the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) includes the entire district population.

25) **Informal open space -** There are 194 informal open space sites, totalling 93.90ha, or 1.00ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but one parish, although per capita levels of provision vary widely. The quality of provision is variable, although only 15.5% of the larger sites assessed (0.2ha or more) were rated as below 'average' quality. Many of the smaller sites offer little more than visual amenity, although some serve an important role providing links between other key sites in the wider green infrastructure network. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment from the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) includes the entire district population.

26) **Provision for children and young people -** There are 41 equipped play sites, totalling 5.38ha, or 0.06ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all parishes. The quality of provision is generally high, with only 9.8% of sites rated as below 'average'. However, provision for disabled users is often poor, with little or no disabled equipment and poor physical access to play areas for disabled children and/or disabled carers. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 13 minute travel time catchment from the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) includes the entire district population.

27) **Allotments -** There are 16 allotment sites, totalling 20.34ha, or 0.22ha per 1,000 residents. There is no provision in seven parishes, including two of the more urban areas (Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva). There are waiting lists at several sites and the survey of parish councils identified a number of areas where demand outstrips supply, in particular Blaby and Stoney Stanton. The quality of 17.7% of sites is rated as below 'average'. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 18 minute driving time catchment from the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) includes the entire district population.

28) **Cemeteries and churchyards -** There are 30 cemeteries and churchyards, totalling 19.60ha, or 0.21ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but two parishes, although per capita levels of provision vary widely. The quality of provision is variable, although only 10.0% of sites are rated as below 'average'. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) includes the entire district population.

29) **Adult football pitches -** There are 42 adult football pitches with community use and used, supplemented by four that are available but not used and two that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are relatively even across the district, with only five parishes without at least one pitch. Only one pitch is rated as 'poor' and therefore in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at eight sites, but several other sites score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.

30) **Youth football 11v11 pitches -** There are 9 youth football (11v11) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used and three that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.

31) **Youth football 9v9 pitches -** There are 10 youth football (9v9) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by 12 that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.

32) **Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches -** There are 10 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used and 16 that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.

33) **Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches -** There are 13 mini-soccer (5v5) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used five that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.

34) **Cricket pitches -** There are 20 cricket pitches with community use and used, supplemented by five which are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more rural parishes. Pitch and outfield quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at five sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.

35) **Rugby pitches -** There are 13 rugby pitches with community use and used. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are also rated as at least 'standard' quality. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

36) **Synthetic turf pitches for hockey -** There are no synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Blaby district, but local needs are served by nine pitches in neighbouring areas, whose catchments overlap the district boundary. All the pitches are rated as at least 'standard' quality and are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

37) **'3G' football turf pitches -** There is one full-sized '3G' football turf pitch in the district, supplemented by one five smaller facilities suitable for training. The pitches is rated as 'good' quality and is therefore not in a condition that will compromise its levels of use. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

38) **Bowls greens -** There are seven bowls greens in the district, equivalent to 1: 13,414 people, which is just above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities. There is a bowls green in seven parishes. The quality of all greens and changing facilities is at least 'standard' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. Disabled access is poor at three sites. The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

39) **Tennis courts -** There are 40 tennis courts in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,348 people, which is the best per capita figure for the neighbouring local authorities. There is at least one court in nine parishes. The quality of all court surfaces is at least 'above average' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. Changing is related as below 'average' at two sites and disabled and general access at one sites. The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

40) **Golf courses -** There are five golf courses in the district, equivalent to 1: 23,475 people, which is well above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities. The quality of all aspects of all courses is at least 'average' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

41) **Village and community halls -** There are 33 village and community halls in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,845 people. Only three halls are rated as below 'average' for sports capacity, whilst five need some quality improvements. The entire district population is within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

The balance between supply and demand

42) Based upon a supply-demand analysis, the following current needs have been identified:

Typology	*Standard*	*Quantity*	*Quality*	*Accessibility*
Parks and gardens	• 0.20ha of parks and gardens per 1,000 people in all parishes of 6,000 people or larger. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 16 minutes travel.	• Districtwide deficit of 0.50ha • Localised shortfall in 7 of the 9 urban parishes partly offset by surpluses in Blaby and Braunstone parishes.	• Entrance and boundary improvement needed at Northfield Park (Blaby). • Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park (Braunstone). • Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park (Blaby), Franklin Park (Braunstone), Narborough Recreation Ground (Narborough) and Northfield Park (Blaby).	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Natural greenspace	• 2.35ha of natural greenspace per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 25 minutes travel.	• Districtwide surplus of 0.33ha • Localised shortfall in 12 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere.	Access and management issues need to be resolved at Countesthorpe Country Park (Countesthorpe). Quality improvements needed at: • Enderby Balancing Lake (Enderby) • Kings Walk Spinney (LFE) • Land at Hinckley Way (Sapcote) • Land at New Bridge Road (Glen Parva) • Land at Oakcroft Avenue (Kirby Muxloe) • Land east of Riverside Way (Narborough) • Land north-east of Croft Hill (Huncote) • Land south of Gynsills Lane (Glenfield)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Informal open space	• 1.00ha of informal open space per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 10 minutes travel.	• Supply and demand are balanced at district level. • Localised shortfalls in 11 of the 19 parishes.	Quality improvements needed at: • Avon Road open space (Braunstone) • Blaby Road open space (Enderby) • Brickman Close open space (LFE) • Cranmer Close open space (Blaby) • Lane Close open space (Glenfield) • Langham Drive open space (Narborough) • Lincoln Drive open space (Blaby) • Smithy Farm Drive open space (Stoney Stanton) • Thornborough Close open space (Narborough) • Winchester Avenue open space (Whetstone) • Woodhouse Road open space (Narborough)	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Provision for children and young people	• 0.06ha of equipped play space per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 13 minutes travel.	• Districtwide deficit of 0.25ha • Localised shortfall in 8 of the 19 parishes.	Quality improvements needed at: • Crescent play area (Blaby) • Fosse Meadows play area (Sharnford) • Sharnford play area (Sharnford) • Stafford Leys Community Centre (LFE)	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.

Typology	*Standard*	*Quantity*	*Quality*	*Accessibility*
Allotments	• 0.25ha of allotments per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 18 minutes travel.	• Districtwide deficit of 3.14ha • Shortfall in 14 of the 19 parishes.	Quality improvements needed at: • Salisbury Avenue Allotments (Braunstone) • Windermere Drive allotments (Croft)	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Cemeteries and churchyards	• 0.21ha of churchyards per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 10 minutes travel.	• Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha • Shortfall in 6 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere.	Quality improvements needed at: • Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery (Enderby) • All Saints' Church, Sapcote (Sapcote) • St. Mary the Virgin, Wigston Parva (Sharnford)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Adult football pitches	No standard set	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 18 good quality pitches. • 6 sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 18 sites have some spare usage capacity.	Drainage improvements needed at Willoughby Road Playing Field (Countesthorpe). Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground (Glen Parva) • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground (Kirby Muxloe) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) • Northfield Park (Blaby) • Oakfield Park (Blaby) • Willoughby Road Playing Field (Countesthorpe)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Youth football (11v11) pitches	No standard set	• Districtwide deficit equivalent to 0.5 standard quality pitches. • 4 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 2 sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Leicester Road Recreation Ground (Enderby) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	No standard set	• Districtwide deficit equivalent to 1 standard quality pitch. • 6 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 2 sites usage is balanced • 1 site has some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground (Kirby Muxloe) • Leicester Road Recreation Ground (Enderby) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Typology	*Standard*	*Quantity*	*Quality*	*Accessibility*
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	No standard set	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 7.5 standard quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) • Oakfield Park (Blaby) • Warwick Road Recreation Ground (Whetstone)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	No standard set	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 10 good quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground (Kirby Muxloe) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) • Oakfield Park (Blaby)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Cricket pitches	No standard set	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 54 good quality wickets. • 2 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 16 sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Lissman Fields (Stoney Stanton) • Meadows Sports Ground (Countesthorpe) • Northfield Park (Blaby) • Winstanley Community College (Braunstone) • Winston Avenue Sports Ground (Croft)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Rugby pitches	No standard set	• Districtwide supply and demand are balanced. • 2 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 3 sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Leicester Forest Rugby Club (LFE) • Old Newtonians Rugby Club (LFE) • Vipers Rugby Club (Blaby) • Westleigh Park (Blaby)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	No standard set	Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 2 pitches at facilities in neighbouring areas.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
'3G' football turf pitches	No standard set	Deficit of 2.33 '3G' pitches based on FA calculations	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Bowls greens	• 1 green per 13,500 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 15 minutes drive.	No additional facilities needed.	Disabled improvements needed at • Glenfield Bowls Club (Glenfield) • Narborough & District BC (Narborough) • Shakespeare Park BC (Braunstone)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Typology	*Standard*	*Quantity*	*Quality*	*Accessibility*
Tennis courts	• 1 court per 2,350 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 15 minutes drive.	No additional facilities needed.	Court improvements at Shakespeare Park (Braunstone) Changing improvements needed at : • Enderby Tennis Club (Enderby) • Thorpe Astley TC (Braunstone) Access improvements needed at Enderby Tennis Club (Enderby)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Golf courses	• 1 course per 23,500 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 20 minutes drive.	No additional facilities needed.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Village and community halls	• 1 hall per 2,850 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 10 minutes drive.	No additional facilities needed.	Extra sports capacity needed at: • Cosby Community Church • St. James' Church Hall • Whetstone Parish Council Offices Quality improvements needed at: • Croft Community Centre • Huncote Community Centre • Narborough Parish Centre • Stoney Stanton Village Hall • Whetstone Memorial Hall	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Dealing with deficiencies

43) Addressing deficiencies in open space and sports facilities provision can be achieved in a number of ways:

- **New provision -** Providing entirely new open space and sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by identifying new sites or extending existing provision.

- **Upgrading and refurbishing -** Upgrading and refurbishing existing open space and sports facilities would help to meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified. Physically expanding the area of an existing site or facility will increase its capacity for use and may enhance its wildlife and biodiversity value. Providing linkages between existing areas of greenspace can help to create green corridors and strategic routes for green travel and wildlife migration.

- **Formal agreements -** Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard public usage of open space and in some cases may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements. One example is the designation of Access Land under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000), which allows additional public access at specified sites in addition to traditional linear footpaths and bridleways.

- **Physical improvements -** A number of physical improvements to greenspace sites can improve access, especially for people who are generally less mobile such as the elderly and disabled. Examples include surfaced pathways, the provision of accessible gates and stiles and in the case of sites in rural areas that are relatively distant from the urban parts of the district, dedicated car parking.

- **Rights of way improvements -** Improving the rights of way network to ensure that there are appropriate linkages between key open space sites and settlements in the district would improve access and promote more sustainable forms of transport. The designation of additional named and/or themed trails in and around the district would promote the use of key routes.

- **Information and awareness -** The provision of interpretive panels at sites with nature conservation interest can help to educate and inform users and enhance the user experience. Similarly, good on-site signposting can improve user confidence in exploring larger sites or following marked trails. By the same token, off-site signposting creates greater awareness of sites by non-users and may therefore encourage usage. Finally, the development and distribution of publicity materials promoting open space sites will also raise awareness amongst potential users.

- **Integrated provision -** There are already a number of sites in the district where several open space functions are served at the same site. When making new provision, there are a number of advantages in integrating open spaces. The combination of different uses of open space will encourage a wider range of users, including family groups and will promote community cohesion. Maintenance will be simplified and rationalised if more provision is concentrated at a single site, rather than on a dispersed basis.

- **Reinstating playing pitches -** Reinstating playing pitches where usage has, for a variety of reasons, been discontinued in recent times, affords a straightforward response to increased local demand, as does converting pitches of a type for which there is local spare capacity into a type for which there is a deficiency.

Delivery partners

44) **Blaby District Council -** The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic open space and sports facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.

45) **Town and parish councils -** Town and parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining open space and sports facilities.

46) **Schools -** Many schools in Blaby district already provide sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities both to provide additional facilities on school sites to extend and formalise community access to a range of existing provision.

47) **Sports clubs -** Local sports clubs are significant providers of sports facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may be interested in taking on delegated management responsibilities for facilities management and maintenance from Blaby District Council or parish councils.

48) **Voluntary and charitable organisations -** Local and national conservation trusts (such as the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) also provide and manage natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, including the creation of new areas from time to time. Sustrans is responsible for promoting and maintaining the National Cycle Network and also for promoting sustainable transport.

49) **Developers -** The developers of new housing and commercial projects in Blaby district will be required either to provide new open space and sports facilities as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the provision must meet the needs of the residents of the new developments, as opposed to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies and requests for financial contributions must comply with the tests set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations.

50) **Partnership arrangements -** Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

Action plan to meet existing needs

51) The action plan identifies the ways in which current deficiencies might be met.

Typology	***Current assessed deficiency***	***Action plan for meeting deficiency***
Parks and gardens	• Districtwide deficit of 0.50ha. • Entrance and boundary improvements needed at Northfield Park. • Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park. • Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park, Franklin Park, Narborough Recreation Ground and Northfield Park.	• Enhance provision at Jubilee Park, Enderby with improved paths, benches and planting, to upgrade informal open space to a park. • Upgrade entrance and boundary at Northfield Park. • Upgrade path surfaces at Franklin Park. • Implement planting schemes needed at Bouskell Park, Franklin Park, Narborough Recreation Ground and Northfield Park.
Natural greenspace	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Access and management issues need to be resolved at Countesthorpe Country Park. • Quality improvements needed at eight sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Resolve the access and management issues with Countesthorpe Country Park. Enhance signage and information at: • Enderby Balancing Lake. • Kings Walk Spinney. • Land Hinckley Way. • Land at New Bridge Road. • Land at Oakcroft Avenue. • Land east of Riverside Way. • Land north-east of Croft Hill. • Land south of Gynsills Lane.

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Informal open space	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Quality improvements needed at 11 sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Install benches and litter bins at: • Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space • Langham Drive open space • Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Winchester Avenue open space • Woodhouse Road open space
Provision for children and young people	• Districtwide deficit of 0.25ha. • Quality improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Identify opportunities to provide new or extended play areas in parishes with the current deficits: - Braunstone - Countesthorpe - Enderby - Glenfield • Improve disabled access and equipment at: - Crescent play area - Fosse Meadows play area - Sharnford play area - Stafford Leys Community Centre
Allotments	• Districtwide deficit of 3.14ha. • Quality improvements needed at two sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Identify opportunities to provide new or extended allotments in parishes with the greatest deficits: - Glenfield - Glen Parva - Leicester Forest East - Whetstone • Improve disabled access and equipment at: - Salisbury Avenue allotments - Windermere drive allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	• Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha. • Quality improvements needed at three sites. • No significant accessibility deficiency.	• Identify opportunities to provide new or extended cemeteries and churchyards in parishes with the greatest deficits: - Braunstone - Glenfield - Glen Parva • Install benches at: - Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery - All Saints' Church, Sapcote - St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wigston Parva

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Adult football pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Pitch quality improvements needed at one site. • Changing improvements needed at seven sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kings Drive Playing Field - Meadows Sports Ground - Whetstone Youth Club - Willoughby Road Playing Field - Winston Avenue Sports Ground • Make pitch quality improvements at Willoughby Road Playing Field • Make changing improvements at: - Cosby Recreation Ground - Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows - Northfield Park - Oakfield Park - Willoughby Road Playing Field
Youth football (11v11) pitches	• Districtwide deficit of 0.5 pitches. • Four sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at two sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 11v11 deficit. • Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Brockington College - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Meadows Sports Ground - Winston Avenue Sports Ground • Make changing improvements: - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	• Districtwide deficit of one pitch. • Six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 9v9 deficit. • Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Brockington College - Cosby Recreation Ground - Glenfield Sports Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Whetstone Recreation Ground • Make changing improvements at: - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Make changing improvements at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park • Warwick Road recreation Ground
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Make changing improvements at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park
Cricket pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at five sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Enderby Cricket Club - Thurlaston Sports Club • Make changing improvements at: - Lissman Fields - Meadows Sports Ground - Northfield Park - Winstanley Community College - Winston Avenue Sports Ground
Rugby pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Leicester Forest Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club • Make changing improvements at: - Leicester Forest Rugby Club - Old Newtonians Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club - Westleigh Park
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency.	No action required
'3G' football turf pitches	• Deficit equivalent to 2.35 pitches. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing '3G' pitches in sub-areas with the greatest shortfall of grass pitches (Narborough and Whetstone). • Seek funding for the developments if the feasibility is proven.
Bowls greens	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Disabled access improvements needed at three sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Make disabled access improvements at: • Glenfield Bowls Club • Narborough and District Bowls Club • Shakespeare Park Bowls Club

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Tennis courts	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Court surface improvements needed at one site. • Changing improvements needed at two sites. • Access improvements needed at one site. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Make court surface improvements at Shakespeare Park. • Make changing improvements at: - Enderby Tennis Club - Thorpe Astley Tennis Club • Make access improvements at Enderby Tennis Club.
Golf courses	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency.	No action required
Village and community halls	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Sports capacity improvements needed at three sites. • General condition improvements needed at five sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Make sports capacity improvements at: - Cosby Community Church - St. James' Church Hall - Whetstone Parish Council Offices • Make general condition improvements at: - Croft Community Centre - Huncote Community Centre - Narborough Parish Centre - Stoney Stanton Village Hall - Whetstone Memorial Hall

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was appointed by Blaby District Council (BDC) to undertake an open space audit for the district that complies with the latest relevant guidance and national policy dealing with open space, sport and recreation.

1.2 The study aims

The aims of the Audit are to provide the evidence base to inform BDC's Local Plan, update its Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and subsequently to request open space contributions from development proposals.

1.3 The study objectives

The objectives of the Audit are as follows:

- To review the standards set out in BDC's Core Strategy Policy CS15 for the open space requirements of local communities, covering quantity, quality and access.
- To audit the district's open space, sport and recreation facilities, including an assessment of the current quality of provision.
- To use the local standards of provision to evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision in the district, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies.
- To undertake a districtwide and parish-specific assessment, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies in provision at both levels.
- To map all forms of provision at parish levels using Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, to show catchments based upon the recommended accessibility standards.
- To identify the costs of different types and scales of open space, sport and recreation provision based on previous local projects and comparable projects elsewhere.
- To produce a calculator tool to establish what developer contributions for open space should be made on a site-specific basis, for the purposes of development management and the Section 106 contributions that will be made for individual planning applications.

1.4 The scope of the study

1.4.1 Types of provision

The types of provision covered in the audit are as follows:

- Parks and gardens.
- Natural greenspace.
- Informal open space.
- Provision for children and young people.

- Allotments.
- Churchyards and cemeteries.
- Grass pitches for football, cricket and rugby,
- Artificial turf pitches.
- Tennis courts.
- Bowls greens.
- Golf courses.
- Village and community halls.

1.4.2 Geographical scope

The audit covers the area administered by BDC and includes an assessment of provision in neighbouring areas, where it is used by individuals and clubs from within the district.

1.5 The study methodology

The methodology for the study follows the current best practice guidance as follows:

1.5.1 Open spaces

The types of open space assessed using the following methodology are parks and gardens, natural greenspace, accessible open space, children's play, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards.

Although Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) *'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation'* (2002) has been superceded, its *'Companion Guide'* remains the template for undertaking open space studies. It advocates a five stage approach which we applied as follows:

- **Identifying local needs -** We collected and analysed data on local demand and need for open spaces.

- **Auditing existing provision -** We compiled information on the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in the district, which included visits to audit each site.

- **Setting provision standards -** We developed evidence-based local standards of provision for each type of open space, with quantitative, qualitative and accessibility elements.

- **Applying provision standards -** We applied the standards of provision to assess the adequacy of existing provision.

- **Drafting policies -** We drafted policies and an action plan for the provision, improvement and retention of open space in Blaby district.

1.5.2 Sports facilities

The types of sports facility assessed using the following methodology bowls greens, tennis courts, golf courses and village/community halls.

The methodology for the study follows the *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance'* (2014), developed by Sport England.

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach -** We established the local strategic context for outdoor sports facility provision.

- **Gathering facility supply information -** The Quality, quantity and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities provision was compiled, including site visits to audit all provision.

- **Gathering facility demand information -** We compiled demand information by looking at the local population profile, sports participation trends and local demand priorities.

- **Consultation -** We initiated and circulated several local surveys on local facilities demand to the governing bodies and local sports clubs of all the sports that use facilities included in the audit and all town and parish councils in Blaby district.

- **Bringing the information together -** We applied the data on supply and demand to build a picture of the level of provision by layering information on the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities to build up the assessment. We also developed evidence-based standards of provision against which to assess current needs.

1.5.3 Playing pitches

The types of playing pitch assessed using the following methodology are adult and youth football (11v11 and 9v9), mini-soccer (7v7 and 5v5), cricket, rugby, synthetic turf pitches for hockey and '3G' football turf pitches.

Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013) approach to playing pitch assessments, has been applied as follows:

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach** - We convened a Project Steering Group (PSG) involving representatives of BDC, Sport England, the Leicester-shire and Rutland Sports Partnership, the Football Association, the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Rugby Football Union.

- **Gathering supply data** - Qualitative and quantitative information on pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision was compiled from a range of sources and the data was checked and challenged by the PSG and other local users and providers.

- **Gathering demand data** - Pitch and outdoor sports facilities demand information was compiled from consultation with sports clubs, facility providers including town and parish councils, local league secretaries and the governing bodies of sport.

- **Understanding the situation at individual sites** - We developed a site overview at all pitch and outdoor sports facilities sites by comparing the current carrying capacity of each site with its current use, identifying the peak demand periods and establishing the key issues impacting upon the usage of each site.

- **Developing the picture of current and future provision** - We established an overview of current provision by developing a picture of the position regarding all sites, establishing the extent of displaced and latent demand, identifying the views and key issues and determining the situation at priority sites.

- **Identifying the key findings and issues -** We assessed the findings to establish whether there is enough accessible and secured provision to meet current demand and whether the quality is adequate.

1.6 Audit format

The structure of the assessment is as follows:

- The local context.
- Local strategic influences.
- Wider strategic influences.
- Open space demand in Blaby district.
- Open space supply in Blaby district.
- The balance between supply and demand.
- Planning considerations.
- Action plan.

2 THE BLABY CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which open space provision is made in Blaby district. It covers the following:

- Geography
- Landscape
- Population
- Deprivation indices
- Health indices
- Implications for open space provision.

2.2 Geography

Blaby District is located immediately to the south west of Leicester. It covers an area of 50 square miles, comprises 25 towns and villages and is home to 93,900 people (2011 Census).

- The northern part of the district is predominantly urban in character, where the five settlements of Glenfield, Braunstone Town, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East, Lubbesthorpe and Glen Parva are part of the Leicester Principal Urban Area.

- A number of larger villages to the south of the city boundary, including Narborough, Enderby, Blaby, Countesthorpe and Whetstone have good functional relationships with Leicester and offer a wide range of facilities and services.

- The south of the district is more rural in character, comprising a number of smaller villages which have stronger links with Hinckley.

2.3 Landscape

There are some important areas of natural environment and landscape character in Blaby district. Whilst it is predominantly low lying, there are some significant landscape features including granite outcrops at Croft Hill and Enderby. The District contains six Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) of ecological and geological importance and two areas of ancient woodland. It also contains a diverse range of protected habitats and species. Key wildlife corridors penetrate the urban area including those around the Grand Union Canal and Rivers Soar and Sence.

2.4 Population

Based on the 2011 Census, Blaby district has a population of 93,900 (ONS, 2012). This represents growth of 7.1% (around 6,200 people) since the previous census in 2001.

2.4.1 Age structure

The age structure is set out below, with comparative figures for the East Midlands and England as a whole. The figures show that the district has an age structure that is relatively close to the national average, although the proportion of people aged under 25 is slightly lower and those aged over 50 is proportionately higher.

Age	Blaby	Blaby%	East Midlands %	England %
0-14	16,300	17.4%	18.4%	18.9%
15-24	10,900	11.6%	12.4%	12.9%
25-49	31,400	33.4%	33.6%	34.5%
50-64	18,500	19.7%	17.9%	16.9%
65+	16,800	17.9%	17.7%	16.8%
Total	***93,900***	***100%***	***100%***	***100%***

Source: 2011 Census: Resident Population Estimates by Broad Age Band (ONS, 2012)

2.4.2 Ethnicity

The proportion of the population from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in the district (11.5%) is well below the average for the East Midlands and for England as a whole. The largest minority ethnic group is made up of people of south Asian origin.

Group	Blaby	Blaby %	East Midlands%	England %
White British	112,588	88.5%	85.4%	79.8%
White Other	14,258	2.5%	3.9%	5.7%
Mixed	5,386	1.6%	1.9%	2.2%
Asian	17,932	6.1%	6.4%	7.7%
Black	6,202	0.9%	1.7%	3.4%
Other ethnic	1,113	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%

Source: 2011 Census (ONS, 2012)

2.4.3 Population density

Blaby district has a relatively high population density, with 720 persons per hectare, compared with the national average of 398 persons per hectare.

2.4.4 Population growth

The Office for National Statistics has produced long-term sub-national population projections to indicate the future trends in population by age and sex. They are trend-based projections which means assumptions on future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels over the previous five years. They show what the population will be if recent trends continue.

Based upon these figures, the population of Blaby district is projected to be 103,000 by 2029, an increase of 9,100 people or 9.7%. Projected changes in the age structure are as follows:

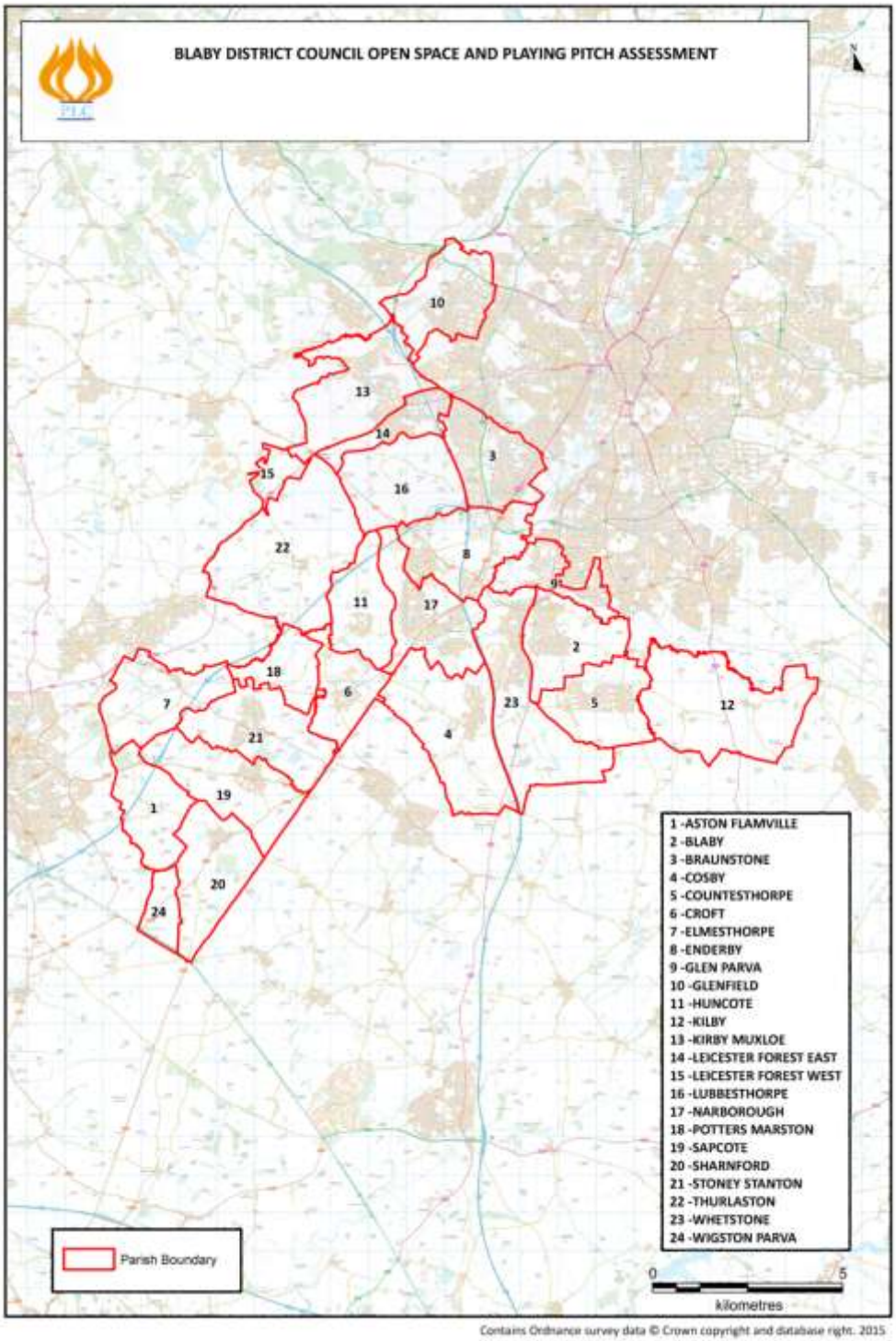
Age	Blaby 2015	Blaby 2029	% Change
0-14	16,300	12,000	-26.4%
15-24	10,900	11,000	+0.9%
25-49	31,400	30,000	-4.5%
50-64	18,500	19,000	+2.7%
65+	16,800	26,000	+54.8%
Total	***93,900***	***103,000***	***+9.7%***

Source: '2012-based Sub-national Population Projections for Local Authorities in England' (ONS, 2014)

2.5 Parish structure

Blaby district has 26 parishes, but for the purposes of the audit, some of the smaller parishes have been combined to create slightly larger analysis areas. These include:

- Elmesthorpe with Potters Marston.
- Leicester Forest East with Leicester Forest West.
- Sharnford with Aston Flamville and Wigston Parva.



2.6 Health indices

Public Health England's *'Health Profile for Blaby'* (2014) contains the following details on local health indices:

- The health of people in Blaby district is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is below average, although 9.9% of children (1,700) are classified as living in poverty, compared with 20.6% nationally.

- Life expectancy for both men (80.7 years and women (84.6 years) are both well above the respective national averages (79.2 years and 83.0 years).

- There is relatively little health inequality, with life expectancy almost the same for men and women in the most deprived areas of the district as it is in the least deprived areas.

- 16.7% of children aged 10 - 11 in Blaby are classified as overweight or obese, which is well below the national average of 18.9%.

- 25.6% of adults in Blaby are classified as overweight or obese, which is well above the England average of 23.0%.

2.7 Deprivation indices

According to the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010, Blaby district was ranked at 297 out of 354 local authorities in England, where 1 was the most deprived area and 354 the least deprived. This means that there is relatively limited deprivation in the district.

2.8 Summary of the local context

The implications for open space provision in Blaby district are as follows:

- Whilst the age structure is relatively similar to national norms, the slightly older than average age profile suggests that demand for less vigorous forms of sport and physical activity are likely to be proportionately higher.

- Black and minority ethnic groups comprise 11.5% of the local population, well below the national average. Minority ethnic groups traditionally have lower rates of involvement in physical activity, which should reduce local levels of demand. However, the relatively high proportion of people of south Asian heritage, with their traditional affinity with cricket, may have a specific impact on demand for this sport.

- Local population density is almost double the national average, which emphasises the pressures on the relatively limited areas of open space.

- The population is projected to increase by 9.7% by 2029, which will create additional demand for open space. However, significant changes towards a more elderly age profile will alter demand patterns.

- Local health indices that are close to the national norms locally underline the importance of ensuring access to open spaces, as part of a wider strategy to ensure that the local population remains physically active and increases its participation.

- Deprivation indices for the district are relatively low. Since deprivation is associated with lower rates of sport and physical activity, local demand is likely to be relatively high.

Oakfield Park Play Area

3 LOCAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

3.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of local strategic policies and priorities on open space provision in Blaby district, including the impact of neighbouring areas.

3.2 The Blaby Plan

The *'Blaby Plan 2015 - 2018'* (2015), sets out the council's ambitions and how it and its partners will deliver its priorities to the local community.

3.2.1 Vision

The vision is that 'Blaby district is made up of thriving and vibrant communities where people are happy to live, work and visit'.

3.2.2 Priorities

One of the council's key priorities is health and well-being, with residents healthy, fulfilled and confident for their future. One underpinning objective is to 'improve access and use of sports, recreation and open space facilities'.

3.3 The Blaby Local Plan Core Strategy

The *'Blaby District Local Plan Core Strategy'* (2013) sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and core policies for the spatial planning of the district up to 2029. The main material of relevance to open space provision is as follows:

3.3.1 Vision

Aspects of the overall vision for the district that relate to open space are as follows:

- 'The residents of Blaby district will enjoy a clean, attractive and safe environment, where new developments will be of a high quality and where the special character of the district's natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced'.
- 'Greater community facilities (including public open space and sports provision) will be provided to meet the needs of the population'.
- 'There will be a comprehensive and connected network of green infrastructure where habitats will be protected and a variety of species will be encouraged to thrive. Access to the countryside and open spaces will be enhanced particularly through a network of green wedges'.

3.3.2 Strategic objectives

Aspects of the strategic objectives for the Core Strategy that relate to open space are as follows:

- **To maximise sport and recreation opportunities -** 'Health and well-being' is a key priority of the Blaby Community Plan. The provision of play, open spaces, sports and recreation facilities will help to achieve this objective. A recent study of play and open spaces has indicated widespread shortfalls of facilities. Redressing this through spatial planning policies and working with partners is therefore a key objective.

- **To protect the important areas of the district's natural environment -** To improve bio-diversity, wildlife habitats and corridors through the design of new developments and the management of existing areas by working with partners. A Phase 1 Habitat Survey has indicated that the district has a rich but dispersed pattern of important species, habitats and sites of geological importance. Whilst these areas are numerous, there is a lack of bio-diversity within the district when compared to neighbouring authorities.

3.3.3 Spatial strategy

The spatial strategy sets out how the council intends to address the key issues and objectives and how it envisages different parts of the district changing in the context of these issues. Aspects of the spatial strategy that relate to open space are as follows:

- **Housing delivery -** The strategy for delivering housing will be to focus the majority of development (at least 5,750 dwellings) within and adjoining the Principal Urban Area in the northern part of the district. The majority of housing and employment (some 4,250 dwellings and 21 hectares of employment area) will be delivered in one large Strategic Growth Area, including a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) and Strategic Employment Site (SES).

- **Green Infrastructure -** The strategy is to improve the provision and access to a network (of all types) of green space around the district. The SUE will give an opportunity to link existing urban areas to open countryside through green links. Existing green wedges, which are located in and adjacent to the northern and central parts of the district, will continue to be protected subject to a detailed review of their boundaries. Where possible, BDC will work with the 'Stepping Stones' project, in order to improve access to, and quality of, Green Wedges. Where there is a demonstrable lack of play and open space facilities, the Council will seek to secure high quality provision as part of new developments.

3.3.4 Spatial policies

The spatial policies that relate to open space are as follows:

- **Policy CS14 Green Infrastructure -** BDC and its partners will seek to protect existing, and provide new networks of multi-functional green spaces. This network will comprise public and privately owned land. Green Infrastructure can include formal open spaces for sport and recreation, green areas that can be used for informal recreation, areas that are valuable for their biodiversity (flora and fauna and network links), areas that are of cultural importance (heritage assets and their settings), areas that maintain natural and ecological processes (such as floodplains) and other areas that contribute to the health and quality of life of communities.

- **Policy CS15 Open space, sport and recreation -** BDC will seek to ensure that all residents have access to sufficient, high quality, accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities. In order to achieve this, the following standards, which indicate the provision of open space sport and recreation per 1000 population, will be used. For development likely to contain less than 1,000 people, a pro-rata approach will be used. The figures in brackets indicate desirable access standards in distance:

  - **Parks and recreation grounds -** 0.8 ha (800m).
  - **Outdoor sports space -** 1.0 ha (480m).
  - **Children and young people's space -** 0.30ha (Junior 450m/Youth 800m).
  - **Informal open space -** 0.5 ha (480m).
  - **Natural greenspace -** 1.0 ha (960m).

  The above standards will be used to ensure that development proposals provide sufficient accessible open space, sport and recreation, taking into account any local deficiencies. New on-site provision or financial contributions to improve the quality of, or access to, existing open space, will be expected and commuted maintenance sums will be sought.

  Existing open space, sport and recreation facilities will be protected and where possible enhanced. Where development is proposed on existing open space, sport and recreation facilities, land should not be released, either in total or in part unless it can be demonstrated that:

  - It is surplus to requirements for its current play and open space function; and,
  - It is not needed for another type of open space, sport and recreation facility; or,
  - Alternative provision of equivalent quantity, quality and accessibility, or better, can be provided in the local area.

3.4 The Blaby Green Space Strategy

The '*Blaby District Green Space Strategy'* (2012) is 'the reference point for all the Council's decisions in relation to the design, development, management, maintenance and funding of green spaces'.

3.4.1 Vision

The strategic vision for Blaby's green spaces is 'to provide green spaces that make a positive contribution to the quality and diversity of the local environment and to the health and well-being of our residents. Our green spaces can be used, valued and enjoyed by everyone'.

3.4.2 Key themes

These are identified as follows:

- Protect and enhance existing sites.
- Increase play areas and facilities for young people.
- Increase and improve rural provision.

- Develop multi-functional sites.
- Improve access and quality of sites.
- Increase allotment provision.
- Utilise existing natural green space.

3.4.3 Planning standards

The planning standards which were subsequently included in the Local Plan Core Strategy (see above) were proposed.

3.4.4 Strategic sites

These are identified as follows:

- Fosse Meadows (Sharnford).
- Bouskell Park (Blaby).
- Glen Hills Nature Reserve (Glen Parva).
- Crow Mills Way (South Wigston).
- Osiers Nature Reserve (Braunstone).
- Jubilee Park (Enderby).
- Whetstone Way (Whetstone).
- Whistle Way (Narborough/Enderby).
- Countesthorpe Country Park (Countesthorpe).

3.4.5 Action plan

This is as follows:

- **Provide -** We will seek to provide sufficient accessible green space to meet current and future demand.

- **Improve -** We will seek to maintain and raise the quality of our green spaces.

- **Connect -** We will work in partnership to develop and manage continuous green networks for people and wildlife.

- **Involve -** We will work in partnership with the community and stakeholders to develop, manage and promote green spaces.

- **Resource -** We will seek to ensure sufficient resources are available to develop, manage and maintain green spaces.

- **Sustain -** We will work to ensure that the management of our green spaces has a positive impact on people, the local economy and the environment.

- **Conserve -** We will ensure that green space biodiversity, landscape and natural heritage is protected and conserved.

3.5 The PPG17 Study for Blaby District

The *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) provided much of the open space, sport and recreation evidence base that informed the development of the Green Spaces Strategy and the Local Plan Core Strategy. It was produced using the methodology proposed in PPG17 and its companion guide. The adequacy of provision of each type of open spaces was assessed at both parish level and in the context of five 'sub-areas' of the district. The key findings were as follows:

3.5.1 Parks and gardens

- **Quantity -** Supply varies from parish to parish, although overall no sub area has 'sufficient supply' to meet the established standard.

- **Quality -** In general, there is a need to improve the quality of provision in the district. Specifically:

  - There is an opportunity to provide larger, better quality and more exciting play areas within many of the sites.
  - There is a lack of signage and information within these open spaces. This has an impact on the welcoming aspect of the space and limits opportunity for community involvement.
  - There are significant differences in the quality of maintenance across the district, especially of safety surfaces in play areas, sports pitches and pavilions.

- **Access -** Only seven parishes do not have any provision of parks and gardens, whilst the large majority have good access.

3.5.2 Outdoor sports space

- **Quantity -** Only one sub-area does not meet the outdoor sports standard.

- **Quality -** Many tennis courts are in need of re-surfacing.

- **Access -** There is a large stock of limited access sports space, which will be of some benefit to the wider community.

3.5.3 Children and young people's provision

- **Quantity -** All areas have less than the required provision to meet the quantity standards set. Natural play areas should be considered in order to meet the required children and young people's standard.

- **Quality -** The quality of play areas varies vastly, but overall quality is average with very few examples of recent investment and good design. Most of the smaller play areas are out dated, poor quality and offer little play value. Provision within the larger settlements tends to be of higher quality than the more rural parishes.

- **Access -** 17 parishes do not have any form of youth provision, with only seven parishes having sufficient access to youth provision to meet the required standard.

3.5.4 Informal open space

- **Quantity -** No sub-area has an overall shortfall in the provision of informal green space, although the pattern is skewed by high provision in some settlements set against little or none in others.

- **Quality -** In general, the quality of informal open space was found to be above average or good and sites were generally well maintained. Where sites have been identified as having the potential to improve, this can be achieved relatively easily and at a reasonable cost with developments such as enhanced planting and improved footpath surfacing.

- **Access -** The informal spaces within the majority of parishes form a green visual network of sites, which offer more in terms of aesthetic quality than use.

3.5.5 Natural greenspace

- **Quantity -** The district is well provided for in terms of natural greenspace offering a variety of habitats with both biodiversity and recreational value. This asset should be maintained and protected.

- **Quality -** The quality of management for biodiversity is good, with appropriate levels of access balanced with areas for biodiversity. The provision of information and signage is varied across the district but there is a need to improve information provision across many of the sites.

- **Access -** Access is generally good throughout the district.

3.5.6 Allotments

- **Quantity -** Four of the five sub-areas and 19 of the 24 parishes have a deficiency in allotment provision.

- **Quality -** Only a limited quality audit was undertaken.

- **Access -** 17 out of 24 parishes do not have any allotment provision.

3.6 Neighbouring local authorities

Given the proximity of six neighbouring local authorities to Blaby district and the movement of individuals and teams across the administrative boundaries, assessments of open space provision in the surrounding areas provide important context for the study:

3.6.1 City of Leicester

Leicester City Council's *'Leicester Greenspace Strategy'* (2009) sets out the council's vision for greenspace. The findings of relevance to Blaby district are as follows:

- **Quantity of provision -** Based upon the application of its adopted standards, there is an adequate supply of parks, informal open space, natural greenspace and allotments, whilst there is an under supply of outdoor sports space and equipped play facilities across the city.

- **Quality of provision -** The quality of open space varies widely. Six sites have achieved the coveted 'Green Flag' designation, but many other smaller sites less well maintained. Many of the smaller equipped children's play areas have very limited play value.

- **Access to provision -** Access to parks, outdoor sports facilities and allotments is good throughout the city, although there are some gaps in access to informal open space, natural greenspace and children's play. The Council wants to focus activity and resources on a limited number of sites by creating six new 'District Parks' and eight 'Hub Sites' for pitch sports.

The implications for Blaby district are as follows:

- **Imported demand -** The shortfall in outdoor sports space and children's play provision is likely to mean that demand is imported to facilities in those parts of Blaby district that border the City of Leicester.

- **Exported demand -** The concentration of resources on creating and maintaining larger sites is likely to attract users from a wider catchment, including some from Blaby district.

3.6.2 Oadby and Wigston

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council produced *'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study'* (2009). The document contains the following material of relevance to Blaby district:

- **Parks and recreation grounds -** Only two sub-areas have adequate supply, based upon the adopted standard.

- **Outdoor sports space -** None of the sub-areas has sufficient access to community-accessible outdoor sports facilities, however if limited access provision (schools and private sports grounds) is included, then the supply is adequate.

- **Children and young people's provision -** The provision of equipped children's play space and in particular youth provision is clearly under provided for across the borough.

- **Informal open space -** Only two Sub Areas and five of the ten wards throughout the borough have sufficient informal open space to meet the required standard.

- **Allotments -** Five wards do not have any provision of allotments and all five sub-areas are under-supplied.

The implication for Blaby district is that with deficiencies identified in all categories of open space, additional pressure will be placed on those sites in the district that border Oadby and Wigston.

3.6.3 Harborough

Harborough District Council produced *'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities and Assessment of Local Needs'* (2004). The document contains the following material of relevance to Blaby district:

- **Parks and gardens -** There is a deficiency of parks and gardens in all areas of the district, but the quality and accessibility is generally good.

- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace -** There is considered to be an oversupply of natural and semi-natural open spaces. The majority of sites are rated as 'good' quality and several are close to the border with Blaby district.

- **Amenity greenspace -** Most parts of the district have insufficient amenity greenspace to meet the required standard. The biggest shortfalls are in the areas neighbouring Blaby district. The majority of sites are rated as 'good' quality.

- **Children and young people's provision -** There is a total deficiency across the District equating to over 10 hectares of provision. However, the majority of sites are rated as 'good' quality and several are close to the border with Blaby district.

- **Outdoor sports facilities -** No quantitative assessment was undertaken, but the quality of 81% of sites was rated as 'good'. The catchment of several facilities overlaps the border of Blaby district.

- **Allotments -** There is an overall deficiency of allotments of 4.54 hectares in the district, much of which is focused in the areas adjoining Blaby district. The quality of most sites is generally below 'average'. None of the sites has a catchment which overlaps the border of Blaby district.

Whilst some sites in Harborough district have catchments that will serve some residents of Blaby district, for most types of provision there is a deficiency in the sub-areas closest to Blaby, which suggests that some demand will be imported from Harborough.

3.6.4 Rugby

Rugby Borough Council produced the *'Green Space Strategy: Making Green Space Your Space'* (2014), to guide the management and delivery of publicly accessible green space. The document builds upon earlier open space and green infrastructure studies, which concluded the following:

- **Parks and gardens -** There is a deficiency of parks and gardens within the urban area. There is a surplus within the rural area mainly due to the large country parks but when these are taking out of the equation there is deficiency in seven out of the eight rural analysis areas.

- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace -** There is an overall surplus within rural areas. However when omitting the large scale borough-wide provision, there are deficiencies with regards to local needs provision in six out of the eight rural wards.

- **Amenity greenspace -** Five rural sub-areas that have a slight deficiency.

- **Children and young people's provision -** There are slight deficiencies of equipped provision for children and young people in the urban sub-areas.

- **Outdoor sports facilities -** There is a surplus of outdoor sports facilities in all parts of the borough.

- **Allotments -** There are also some slight deficiencies of provision within four rural sub-areas.

The borough shares only a short boundary with Blaby district so the impact of levels of provision in Rugby is likely to be minimal.

3.6.5 Hinckley and Bosworth

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council produced the *'Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Study'* (2013). The document contains the following material of relevance to Blaby district:

- **Parks and gardens -** There is a minor shortfall in the quantity of formal parks in the borough.

- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace -** There are high levels of provision, but uneven distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the borough. Several large sites are located in close proximity to the border with Blaby district.

- **Amenity greenspace -** There is currently a minor shortfall in the quantity of amenity green space across in the borough.

- **Children and young people's provision -** Based on the recommended local standard, the provision of children's play areas is insufficient to meet demand, with a shortfall of 0.67ha. The largest shortfall is in the rural areas.

- **Outdoor sports facilities -** The provision of outdoor sports facilities is below the recommended minimum standard. There is a shortfall in the number of tennis courts, athletics tracks and synthetic turf pitches, although bowling green and golf course provision is considered to be adequate.

- **Allotments -** The provision of allotments is below the minimum standard, with a large deficiency in the urban areas partially offset by a surplus in the rural villages and key rural centres.

The borough shares a long boundary with Blaby district and many facilities and sites have catchments that will serve some Blaby residents.

3.6.6 Charnwood

Charnwood Borough Council produced *'The Open Spaces Strategy 2013 - 2028'* (2013). The document contains the following material in relation to the sub-area closest to Blaby district:

- **Parks and gardens -** There is a surplus in the quantity of formal parks in the sub-area.

- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace -** There is a significant shortfall in provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace.
- **Amenity greenspace -** There is a minor shortfall in the quantity of amenity green space.
- **Children and young people's provision -** A deficiency was identified.
- **Outdoor sports facilities -** There is a shortfall of youth football and mini-soccer pitches.
- **Allotments -** The provision of allotments is below the minimum standard.

The borough shares only a short boundary with Blaby district so the impact of levels of provision in Charnwood is likely to be minimal.

3.7 Summary of local strategic influences

The Blaby Plan includes a strong high-level policy commitment to 'improve access and use of sports, recreation and open space facilities'.

The Local Plan Core Strategy contains positive policies on the provision and retention of open space.

BDC's Green Spaces Strategy provides a valuable steer on the management of open spaces and identifies nine strategically important sites.

The *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) is a useful preliminary assessment of the adequacy of open space provision in the district, based upon adopted local standards.

Open space assessments in the six neighbouring local authorities, show that there are some significant shortfalls in adjoining areas, particularly in Leicester, Oadby and Wigston and Hinckley, which might cause demand to migrate to Blaby district.

St. Peter's Churchyard, Aston Flamville

4 WIDER STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of national strategic policies and priorities on open space provision in Blaby district.

4.2 National planning policy

4.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

In March 2012, the Government published the *'National Planning Policy Framework'* (2012), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to open space are as follows:

- **Sustainable development** - 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

- **Health and well-being** - 'Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being'.

- **Open space, sports and recreational facilities** - 'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. The planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where activities are made easier and public health can be improved. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required'.

- **Local Green Space -** Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

- **Preservation of open space -** 'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

- The need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss'.

4.2.2 Planning Practice Guidance

The Government also issued *'Planning Practice Guidance'* in 2014 and the following is of particular relevance to open space:

- **Open space, sport and recreation provision - '**Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby'.

  - 'Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England's guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities'.

  - **'**Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more'.

- **Local Green Space Designations -** Local Green Space Designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Sites will be included in Local Plans or Community Plans and designation will be subject to local discretion. There are no maximum or minimum size criteria and all forms of greenspace are eligible.

- **Health and well-being -** 'Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making'.

  - 'Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do'.

  - 'Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation)'.

4.3 Green infrastructure policy

The 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Project Board produced the *'Green Infrastructure Strategy: Sub-Regional Strategic Framework'* (2010). The Strategy proposes a strategic green infrastructure network for the three counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire and for the three cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham (the 6Cs). It also sets out a vision for green infrastructure in the area, a set of strategic objectives and provides recommendations for the content of policies within Local Plans.

4.3.1 Green infrastructure hierarchy

The strategy proposes a hierarchy of green infrastructure as follows:

- **Regional Green Infrastructure -** Strategic river corridors and regional parks.
- **Sub-regional Green Infrastructure -** Strategic river corridors and tributaries and landscape-scale forest initiatives.
- **City Green Infrastructure -** Main watercourses, National Cycle Network, greenways, local country parks, flood alleviation schemes and major historic sites.
- **Local Green Infrastructure -** Watercourses, public parks, pedestrian paths and public rights of way, conservation areas and road/rail verges.
- **Site Green Infrastructure -** Domestic gardens, footpaths, sustainable drainage systems, tress, hedges, ponds, allotments, green roofs, cemeteries and churchyards.

4.3.2 Spatial priorities

The strategy identifies the following priorities for investment:

- **Sub-regional Green Infrastructure Corridors -** Broadly defined corridors which reflect significant wildlife habitat corridors/areas that link with strategic green infrastructure in surrounding areas at the sub-regional level and have an important role to play in maintaining the overall integrity of the overall network in the long term.
- **Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones -** Broadly defined zones that form the immediate landscape setting to and encompass the countryside in and around the principal urban areas and sub-regional centres. These zones are subject to the greatest usage pressures and therefore need for enhanced provision.
- **City-Scale Green Infrastructure Corridors -** Collectively, these broadly defined corridors connect the above designations with the principal urban areas and sub-regional centres. They provide linkages for people and wildlife through the countryside between settlements, extending into the urban areas.

4.3.3 The implications for Blaby

These are as follows:

- **Sub-regional Green Infrastructure Corridors -** The Sence Strategic River Corridor and Grand Union Canal bisect Blaby district from south-west to north-east and link with the City of Leicester.

- **Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones -** The Leicester Principal Urban Area includes the northern part of Blaby district and is a designated Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zone.

- **City-Scale Green Infrastructure Corridors -** Blaby district also forms part of the Leicester Strategic Green Infrastructure Network, which includes three City-Scale Green Infrastructure Corridors linking the district with neighbouring local authorities.

4.4 Biodiversity policy

'Space for Wildlife: The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan' (2010) was produced by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust has three main objectives:

- To promote the restoration, management and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats.

- To promote the creation of new wildlife habitats in the wider countryside.

- To survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Sites system.

One of five *Living Landscape* schemes in the county, the Soar and Wreake Floodplain, is partly located in Blaby district and the Trust is keen to expand its landholdings in the area to protect and develop habitat.

4.5 Sports policy

4.5.1 Overall policy

The *'Sport England Strategy 2012 - 2017'* (2012) sets out national sports policy objectives:

- **Overall aims** - In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, sport in England will be transformed, so that sport becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

  - See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life.
  - Create more opportunities for young people.
  - Nurture and develop talent.
  - Provide the right facilities in the right places.
  - Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
  - Ensure real opportunities for communities.

- Sport England is seeking a year-on-year increase in the proportion of people who play sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. In particular it hopes to raise the percentage of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week and reduce the proportion dropping out of sport.

4.5.2 Playing pitch policy

Sport England's national policies in relation to playing pitches are contained in *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). It contains a policy of resisting the loss of pitches unless one or more of the following five conditions are met:

- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of facility provision in the catchment and that the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or outdoor sports facility and does not affect the quantity or quality of facilities or adversely affect their use.

- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming a playing pitch or outdoor sports facility and does not result in:

  - The loss or loss of use of any facility (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins).
  - A reduction in the size of the playing area of any facility.
  - The loss of any other sports/ancillary facilities on site.

- The playing field or outdoor sports facility which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by facilities of an equivalent or better quality, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development.

- The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of playing field or current outdoor facility.

4.6 Summary of wider strategic influences

Government planning policy is supportive of undertaking local assessments of need and protecting open space, which is helpful context for local planning policies in Blaby district.

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity policies underline the significance of linkage between open spaces, both within the district and in relation to sub-regional networks.

Sport England's target to increase participation rates year-on-year will drive up demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities if it is achieved.

5 DEMAND FOR OPEN SPACE IN BLABY DISTRICT

5.1 Introduction

This section analyses the demand for open space in Blaby district. It draws upon the following material:

- The general community survey on open space, undertaken in connection with the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009).
- BDC's 2013 Residents' Survey.
- Sport England's *'Active People'* survey data for Blaby district.
- Sport England's *'Market segmentation'* data for Blaby district.
- Sports team data supplied by the governing bodies of the sports featured in the audit.
- A survey of local sports clubs undertaken in conjunction with the current audit.
- A survey of local schools undertaken in conjunction with the current audit.
- A survey of town and parish councils undertaken in conjunction with the current audit.

5.2 Community survey

The general community survey on open space, undertaken in connection with the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) attracted 280 responses from street surveys and focus groups. The key data on demand is recorded below:

5.2.1 Frequency of use

The frequency with which the residents of Blaby district use different types of open space:

Type	*Daily*	*Weekly*	*Fortnightly*	*Monthly*	*Less often*	*Never*
Woodland areas	5%	8%	9%	18%	14%	46%
Country parks	4%	7%	6%	24%	11%	48%
Nature reserves	4%	6%	8%	18%	15%	49%
Areas to sit	8%	17%	6%	6%	9%	54%
Grass pitches	9%	17%	4%	6%	10%	54%
Local parks	0%	22%	8%	5%	7%	55%
Recreation grounds	4%	15%	7%	8%	9%	57%
Equipped play areas	5%	18%	5%	5%	8%	59%
Cemeteries/Churchyards	1%	5%	7%	10%	18%	59%
Tennis courts	0%	8%	3%	7%	16%	66%
Synthetic turf pitches	0%	4%	2%	5%	11%	78%
Teenage facilities	0%	1%	0%	2%	19%	78%
Allotments	2%	0%	0%	5%	9%	84%
Golf courses	0%	1%	1%	4%	10%	84%

5.2.2 Most important features of open space

Respondents to the survey identified the following features of open space provision as being important:

Factor	% Respondents
They should be clean and free from litter and graffiti	62%
They should be safe and secure for those using them	36%
There should be control of noise and antisocial behaviour	35%
There should be adequate control of dogs and be free from dog fouling	30%
They should be easy to get to for all members of the community	25%
Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained	24%
They should be easy to get around by all members of the community	18%
They should have a range of facilities including cafes and toilets	15%
Cost of use	14%
There should be good footpath and cycleway links to and between them	9%
They should be well supervised and have staff on-site	8%
They should have good signposting and information about what's available	4%

5.2.3 The quantity of open space

Respondents to the survey were asked their views on the levels of provision of open space:

Type	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion
Woodland areas	1%	21%	51%	14%	4%	9%
Country parks	1%	21%	45%	19%	2%	12%
Nature reserves	1%	19%	54%	20%	3%	3%
Areas to sit	0%	23%	37%	26%	7%	7%
Grass pitches	1%	14%	22%	30%	11%	22%
Local parks	3%	50%	35%	9%	3%	0%
Recreation grounds	1%	23%	42%	21%	3%	10%
Equipped play areas	4%	32%	25%	24%	2%	13%
Cemeteries/Churchyards	0%	17%	36%	24%	2%	21%
Tennis courts	1%	13%	22%	30%	11%	23%
Synthetic turf pitches	1%	10%	23%	20%	7%	39%
Teenage facilities	5%	8%	25%	37%	4%	21%
Allotments	0%	10%	25%	25%	3%	37%
Golf courses	1%	16%	18%	20%	1%	44%

5.2.4 Modes of transport

Respondents to the survey were asked to identify their preferred modes of transport to reach open spaces:

Type	Walk	Cycle	Car	Other
Woodland areas	13%	12%	74%	1%
Country parks	12%	10%	77%	1%
Nature reserves	23%	8%	68%	1%
Areas to sit	89%	1%	19%	0%
Grass pitches	58%	0%	42%	0%
Local parks	91%	0%	8%	1%
Recreation grounds	81%	0%	18%	1%

Type	Walk	Cycle	Car	Other
Equipped play areas	83%	0%	14%	3%
Cemeteries/Churchyards	40%	6%	50%	4%
Tennis courts	62%	2%	36%	0%
Synthetic turf pitches	30%	0%	70%	0%
Teenage facilities	54%	3%	40%	3%
Allotments	33%	7%	60%	0%
Golf courses	30%	0%	70%	0%

5.2.5 Effective catchments

Effective catchments are defined as the time/distance that 80% of users are prepared to travel to reach different types of open space. The travel time tolerances of 80% of survey respondents are recorded below:

Type	Effective catchment
Woodland areas	20 minutes
Country parks	20 minutes
Nature reserves	25 minutes
Areas to sit	10 minutes
Grass pitches	17 minutes
Local parks	16 minutes
Recreation grounds	20 minutes
Equipped play areas	13 minutes
Cemeteries/Churchyards	15 minutes
Tennis courts	18 minutes
Synthetic turf pitches	20 minutes
Teenage facilities	15 minutes
Allotments	18 minutes
Golf courses	25 minutes

5.2.6 Key findings

The implications of the survey responses on open space demand in Blaby district are as follows:

- The more informal types of open space in Blaby district are the most frequently used types of provision.
- Respondents believe that the types of open space in the district with the poorest levels of provision are sports pitches, tennis courts and facilities for teenagers.
- Driving is the most popular form of transport for those types of open space like nature reserves and specialist sports facilities, for which users are prepared to travel further.

5.3 Residents' survey

BDC commissioned a survey of 1,100 residents in 2013, to gather views on a wide range of local issues. The material of relevance to open spaces is summarised below:

5.3.1 Overall satisfaction with services

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a range of public services. Those relating to open spaces are recorded below:

Service area	*Satisfaction rating (%)*
Parks and open spaces	92%
Cleanliness of public spaces	86%
Sport and leisure facilities	84%
Provision for children and young people	53%

5.3.2 Priorities for improvement

Respondents were asked what priority they would give a range of public services. Those relating to open spaces are recorded below:

Service area	*High priority rating (%)*
Cleanliness of public spaces	59%
Provision for children and young people	43%
Parks and open spaces	40%
Sport and leisure facilities	27%

5.3.3 Key findings

The quality of the provision and management of parks and open spaces in Blaby district is rated very highly, although conversely, they are given a relatively low rating in terms of their priority in relation to other public services delivered by BDC.

5.4 The 'Active People' survey

The *'Active People'* survey was first commissioned by Sport England in 2005 and has been carried out annually ever since. The survey is the largest study of patterns of adult (people aged over 16) involvement in sport and physical activity ever undertaken and involved telephone interviews with a representative sample of between 500 and 1,000 residents of each local authority borough in the country. Eight surveys have been undertaken to date, which has enabled trends to be tracked over a nine year period. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are measured and the results for each are tabulated below:

- **Overall participation** - 'Taking part on at least one day a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least four days in the last four weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session'.

- **Volunteering** - 'Volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'.

- **Club membership** - 'Being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks'.

- **Receiving tuition** - 'Having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'.

- **Organised Competition** - 'Having taken part in any organised competition in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'.

- **Satisfaction** - 'The percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in their local area'.

- **Organised sport** - 'The percentage of adults who have done at least one of receiving tuition in the last twelve months and/or taken part in organised competition in the last twelve months and/or been a member of a club to play sport'.

- **Satisfaction with local sports provision:** 'The percentage of adults who are satisfied with local sports provision'.

- **Participation in individual sports:** 'The percentage of adults who have participated at least once in a sport in the preceding four weeks'.

5.4.1 Overall participation

Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity (at least one session of 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week) show rates in Blaby district have fluctuated during the survey period as a whole, but the trend is generally upwards. In every survey period, participation rates in Blaby have been well above the regional and national averages.

Area	*2005/6*	*2007/8*	*2008/9*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*
Blaby	35.2%	41.6%	36.6%	39.3%	34.6%	38.5%	41.0%	38.4%
East Midlands	33.6%	35.6%	36.0%	34.7%	33.8%	35.6%	34.3%	34.5%
England	34.2%	35.8%	35.7%	35.3%	34.8%	36.0%	35.7%	35.5%

5.4.2 Volunteering

Rates of volunteer support for sport in Blaby district have varied over recent survey periods but have consistently been below the regional and national averages:

Area	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*
Blaby	2.8%	7.2%	-	4.4%
East Midlands	4.8%	7.6%	8.2%	7.0%
England	4.5%	7.2%	7.6%	6.0%

5.4.3 Sports club membership

In line with national trends, rates of sports club membership in Blaby district have fluctuated over recent survey periods but remain above the regional and national averages:

Area	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Blaby	24.1%	27.3%	29.7%	21.3%
East Midlands	23.0%	22.3%	23.3%	20.3%
England	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%

5.4.4 Sports coaching/tuition

The proportion of adults in Blaby district who received sports coaching or tuition in the previous 12 months has fluctuated during the survey period but remains below the national average:

Area	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Blaby	13.7%	18.6%	16.5%	14.9%
East Midlands	16.5%	15.3%	15.7%	14.8%
England	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%

5.4.5 Organised competition

The proportion of adults in Blaby district who took part in organised sports competitions in the previous 12 months has fluctuated during the recent survey periods, but in line with regional and national trends has shown an overall decline:

Area	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Blaby	16.1%	17.9%	17.4%	10.5%
East Midlands	15.0%	13.9%	14.9%	12.2%
England	14.4%	14.3%	13.3%	11.2%

5.4.6 Satisfaction with local sports provision

The proportion of adults in Blaby district who are satisfied with local sports provision decreased during the two recent survey periods when this element was included, but on both occasions was well above the regional and national averages:

Area	2009/10	2012/13
Blaby	69.7%	64.5%
East Midlands	69.0%	61.5%
England	68.0%	60.3%

5.4.7 Participation in individual sport

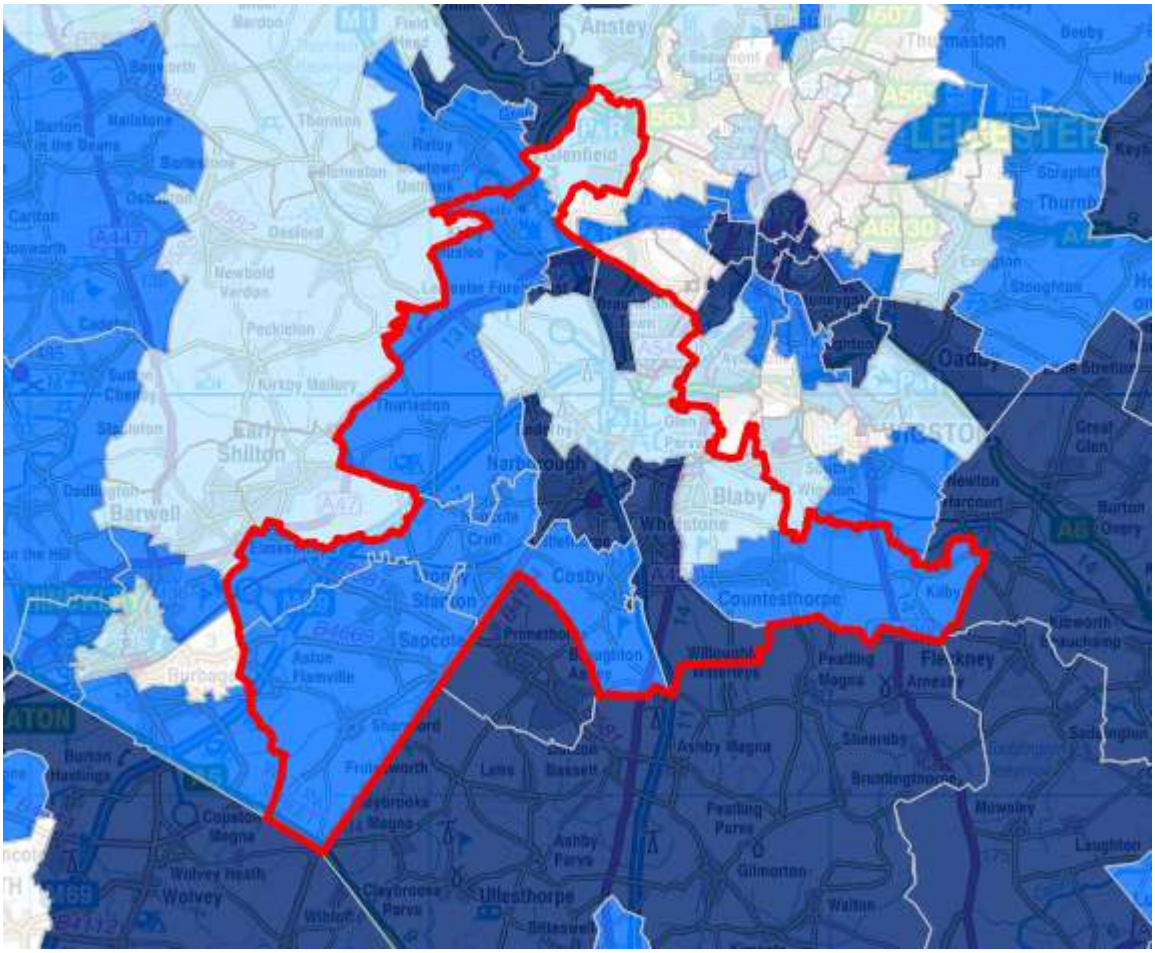
The most popular sports in which respondents from Blaby participated in the four weeks prior to the 2012/13 survey are listed below, along with the respective regional and national figures. The local participation rates for football are well above the regional and national averages:

Sport	Blaby	East Midlands	England
Swimming	10.9%	10.8%	11.5%
Football	10.3%	6.5%	6.3%
Health and fitness	9.3%	10.0%	10.9%
Cycling	7.7%	8.5%	8.1%

5.4.8 Local variations

Sport England's *'Active People Interactive'* tool enables local participation data to be mapped, to give a more detailed picture of participation rates at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level (equating to populations between 5,000 and 7,200 people).

The map below shows the MSOAs covering Blaby district and it reveals the extent to which local participation varies between the respective quartiles. Whetstone, Narborough and Braunstone have participation rates in the highest quartile, whereas Blaby, Glen Parva and Enderby are in the lower middle quartile.



5.4.9 The implications for Blaby district

- Overall rates of participation in sport and physical activity in Blaby district have fluctuated since 2005/6 but the general trend is upwards and in every survey period local rates have been well above the regional and national averages. This suggests that local demand for open space, playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities will be proportionately high and this is borne out by figures from the most recent *'Active People'* survey, which show that football participation is well above the regional and national averages.

- In line with regional and national trends, the other participation indices are also falling, including involvement in organised, formal competitive activities like the pitch sports.

- Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision decreased over the two recent survey periods for which they were measured but in both cases were well above the regional and national averages. This implies that the quantity and quality of local provision is judged by the majority of participants as adequate to meet their needs.

- There are some quite significant local geographical variations in participation rates.

5.5 Market Segmentation

Sport England has identified 19 adult sporting market segments, defined by age and lifestyle, to better understand specific motivations and barriers to doing sport and physical activity. The data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for activities, based upon the extent to which segments are represented in the local population.

The proportion of the Blaby district population in each market segment is tabulated below, with the East Midlands and national figures for comparison:

Segment	*Blaby*	*East Midlands*	*England*
Competitive male urbanites	3.7%	4.3%	4.9%
Sports team drinkers	1.6%	5.2%	5.4%
Fitness class friends	3.6%	3.9%	4.7%
Supportive singles	1.8%	4.2%	4.3%
Career focused females	3.2%	4.1%	4.5%
Settling down males	8.4%	8.2%	8.8%
Stay at home mums	5.2%	4.2%	4.4%
Middle England mums	4.9%	5.5%	4.9%
Pub league team mates	1.7%	5.7%	5.9%
Stretched single mums	0.6%	3.3%	3.7%
Comfortable mid-life males	9.1%	9.4%	8.6%
Empty nest career ladies	5.3%	6.3%	6.1%
Early retirement couples	7.4%	7.6%	6.8%
Older working women	2.5%	5.2%	4.9%
Local 'old boys'	1.1%	3.8%	3.7%
Later life ladies	0.4%	1.9%	2.1%
Comfortable retired couples	2.2%	3.6%	4.2%
Twilight years gents	3.8%	4.7%	4.0%
Retirement home singles	5.9%	8.6%	8.0%

5.5.1 Dominant segments

Sport England classifies the 'dominant' market segments as those with more than 7% of the local population. In Blaby district these comprise 'settling down males', 'comfortable mid-life males' and 'early retirement couples'. The key characteristics of each dominant market segment and the type of activities that appeals to them are as follows:

Segment name	*Characteristics*	*Sports that appeal*
Settling down males	• Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 27% do no exercise	• Canoeing • Skiing • Cricket • Golf • Cycling • Squash • Football
Comfortable mid-life males	• Age 36-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 39% do no exercise	• Sailing • Gym • Football • Jogging • Badminton • Golf • Cycling • Cricket
Early retirement couples	• Age 56-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Retired/employed full-time • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 54% do no exercise	• Swimming • Sailing • Walking • Golf • Aqua aerobics • Shooting • Bowls • Fishing

5.5.2 The implications for Blaby district

Based upon the activities likely to appeal to the dominant market segments, demand for bowls, golf and the pitch sports should be higher than the national average.

5.6 Sport-specific demand

5.6.1 Introduction

Because of the organisation of team sport, there is some detailed data on demand for most of the sports that use the types of pitches and facilities included in the Audit. This section summarises that data, in accordance with the provisions of Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013)

5.6.2 Football

The data on demand for football in Blaby district is detailed below. It was compiled from the Football Association's *'Football Participation Report'* for Blaby for 2014/2015.

- **Football Conversion Rates -** The FA calculated the following Football Conversion Rates, to compare the number of people playing football with the local population in each age group, to produce a percentage of each age group that plays football.

Age group	*Blaby (%)*	*East Midlands (%)*	*England (%)*
Adult male (ages 17 - 44)	5.6%	5.4%	4.7%
Adult female (ages 17 - 44)	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Youth male (ages 10 - 16)	24.3%	20.2%	18.7%
Youth female (ages 10 - 16)	5.5%	2.1%	1.8%
Mini-soccer (ages 5 - 9)	16.0%	11.4%	10.1%
TOTAL	***10.3%***	***5.2%***	***4.9%***

The Football Conversion Rates show that for youth football and mini-soccer in particular, participation rates in Blaby district are significantly higher than the regional and national averages.

- **Benchmarking -** As a benchmarking exercise, the conversion rates for Blaby district have been compared by the FA with those of the 20 most demographically similar local authorities. The results are listed in order of their overall conversion rate in the table below and show that Blaby is ranked sixth:

Local authority	*Adult male*	*Adult female*	*Youth male*	*Youth female*	*Mini-soccer*	*Overall*
South Glos.	6.7%	0.6%	29.1%	5.1%	17.3%	11.8%
Warrington	3.9%	0.2%	33.0%	1.3%	20.1%	11.7%
East Cambs.	5.7%	0.7%	27.2%	3.8%	18.4%	11.1%
South Staffs.	3.0%	0.4%	31.9%	3.7%	15.4%	10.9%
South Ribble	4.1%	0.2%	29.2%	2.3%	16.3%	10.4%
Blaby	***5.6%***	***0.1%***	***24.3%***	***5.5%***	***16.0%***	***10.3%***
Mid Suffolk	8.5%	0.2%	25.2%	1.9%	14.8%	10.1%
Maidstone	4.4%	0.3%	28.1%	2.5%	14.4%	9.9%
Eastleigh	6.1%	0.6%	27.1%	1.6%	14.1%	9.9%
Lichfield	3.9%	0.2%	27.9%	3.1%	13.6%	9.7%
Selby	7.5%	0.4%	24.2%	1.5%	14.7%	9.6%
NW Leics.	5.6%	0.6%	26.1%	2.1%	13.3%	9.5%
Huntingdonshire	5.3%	0.1%	25.4%	2.4%	12.8%	9.2%
Fareham	4.1%	0.1%	29.5%	1.1%	11.0%	9.2%
Harborough	6.0%	0.1%	25.0%	1.2%	13.0%	9.0%
Melton	4.9%	0.4%	21.6%	2.8%	14.5%	8.8%
Hinckley/Bosworth	6.4%	0.0%	21.6%	1.3%	14.6%	8.8%
Wyre Forest	6.2%	0.3%	20.5%	2.0%	14.4%	8.7%
West Oxon	7.6%	0.2%	20.6%	3.6%	10.3%	8.5%
Castle Point	6.7%	0.1%	21.2%	1.9%	12.3%	8.5%

- **Charter Standard Clubs -** Of the 55 football clubs in the district, 15 (27.3%) have achieved the FA's quality assured Charter Standard (compared with 27.0% nationally). 91.8% of youth and mini-soccer teams are part of a Charter Standard club, compared with a national average of 81.1% and above the national target of 80%.

- **Football clubs and teams in Blaby district -** The following clubs and teams currently play in the district. Clubs that have achieved the FA's quality assured 'Charter Standard' accreditation are marked with an asterisk. 'Home' venues outside the borough are marked in italics:

Club	*Home Ground*	*Adult Teams*	*Youth Teams*	*Mini Teams*
Advanced Football Academy	Whetstone Youth Club	0	2	0
AFC Bees Knees	Mossdale Meadows	1	0	0
AFC Woolly	Memorial Playing Fields	1	0	0
Blaby & Whetstone Athletic*	Whetstone Youth Club	2	1	0
Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club*	Whetstone Youth Club	0	8	7
Blaby & Whetstone Girls*	Whetstone Youth Club	0	3	1
Blaby Bulls FC*	Oakfield Park	0	1	3
Blaby United (Sunday) FC	Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	2	0	0
Braunstone Trinity FC*	Mossdale Meadows	2	4	6
Cosby United FC	Victory Park, Cosby	2	0	0
Cosby United Youth & Junior*	Victory Park, Cosby	0	6	4
Cosby Utd. Youth/Junior Girls*	Victory Park, Cosby	0	7	1
Countesthorpe Athletic FC	Willoughby Road Playing Field	1	4	0
County Hall FC	County Hall Sports Ground	1	0	0
Croft Juniors (2013) FC*	Winston Avenue Sp. Ground	0	7	5
Enderby Bullets FC	Winston Avenue Sp. Ground	1	0	0
Enderby Social Club FC	Southey Close Playing Fields	1	0	0
Enderby Mission United FC	Countsthorpe Comm. College	1	0	0
Epworth Forest Junior FC*	Kings Drive Playing Fields	0	5	2
FC Bulls Head	Memorial Playing Fields	1	0	0
FC Blaby Foxes	Whetstone Youth Club	2	0	0
FC Tumar	Northfield Park	1	0	0
Football & Fitness Academy	Brockington College	0	4	6
Forest East FC	Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	0	0
Forest Park FC	Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	0	0
Glenfield Town FC	Glenfield Sports Ground	2	0	0
Glenfield United FC	Glenfield Sports Ground	0	6	3
Huncote (Sunday) FC	Huncote Sports & Social Club	1	0	0
Huncote Sports & Social Club*	Huncote Sports & Social Club	3	1	0
Kingsway Rangers Juniors FC*	Mossdale Meadows *Manor House Playing Fields*	0	5	5
Kirby Muxloe FC*	Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	3	0	0
Kirby Muxloe 88 Junior FC*	Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	2	8	3
Leicestershire Constabulary FC	Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	0	0
Leics & Rutland FA	Holmes Park	0	3	0
Magna 73 FC	Meadows Sports Ground	2	0	0
Medz FC	Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	1	0	0
Narborough & Enderby Foxes FC*	Leicester Road Recn. Ground *Desford Recreation Ground*	1	9	2
Oadby/Wigston Ladies Dynamo*	Meadows Sports Ground	3	10	0
Saffron Dynamo FC*	Saffron Dynamo FC	2	7	6
Star & Garter FC	Meadows Sports Ground	1	0	0

Club	*Home Ground*	*Adult Teams*	*Youth Teams*	*Mini Teams*
Studs Junior FC	Winstanley Comm. College	0	6	2
Suecastle FC	Countsthorpe Comm. College	1	0	0
The Alliance FC	Meadows Sports Ground	1	0	0
Thurlaston Magpies FC*	Thurlaston Sports Club	4	6	1
United Revolution FC*	Huncote Sports & Social Club	1	0	0
Whetstone Juniors FC*	Lutterworth Road Recn Grd.	1	6	8
Whetstone Veterans FC	Whetstone Youth Club	2	0	0
TOTALS	**-**	***53***	***117***	***63***

- **Football club survey findings -** 12 clubs responded to the survey (representing 112 teams or 48.1% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:

  - **Membership trends -** 10 clubs (83.3%) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, whilst two (16.7%) have had falling memberships.

  - **Development aspirations -** 10 clubs (83.3%) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.

  - **Access to pitches -** 9 clubs (75.0%) are able to access the pitches they need at their favoured location, whilst three (25.0%) are only able partially to do so, primarily because there are insufficient pitches to accommodate all their teams at a single site.

- **Casual demand for football -** In addition to formal pitch use by football clubs for official matches and training sessions, casual use such as informal/friendly matches may also impact on pitches. Consultation with pitch providers and local clubs in the district, revealed that whilst there is some informal use of pitches in parks and recreation grounds with general public access, in no instances are levels of use significant enough to affect the quality or carrying capacity of the pitches concerned.

- **Education demand for football -** Schools and colleges generate significant demand for pitches. The majority have their own playing pitches but some may also use other sites in addition to their own. The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that three schools (60.0% of respondents) have football pitches that meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs. However, two schools (40.0%) require access to off-site pitches to supplement their curricular and extra-curricular needs.

- **Displaced demand for football -** Displaced demand relates to play by teams from the study area which takes place outside the area. Only five (2.2%) of the teams in the district play on pitches in adjacent areas so displaced demand for football is minimal.

- **Unmet demand for football -** Unmet demand takes a number of forms**.** Teams may have a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa, or pitches of a particular type may be unavailable. The football clubs survey conducted as part of the audit indicated that all teams are able to access pitches at their favoured location for as much time as they need.

- **Latent demand for football -** Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. The FA uses 'Team Growth Potential' as a measure of latent demand by targeting the 75th percentile figures of the comparator local authorities (listed above). Growth Potential represents the number of teams for each football type that the local authority would need to develop to reach the 'Conversion Target' value. In the case of Blaby district, because football participation rates are already high, the FA calculates that there is 'Team Growth Potential' for only two additional adult female teams, so latent demand is very low.

5.6.3 Cricket

- **Cricket Clubs -** Data on demand for cricket was supplied by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The following ECB-affiliated clubs and teams currently play in the district. Clubs that have achieved the quality assured 'Club Mark' accreditation are marked with an asterisk:

Club	*Home Ground*	*Adult Teams*	*Junior Teams*
Anstey & Glenfield Cricket Club	Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	2	0
Blaby Cricket Club	Northfield Park, Blaby	1	0
Braunstone Cricketers CC	Winstanley Community College	2	0
Cosby Cricket Club*	Victory Park, Cosby	3	5
Countesthorpe Cricket Club*	Countesthorpe Cricket Club	3	7
Croft Cricket Club	Winston Avenue Recn. Ground	2	4
Enderby Cricket Club*	Enderby Cricket Club	4	5
Friar Lane Taverners Cricket Club	Thurlaston Sports Ground	1	0
Huncote Cricket Club	Huncote Sports & Social Club	2	0
Kirby Muxloe Cricket Club*	Kirby Muxloe Sports & Soc. Club	2	4
Leicester Forest Cricket Club	Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club	1	0
Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club*	Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club	4	4
Leicestershire Teachers & Mossdale CC	Saffron Dynamos FC	4	0
Narborough & Littlethorpe CC*	Leicester Road Recn. Ground	3	9
Sapcote Cricket Club	Sapcote Recreation Ground	2	0
Sharnford Cricket Club	Lissman Fields	2	0
SPA Cricket Club	Kirby Muxloe Sports & Soc. Club	1	0
Thurlaston Cricket Club	Thurlaston Sports Club	1	0
Whetstone Cricket Club	Warwick Road Recn. Ground	2	0
Wigston Town Cricket Club	Meadows Sports Ground	3	1
TOTALS	**-**	***45***	***39***

- **Cricket club survey findings -** Ten clubs responded to the survey (representing 22 teams or 26.2% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:

  - **Membership trends** - Two clubs (20.0%) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, three (30.0%) have experienced static membership, whilst five (50.0%) have had falling memberships.

  - **Development aspirations** - Eight clubs (80.0%) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.

- **Access to pitches -** 8 clubs (80.0%) are able to access the pitches they need at their favoured location, whilst two are only able partially to do so, primarily because there are insufficient wickets to accommodate all their teams at a single site.

- **Casual demand for cricket -** Consultation with pitch providers and local clubs in the district, supplemented by observations during pitch quality assessment site visits revealed that whilst there is some informal use of pitches in parks and recreation grounds with general public access, in no instances are levels of use significant enough to affect the quality or carrying capacity of the pitches concerned.

- **Education demand for cricket -** The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that three schools (60.0% of respondents) have cricket pitches that meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs. The others do not offer cricket as part of their curricular and extra-curricular programmes.

- **Displaced demand for cricket -** No cricket teams from Blaby district have to access provision in neighbouring areas.

- **Unmet demand for cricket -** The responses to the cricket clubs survey conducted as part of the audit indicate that all are able to access pitches at their favoured location for as much time as they need.

- **Latent demand for cricket -** Consultation with the secretaries of the main leagues in which clubs in the district play identified that the numbers of teams playing has decreased over the past ten years. This suggests that there is no local latent demand for cricket.

5.6.4 Rugby

- **Rugby Clubs -** Data on demand for rugby in the district was supplied by the Rugby Football Union. The following clubs and teams currently play in Blaby district. Clubs that have achieved the quality assured 'RFU Club Accreditation' are marked with an asterisk.

Club	*Home Ground*	*Adult Teams*	*Youth Teams*	*Mini Teams*
Cosby Rugby Club	Victory Park, Cosby	1	0	0
Leicester Forest Rugby Club*	Leicester Forest RFC	3	7	7
Leicester Lions Rugby Club*	Westleigh Park	2	0	4
Old Newtonians Rugby Club	Hinckley Road	2	0	0
Vipers Rugby Club*	Vipers Rugby Club	4	5	5
TOTAL	**-**	***12***	***12***	***16***

- **Rugby club survey findings -** The key findings on demand were as follows:

  - **Membership trends** - Three clubs (60.0%) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years whilst two (40.0%) have experienced static membership.

  - **Development aspirations** - All clubs (100.0%) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.

- **Access to pitches -** All clubs (100.0%) are able to access the pitches they need at their favoured location.

- **Casual demand for rugby -** Almost all of the rugby pitches in the district are on sites with controlled access, so there is no casual use of pitches.

- **Education demand for rugby -** The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that both secondary school respondents have rugby pitches that meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs.

- **Displaced demand for rugby -** No rugby teams from Blaby district have to access provision in neighbouring areas, although some of the local demand is imported from Leicester.

- **Unmet demand for rugby -** The responses to the rugby clubs survey conducted as part of the audit indicate that all are able to access pitches at their favoured location for as much time as they need.

- **Latent demand for rugby -** Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for rugby.

5.6.5 Hockey

- **Hockey clubs -** There are no hockey teams based in Blaby district. Demand from within the district is met by clubs based in Leicester (Leicester HC, Panthers HC, Leicester Thursday HC, Leicester Westleigh HC and South Leicester Youth Hockey).

- **Casual demand for hockey -** There is no evidence of casual demand for hockey.

- **Education demand for hockey -** The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that both secondary school respondents deliver curricular and extra-curricular hockey using on-site grass pitches.

- **Displaced demand for hockey -** In the absence of a synthetic turf pitch for hockey in the district, all local demand is currently displaced to the City of Leicester.

- **Unmet demand for hockey -** Given the close proximity of five hockey clubs in Leicester, there is no evidence of unmet demand for hockey.

- **Latent demand for hockey -** Given the close proximity of five hockey clubs in Leicester, there is no evidence of latent demand for hockey.

5.6.6 Bowls

- **Bowls clubs -** Data on demand for bowls in Blaby district is detailed below. The following seven clubs currently play in the district. Whilst most clubs allow 'pay-and-play' access to their greens for casual use by non-members, the vast majority of bowls activity is played through the network of clubs.

Club	*Home Green*
Blaby Bowling Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Countesthorpe Bowls Club	46, Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TA
Enderby Bowls Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Glenfield Bowls Club	Ellis Park, Dominion Road, Glenfield LE3 8FB
Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN
Narborough & District BC	Coventry Road, Narborough LE19 2GT
Shakespeare Park Bowls Club	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA

- **Bowls club survey findings -** Four clubs responded to the survey (57.1% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:

  - **Membership trends** - One club (25.0% of respondents) has experienced static membership, whilst three (75.0%) have had falling memberships.

  - **Development aspirations** - Three clubs (75% of respondents) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.

  - **Access to greens -** All clubs are able to access the facilities they need at their favoured location.

- **Casual demand for bowls -** Most clubs allow 'pay-and-play' access to their greens for casual use by non-members, but there is relatively little demand for this.

- **Education demand for bowls -** No schools offer bowls as part of their curricular or extra-curricular sports programme.

- **Displaced demand for bowls -** There is no evidence that bowlers have to play outside the district, because all local clubs have spare capacity.

- **Unmet demand for bowls -** There is no evidence of any unmet local demand for bowls.

- **Latent demand for bowls -** Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for bowls.

5.6.7 Tennis

- **Tennis clubs -** The following clubs currently play in the district. Clubs that have achieved the quality assured 'Club Mark' accreditation are marked with an asterisk.

Site	*Home Courts*
Blaby Victoria Tennis Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Enderby Tennis Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East LE3 3PJ
Stoney Stanton Tennis Club	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA

- **Tennis club survey findings -** Three clubs responded to the survey (representing 75.0% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:

- **Membership trends** - One club (33.3% of respondents) has experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, one (33.3%) has experienced static membership, whilst one (33.3%) have has falling memberships.

- **Development aspirations** - All clubs have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.

- **Access to courts -** All clubs are able to access the facilities they need at their favoured location.

- **Casual demand for tennis -** In addition to club-based play, casual tennis is available free-of-charge at four sites in parks and recreation grounds in the district and some schools allow community access to their courts.

- **Education demand for tennis -** All secondary schools offer tennis as part of their curricular or extra-curricular sports programmes and all are able to do so using on-site hard or seasonal grass courts.

- **Displaced demand for tennis -** There is no evidence that tennis players have to access courts outside the district.

- **Unmet demand for tennis -** There is no evidence of any unmet local demand for tennis.

- **Latent demand for tennis -** Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for tennis.

5.6.8 Golf

- **Golf clubs -** Data on demand for golf in Blaby district is detailed below. The following five clubs are located in the district. All clubs allow 'pay-and-play' access to their courses.

Club	*Home Green*
Blaby Golf Club	Lutterworth Road, Blaby LE8 4DP
Cosby Golf Club	Chapel Lane, Cosby LE9 1RG
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Kirby Muxloe Golf Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EP
Whetstone Golf Club	Cambridge Road, Whetstone LE9 1SJ

- **Golf club survey findings -** Four clubs responded to the survey (representing 80.0% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:

  - **Membership trends** - Two clubs (50.0% of respondents) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, one (25.0%) has experienced static membership, whilst one (25.0%) has falling membership.

  - **Development aspirations** - All clubs have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.

- **Access to courses -** All clubs are able to access the facilities they need at their favoured location.

- **Casual demand for golf -** All five clubs allow 'pay-and-play' access to their courses.

- **Education demand for golf -** No schools offer golf as part of their curricular or extra-curricular sports programme.

- **Displaced demand for golf -** There is no evidence that golfers have to access courses outside the district.

- **Unmet demand for golf -** There is no evidence of any unmet local demand for golf.

- **Latent demand for golf -** Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for golf.

5.7 The views of town and parish councils

The views of town and parish councils on demand for open space in the district were sought via an on-line questionnaire. Nine councils (50% of the total) responded, representing 46,132 people (49.1% of the district population. The key findings were as follows:

5.7.1 Demand for open space

Five councils (55.6% of the total) believe that demand for open space is met by current provision in their respective areas. Of those that do not, a shortfall of allotment provision was identified in Blaby and Stoney Stanton and a need for additional cemetery provision in Leicester Forest East and Enderby.

5.7.2 Demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities

Six councils (66.7% of the total) believe that demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities is met by current provision in their respective areas. Of those that do not, a shortfall of football pitches was identified in Blaby, a synthetic turf pitch in Leicester Forest East and outdoor gym provision in Enderby.

5.8 Demand from local schools

5.8.1 Demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities

The views of local schools were sought via an on-line questionnaire. Five schools responded, two secondary school and three primary schools. The key findings were as follows:

- The extent to which their on-site provision meets all their curricular and extra-curricular needs.
- Their dependence on off-site provision to meet their curricular and extra-curricular needs.

- The nature and extent of any existing community use of their on-site provision.

- Their views on the potential to accommodate external users in the future.

5.8.2 Key findings

The key findings were as follows:

- **Adequacy of on-site provision -** Four schools (80%) feel that their on-site provision is inadequate to meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs, with a requirement for additional all-weather pitches being the most frequent deficiency.

- **Use of off-site provision -** Despite their on-site deficiencies, none of the schools uses off-site open space, pitch or outdoor sports facilities to meet their needs.

- **Community use -** Both secondary schools allow extensive community use of their on-site provision, which is regulated by a formal community use agreement. Where they have facilities, all the primary schools say that they are available for external use, but that there is no local demand for this.

- **Additional community use -** All respondents would be prepared to accommodate additional community use.

5.9 Summary of open space demand in Blaby district

The implications of the survey responses on open space demand in Blaby district are as follows:

- **Demand for open space -** The more informal types of open space in Blaby district are the most frequently used types of provision.

- **Views on provision -** The quality of the provision and management of parks and open spaces in Blaby district is rated very highly, although conversely, they are given a relatively low rating in terms of their priority in relation to other public services delivered by BDC.

- **Rates of physical activity -** Local rates of participation in sport and physical activity are well above the regional and national averages.

- **Local variations -** There are some quite significant local geographical variations in participation rates. Whetstone, Narborough and Braunstone have high participation rates, whereas Blaby, Glen Parva and Enderby are below the national average.

- **Sport-specific demand -** Sport-specific demand is as follows:

    - **Football -** Local participation rates for youth football and mini-soccer are particularly high. 233 teams draw their membership from within the district. 83.3% of local clubs have increased their membership over the past three years.

    - **Cricket -** 85 cricket teams draw their membership from within the district. 50% of local clubs have experienced a decrease in membership over the past three years.

    - **Rugby Union -** 40 rugby teams play in the district, mostly concentrated in the urban areas. There is limited scope for expansion at several clubs at present because of limited pitch capacity.

- **Hockey -** There are no hockey clubs in the district, but local needs are met by five clubs located nearby in the City of Leicester.

- **Bowls -** Seven clubs that play in the district, the majority of which have experienced declining membership in recent years.

- **Tennis -** Four clubs are based in the district and there are also opportunities for casual play on parks courts.

- **Golf -** Five clubs are based in the district. All have spare capacity and allow 'pay-and-play' usage of their courses.

- **Parish and town councils -** The majority of parish and town councils believe that existing open space provision is adequate to meet local demand, although a shortage of allotments was identified in several areas.

- **Schools demand -** On-site open space and outdoor sports provision does not meet the needs of 80% of schools respondents, although none makes significant use of off-site provision to compensate for this. There is a strong local community use ethos amongst schools, which is reflected in extensive use of their facilities by community users and a willingness to extend this where demand arises.

Blaby Bowls Club

6 OPEN SPACE SUPPLY IN BLABY DISTRICT

6.1 Introduction

This section analyses the supply of open space in Blaby district.

6.2 Definitions

6.2.1 Open space

For the purposes of the Audit, open spaces have been defined on the basis of their primary function, although many also serve valuable supplementary roles. Some sites have a range of different types of open space, in which case the primary roles of each part of the sites have been designated and measured in spatial terms, to facilitate the overall assessment of provision of each individual open space typology.

- **Parks and gardens -** Parks and gardens are publicly-accessible, multi-functional greenspaces providing high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events, typically in urban areas. They incorporate formal and informal features, such as flower beds, trees, landscaped areas and ancillary provision such as toilets and seating areas.

- **Natural greenspace -** Natural greenspace sites are defined as those sites with public access where wildlife, conservation, biodiversity and environmental education take precedence over recreational uses in determining management regimes. This includes areas with protective statutory designations and also comprises publicly accessible countryside areas.

- **Informal open space -** Informal open space is defined as publicly-accessible sites that provide opportunities for informal leisure and physical activity, close to home or work, or which enhance the appearance of residential or other areas. The size and utility of such spaces vary widely, with some having provision such as paths, benches, rubbish bins and planting schemes, whilst others comprise only grassed areas. Some provide linkages within the green infrastructure network to other open spaces.

- **Provision for children and young people -** This is defined as publicly-accessible areas designed and equipped primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.

- **Allotments -** Allotments and community gardens are defined as publicly-accessible green spaces that provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce, as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

- **Churchyards and cemeteries -** In open space terms, cemeteries and churchyards are defined as publicly-accessible green spaces providing opportunities for quiet contemplation. Many sites have historic and cultural value and some sustain wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

6.2.2 Playing pitches

The pitches included in the Audit are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions for club-level play as specified in Sport England's *'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts'* (2011) and the FA's *'Guide to Pitch Dimensions'* (2013), have community access and are used for competitive play.

Pitch Type	*Pitch length*	*Pitch width*	*Size including run-offs*
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U17-U18)	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football (9v9)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer (7v7)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer (5v5)	37m	27m	43m x 33m
Adult cricket	20.12m	Max. 36.6m/Min. 3.05m	111.56m x 106.69m
Junior cricket	19.2m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 3.05m	92.36m x 88.41m
Adult rugby	Max. 100m	Max. 70m	Max. 110m x 80m
Junior rugby (U13-U18)	Max. 70m	Max. 43m/Min. 30m	Max. 80m x 53m
Mini-rugby (U10-U12)	60m	43m	80m x 53m
Mini-rugby (U8-U9)	60m	35m	80m x 45m
Mini-rugby (U7-U82)	60m	30m	80m x 40m
Artificial Grass Pitch for Hockey	91.4m	55m	101.4m x 63m
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	100m	64m	106m x 70m

6.2.3 Sports facilities

- **Bowls green** - A flat grass playing area, ideally 40m x 40m, surrounded by a ditch between 200mm and 380mm wide and 50mm and 200mm deep. The width of each individual rink is between 4.3m and 5.8m.

- **Tennis court** - A rectangular flat surface, usually of tarmac, grass, clay, concrete or synthetic turf. The court is 23.78m x 10.97m with a net across the middle of the court and regulation line markings. Recommended run-off areas at the sides of the playing area should be 4m, with 7m at each end of the court.

- **Golf course** - A dedicated community accessible facility, permanently laid out with tees, fairways and greens, comprising nine or eighteen holes.

- **Village and community hall -** A multi-purpose indoor facility that is capable of accommodating a range of sports or physical activities. Depending on the design of the hall this can range from provision for formal sports such as table tennis, badminton and carpet bowls to spaces which can accommodate activities such as yoga and aerobics, or spaces which are simply meeting rooms that can provide valuable space for club committees and similar functions.

6.3 Community accessibility

A key consideration in assessing pitch and facilities supply is the extent to which provision is available for unrestricted community use and subject to formalised access arrangements that cannot easily be rescinded. Sport England has produced a formal classification for access which is set out below.

- **Available for community use and used -** Pitches in any ownership which are available for hire by, or leased to the community (e.g. leased to a sports club) and currently in use by community teams, for example:

  - For educational pitches community use relates to pitches used by the community over and above the educational establishments own use i.e. over and above a school's curricular and extracurricular use.

  - For company sports grounds, sports and social clubs or third sector sports organisations community use relates to pitches where there are no restrictions on its use i.e. not having to be an employee, or related to an employee of the company to access provision.

- **Available for community use but unused -** Pitches that are available for hire to the community but are not currently used by community teams; this may apply to some school sites and sites which are available but unused as they are expensive to hire.

- **Not available for community use -** Pitches which, as a matter of policy or practice, are not available for use by community teams. This should include professional club pitches and some semi - professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.

- **Not available as disused -** Any sites which remain undeveloped and where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out.

6.4 Parks and gardens

6.4.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the five parks and gardens in Blaby district are listed below:

Site	*Address*	*Parish*	*Size*
Bouskell Park	Welford Road, Blaby LE8 4FT	Blaby	3.73ha
Franklin Park	Welcombe Avenue, Braunstone Town LE3 2TA	Braunstone Town	4.46ha
Glenfield Millennium Green	Groby Road, Glenfield LE3 9QP	Glenfield	1.36ha
Narborough Recn. Ground	Desford Road, Narborough LE19 2EL	Narborough	1.22ha
Northfield Park	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GR	Blaby	3.39ha
TOTAL	**-**	**-**	***14.16ha***

Because they are principally an urban typology, per capita levels of parks and gardens in each urban parish in Blaby district (defined as those with 6,000 people or more) are listed below. There are large variations in levels of provision, most parishes having none at all. The overall per capita level of provision in all urban parishes is 0.19ha per 1,000 urban residents:

Parish	*Population*	*Ha.*	*Ha. per 1,000 people*
Blaby	6,194	7.12ha	1.15ha
Braunstone	16,850	4.46ha	0.26ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0	-
Enderby	6,314	0	-
Glenfield	9,643	1.36ha	0.14ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0	-
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	-
Narborough	8,448	1.22ha	0.14ha
Whetstone	6,566	0	-
BLABY DISTRICT	***73,300***	***14.16ha***	***0.19ha***

6.4.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of parks and gardens in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessed scores out of five were as follows:

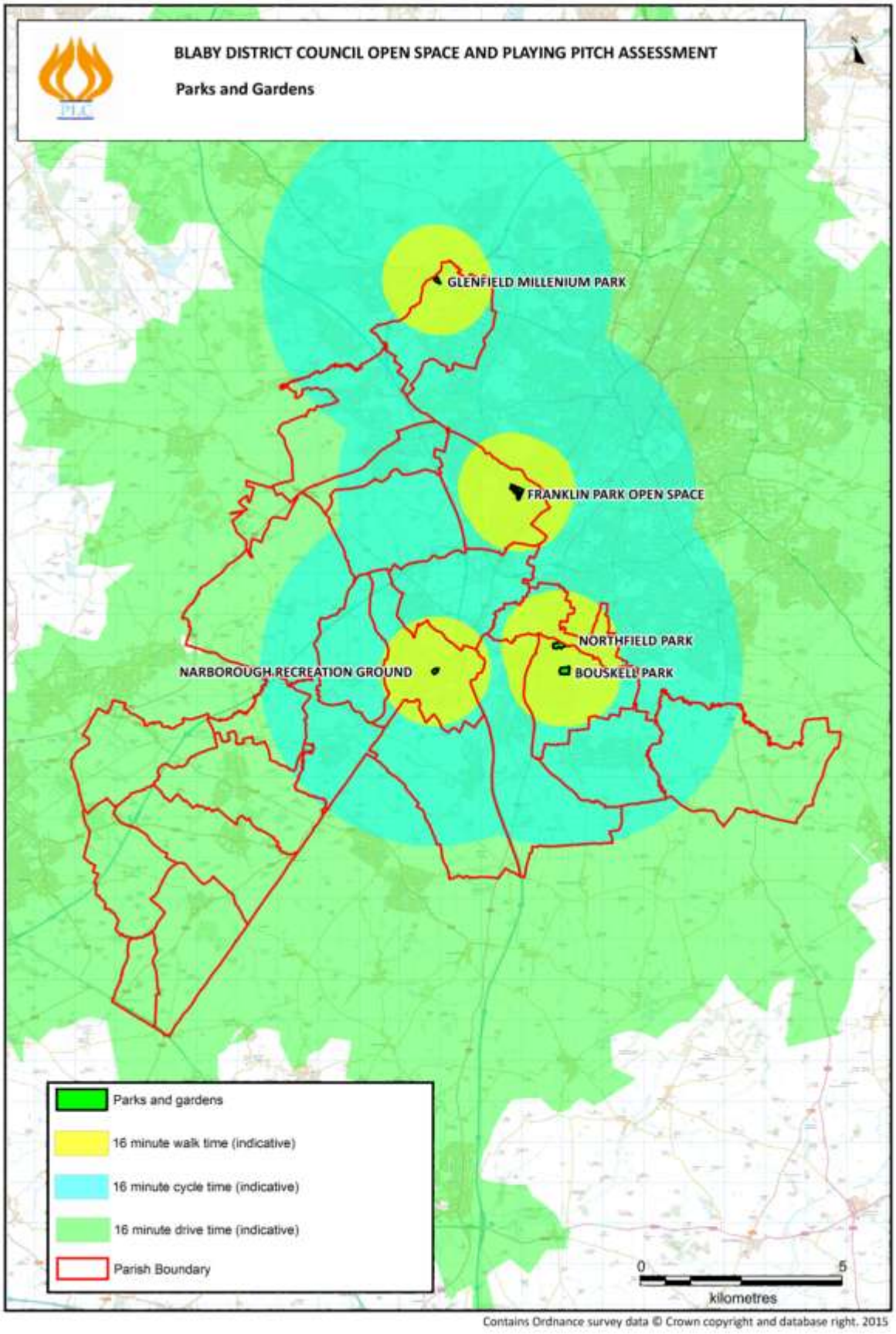
Criterion	*Bouskell Park*	*Franklin Park*	*Glenfield Millennium Gn.*	*Narborough Recn. Ground*	*Northfield Park*
Main entrance	5	4	4	3	2
Site boundaries	4	5	4	3	2
Roads/paths/cycleways	3	2	4	4	3
Planted areas	-	-	5	-	-
Grassed areas	4	3	4	5	4
Litter bins	4	3	4	3	3
General cleanliness	4	3	4	4	3
Safety and security	4	4	4	4	3
Parking/general access	4	3	5	5	3
MEAN	***4.0***	***3.4***	***4.2***	***3.9***	***3.0***

The mean score for all sites was rated as at least 'average' quality, although some individual aspects at Franklin Park and Northfield Park are rated as 'below average'.

6.4.3 Accessibility analysis

Based on the community survey in the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009), 16 minutes travel time is the typical maximum journey for most parks users. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 16 minutes drive of their nearest park and garden.
- **Cycling** - About 60,000 people (63.9% of the district population) are within 16 minutes cycle of their nearest park and garden.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 16 minutes walk of their nearest park and garden.


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
Parks and Gardens
GLENFIELD MILLENIUM PARK
FRANKLIN PARK OPEN SPACE
NORTHFIELD PARK
BOUSKELL PARK
NARBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND
Parks and gardens
16 minute walk time (indicative)
16 minute cycle time (indicative)
16 minute drive time (indicative)
Parish Boundary
0
5
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015

6.5 Natural greenspace

6.5.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 40 publicly-accessible natural greenspace sites in Blaby district are listed below.

Site	Address	Parish	Size
Aylestone Holt	Glen Rise, Glen Parva LE2 9HA	Glen Parva	3.44ha
Blaby Oaks	Hospital Lane, Blaby LE8 4FE	Blaby	5.61ha
Burbage Common & Woods	Burbage Common Road, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SE	Elmesthorpe	11.43ha
Countesthorpe Country Park	Scalborough Close, Countesthorpe LE8 5XU	Countesthorpe	9.40ha
Croft Glebe	Marston Road, Croft LE9 3GX	Croft	1.07ha
Croft Hill	Huncote Road, Croft LE9 3GU	Croft	4.37ha
Croft Quarry	Marion's Way, Croft LE9 3GP	Croft	2.45ha
Crow Mills Way	Countesthorpe Road, Wigston LE18 4PG	Countesthorpe	3.16ha
Enderby Balancing Lake	Leicester Lane, Enderby LE19 2AB	Enderby	3.57ha
Forest East Park	Lancelot Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RW	Leics. Forest E	6.20ha
Fosse Meadows	Fosse Way, Sharnford LE10 3AB	Sharnford	57.38ha
Foxholes Spinney	Dunstall Avenue, Braunstone Town LE3 3DN	Braunstone	3.35ha
Glen Parva & Glen Hills NR	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JD	Glen Parva	9.84ha
Glenfield Flood Relief Basin	Kirby Road, Glenfield LE3 8QF	Glenfield	0.91ha
Great Central Way Cycle Route	Needham Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JL	Glen Parva	2.92ha
Gynsills Meadow	Stelle Way, Glenfield LE3 8HN	Glenfield	2.34ha
Gynsills Nature Area	Stelle Way, Glenfield LE3 8HN	Glenfield	1.29ha
Jubilee Park	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 2BH	Enderby	8.21ha
Kings Walk Spinney	Kings Walk, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JP	Leics. Forest E	0.67ha
Kirby Muxloe Castle	Oakcroft Avenue, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2DH	Kirby Muxloe	0.78ha
Grand Union Canal/River Sence	New Bridge Road, Glen Parva LE2 9TB	Glen Parva	2.04ha
Land E of Grand Union Canal	Needham Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JA	Glen Parva	4.49ha
Land E of Lubbesthorpe Way	Lubbesthorpe Way, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	10.01ha
Land at Hinckley Road	Hinckley Road, Sapcote LE9 4JF	Sapcote	1.38ha
Land at New Bridge Road	New Bridge Road, Glen Parva LE2 9TG	Glen Parva	0.64ha
Land at Oakcroft Avenue	Oakcroft Avenue, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2DG	Kirby Muxloe	0.41ha
Land East of Riverside Way	Riverside Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2PT	Narborough	1.09ha
Land East of The Ford	The Ford, Glen Parva LE2 9TL	Glen Parva	1.02ha
Land North of Gynsill Lane	Gynsill Lane, Glenfield LE7 7AG	Glenfield	1.29ha
Land NE of Croft Hill	Croft Hill Road, Huncote LE9 3GR	Huncote	19.38ha
Land South of Gynsill Lane	Gynsill Lane, Glenfield LE7 7AG	Glenfield	2.34ha
Land North of the Ford	The Ford, Glen Parva LE2 9TL	Glen Parva	0.31ha
Land South of River Sence	New Bridge Road, Glen Parva LE2 9TG	Glen Parva	2.40ha
Long Spinney	Goodheart Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3RX	Braunstone	0.69ha
Long Walk	Bouskell Park, Welford Road, Blaby LE8 4FT	Blaby	1.10ha
Narborough Bog Nature Reserve	Leicester Road, Narborough LE19 2AZ	Narborough	9.24ha
Normanton Wood	Earl Shilton Road, Thurlaston LE9 7TG	Thurlaston	6.63ha
Stoney Stanton Recn. Ground	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA	Stoney Stanton	4.36ha
The Osiers	Watergate Lane, Lubbesthorpe LE3 2XF	Braunstone	7.41ha
Whistle Way	Snowdrop Close, Narborough LE19 3YB	Narborough	6.39ha
TOTALS	**-**	**-**	***221.0ha***

Per capita levels of provision of natural greenspace in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. There are large variations in levels of provision, with the more rural parishes generally having the higher per capita levels of provision and three parishes having none at all:

Parish	*Population*	*Ha.*	*Ha. per 1,000 people*
Blaby	6,194	6.71ha	1.08ha
Braunstone	16,850	21.46ha	1.27ha
Cosby	3,506	0	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	12.56ha	1.97ha
Croft	1,639	7.89ha	4.81ha
Elmesthorpe	509	11.43ha	22.46ha
Enderby	6,314	15.35ha	2.43ha
Glenfield	9,643	8.17ha	0.85ha
Glen Parva	6,189	27.10ha	4.38ha
Huncote	1,756	19.38ha	11.04ha
Kilby	270	0	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.19ha	0.25ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	6.87ha	1.02ha
Narborough	8,448	16.72ha	19.8ha
Sapcote	2,442	1.38ha	0.57ha
Sharnford	985	57.38ha	58.25ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	4.36ha	1.15ha
Thurlaston	807	6.63ha	8.24ha
Whetstone	6,566	0	-
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,674***	***221.0ha***	***2.35ha***

6.5.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of natural greenspace in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments for each site involved establishing the quality of:

- Signposting to the site.
- Information board(s)/interpretation panel(s).
- Marked paths.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

The assessed scores out of a possible five were as follows:

Site	*Rating*	*Site*	*Rating*
Aylestone Holt	4	Crow Mill Way	3
Blaby Oaks	3	Land E of Grand Union Canal	3
Burbage Common & Woods	5	Land E of Lubbesthorpe Way	3
Countesthorpe Country Park	1	Land at Hinckley Road	1
Croft Glebe	3	Land at New Bridge Road	2
Croft Hill	5	Land at Oakcroft Avenue	2
Croft Quarry	5	Land East of Riverside Way	2

Site	Rating	Site	Rating
Land East of The Ford	3	Kirby Muxloe Castle	5
Enderby Balancing Lake	2	Land North of Gynsill Lane	3
Forest East Park	5	Land NE of Croft Hill	2
Fosse Meadows	5	Land South of Gynsill Lane	2
Foxholes Spinney	3	Land North of the Ford	3
Glen Parva & Glen Hills NR	4	Land South of River Sence	3
Glenfield Flood Relief Basin	3	Long Spinney	3
Grand Union Canal/River Sence	3	Long Walk	3
Great Central Way Cycle Route	3	Narborough Bog Nature Reserve	3
Gynsills Meadow	3	Normanton Wood	3
Gynsills Nature Area	4	Stoney Stanton Recn. Ground	3
Jubilee Park	3	The Osiers	3
Kings Walk Spinney	2	Whistle Way	5

Seven sites (17.5%) were rated as 'high quality', three (7.5%) were rated as 'above average', 21 (52.5%) as 'average', seven (17.5%) as below average and two (5.0%) as 'poor quality'.

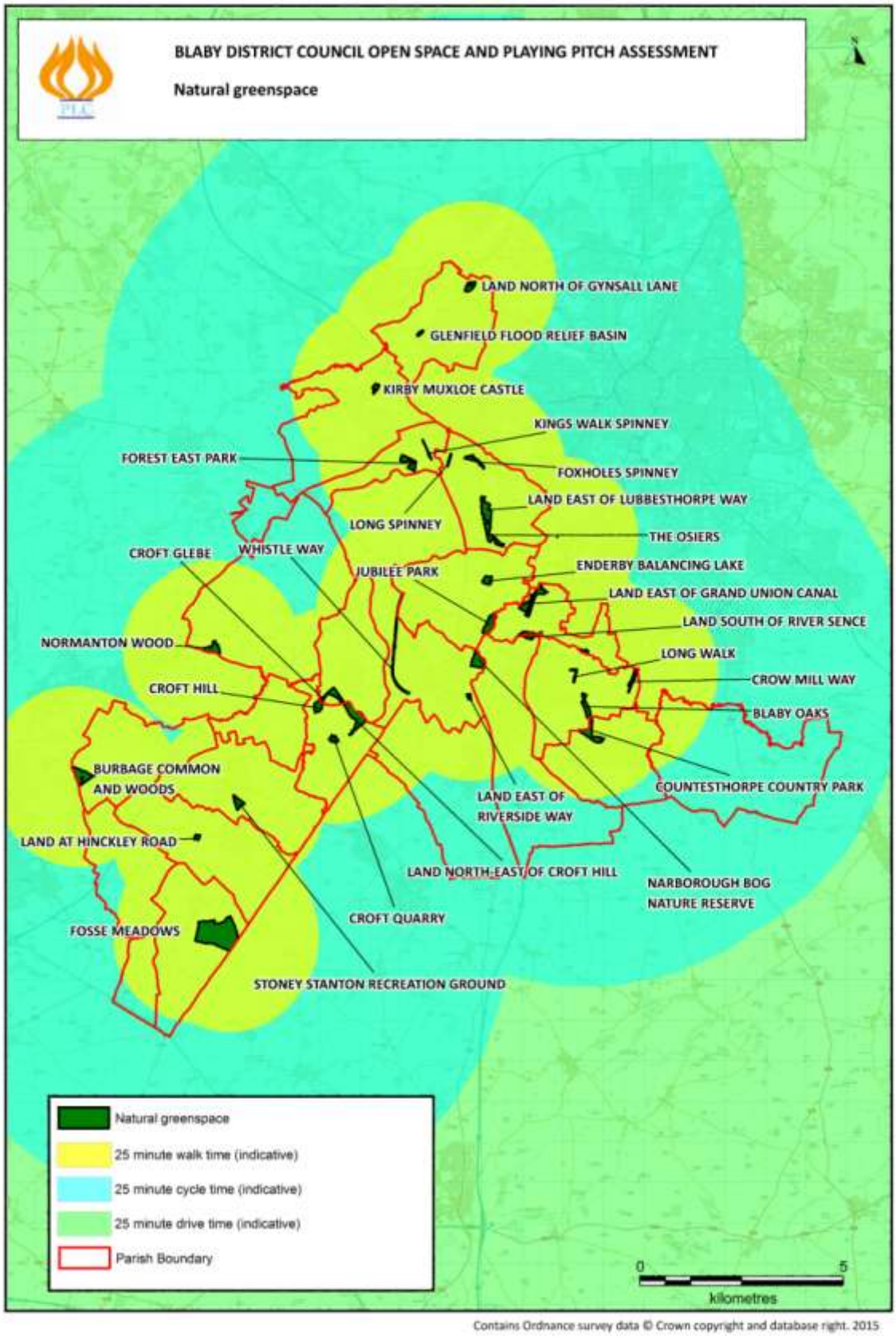
Fosse Meadows

6.5.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) identified that the median distance travelled by residents of Blaby district to reach natural greenspace was 25 minutes. For this reason, a 25 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 25-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 25 minutes drive of their nearest natural greenspace site.
- **Cycling** - The whole population is within within 25 minutes cycle of their nearest natural greenspace site.

- **Walking** - About 85,000 people (90.5% of the district population) are within 25 minutes walk of their nearest natural greenspace site.



6.6 Informal open space

Details of the 194 publicly-accessible amenity greenspace sites in Blaby district are listed below:

Site	Address	Parish	Size
Acacia Close open space	Acacia Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3PX	LFE	0.09ha
Allysum Way open space	Allysum Way, Narborough LE19 3WP	Narborough	0.04ha
Arbor Road open space	Arbor Road, Croft LE9 3GD	Croft	0.13ha
Ashover Close open space	Ashover Close, Kilby LE9 1TJ	Kilby	0.12ha
Avon Road open spaces	Avon Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3AA	Braunstone	0.26ha
Barley Close open spaces	Barley Close, Glenfield LE3 8SB	Glenfield	0.10ha
Beechwood Avenue open space	Beechwood Ave, Leicester Forest East LE19 2HZ	LFE	0.32ha
Bees Knees open space	Meridian Way, Braunstone Town LE19 1LU	Braunstone	0.30ha
Biggs Close open space	Biggs Close, Whetstone LE8 6WG	Whetstone	0.13ha
Blaby Road open spaces	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	0.26ha
Blackthorn Road open space	Blackthorn Road, Glenfield LE3 8QP	Glenfield	0.06ha
Blue Banks Avenue open space	Blue Banks Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JA	Glen Parva	0.11ha
Bolus Road open space	Bolus Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3EH	Braunstone	0.18ha
Bostock Close open space	Bostock Close, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SR	Elmesthorpe	0.06ha
Brickman Close open space	Brickman Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NJ	LFE	0.21ha
Brierfield Road open space	Brierfield Road, Cosby LE9 1TW	Cosby	0.18ha
Brindley Close open space	Brindley Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4GJ	Stoney Stanton	0.18ha
Broadbent Close open space	Broadbent Close, Whetstone LE8 6NN	Whetstone	0.22ha
Broadfield Way open space	Broadfield Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5XR	Countesthorpe	0.08ha
Brook House Gardens	Brook Street, Huncote LE9 3AB	Huncote	0.40ha
Brookes Avenue open space	Brookes Avenue, Croft LE9 3GJ	Croft	0.11ha
Broom Way open space	Broom Way, Narborough LE19 3RY	Narborough	0.09ha
Buckingham Road open spaces	Buckingham Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5QD	Countesthorpe	0.52ha
Burchnall Road open spaces	Burchnall Road, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	4.96ha
Bute Way open space	Bute Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5TX	Countesthorpe	0.02ha
Camelot Way open space	Camelot Way, Narborough LE19 3BT	Narborough	0.13ha
Chiltern Close open space	Chiltern Close, Cosby LE9 1UG	Cosby	0.14ha
Churchill Drive open space	Churchill Drive, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QB	LFE	0.27ha
Clarence Road open space	Clarence Road, Enderby LE19 2BB	Enderby	0.47ha
Clover Close open space	Clover Close, Narborough LE19 3FT	Narborough	0.04ha
Collins Close open space	Collins Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RE	Braunstone	0.43ha
Coltbeck Avenue open space	Coltbeck Avenue, Narborough LE19 3EJ	Narborough	0.08ha
Cooke Close open space	Cooke Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RG	Braunstone	0.06ha
Cornwall Street open space	Cornwall Street, Enderby LE19 4NF	Enderby	0.04ha
Coventry Road open space	Coventry Road, Narborough LE19 2GD	Narborough	0.21ha
Cranmer Close open space	Cranmer Close, Blaby LE8 4AY	Blaby	1.28ha
Dale Acre open space	Dale Acre, Countesthorpe LE8 5QL	Countesthorpe	0.29ha
Darien Way open space	Darien Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TT	Braunstone	0.71ha
Daybell Close open space	Daybell Close, Whetstone LE8 6YT	Whetstone	0.13ha
Denman Lane open space	Denman Lane, Huncote LE9 3AL	Huncote	0.08ha
Disney Close open space	Disney Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4BU	Stoney Stanton	0.07ha
Duncan Avenue open space	Duncan Avenue, Huncote LE9 3AN	Huncote	0.14ha

Site	Address	Parish	Size
Edward Drive open space	Edward Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9UR	Glen Parva	0.39ha
Eliot Close open space	Eliot Close, Whetstone LE8 6QX	Whetstone	0.73ha
Equity Road open space	Equity Road, Enderby LE19 4NN	Enderby	0.05ha
Falcon Close open space	Falcon Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NP	LFE	0.27ha
Field Close open space	Field Close, Littlethorpe LE19 2JY	Narborough	0.07ha
Fletchers Close open spaces	Fletchers Close, Narborough LE19 2PX	Narborough	0.04ha
Foulds Lane open space	Foulds Lane, Whetstone LE8 4JZ	Whetstone	0.34ha
Foxglove Close open space	Foxglove Close, Narborough LE19 3ER	Narborough	0.12ha
Foxon Close open spaces	Foxon Close, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	1.37ha
Frith Close open space	Frith Close, Glenfield LE3 8FG	Glenfield	0.27ha
Gavin Close open space	Gavin Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3UG	Braunstone	0.06ha
Glen Rise open space	Glen Rise, Glen Parva LE2 9HA	Glen Parva	0.10ha
Goodheart Way open space	Goodheart Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3RX	Braunstone	0.22ha
Grizedale Road open space	Grizedale Road, Narborough LE19 3YU	Narborough	0.10ha
Guinevere Way open space	Guinevere Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RN	LFE	0.13ha
Halford Close open space	Halford Close, Whetstone LE8 6EX	Whetstone	0.50ha
Hampton Close open space	Hampton Close, Glen Parva LE2 9SE	Glen Parva	0.27ha
Hardwick Road open spaces	Hardwick Road, Narborough LE19 3LU	Narborough	0.07ha
Harecroft Crescent open space	Harecroft Crescent, Sapcote LE9 4FX	Sapcote	0.31ha
Harvester Close open space	Harvester Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QS	LFE	0.04ha
Haskell Close open spaces	Haskell Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3UA	Braunstone	0.12ha
Heawood Way open space	Heawood Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TJ	Braunstone	0.02ha
Heighton Crescent open space	Heighton Crescent, Littlethorpe LE19 2JN	Narborough	0.04ha
Hilcot Green	Hilcot Green, Braunstone Town LE3 3SY	Braunstone	0.13ha
Hill View Drive open spaces	Hill View Drive, Cosby LE9 1US	Cosby	0.12ha
Holden Close open space	Holden Close, Whetstone LE8 6XS	Whetstone	0.35ha
Huncote Road open space	Huncote Road, Narborough LE19 3RQ	Narborough	0.49ha
Hunter's Way open space	Hunter's Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NB	LFE	0.14ha
Ilmington Close open space	Ilmington Close, Glenfield LE3 8BF	Glenfield	0.22ha
Impey Close open spaces	Impey Close, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	1.83ha
Iona Way open space	Iona Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5WW	Countesthorpe	0.19ha
Isabella Road open space	Isabella Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3UL	Braunstone	0.07ha
Jewsbury Way open space	Jewsbury Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3RR	Braunstone	0.11ha
Jubilee Park open space	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	1.16ha
Kensington Close open space	Kensington Close, Glen Parva LE2 9UD	Glen Parva	0.04ha
Kilby Playing Fields	Brecon Close, Kilby LE18 1AN	Kilby	0.42ha
Kingcup Close open space	Kingcup Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JU	LFE	0.05ha
Kings Drive Playing Fields	Kings Drive, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JB	LFE	0.93ha
Lady Leys open space	Lady Leys, Cosby LE9 1RJ	Cosby	0.30ha
Lancelot Close open spaces	Lancelot Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RW	LFE	0.13ha
Lane Close open space	Lane Close, Glenfield LE3 8FL	Glenfield	0.27ha
Langham Drive open space	Langham Drive, Narborough LE19 3EY	Narborough	0.31ha
Latimer Close open space	Latimer Close, Blaby LE8 4AB	Blaby	0.10ha
Leicester Road open spaces	Leicester Road, Sharnford LE10 3PR	Sharnford	0.38ha
Leicester Road open space	Leicester Road, Enderby LE10 2BF	Enderby	1.11ha
Leysland Avenue open space	Leysland Avenue, Countesthorpe LE8 5XX	Countesthorpe	0.04ha

Site	Address	Parish	Size
Lime Grove open space	Lime Grove, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2DF	Kirby Muxloe	0.07ha
Lincoln Drive open space	Lincoln Drive, Blaby LE8 4AR	Blaby	0.42ha
Linley Green open spaces	Linley Green, Cosby LE9 1UT	Cosby	0.21ha
Little Masons Close open space	Little Masons Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TE	Braunstone	0.03ha
Littlethorpe Recn. Ground	Sycamore Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2HU	Narborough	2.29ha
Lutterworth Road open space	Lutterworth Road, Blaby LE8 4DX	Blaby	0.64ha
Magnolia Close open space	Magnolia Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NL	LFE	0.26ha
Main Street open space	Main Street, Cosby LE9 1UU	Cosby	0.11ha
Maple Avenue open spaces	Maple Avenue, Blaby LE8 4AT	Blaby	0.27ha
Marshall Close open space	Marshall Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RQ	Braunstone	0.12ha
Marston Crescent open space	Marston Crescent, Countesthorpe LE8 5PY	Countesthorpe	0.16ha
Mays Farm Drive open space	Mays Farm Drive, Stoney Stanton LE9 4HA	Stoney Stanton	0.16ha
Meadow Court open space	Meadow Court, Narborough LE19 3DX	Narborough	2.44ha
Meadow Edge open space	Forest Road, Narborough LE19 3LD	Narborough	0.05ha
Meridian Way open space	Meridian Way, Braunstone Town LE19 1LU	Braunstone	0.93ha
Mossdale Meadows	Kingsway, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	3.61ha
Mull Way open space	Mull Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5RZ	Countesthorpe	0.07ha
Murby Way open spaces	Murby Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3UH	Braunstone	0.01ha
Narborough Road S open space	Narborough Rd .South, Braunstone Town LE3 2PB	Braunstone	17.45ha
Navigation Drive open spaces	Navigation Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9TB	Glen Parva	0.35ha
Netherfield Way open spaces	Netherfield Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TQ	Braunstone	0.02ha
New Road open space	New Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LQ	Stoney Stanton	0.35ha
Newquay Drive open space	Newquay Drive, Glenfield LE3 8PY	Glenfield	0.27ha
Nowell Close open space	Nowell Close, Glen Parva LE2 9SZ	Glen Parva	0.03ha
Oak Spinney Park open space	Oak Spinney Park, Kirby Muxloe LE3 3AW	Kirby Muxloe	1.28ha
Oliver Park open space	Badger Drive, Whetstone LE8 6ZW	Whetstone	0.25ha
Owen Close open spaces	Owen Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TZ	Braunstone	0.03ha
Packhorse Drive open space	Packhorse Drive, Enderby LE19 2RN	Enderby	0.09ha
Park House Court open space	Park House Court, Blaby LE8 4DN	Blaby	0.10ha
Park Road open space	Park Road, Narborough LE19 2GQ	Narborough	0.13ha
Parson's Drive open space	Parson's Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9NS	Glen Parva	0.15ha
Peacock Drive open space	Peacock Drive, Whetstone LE8 6YF	Whetstone	0.12ha
Peartree Close open space	Peartree Close, Glenfield LE3 8RG	Glenfield	0.51ha
Pendragon Way open space	Pendragon Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3EY	LFE	0.10ha
Penfold Drive open space	Penfold Drive, Countesthorpe LE8 5TP	Countesthorpe	0.04ha
Petunia Close open space	Petunia Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QZ	LFE	0.03ha
Priestman Road open space	Priestman Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3UJ	Braunstone	0.40ha
Primrose Close open space	Primrose Close, Narborough LE19 3FW	Narborough	0.09ha
Queen's Drive open space	Queen's Drive, Enderby LE19 2LL	Enderby	0.02ha
Reedpool Close open space	Reedpool Close, Countesthorpe LE8 5RE	Countesthorpe	0.19ha
Richmond Drive open space	Richmond Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9TJ	Glen Parva	0.06ha
Rose Crescent open space	Rose Crescent, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QX	LFE	0.07ha
Rosebank Road open space	Rosebank Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5QY	Countesthorpe	0.42ha
Robotham Close open space	Robotham Close, Narborough LE19 2RH	Narborough	0.13ha
Roundhills Park	The Roundhills, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SJ	Elmesthorpe	1.04ha
Salisbury Avenue open space	Salisbury Avenue, Croft LE9 3EJ	Croft	0.08ha

Site	Address	Parish	Size
Sanderson Close open space	Sanderson Close, Whetstone LE8 6ER	Whetstone	0.15ha
Sandhill Drive open space	Sandhill Drive, Enderby LE19 2LP	Enderby	0.13ha
Seacole Close open spaces	Seacole Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TX	Braunstone	0.11ha
Sharpe Way open spaces	Sharp Way, Narborough LE19 3GN	Narborough	0.07ha
Shelduck Close open space	Shelduck Close, Whetstone LE8 6ZF	Whetstone	1.33ha
Sherrard Way open space	Sherrard Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TN	Braunstone	0.04ha
Smart Close open space	Smart Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RS	Braunstone	0.10ha
Smithy Farm Drive open space	Smithy Farm Drive, Stoney Stanton LE9 4WH	Stoney Stanton	0.22ha
Snowdrop Close open space	Snowdrop Close, Narborough LE19 3YB	Narborough	0.17ha
Somerfield Way open spaces	Somerfield Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LX	LFE	0.10ha
Southey Close open space	Southey Close, Enderby LE19 4QZ	Enderby	0.16ha
Southfield Close open space	Southfield Close, Glen Parva LE2 9NW	Glen Parva	0.20ha
Southway open space	Southway, Blaby LE8 4BB	Blaby	0.13ha
Spa Drive open space	Spa Drive, Sapcote LE9 4FN	Sapcote	0.44ha
Speedwell Close open space	Speedwell Close, Narborough LE19 3WJ	Narborough	0.11ha
Spinney Halt open spaces	Spinney Halt, Whetstone LE8 6HU	Whetstone	1.09ha
Springwell Drive open space	Springwell Drive, Countesthope LE8 5SQ	Countesthorpe	0.07ha
Squirrel Close open space	Squirrel Close, Narborough LE19 3WF	Narborough	0.21ha
St. David's Close open space	St. David's Cl., Leicester Forest East LE3 3LU	LFE	0.17ha
St. Michael's Court open space	St. Michael's Court, Stoney Stanton LE9 4TH	Stoney Stanton	0.02ha
Station Close open space	Station Close, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2ES	Kirby Muxloe	0.08ha
Station Road open space	Station Road, Croft LE9 3EL	Croft	0.06ha
Station Road open space	Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TB	Countesthorpe	0.76ha
Sunbury Rise open spaces	Sunbury Rise, Countesthorpe LE8 5XP	Countesthorpe	0.65ha
Swallow's Close open space	Swallow's Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NY	LFE	0.18ha
Tansey Crescent open space	Tansey Crescent, Stoney Stanton LE9 4BT	Stoney Stanton	0.13ha
Teal Close open spaces	Teal Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NR	LFE	0.22ha
Teasel Close open space	Teasel Close, Narborough LE19 3DZ	Narborough	0.12ha
The Burrows open space	The Burrows, Narborough LE19 3WS	Narborough	0.12ha
The Coppice open spaces	The Coppice, Narborough LE19 3FB	Narborough	0.07ha
The Crescent open spaces	The Crescent, Blaby LE8 4FP	Blaby	0.30ha
The Fleet open space	The Fleet, Stoney Stanton LE9 4DY	Stoney Stanton	0.27ha
The Green	The Green, Croft LE9 3EQ	Croft	0.03ha
The Green	The Green, Huncote LE9 3BF	Huncote	0.34ha
The Green	The Green, Wigston Parva LE10 3AN	Sharnford	0.10ha
The Pastures open spaces	The Pastures, Narborough LE19 3YP	Narborough	0.24ha
The Pavilion	Sportsfield Lane, Huncote LE9 3BN	Huncote	5.73ha
The Woodlands open space	The Woodlands, Countesthorpe LE8 5RU	Countesthorpe	0.37ha
Thomas Boyer Centre	Forest House La., Leicester Forest East LE3 3NU	LFE	0.05ha
Thornborough Close open space	Thornborough Close Narborough LE19 3WA	Narborough	0.42ha
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	Darien Way, Thorpe Astley LE3 3TT	LFE	5.33ha
Tilley Close open space	Tilley Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TD	Braunstone	0.03ha
Tillett Road open space	Tillett Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3RD	Braunstone	0.05ha
Tom Paine Close open space	Tom Paine Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RJ	Braunstone	0.05ha
Top Close open space	Top Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TH	Braunstone	0.04ha
Trafalgar Way open space	Trafalgar Way, Glen Parva LE2 9UP	Glen Parva	0.06ha

Site	Address	Parish	Size
Walnut Way open space	Walnut Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5TJ	Countesthorpe	0.16ha
Warner Close open space	Warner Close, Whetstone LE8 6XU	Whetstone	0.31ha
Warren Lane open space	Warren Lane, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LW	LFE	0.37ha
Warren Park Way open space	Warren Park Way, Enderby LE19 4SA	Enderby	0.02ha
Westminster Drive open spaces	Westminster Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9UJ	Glen Parva	0.13ha
Wheatfield Close open spaces	Wheatfield Close, Glenfield LE3 8SD	Glenfield	0.41ha
Winchester Avenue open space	Winchester Avenue, Whetstone LE8 4JZ	Whetstone	0.22ha
Winchester Road open space	Winchester Road, Blaby LE8 4HL	Blaby	5.51ha
Windermere Drive open space	Windermere Drive, Croft LE9 3HE	Croft	0.07ha
Wistow Road open spaces	Wistow Road, Kilby LE18 3TH	Kilby	0.20ha
Woodhouse Road open space	Woodhouse Road, Narborough LE19 3ZA	Narborough	0.46ha
Woollaton Close open space	Woollaton Close, Glenfield LE3 8QN	Glenfield	0.08ha
Wychwood Road open space	Wychwood Road, Whetstone LE8 6WA	Whetstone	0.59ha
York Close open space	York Close, Glen Parva LE2 9UE	Glen Parva	0.04ha
TOTALS	**-**	**-**	***93.90ha***

Per capita levels of provision of informal open space in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. There are large variations in levels of provision, with the more rural parishes generally having the higher per capita levels of provision and one parish having none at all:

Parish	Population	Ha.	Ha. per 1,000 people
Blaby	6,194	8.85ha	1.43ha
Braunstone	16,850	33.85ha	2.01ha
Cosby	3,506	1.06ha	0.58ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	4.03ha	0.63ha
Croft	1,639	0.48ha	0.29ha
Elmesthorpe	509	1.10ha	2.16ha
Enderby	6,314	3.51ha	0.56ha
Glenfield	9,643	2.19ha	0.23ha
Glen Parva	6,189	1.93ha	0.31ha
Huncote	1,756	6.69ha	3.81ha
Kilby	270	0.74ha	2.74ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.43ha	0.31ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	9.94ha	1.48ha
Narborough	8,448	8.95ha	1.06ha
Sapcote	2,442	0.75ha	0.31ha
Sharnford	985	0.48ha	0.49ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1.40ha	0.37ha
Thurlaston	807	0	-
Whetstone	6,566	6.46ha	0.98ha
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,674***	***93.90ha***	***1.00ha***

6.6.1 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of informal open space in Blaby district involved visits to all sites of 0.2ha or larger, to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments for each site involved establishing the quality of:

- General access.
- Grassed areas and planting.
- Marked paths.
- Seating.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

The assessed scores for the 84 sites of 0.2ha or larger were as follows:

Site	*Rating*	*Site*	*Rating*
Avon Road open spaces	2	Darien Way open space	3
Beechwood Avenue open space	3	Edward Drive open space	5
Bees Knees open space	3	Eliot Close open space	3
Blaby Road open spaces	2	Falcon Close open space	3
Brickman Close open space	2	Foulds Lane open space	3
Broadbent Close open space	3	Foxon Close open spaces	4
Brook House Gardens	5	Frith Close open space	3
Buckingham Road open spaces	4	Goodheart Way open space	3
Burchnall Road open spaces	3	Frith Close open space	3
Churchill Drive open space	4	Halford Close open space	4
Clarence Road open space	3	Hampton Close open space	4
Collins Close open space	3	Harecroft Crescent open space	3
Countesthorpe Recreation Ground	4	Holden Close open space	3
Coventry Road Open Space	3	Huncote Road open space	3
Cranmer Close open space	2	Ilmington Close open space	4
Dale Acre open space	4	Mossdale Meadows	4
Impey Close open spaces	3	Sandhill Drive open space	4
Jubilee Park open space	3	Shelduck Close open space	3
Kilby Playing Fields	4	Smithy Farm Drive open space	2
Kings Drive Playing Fields	4	Southfield Close open space	3
Lady Leys open space	3	Spa Drive open space	4
Lane Close open space	1	Spinney Halt open spaces	5
Langham Drive open space	2	Squirrel Close open space	3
Leicester Road open spaces	3	Station Road open space	4
Lincoln Drive open space	2	Sunbury Rise open spaces	4
Linley Green open spaces	3	Teal Close open spaces	3
Littlethorpe Recreation Ground	3	The Crescent, Blaby	4
Lutterworth Road open space	4	The Fleet, Stoney Stanton	3
Magnolia Close open space	4	The Green, Huncote	4
Maple Avenue open spaces	3	The Pastures open spaces	5
Meadow Court open space	3	The Pavilion, Huncote	4
Meridian Way open space	3	The Woodlands open space	3
Narborough Road South open space	3	Thornborough Close open space	2
Navigation Drive open spaces	4	Thorpe Astley Community Centre	4
New Road open space	4	Warner Close open space	3
Newquay Drive open space	3	Warren Lane open space	3
Oak Spinney Park open space	4	Wheatfield Close open spaces	3

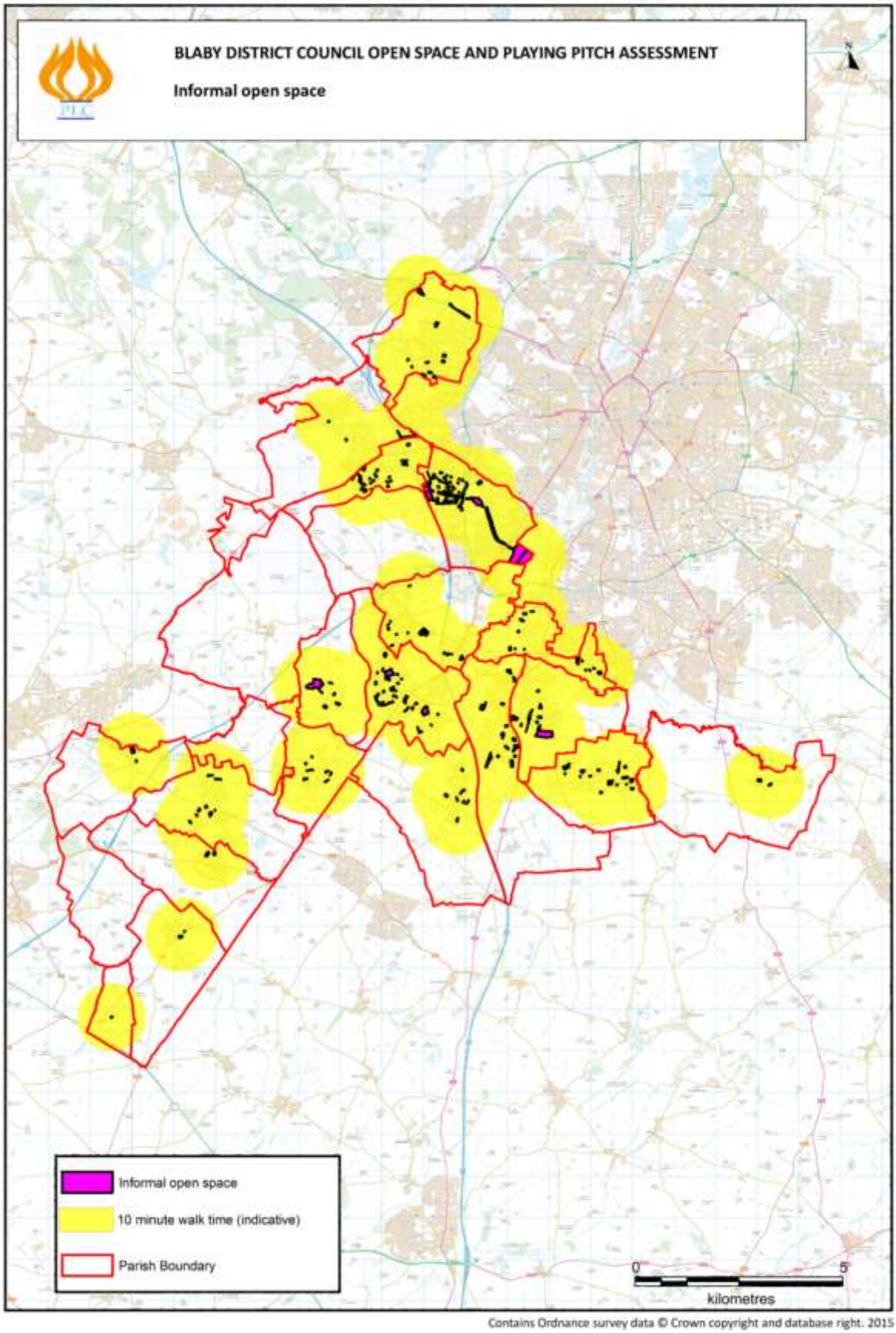
Site	Rating	Site	Rating
Oliver Park open space	4	Winchester Avenue open space	2
Peartree Close open space	4	Winchester Road open space	5
Priestman Road open space	3	Wistow Road open spaces	3
Rosebank Road open space	5	Woodhouse Road open space	2
Roundhills Park	4	Wychwood Road open space	3

Six sites (7.1%) were rated as 'high quality', 28 (33.3%) were rated as 'above average', 39 (46.4%) as 'average', 10 (11.9%) as below average and one (1.2%) as 'poor quality'.

Snowdrop Close open space

6.6.2 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) identified that the median distance travelled by residents of Blaby district to reach informal open space was 10 minutes and 89% of respondents walk. For this reason, a 10 minute walking catchment has been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that about 70,000 people (74.5% of the district population) are within 10 minutes walk of their nearest informal open space site.


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
Informal open space
N
Informal open space
10 minute walk time (indicative)
Parish Boundary
0
5
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015

6.7 Provision for children and young people

6.7.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 41 equipped play areas in Blaby district are listed below.

Site	*Address*	*Parish*	*Size*
Brindley Close play area	Brindley Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4GJ	Stoney Stanton	0.03ha
Crescent play area	The Crescent, Blaby LE8 4FP	Blaby	0.05ha
Croft play area	26-44, Broughton Road, Croft LE9 3EA	Croft	0.15ha
Dale Acre play area	Dale Acre, Countesthorpe LE8 5QL	Countesthorpe	0.15ha
Dororthy Avenue play area	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JD	Glen Parva	0.36ha
Ellis Park play area	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL	Glenfield	0.32ha
Elmesthorpe play area	Roundhills, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SJ	Elmesthorpe	0.01ha
Forest East Park play area	Lancelot Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RW	LFE	0.13ha
Foulds Lane play area	Foulds Lane Whetstone LE8 4JZ	Whetstone	0.02ha
Fosse Meadows picnic area	Fosse Way, Sharnford LE10 3AB	Sharnford	0.05ha
Franklin Park play area	Welcombe Ave., Braunstone Town LE3 2TA	Braunstone	0.50ha
Hardwick Road play area	Hardwick Road, Narborough LE19 3LU	Narborough	0.10ha
Huncote play area	Denman Lane, Huncote LE9 3AL	Huncote	0.21ha
Impey Close play area	Impey Close, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	0.04ha
Isobella Road play area	Isobella Road, Thorpe Astley LE3 3UL	Braunstone	0.01ha
Jubilee Park play area	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	0.05ha
Kirby Muxloe play area	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN	Kirby Muxloe	0.20ha
Littlethorpe Recreation Ground	Sycamore Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2HU	Narborough	0.08ha
Marshall Close Play Area	Marshall Close, Thorpe Astley LE3 3RQ	Braunstone	0.02ha
Memorial Pl. Fields play area	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA	Stoney Stanton	0.16ha
Millennium Green play area	Groby Road, Glenfield LE6 0AU	Glenfield	0.02ha
Mossdale Meadows play area	Kingsway, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Kilby	0.06ha
Narborough Recn. Grd. play area	Desford Road, Narborough LE19 2EL	Narborough	0.32ha
Navigation Drive play area	Navigation Drive, Glen Parva LE" 9TB	Glen Parva	0.01ha
Northfield Park play area	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ	Blaby	0.60ha
Nowell Close play area	Nowell Close, Glen Parva LE2 9SZ	Glen Parva	0.01ha
Oakfield Park play area	Hospital Lane, Blaby LE8 4FE	Blaby	0.20ha
Oliver Park play area	Wychwood Road, Whetstone LE8 6WA	Whetstone	0.06ha
Priestman Road play area	Priestman Road, Thorpe Astley LE3 3UJ	Braunstone	0.04ha
Sapcote play area	Hinckley Road, Sapcote LE9 4FS	Sapcote	0.20ha
Shakespeare Park play area	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA	Braunstone	0.07ha
Sharnford play area	Park View, Sharnford LE10 3PT	Sharnford	0.04ha
Stafford Leys Comm. Centre	Stafford Leys, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LJ	LFE	0.02ha
Sunbury Rise play area	Sunbury Rise, Countesthorpe LE8 5XP	Countesthorpe	0.10ha
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	Darien Way, Thorpe Astley LE3 3TT	Braunstone	0.07ha
Thurlaston Recn. Grd. play area	Church Street, Thurlaston LE9 7TA	Thurlaston	0.11ha
Victory Park play area	Park Road, Cosby LE9 1RL	Cosby	0.32ha
Warden's Walk play area	Warden's Walk, Braunstone Town LE3 3GF	Braunstone	0.10ha
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	Warwick Road, Whetstone LE8 6LW	Whetstone	0.01ha
Whetstone play area	Trinity Rd., Whetstone LE8 6JW	Whetstone	0.35ha
Wimpey Park play area	Southey Close, Enderby LE19 4QZ	Enderby	0.02ha
TOTALS	**-**	**-**	***5.38ha***

Per capita levels of provision for children and young people in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. Levels of provision are remarkably consistent between parishes:

Parish	*Population*	*Ha.*	*Ha. per 1,000 people*
Blaby	6,194	0.85ha	0.14ha
Braunstone	16,850	0.85ha	0.05ha
Cosby	3,506	0.32ha	0.09ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0.25ha	0.04ha
Croft	1,639	0.15ha	0.09ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0.01ha	0.02ha
Enderby	6,314	0.07ha	0.01ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.34ha	0.04ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0.38ha	0.06ha
Huncote	1,756	0.21ha	0.12ha
Kilby	270	0.06ha	0.22ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	0.20ha	0.04ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.15ha	0.02ha
Narborough	8,448	0.50ha	0.06ha
Sapcote	2,442	0.20ha	0.08ha
Sharnford	985	0.09ha	0.09ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.19ha	0.05ha
Thurlaston	807	0.11ha	0.14ha
Whetstone	6,566	0.44ha	0.07ha
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,674***	***5.38ha***	***0.06ha***

In addition to the children's play equipment at the above sites, the following nine sites are equipped as outdoor gyms with exercise equipment suitable for all age groups:

- Dale Acre Play Area
- Dorothy Avenue playing fields
- Forest East Park
- Glenfield Millennium Green
- Huncote play area
- Kings Drive playing field
- Oakfield Park
- Warwick Road sports ground
- Winston Avenue

6.7.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of children's play provision in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments for each site involved establishing the quality of:

- The variety, quantity and quality of the play equipment.
- Perimeter fencing and gates.
- Seats and litter bins.
- Disabled access.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

The assessed scores were as follows:

Site	*Rating*	*Site*	*Rating*
Brindley Close play area	4	Mossdale Meadows play area	4
Crescent play area	2	Narborough Recn. Ground play area	5
Croft play area	4	Navigation Drive play area	3
Dale Acre open space	5	Northfield Park play area	4
Dororthy Avenue play area	5	Nowell Close play area	3
Ellis Park play area	5	Oakfield Park play area	5
Elmesthorpe play area	3	Oliver Park play area	4
Forest East Park play area	4	Priestman Road play area	3
Foulds Lane play area	4	Sapcote play area	4
Fosse Meadows picnic area	2	Shakespeare Park play area	3
Franklin Park play area	4	Sharnford play area	2
Hardwick Road play area	4	Stafford Leys Community Centre	2
Huncote play area	4*	Sunbury Rise play area	4
Impey Close play area	4	Thurlaston Recn. Ground play area	3
Isobella Road play area	3	Thorpe Astley Community Centre	4
Jubilee Park play area	3	Victory Park play area	5
Kirby Muxloe play area	4	Warden's Walk play area	3
Littlethorpe Recreation Ground	4	Warwick Road Recn. Ground	4
Marshall Close Play Area	3	Whetstone play area	3
Memorial Playing Fields play area	5	Wimpey Park play area	4
Millennium Green play area	3		

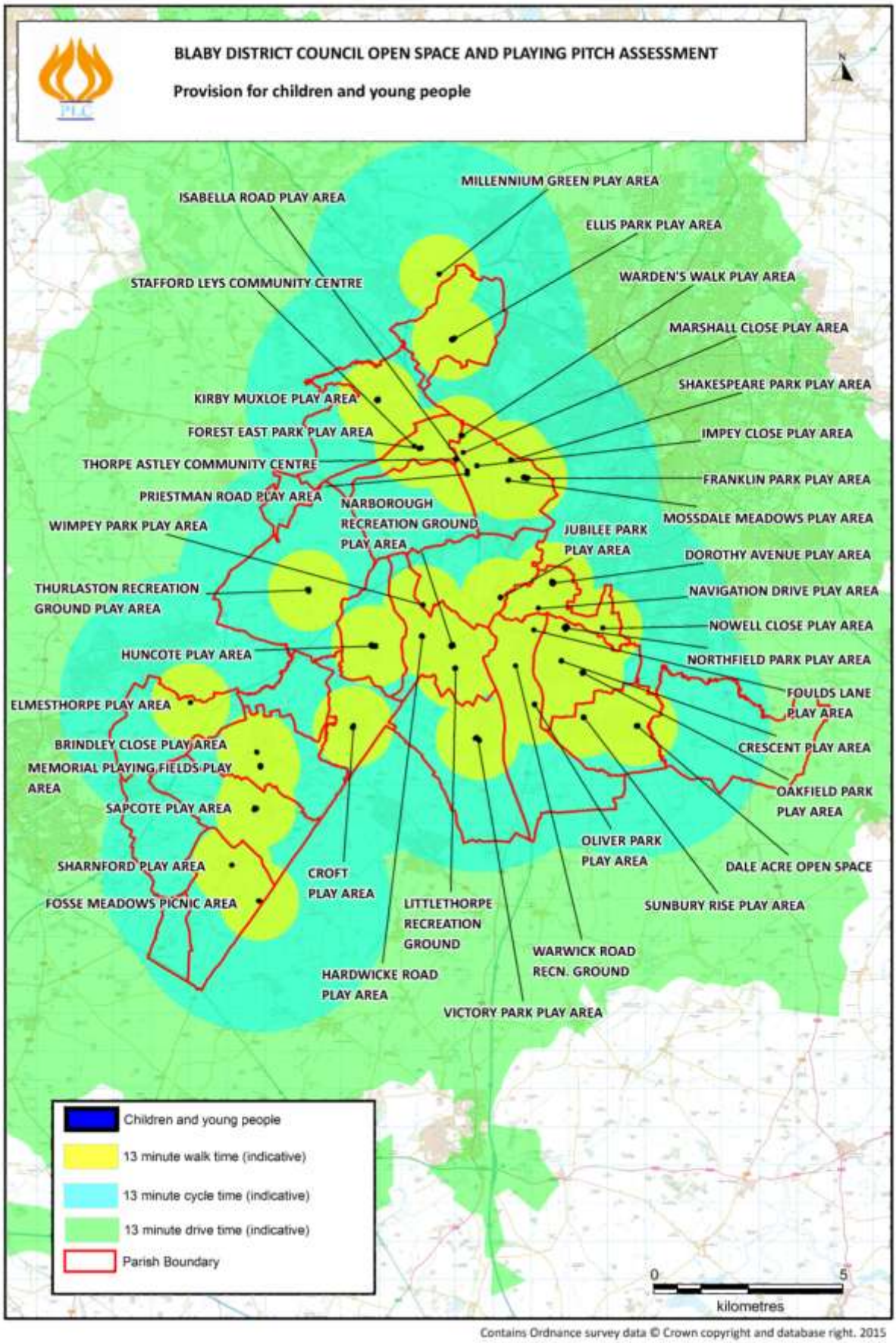
* Currently undergoing major refurbishment.

Seven sites (17.2%) were rated as 'high quality', 18 (43.9%) were rated as 'above average', 12 (29.3%) as 'average', four (9.8%) as below average and none as 'poor quality'.

6.7.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) identified that the maximum distance travelled by 80% of residents of Blaby district to reach children's play provision was 13 minutes. For this reason, a 13 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 13-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of their nearest play site.
- **Cycling** - About 93,500 people (99.6% of the district population) are within 10 minutes cycle of their nearest equipped play site.
- **Walking -** About 80,000 people (85.2% of the district population) are within 10 minutes walk of their nearest equipped play site.


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
Provision for children and young people
MILLENNIUM GREEN PLAY AREA
ISABELLA ROAD PLAY AREA
ELLIS PARK PLAY AREA
STAFFORD LEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE
WARDEN'S WALK PLAY AREA
MARSHALL CLOSE PLAY AREA
SHAKESPEARE PARK PLAY AREA
KIRBY MUXLOE PLAY AREA
FOREST EAST PARK PLAY AREA
IMPEY CLOSE PLAY AREA
THORPE ASTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
FRANKLIN PARK PLAY AREA
PRIESTMAN ROAD PLAY AREA
NARBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA
MOSSDALE MEADOWS PLAY AREA
WIMPEY PARK PLAY AREA
JUBILEE PARK PLAY AREA
DOROTHY AVENUE PLAY AREA
THURLASTON RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA
NAVIGATION DRIVE PLAY AREA
NOWELL CLOSE PLAY AREA
HUNCOTE PLAY AREA
NORTHFIELD PARK PLAY AREA
FOULDS LANE PLAY AREA
ELMESTHORPE PLAY AREA
BRINDLEY CLOSE PLAY AREA
CRESCENT PLAY AREA
MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS PLAY AREA
OAKFIELD PARK PLAY AREA
SAPCOTE PLAY AREA
OLIVER PARK PLAY AREA
SHARNFORD PLAY AREA
DALE ACRE OPEN SPACE
CROFT PLAY AREA
FOSSE MEADOWS PICNIC AREA
LITTLETHORPE RECREATION GROUND
SUNBURY RISE PLAY AREA
WARWICK ROAD RECN. GROUND
HARDWICKE ROAD PLAY AREA
VICTORY PARK PLAY AREA
Children and young people
13 minute walk time (indicative)
13 minute cycle time (indicative)
13 minute drive time (indicative)
Parish Boundary
0
5
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015

6.8 Allotments

6.8.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 16 allotment sites in Blaby district are listed below.

Site	*Address*	*Parish*	*Size*
Arbor Road Allotments	Arbor Road, Croft LE9 3GD	Croft	1.21ha
Blaby Allotments	Enderby Road, Blaby LE8 4GD	Blaby	1.89ha
Braunstone Close Allotments	Braunstone Close, Braunstone LE3 2GA	Braunstone	3.82ha
Countesthorpe Allotments	Glebe Drive, Countesthorpe LE8 5QR	Countesthorpe	0.98ha
Donkey Lane Allotments	Donkey Lane, Sapcote LE9 4LD	Sapcote	1.39ha
Glenfield Allotments	Main Street, Glenfield LE3 8DG	Glenfield	0.48ha
Huncote Allotments	Eunice Avenue, Huncote LE9 3AQ	Huncote	1.50ha
Kirby Muxloe Allotments	Desford Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2AU	Kirby Muxloe	1.10ha
Narborough Allotments	Leicester Road, Narborough LE19 2AZ	Narborough	1.53ha
Place to Grow	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LH	Enderby	1.48ha
Rosamund Avenue Allotments	Rosamund Avenue, Braunstone LE3 2GP	Braunstone	2.82ha
Salisbury Avenue Allotments	Salisbury Avenue, Croft LE9 3EJ	Croft	0.05ha
Sapcote Allotments	Leicester Road, Sapcote LE9 4JF	Sapcote	0.54ha
Stoney Stanton Allotments	Holt Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4GP	Stoney Stanton	0.63ha
Whetstone Alloments	The Dicken, Whetstone LE8 6LE	Whetstone	0.56ha
Windermere Drive Allotments	Windermere Drive, Croft LE9 3HE	Croft	0.08ha
TOTAL	**-**	**-**	***20.34ha***

Per capita levels of provision of allotments in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. Seven parishes have no allotments at all, whilst levels of provision vary widely elsewhere:

Parish	*Population*	*Ha.*	*Ha. per 1,000 people*
Blaby	6,194	1.89ha	0.31ha
Braunstone	16,850	6.64ha	0.39ha
Cosby	3,506	0	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	0.98ha	0.15ha
Croft	1,639	1.34ha	0.82ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0	-
Enderby	6,314	1.48ha	0.23ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.48ha	0.05ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0	-
Huncote	1,756	1.50ha	0.85ha
Kilby	270	0	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.10ha	0.24ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	-
Narborough	8,448	1.53ha	0.18ha
Sapcote	2,442	1.93ha	0.79ha
Sharnford	985	0	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.63ha	0.17ha
Thurlaston	807	0	-
Whetstone	6,566	0.56ha	0.09ha
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,674***	***20.34ha***	***0.22ha***

6.8.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of allotments in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments for each site involved establishing the quality of:

- Site boundaries fenced.
- Water supply on site to all plots.
- Secure sheds/huts provided.
- Toilets provided on site.
- Dedicated car parking.

The assessed scores were as follows:

Site	*Rating*	*Site*	*Rating*
Arbor Road Allotments	4	Narborough Allotments	4
Blaby Allotments	3	Place to Grow	5
Braunstone Close Allotments	4	Rosamund Avenue Allotments	4
Countesthorpe Allotments	4	Salisbury Avenue Allotments	1
Huncote Allotments	4	Sapcote Allotments	3
Donkey Lane Allotments	3	Stoney Stanton Allotments	5
Glenfield Allotments	4	Whetstone Alloments	3
Kirby Muxloe Allotments	3	Windermere Drive Allotments	2

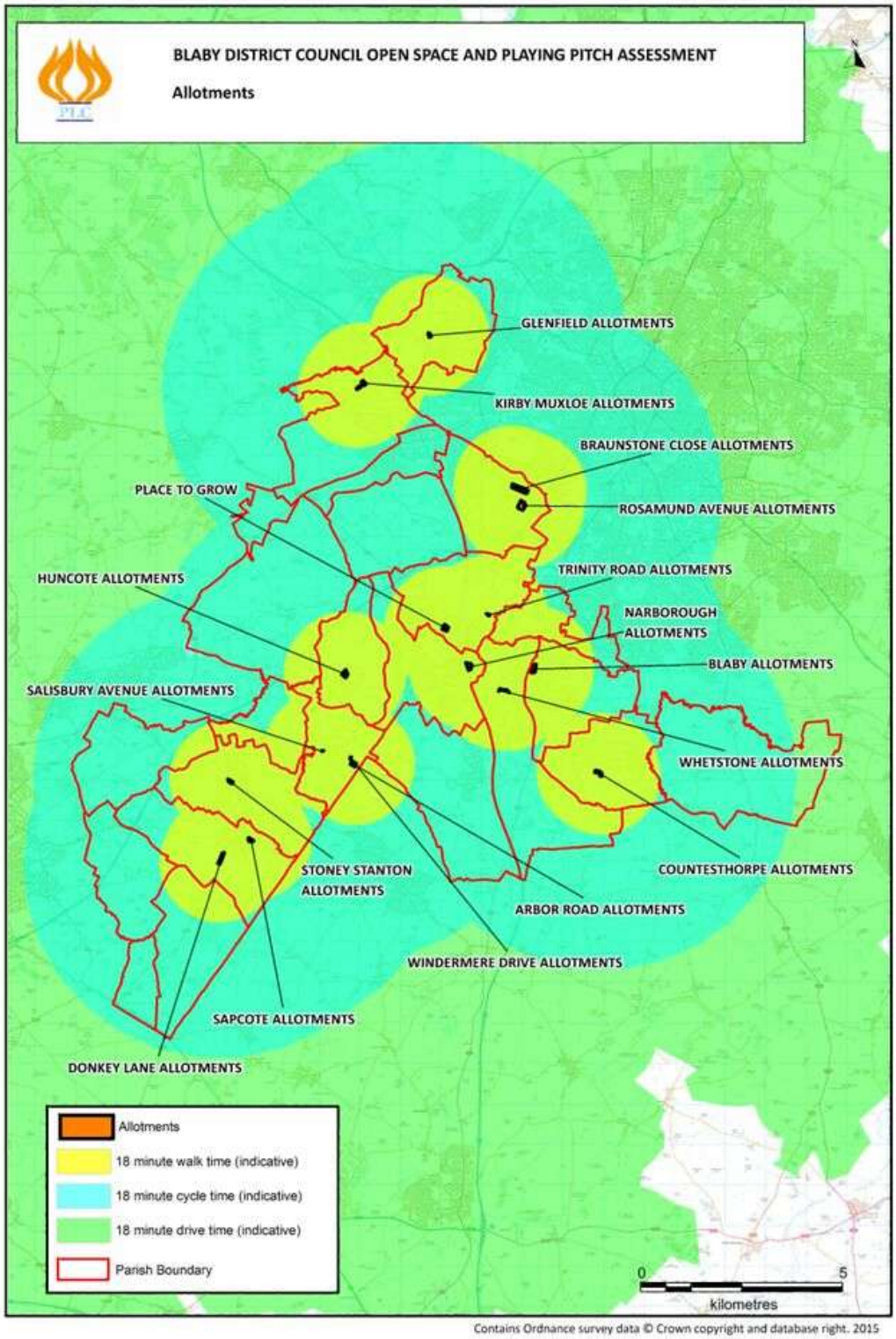
Two sites (12.5%) were rated as 'high quality', seven (43.8%) were rated as 'above average', five (31.3%) as 'average', one (6.2%) as below average and one (6.2%) as 'poor quality'.

Blaby Allotments

6.8.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) identified that the maximum distance travelled by 80% of residents of Blaby district to reach allotments was 18 minutes. For this reason, an 18 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 18-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 18 minutes drive of their nearest allotment.
- **Cycling** - About 93,500 people (99.6% of the district population) are within 18 minutes cycle of their nearest allotment.
- **Walking** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 18 minutes walk of their nearest allotment.



6.9 Churchyards and cemeteries

6.9.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 30 churchyards and cemeteries in Blaby district are listed below.

Site	*Address*	*Parish*	*Size*
Aldeby Churchyard & Cemetery	Leicester Lane, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	1.94ha
All Saints' Church	Church Street, Blaby LE8 4FA	Blaby	0.18ha
All Saints' Church	Church Lane, Narborough LE19 2GL	Narborough	0.28ha
All Saints' Church	Church Street, Sapcote LE9 4FF	Sapcote	0.50ha
All Saints' Church	Church Street, Thurlaston LE9 7TA	Thurlaston	0.41ha
Blaby Cemetery	Mill Lane, Blaby LE8 4FG	Blaby	2.59ha
Cosby Cemetery	Narborough Road, Cosby LE9 1TA	Cosby	0.68ha
Countesthorpe Cemetery	Foston Road, Counteshorpe LE8 5QP	Countesthorpe	1.43ha
Croft Cemetery	Huncote Road, Croft LE9 3GS	Croft	0.71ha
Enderby Cemetery	Leicester Lane, Enderby LE19 2AB	Enderby	0.32ha
Huncote Cemetery	Forest Road, Huncote LE9 3BG	Huncote	0.43ha
Kirby Muxloe Cemetery	Desford Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2BD	Kirby Muxloe	1.76ha
Narborough Cemetery	School Lane, Narborough LE19 2FU	Narborough	1.50ha
Sapcote Cemetery	Donkey Lane, Sapcote LE9 4LD	Sapcote	0.57ha
St. Andrew's Church	Main Street, Countesthorpe LE8 5QX	Countesthorpe	0.26ha
St. Andrew's Church	Hinckley Road. Leicester Forest East LE3 3PW	LFE	0.58ha
St. Bartholomew's Church	Main Street, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2AL	Kirby Muxloe	0.26ha
St. Bartholomew's Church	Barley Lane, Foston LE8 5WQ	Countesthorpe	0.28ha
St. Helen's Church	Leicester Road, Sharnford LE10 3PP	Sharnford	0.35ha
St. Mary Magdalene Church	Main Street, Kilby LE10 3AF	Kilby	0.43ha
St. Mary's Church	Elmesthorpe Lane, Elmesthorpe LE9 7PT	Elmesthorpe	0.51ha
St. Mary's Church	Pingle Lane, Potters Marston LE9 3JR	Croft	0.03ha
St. Mary the Virgin's Church	Church Lane, Wigston Parva LE10 3AN	Sharnford	0.09ha
St. Michael's Church	Church Street, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LQ	Stoney Stanton	0.66ha
St. Michael & All Angels Church	Main Street, Cosby LE9 1UW	Cosby	0.18ha
St. Michael & All Angels Church	Hill Street, Croft LE9 3GT	Croft	0.29ha
St. Peter's Church	Sharnford Road, Aston Flamville LE10 3AF	Sharnford	0.41ha
St. Peter's Church	Church Road, Glenfield LE3 8DP	Glenfield	0.82ha
St. Peter's Church	Church Lane, Whetstone LE8 6BA	Whetstone	0.44ha
Whetstone Cemetery	Cemetery Road, Whetstone LE8 6LL	Whetstone	0.67ha
TOTAL	**-**	**-**	***19.60ha***

Per capita levels of provision for churchyards and cemeteries in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. Levels of provision vary widely:

Parish	*Population*	*Ha.*	*Ha. per 1,000 people*
Blaby	6,194	2.77ha	0.45ha
Braunstone	16,850	0	-
Cosby	3,506	0.86ha	0.25ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	1.97ha	0.31ha
Croft	1,639	1.03ha	0.63ha

Parish	*Population*	*Ha.*	*Ha. per 1,000 people*
Elmesthorpe	509	0.51ha	1.00ha
Enderby	6,314	2.26ha	0.36ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.82ha	0.09ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0	-
Huncote	1,756	0.43ha	0.24ha
Kilby	270	0.43ha	1.59ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	2.02ha	0.43ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.58ha	0.09ha
Narborough	8,448	1.78ha	0.21ha
Sapcote	2,442	1.07ha	0.44ha
Sharnford	985	0.85ha	0.86ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.66ha	0.17ha
Thurlaston	807	0.41ha	0.51ha
Whetstone	6,566	1.11ha	0.17ha
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,674***	***19.60ha***	***0.21ha***

6.9.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of churchyards and cemeteries in Blaby district in terms of their open space functions involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments for each site involved establishing the quality of:

- Paths.
- Grassed areas.
- Seats.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

The assessed scores were as follows:

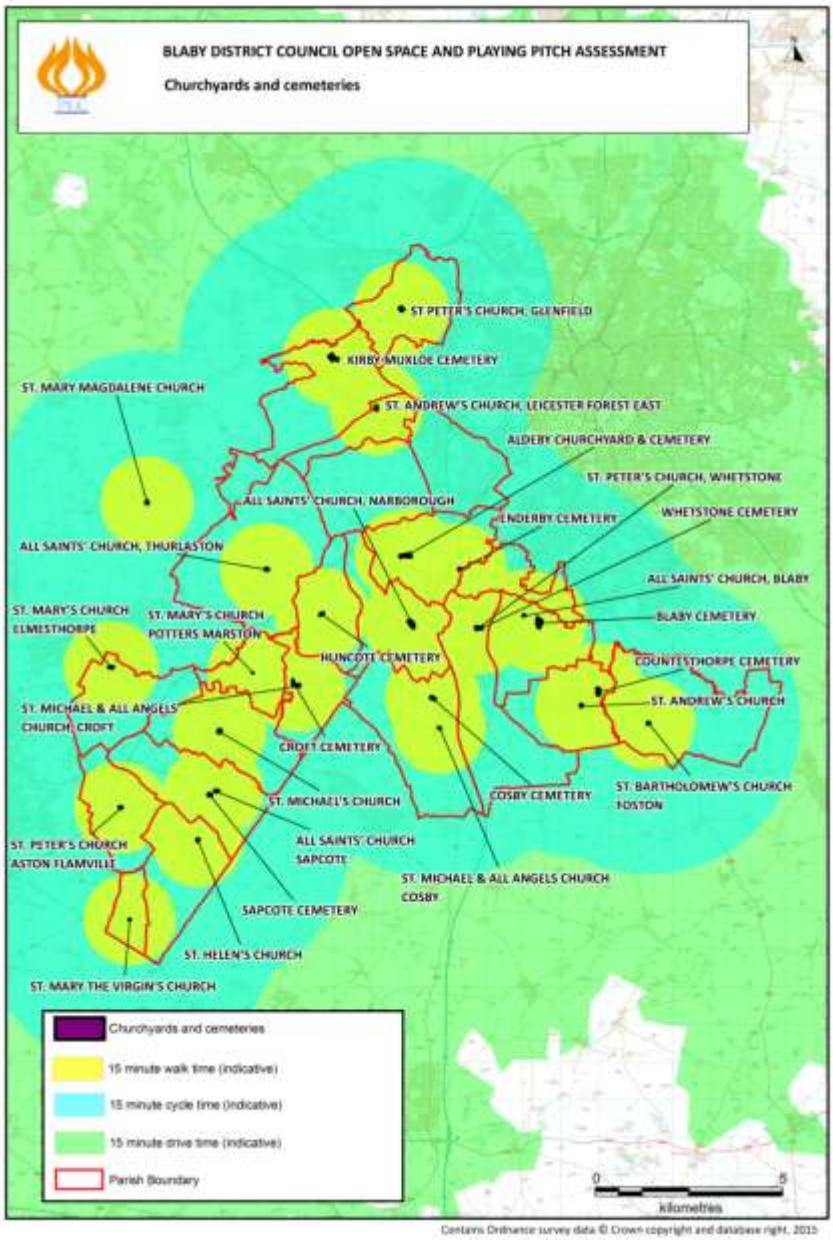
Site	*Rating*	*Site*	*Rating*
Aldeby Churchyard & Cemetery	2	St. Andrew's Church, LFE	3
All Saints' Church, Blaby	3	St. Bartholomew's, Kirby Muxloe	3
All Saints' Church, Narborough	3	St. Bartholomew's Church, Foston	3
All Saints' Church, Sapcote	2	St. Helen's Church, Sharnford	3
All Saints' Church, Thurlaston	3	St. Mary Magdalene Church, Kilby	3
Blaby Cemetery	4	St. Mary's Church, Elmesthorpe	3
Cosby Cemetery	4	St. Mary's Church, Potter's Marston	4
Countesthorpe Cemetery	5	St. Mary the Virgin, Wigston Parva	1
Croft Cemetery	3	St. Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton	3
Enderby Cemetery	3	St. Michael & All Angels, Cosby	4
Huncote Cemetery	3	St. Michael & All Angels, Croft	4
Kirby Muxloe Cemetery	5	St. Peter's Church, Aston Flamville	4
Narborough Cemetery	3	St. Peter's Church, Glenfield	3
Sapcote Cemetery	4	St. Peter's Church, Whetstone	4
St. Andrew's Church, Countesthorpe	3	Whetstone Cemetery	5

Three sites (10.0%) were rated as 'high quality', eight (26.7%) were rated as 'above average', 16 (53.3%) as 'average', two (6.7%) as below average and one (3.3%) as 'poor quality'.

6.9.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) identified that the maximum distance travelled by 80% of residents of Blaby district to reach churchyards and cemeteries was 15 minutes. For this reason, a 15 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest site.
- **Cycling** - The whole population is within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest site.
- **Walking** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest cemetery or churchyard.



6.10 Playing pitch quantitative analysis

6.10.1 Pitches available for community use and used

Details of all pitches within Blaby district available for community use and used are listed below. The information was compiled from data supplied by BDC and the governing bodies of sport, Sport England's '*Active Places Power*' database and the site visits.

Site	*Parish*	*Adult football*	*Youth football (11v11)*	*Youth football (9v9)*	*Mini-soccer (7v7)*	*Mini-soccer (5v5)*	*Cricket*	*Rugby*	*'3G'*
Brockington College	Enderby	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cosby Recreation Ground	Cosby	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
Countesthorpe Comm College	Countesthorpe	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Countesthorpe Cricket Club	Countesthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
County Hall Sports Ground	Glenfield	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	Glen Parva	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enderby Cricket Club	Enderby	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Glenfield Sports Ground	Glenfield	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	Glenfield	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Holmes Park	Whetstone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huncote Sports & Social Club	Huncote	2	-	`	-	-	1	-	-
Kings Drive Playing Fields	LFE	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	Kirby Muxloe	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	Kirby Muxloe	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Leicester Forest Rugby Club	LFE	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Leicester Ivanhoe CC	LFE	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	Enderby	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Lissman Fields	Sharnford	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lutterworth Road Recn. Grd.	Whetstone	2	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Meadows Sports Ground	Countesthorpe	2	2	-	2	1	1	-	-
Mossdale Meadows	Braunstone	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Northfield Park	Blaby	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oakfield Park	Blaby	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Old Newtonians Rugby Club	LFE	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Saffron Dynamo FC	Cosby	2	-	1	2	2	1	-	-
Sapcote Recreation Ground	Sapcote	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Southey Close Playing Fields	Huncote	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	Braunstone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurlaston Sports Club	Thurlaston	2	-	-	1	2	1	-	-
Vipers Rugby Club	Blaby	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
War Memorial Playing Fields	Stoney Stanton	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	Whetstone	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Westleigh Park	Blaby	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Whetstone Youth Club	Whetstone	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Willoughby Road Pl. Field	Countesthorpe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winstanley Comm. College	Braunstone	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Winston Avenue Sports Grd.	Croft	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	***-***	***42***	***9***	***10***	***10***	***13***	***20***	***13***	***1***

6.10.2 Pitches available for community use but unused

Details of all pitches within Blaby district available for community use but currently unused are listed below. The information was compiled from data supplied by BDC and the governing bodies of sport, Sport England's '*Active Places Power*' database and the site visits.

Site	*Parish*	*Adult football*	*Youth football (11v11)*	*Youth football (9v9)*	*Mini-soccer (7v7)*	*Mini-soccer (5v5)*	*Cricket*	*Rugby*
Ellis Park	Glenfield	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Holmfield Park	Braunstone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Littlethorpe Recn. Ground	Narborough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mill Lane Playing Field	Enderby	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sapcote Recreation Ground	Sapcote	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shakespeare Park	Braunstone	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
The Pavilion, Huncote	Huncote	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
War Memorial Playing Fields	Stoney Stanton	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	Whetstone	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	***-***	***6***	***1***	***1***	***2***	***2***	***0***	***0***

6.10.3 Pitches not available for community use

Details of all pitches within Blaby district that are not currently available for community use and used are listed below. The information was compiled from data supplied by BDC and the governing bodies of sport, Sport England's '*Active Places Power*' database and the schools survey.

Site	*Adult football*	*Youth football (11v11)*	*Youth football (9v9)*	*Mini-soccer (7v7)*	*Mini-soccer (5v5)*	*Cricket*	*Rugby*
All Saints Primary School, Sapcote	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Blaby Stokes Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Cosby Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Croft Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Danemill Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Enderby Danemill Junior School	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Glen Hills Academy Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Glenfield Primary School	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Greenfield Primary School, Countesthorpe	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Greystoke Primary School, Narborough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Huncote Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kingsway Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Leysland High School, Countesthorpe	2	2	-	-	-	1	-
Manorfield Primary Sch., Stoney Stanton	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Millfield Academy Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Narborough Pastures Primary School	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ravenhurst Primary School, Braunstone	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Red Hill Field Primary Sch., Narborough	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
St. Peter's Primary School, Whetstone	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Site	Adult football	Youth football (11v11)	Youth football (9v9)	Mini-soccer (7v7)	Mini-soccer (5v5)	Cricket	Rugby
Stafford Leys Primary School, LFE	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
The Hall School, Glenfield	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whetstone Badgerbrook Primary School	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	***2***	***3***	***12***	***16***	***5***	***5***	***0***

The facilities above may have some potential to meet community needs in the future, subject to demand and to suitable access arrangements being negotiated.

6.10.4 Pitches not available as disused

There are no pitches in the district that are unavailable as disused.

6.10.5 Parish analysis

Per capita levels of provision of pitches available for community use and used in each parish of Blaby district are listed below, based upon population figures from the 2011 Census.

Sub-area	Popn.	Adult football	Youth football (11v11)	Youth football (9v9)	Mini-soccer (7v7)	Mini-soccer (5v5)	Cricket	Rugby	'3G'
Blaby	6,194	1: 3,097	-	-	-	1: 6,194	1: 6,194	1: 1,032	-
Braunstone	16,850	1: 2,808	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	-	-
Cosby	3,506	1: 877	-	1: 1,753	1: 1,167	1: 1,167	1: 1,753	1: 3,506	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 709	1: 3,189	-	1: 3,189	1: 6,377	1: 3,189	-	-
Croft	1,639	1: 1,639	1: 1,639	-	-	-	1: 1,639	-	-
Elmesthorpe	509	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enderby	6,314	-	1: 6,314	1: 6,314	-	-	1: 6,314	-	1: 6,314
Glenfield	9,643	1: 3,214	1: 4,822	1: 9,643	-	-	1: 4,822	-	-
Glen Parva	6,189	1: 3,095	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huncote	1,756	1: 585	-	-	-	-	1: 1,756	-	-
Kilby	270	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 2,334	1: 4,667	1: 4,667	-	1: 2,234	1: 2,334	-	-
Leicester Forest East	6,719	1: 6,719	-	-	-	1: 6,719	1: 3,360	1: 1,120	-
Narborough	8,448	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sapcote	2,442	-	-	-	-	-	1: 2,442	-	-
Sharnford	985	-	-	-	-	-	1: 985	-	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1: 1,264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurlaston	807	1: 404	-	-	1: 807	1: 404	1: 807	-	-
Whetstone	6,566	1: 1,642	-	1: 3,283	1: 3,283	1: 3,283	1: 6,566	-	-
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,674***	***1: 2,236***	***1: 8,536***	***1: 5,869***	***1: 8,536***	***1: 8,536***	***1: 4,942***	***1: 7,223***	***1: 93,900***

The figures reveal the following:

- **Adult football -** Only six parishes have no adult football pitch provision.
- **Youth football -** Youth football pitches are mainly concentrated in the built-up areas.

- **Mini-soccer -** Mini-soccer pitches are mainly concentrated in the built-up areas.
- **Cricket -** Cricket pitches occur in 14 parishes, with better representation in the rural areas.
- **Rugby -** Rugby pitches are focused in the built-up areas of the district.
- **'3G' football turf pitches -** The only '3G' pitch in the district is in Enderby.

6.10.6 Synthetic Turf Pitches for hockey

There are no full-sized synthetic turf pitches for hockey (water-based, sand-filled or sand-dressed) in Blaby district, although there are two 'small-sided' pitches at Ellis Park and Kirby Muxloe Sports Club (see the table in section 6.10.8 below), which provide for some training needs. However, the following full-sized facilities in adjacent areas have catchments which overlap with the boundary of Blaby district (the 'distance' column refers to the distance to the Blaby district boundary):

Facility	*Address*	*Distance*	*Surface*
Groby Community College	Ratby Road, Leicester LE6 0GE	1 mile	Sand-filled
William Bradford Academy	Heath Lane, Earl Shilton LE9 7PD	1.5 miles	Sand-filled
John Cleveland College	Butt Lane, Hinckley LE10 1LE	2 miles	Sand-filled
St. Margaret's Pasture	St. Margaret's Way, Leicester LE1 3EA	2 miles	Sand-dressed
Moat Community College	Maidstone Road, Leicester LE2 0TU	2.5 miles	Sand-filled
Roger Bettles Sports Centre	Manor Road, Leicester LE2 2LL	3 miles	Sand-filled
Soar Valley College	Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester LE4 7GY	3.5 miles	Sand-filled
Leicester Grammar School	Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9FF	4 miles	Water-based
Leicester Grammar School	Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9FF	4 miles	Sand-filled

6.10.7 '3G' Football Turf Pitches

There is one full-sized '3G' football turf pitch in Blaby district, as detailed below:

Facility	*Address*
Brockington College	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AQ

6.10.8 Small-sided synthetic turf pitches

The following small-sided pitches provide additional training opportunities:

Facility	*Address*	*Size*	*Surface*
Ellis Park	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL	32m x 16m (x2)	Sand-filled
Holmes Park	Dog and Gun Lane, Whetstone LE8 6FA	44m x 30m	'3G'
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	Ratby Lane, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2AQ	40m x 26m	Sand-filled
Leysland High School	Winchester Rd., Countesthorpe LE8 5BX	44m x 30m	'3G'
The Pavilion	Sportsfield Lane, Huncote LE9 3BN	35m x 20m (x2)	'3G'
Whetstone Youth Club	Warwick Road, Whetstone LE8 6LW	30m x 20m	'3G'

6.11 Playing pitch qualitative analysis

6.11.1 Methodology

The qualitative analysis of pitches in Blaby district involved visits to all pitches available for community use and used, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by each of the pitch sport governing bodies for Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013).

6.11.2 Football site scores

The assessment generates 'scores' for each site by evaluating the condition of:

- **The playing surface -** This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.
- **The changing facilities -** This includes the availability of changing rooms, kitchen and/or bar, the interior and exterior appearance, showering and toilet provision, medical room, disability access and parking arrangements.
- **Grounds maintenance -** This includes the frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 100% - 75%, 'Standard' for scores of 74.9% - 50%, 'Poor' for scores of 49.9% - 25% and 'Unsuitable' below 25%. The scores for each football site in Blaby district are as follows. Where there is more than one pitch at a site, the average quality rating is given, although the condition of individual pitches has been taken into account in the site-specific supply and demand analysis in section 7 below:

Site	*Pitch*		*Changing*	
	Score	*Rating*	*Score*	*Rating*
Brockington College	72%	Standard	51%	Standard
Cosby Recreation Ground	67%	Standard	44%	Poor
Countesthorpe Community College	64%	Standard	66%	Standard
County Hall Sports Ground	76%	Good	79%	Good
Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	64%	Standard	44%	Poor
Glenfield Sports Ground	67%	Standard	86%	Good
Holmes Park	90%	Good	93%	Good
Huncote Sports & Social Club	81%	Good	86%	Good
Kings Drive Playing Fields	69%	Standard	71%	Standard
Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground	64%	Standard	23%	Poor
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	81%	Good	72%	Standard
Leicester Road Recreation Ground	64%	Standard	-	-
Lutterworth Road Recreation Ground	67%	Standard	64%	Standard
Meadows Sports Ground	72%	Standard	67%	Standard
Mossdale Meadows	63%	Standard	34%	Poor
Northfield Park	64%	Standard	20%	Poor
Oakfield Park	67%	Standard	34%	Poor

Site	Pitch		Changing	
	Score	Rating	Score	Rating
Saffron Dynamo FC	77%	Good	86%	Good
Southey Close Playing Fields	56%	Standard	-	-
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	69%	Standard	50%	Standard
Thurlaston Sports Club	69%	Standard	51%	Standard
War Memorial Playing Fields	64%	Standard	50%	Standard
Warwick Road Recreation Ground	64%	Standard	20%	Poor
Whetstone Youth Club	76%	Good	73%	Standard
Willoughby Road Playing Field	49%	Poor	37%	Poor
Winstanley Community College	64%	Standard	71%	Standard
Winston Avenue Sports Ground	69%	Standard	67%	Standard

The pitch quality assessments show that:

- Only one pitch is rated as 'poor' quality and therefore in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity.
- Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at six sites and are absent from two sites, but several other sites score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

6.11.3 Cricket site scores

The assessment generates 'scores' for each site by evaluating the condition of:

The assessment generates 'scores' for each site by evaluating the condition of:

- **Grass wickets -** This includes presence of line markings, evidence of rolling, grass cut and height, repaired wickets, grass coverage and ball bounce.
- **Outfield -** This includes grass coverage, length of grass, evenness and evidence of unofficial use or damage to the surface.
- **Non-turf wickets -** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting and ball bounce.
- **Changing facilities -** This includes the presence or absence of umpires provision, toilets, hot/cold water, heating and an assessment of the condition of the building.
- **Non-turf practice nets -** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting, ball bounce, safety and integrity of the steel frame and nets and safety signage.

The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 81% or more 'Standard' for scores of 80% - 51% and 'Poor' for scores of 50% or below. Blank cells in the table mean that the feature concerned is absent from the site in question. The scores for each cricket pitch site in Blaby district are as follows. Where there is more than one pitch at a site, the average quality rating is given, although the condition of individual pitches has been taken into account in the site-specific supply and demand analysis in section 7 below:

Site	Wicket		Non-turf		Outfield		Changing		Practice nets	
	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating
Cosby Recreation Ground	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	92%	Good	-	-
Countesthorpe Cricket Club	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	100%	Good	75%	Standard
County Hall Sports Ground	100%	Good	86%	Good	73%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-
Enderby Cricket Club	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	92%	Good	75%	Standard
Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	100%	Good	14%	Poor	73%	Standard	100%	Good	67%	Standard
Huncote Sports & Social Club	100%	Good	-	-	93%	Good	100%	Good	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	67%	Standard	60%	Standard	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	100%	Good	-	-
Leicester Ivanhoe CC	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	100%	Good	83%	Good
Lissman Fields	100%	Good	-	-	63%	Standard	40%	Poor	-	-
Meadows Sports Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	67%	Standard	12%	Poor	-	-
Northfield Park	100%	Good	-	-	53%	Standard	40%	Poor	-	-
Saffron Dynamo FC	100%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	100%	Good	-	-
Sapcote Recreation Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	80%	Standard	100%	Good	-	-
Thurlaston Sports Ground	83%	Good	-	-	70%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	70%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-
Winstanley Comm. College	67%	Standard	-	-	67%	Standard	-	-	-	-
Winston Ave. Sports Ground	83%	Good	29%	Poor	57%	Standard	40%	Poor	-	-

No pitches are rated as 'poor' and therefore in a condition to compromise their levels of use, or 'pitch carrying capacity'. This is factored into the supply-demand analysis in section 8 below.

Element	Good		Standard		Poor	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pitch	14	*72.2*	5	*27.8*	0	*0.0*
Non-turf pitch	7	*75.0*	0	*0.0*	2	*25.0*
Outfield	7	*33.3*	12	*66.7*	0	*0.0*
Pavilion	10	*50.0*	4	*22.2*	5	*27.8*
Practice nets	2	*40.0*	3	*60.0*	0	*0.0*

6.11.4 Rugby site scores

The assessment generates a single 'score' for each site by evaluating the condition of:

- **The playing surface -** This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, length of grass and evidence of any unauthorised use. Where there is more than one pitch at a site, the average quality rating is given, although the condition of individual pitches has been taken into account in the site-specific supply and demand analysis in section 7 below:

- **Goalposts -** This includes the stability of the posts and crossbar and the presence of rust or other hazards

- **Ancillary provision -** This includes the presence or absence of changing facilities, floodlighting and car parking.

- **Grounds maintenance -** This includes the frequency of aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 100% - 75%, 'Standard' for scores of 74.9% - 50%, 'Poor' for scores of 49.9% - 25% and 'Unsuitable' below 25%. The overall scores for each rugby site in Blaby district are as follows:

Site	*Score*	*Rating*	*Notes*
Cosby Recreation Ground	64%	Standard	No security of tenure
Leicester Forest Rugby Club	69%	Standard	No segregated changing facilities
Old Newtonians Rugby Club	64%	Standard	Poor quality clubhouse
Vipers Rugby Club	76%	Good	More changing facilities needed
Westleigh Park	77%	Good	Poor quality changing facilities

All the pitches are rated as at least 'standard' quality and are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use, or 'pitch carrying capacity', but in several instances the changing facilities need improving or expanding.

6.11.5 Synthetic turf pitch scores

The assessment generates an overall 'score' for each full-sized pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 80% or more 'Standard' for scores of 79% - 51% and 'Poor' for scores of 50% or below:

Site	*Score*	*Rating*
Brockington College	73%	Standard

6.12 Playing pitch accessibility analysis

The accessibility of playing pitches in Blaby district is illustrated in the maps below. The catchments have been mapped as follows, using travel time software to take account of road conditions and any natural barriers to travel.

- **Driving times** - Most participants travel by car to reach their chosen pitch and the typical maximum duration that they are prepared to travel has been mapped for each type of pitch.

- **Cycling times** - Cycling time catchments have also been mapped, using the Transport for London 'Moderate' cycling standard, which equates to 16km per hour, or 4km for a 15 minute travel time catchment (or equivalent for pitches or facilities with larger catchments).

- **Walking times** - Walking time catchments have also been mapped, to illustrate the accessibility of pitches and facilities on foot. A distance criterion of 1,200m walking in 15 minutes (or equivalent for facilities with larger catchments) has been applied.

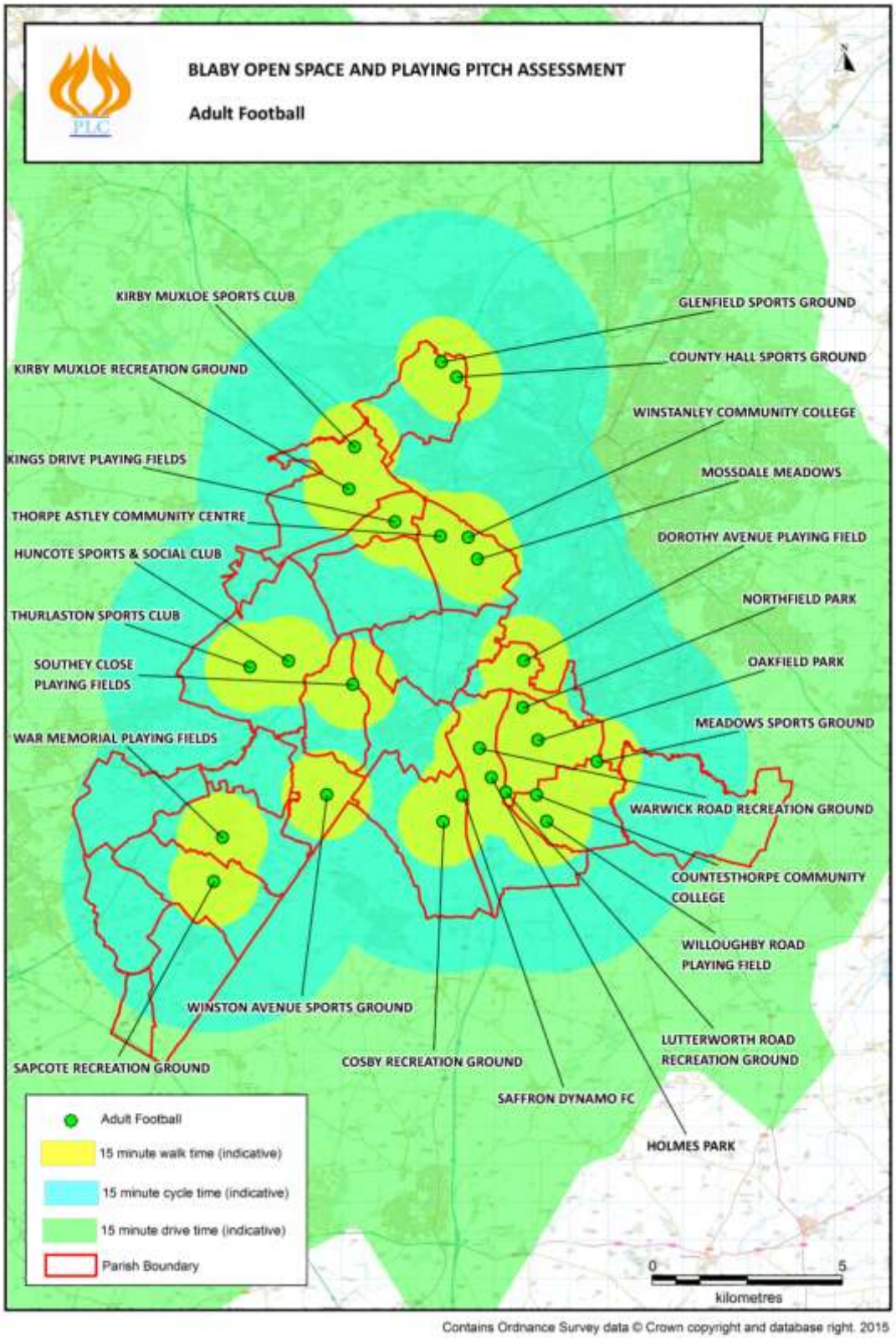
6.12.1 Adult football

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.

- **Cycling** - About 93,500 people (99.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.

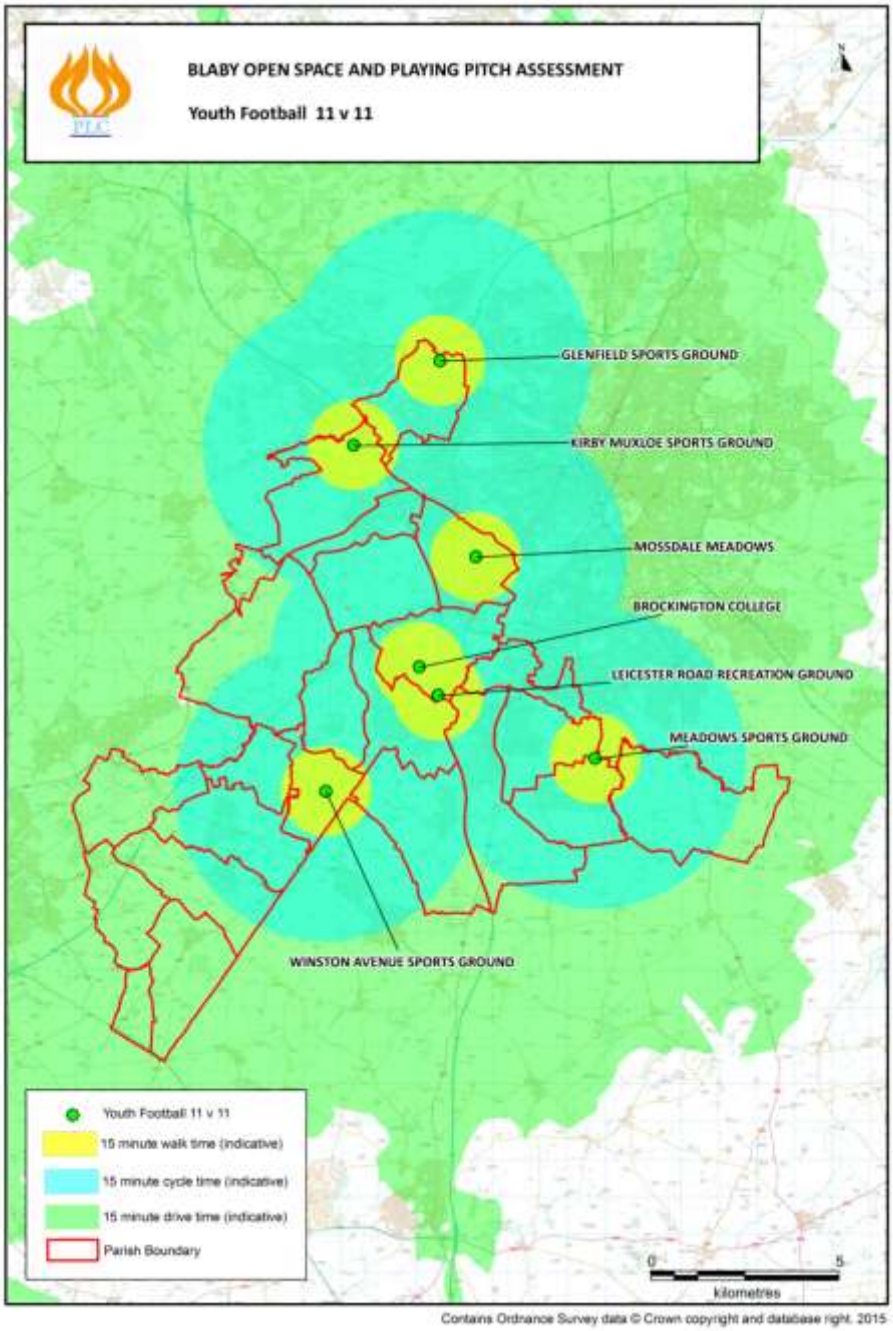
- **Walking** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.2 Youth football (11 v 11)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

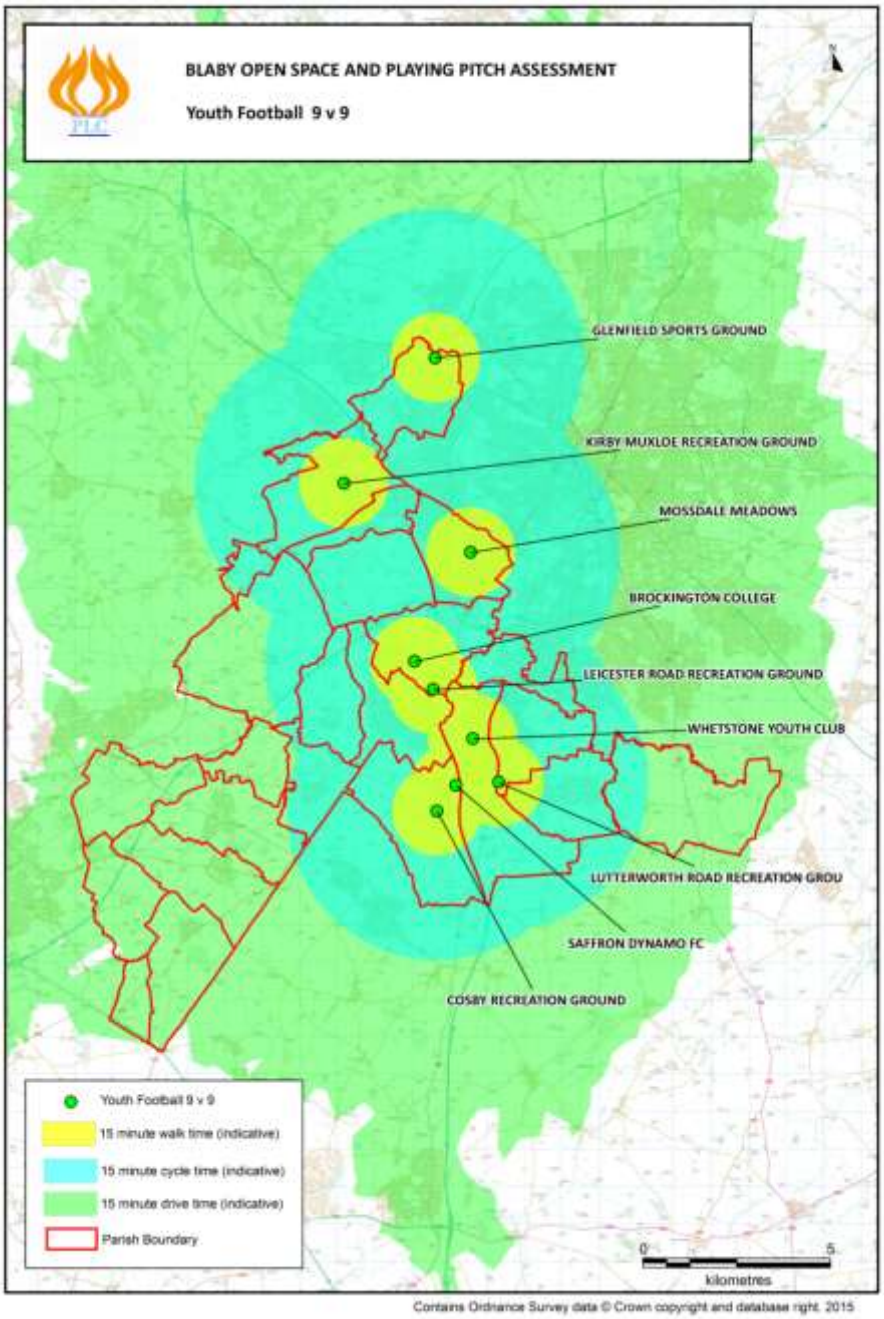
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 85,000 people (90.5% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 30,000 people (31.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.3 Youth football (9 v 9)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

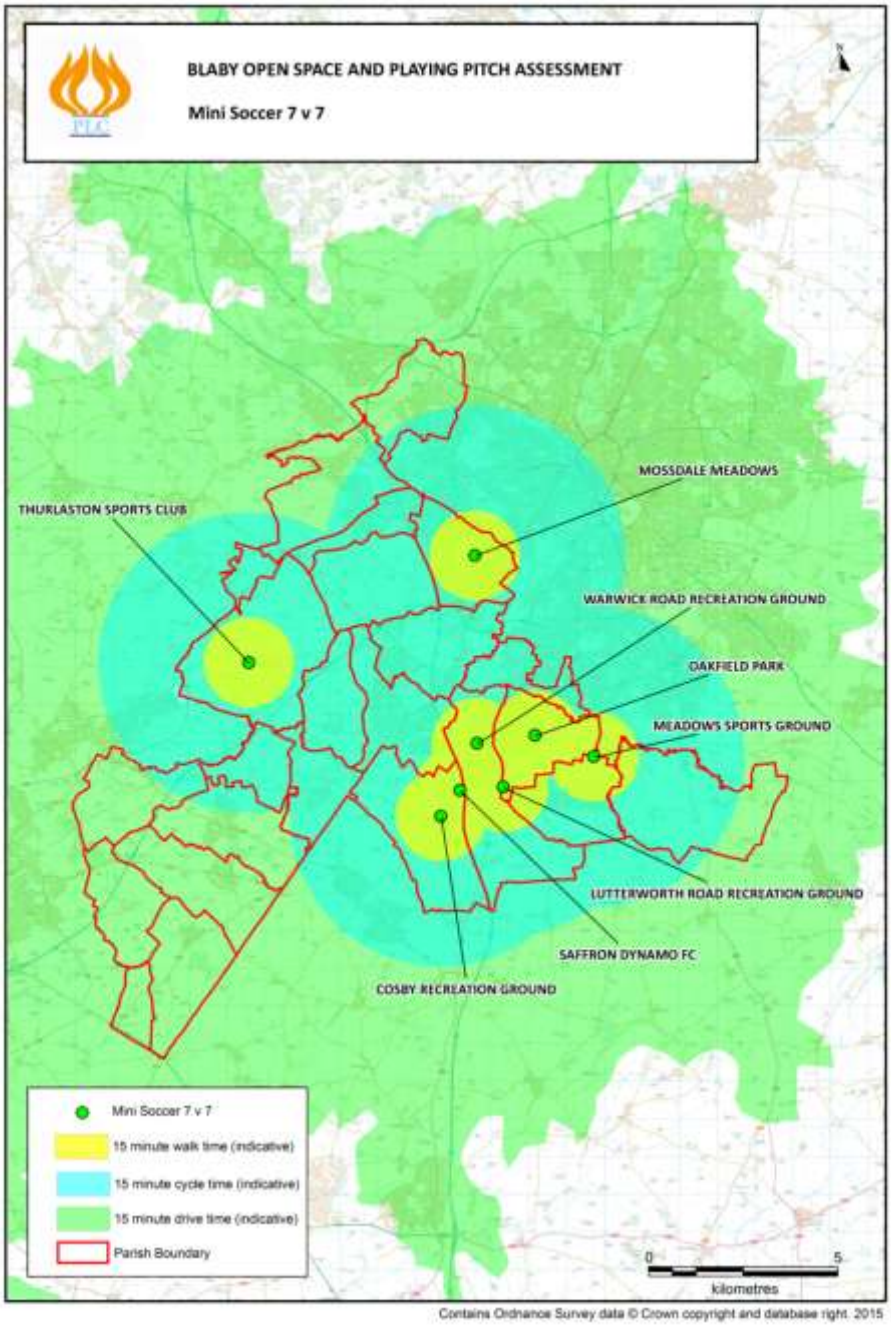
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.4 Mini-soccer (7 v 7)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

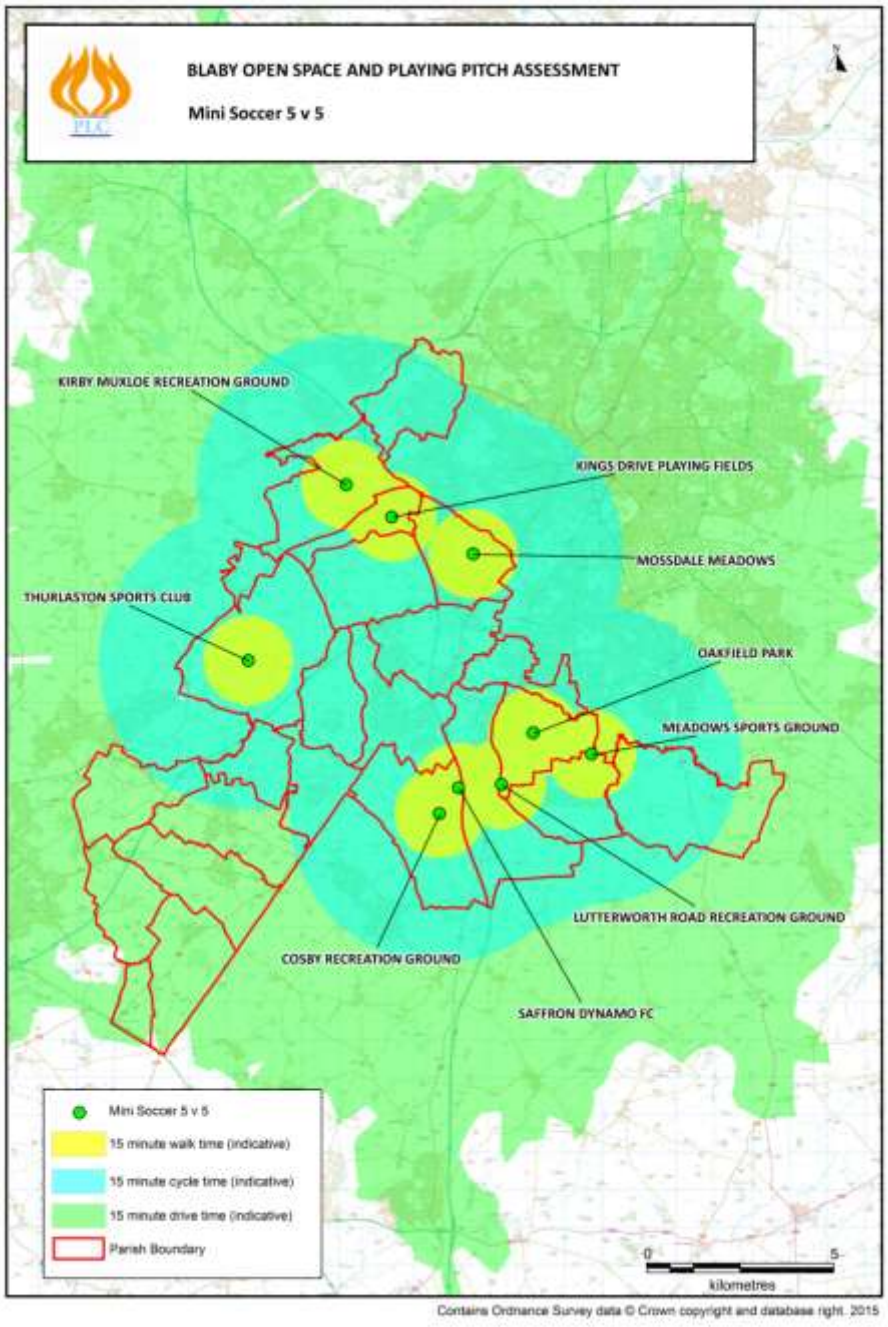
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 90,000 people (95.8% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 35,000 people (37.3% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.5 Mini-soccer (5 v 5)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

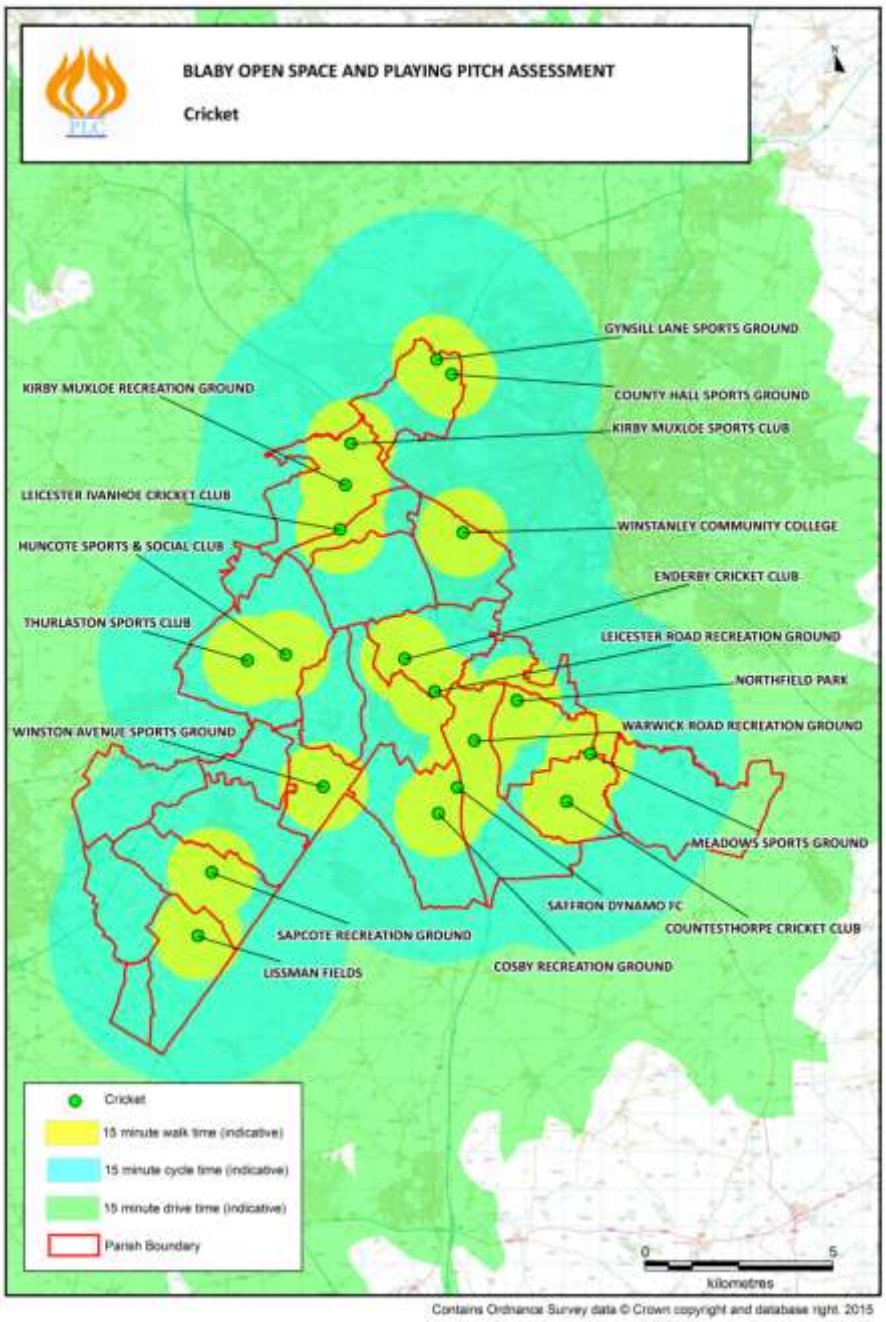
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 92,000 people (98.0% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 40,000 people (42.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.6 Cricket

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

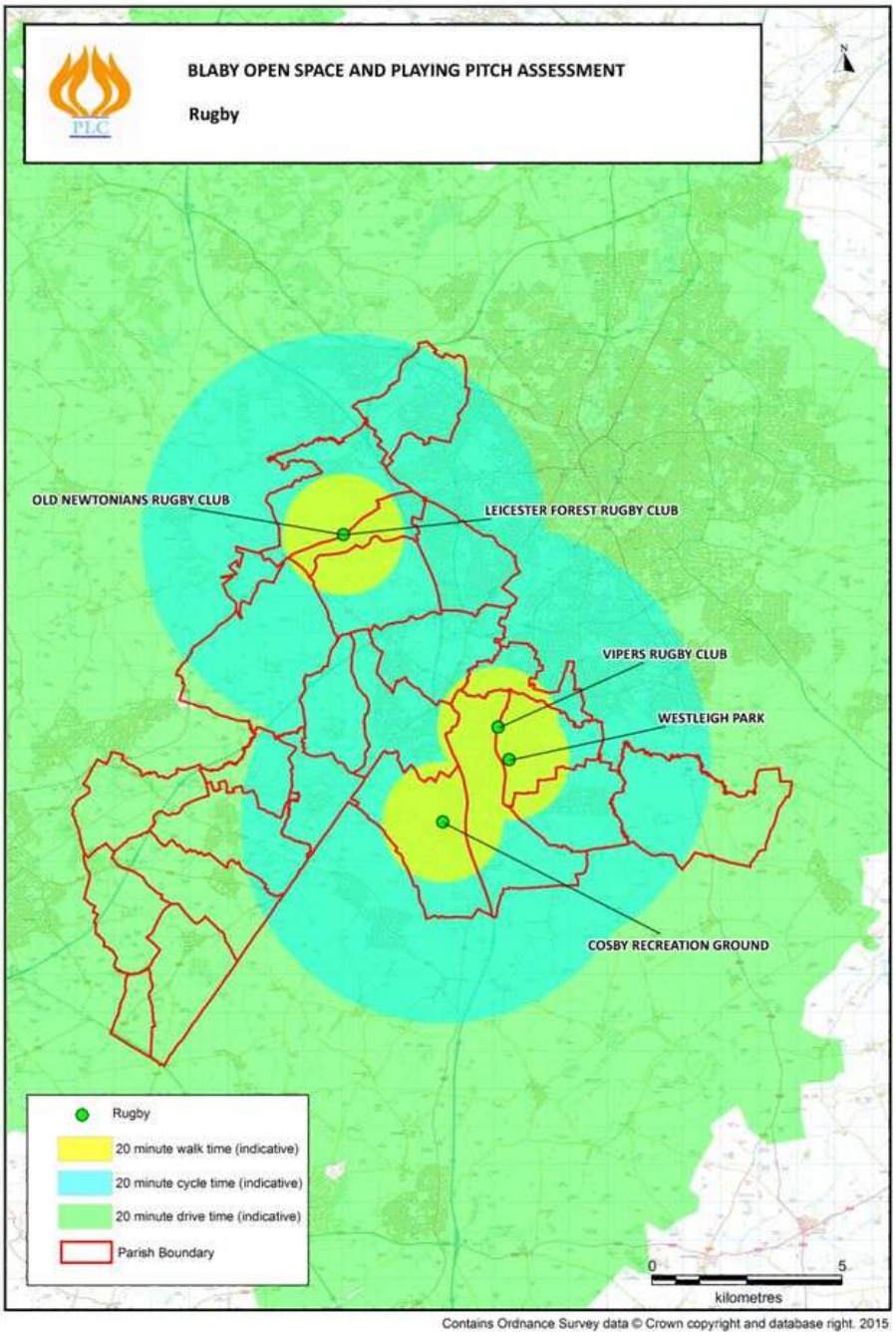
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 93,000 people (99.7% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 50,000 people (53.2% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.7 Rugby

The clubs survey showed that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

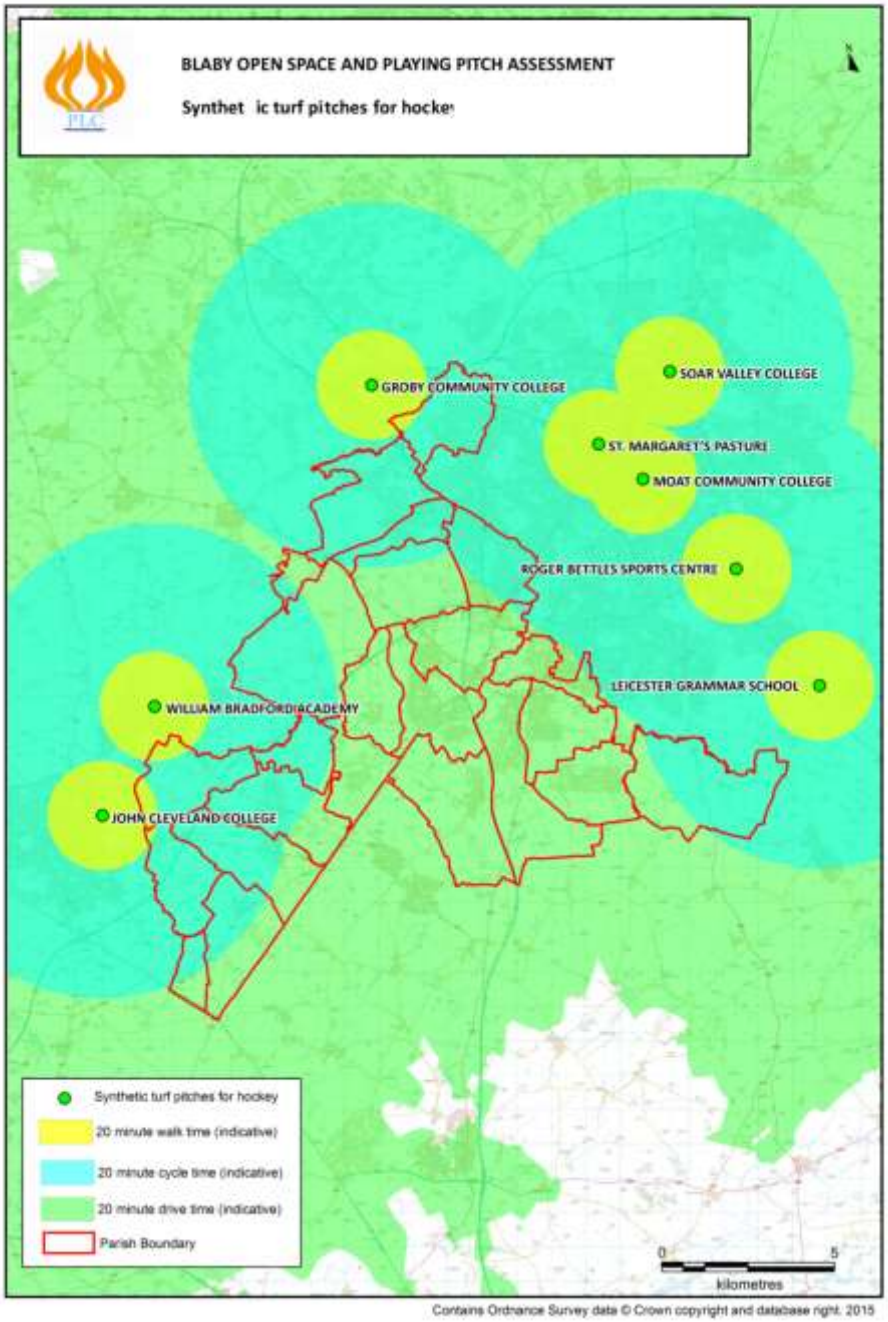
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 20,000 people (21.3% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.8 Synthetic turf pitches for hockey

The clubs survey showed that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

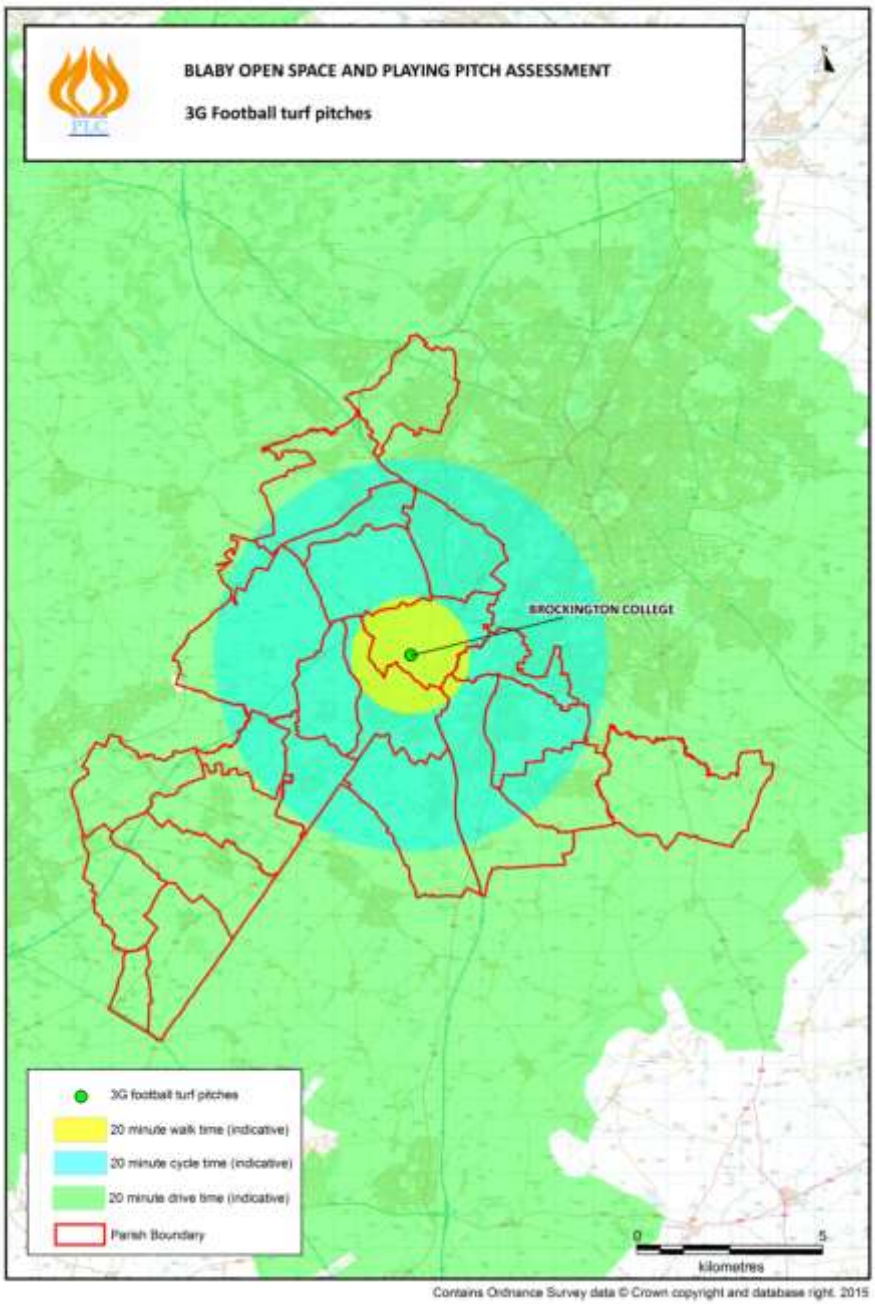
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 15,000 people (16.0% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 2,000 people (2.1% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.9 '3G' football turf pitches

The clubs survey showed that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole district population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 70,000 people (74.5% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 20,000 people (21.3% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.13 Bowling greens

6.13.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the seven bowling greens with community access in Blaby district are listed below:

Site	*Address*
Blaby Bowling Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Countesthorpe Bowls Club	46, Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TA
Enderby Bowls Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Glenfield Bowls Club	Ellis Park, Dominion Road, Glenfield LE3 8DL
Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN
Narborough & District Bowls Club	Coventry Road, Narborough LE19 2GT
Shakespeare Park Bowls Club	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA

The number of bowling greens per capita in each parish in Blaby district, based upon population figures from the 2011 Census, is as follows. Most of the larger parishes have a bowls green, with the exception of Glen Parva and Leicester Forest East:

Parish	*Population*	*Greens per capita*
Blaby	6,194	1: 6,194
Braunstone	16,850	1: 16,850
Cosby	3,506	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 6,377
Croft	1,639	-
Elmesthorpe	509	-
Enderby	6,314	1: 6,314
Glenfield	9,643	1: 9,643
Glen Parva	6,189	-
Huncote	1,756	-
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 4,667
Leicester Forest East	6,719	-
Narborough	8,448	1: 8,448
Sapcote	2,442	-
Sharnford	985	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	-
Thurlaston	807	-
Whetstone	6,566	-
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***1: 13,414***

Per capita levels of bowls provision in the neighbouring local authorities are as follows. They show that levels of provision in Blaby district are just above the mean of 1:13,588 for its neighbours:

Local authority	*Population*	*No. Greens*	*Greens per capita*
Hinckley & Bosworth	105,300	10	1: 10,530
Oadby & Wigston	56,000	5	1: 11,200
Harborough	85,700	7	1: 12,243
Charnwood	165,900	13	1: 12,761
Blaby	***93,900***	***7***	***1: 13,414***
Rugby	100,500	7	1: 14,357
City of Leicester	329,800	16	1: 20,612

6.13.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of bowling greens in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The criteria assessed were the quality of the playing surface, the changing facilities, disabled access and car parking/general access. The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1. The definitions for each criterion are contained in an appendix:

Site	*Green*	*Changing*	*Disabled*	*Access*
Blaby Bowling Club	5	5	4	5
Countesthorpe Bowls Club	5	5	4	5
Enderby Bowls Club	5	5	5	5
Glenfield Bowls Club	4	5	1	5
Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club	5	5	3	4
Narborough & District BC	4	3	1	3
Shakespeare Park BC	4	3	2	4

The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Greens -** Four greens (57.1%) are classified as 'high quality', whilst the remaining three (42.9%) are 'above average' quality, so in no instances should the capacity for play be adversely affected.

- **Changing -** Five changing facilities (71.4%) are rated as 'high quality', with the remaining two (28.3%) rated as 'average', which should enable them to meet the needs of most bowlers.

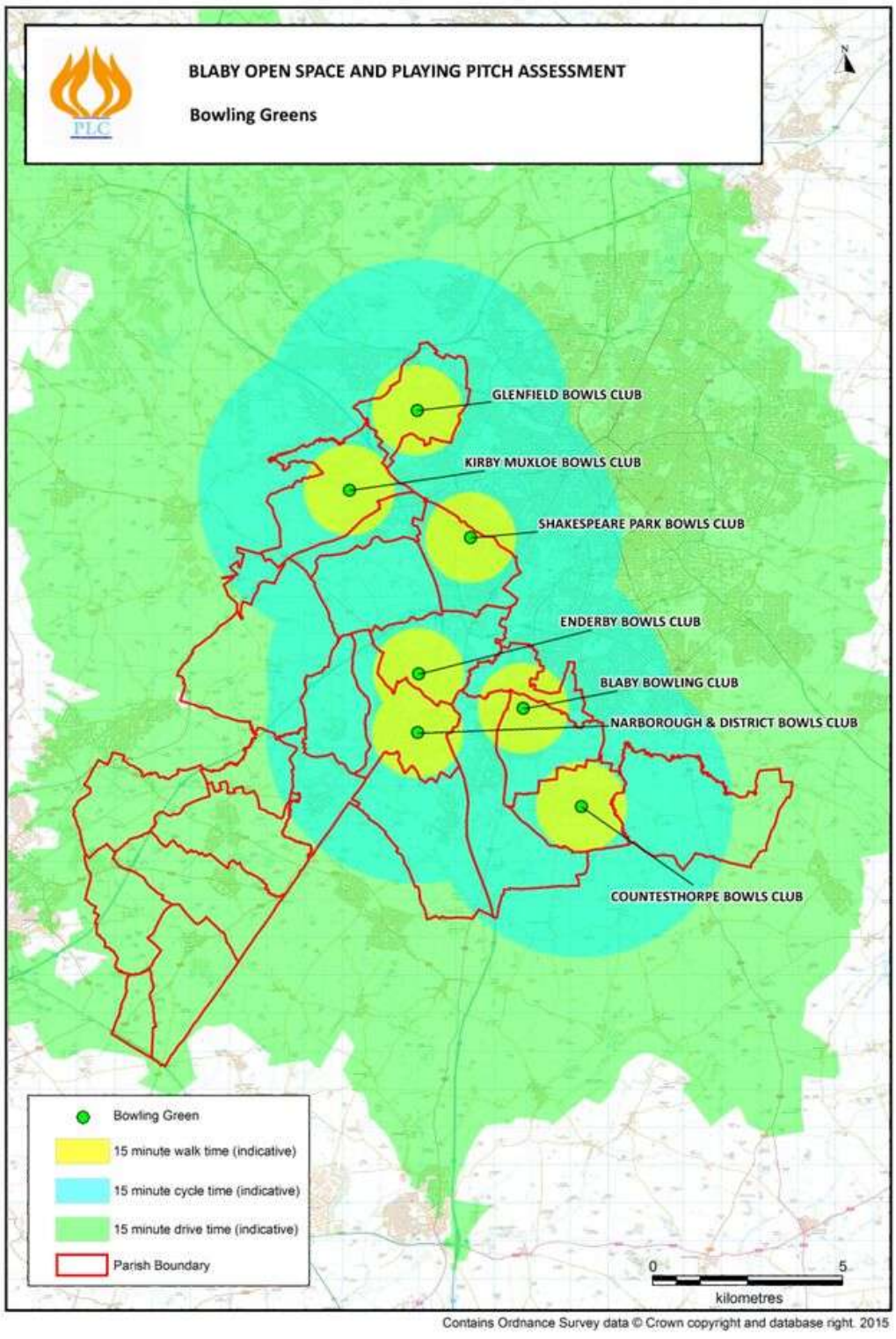
- **Disabled access -** Disabled access (which includes an assessment of the degree of disabled access throughout the site, including the green and dedicated disabled facilities) is rated as 'below average' or 'poor' at three facilities (42.9%).

- **Parking and general access -** The convenience of general access was rated as above 'average' at six facilities and 'average' at the other.

6.13.3 Accessibility analysis

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most bowlers. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest bowls green.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest bowls green.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest bowls green.



6.14 Tennis courts

6.14.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 40 tennis courts with community access in Blaby district are listed below:

Site	*Address*	*Courts*
Blaby Victoria Tennis Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ	3 tarmac
Brockington College	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AQ	4 tarmac
Countesthorpe Community College	Winchester Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5BX	7 tarmac
County Hall Tennis Club	Leicester Road, Glenfield LE3 9RA	3 artificial turf
Croft Park tennis courts	Croft Park, Wigston Avenue, Croft LE9 3ZG	2 tarmac
David Lloyd Club (Narborough)	Carlton Park, Leicester LE19 0LF	6 artificial turf
Enderby Tennis Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX	3 tarmac
Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East LE3 3PJ	4 artificial turf
Shakespeare Park tennis courts	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA	2 concrete
Stoney Stanton Tennis Club	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA	4 tarmac
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Darien Way, Thorpe Astley LE3 3TT	2 tarmac

In addition, there are two disused tennis courts at Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground and one at Winston Avenue Sports Ground.

Per capita levels of provision of tennis courts in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. Most of the larger parishes have tennis courts, with the exception of Glen Parva and Whetstone:

Parish	*Population*	*Courts per capita*
Blaby	6,194	1: 2,065
Braunstone	16,850	1: 4,213
Cosby	3,506	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 911
Croft	1,639	1: 820
Elmesthorpe	509	-
Enderby	6,314	1: 902
Glenfield	9,643	1: 3,214
Glen Parva	6,189	-
Huncote	1,756	-
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	-
Leicester Forest East	6,719	1: 1,680
Narborough	8,448	1: 1,408
Sapcote	2,442	-
Sharnford	985	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1: 948
Thurlaston	807	-
Whetstone	6,566	-
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***1: 2,348***

To benchmark levels of provision in Blaby district, per capita provision in the neighbouring local authorities is as follows. It shows that levels of provision in the district are by far the best for any of its neighbours:

Local authority	*Population*	*No. Courts*	*Courts per capita*
Blaby	***93,900***	***40***	***1: 2,348***
Oadby & Wigston	56,000	15	1: 3,733
Charnwood	165,900	41	1: 4,046
City of Leicester	329,800	70	1: 4,711
Hinckley & Bosworth	105,300	21	1: 5,014
Rugby	100,500	17	1: 5,912
Harborough	85,700	13	1: 6,592

6.14.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of tennis courts in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The criteria assessed were the quality of the playing surface, the fencing, the changing facilities and disabled/general access. The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1. The definitions for each criterion are contained in an appendix:

Site	*Court*	*Fencing*	*Changing*	*Access*
Blaby Victoria Tennis Club	5	5	4	3
Brockington College	3	4	3	4
Countesthorpe Community College	3	3	4	4
County Hall Tennis Club	5	5	4	4
Croft Park tennis courts	5	5	5	5
David Lloyd Club (Narborough)	5	5	5	5
Enderby Tennis Club	5	5	2	2
Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	4	5	5	4
Shakespeare Park tennis courts	2	4	3	4
Stoney Stanton Tennis Club	5	5	5	5
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	3	4	2	3

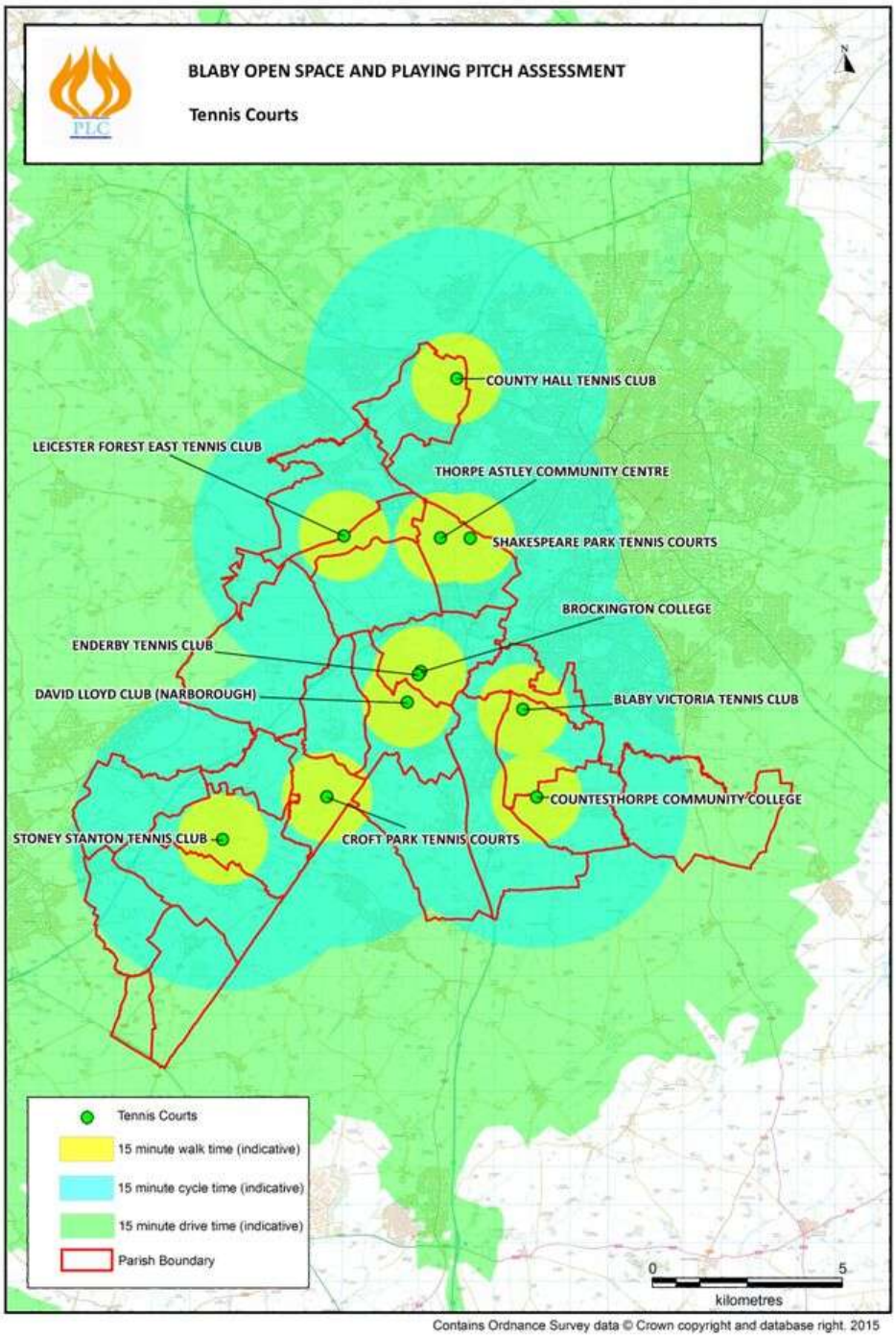
The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Courts -** 38 courts are rated as at least 'average' quality and only two as below 'average'.
- **Fencing -** Court fencing is rated as 'above average' or better at all sites.
- **Changing -** Changing facilities are rated as 'below average' two sites.
- **Disabled and general access -** Access is rated as 'below average' at only Enderby Tennis Club, due to the difficulties of accessing the courts by disabled people.

6.14.3 Accessibility analysis

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most tennis players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest tennis court.
- **Cycling** - About 92,000 people (98.0% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest tennis court.
- **Walking** - About 40,000 people (42.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest tennis court.



6.15 Golf courses

6.15.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the five golf courses (four 18-hole units) in Blaby district are listed below:

Site	*Address*	*No. holes*
Blaby Golf Club	Lutterworth Road, Blaby LE8 4DP	9
Cosby Golf Club	Chapel Lane, Cosby LE9 1RG	18
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX	9
Kirby Muxloe Golf Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EP	18
Whetstone Golf Club	Cambridge Road, Whetstone LE9 1SJ	18

The distribution of 18-hole golf course units in each parish is detailed below. Only five parishes have a golf course, but since they serve a wider than parish catchment, this does not necessarily indicate a deficiency in provision:

Parish	*Population*	*18-hole courses per capita*
Blaby	6,194	1: 12,388
Braunstone	16,850	-
Cosby	3,506	1: 3,506
Countesthorpe	6,377	-
Croft	1,639	-
Elmesthorpe	509	-
Enderby	6,314	1: 12,628
Glenfield	9,643	-
Glen Parva	6,189	-
Huncote	1,756	-
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 4,667
Leicester Forest East	6,719	-
Narborough	8,448	-
Sapcote	2,442	-
Sharnford	985	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	-
Thurlaston	807	-
Whetstone	6,566	1: 6,566
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***1: 23,475***

To benchmark levels of provision in Blaby district, per capita provision in the neighbouring local authorities is as follows. It shows that levels of provision in the district are well above the mean figure (1: 38,311) for its neighbours:

Local authority	*Population*	*18-hole courses*	*18-hole courses per capita*
Harborough	85,700	5	1: 17,140
Rugby	100,500	5	1: 20,100
Blaby	***93,900***	***4***	***1: 23,475***
Charnwood	165,900	6.5	1: 25,523
Hinckley & Bosworth	105,300	2	1: 52,650
Oadby & Wigston	56,000	1	1: 56,000
City of Leicester	329,800	4.5	1: 73,289

6.15.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of golf courses in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The criteria assessed were the quality of the course, the clubhouse and disabled/general access. The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1. The definitions for each criterion are contained in an appendix:

Facility	*Course*	*Clubhouse*	*Access*
Blaby Golf Club	4	3	3
Cosby Golf Club	4	4	3
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	4	3	4
Kirby Muxloe Golf Club	5	5	5
Whetstone Golf Club	5	4	4

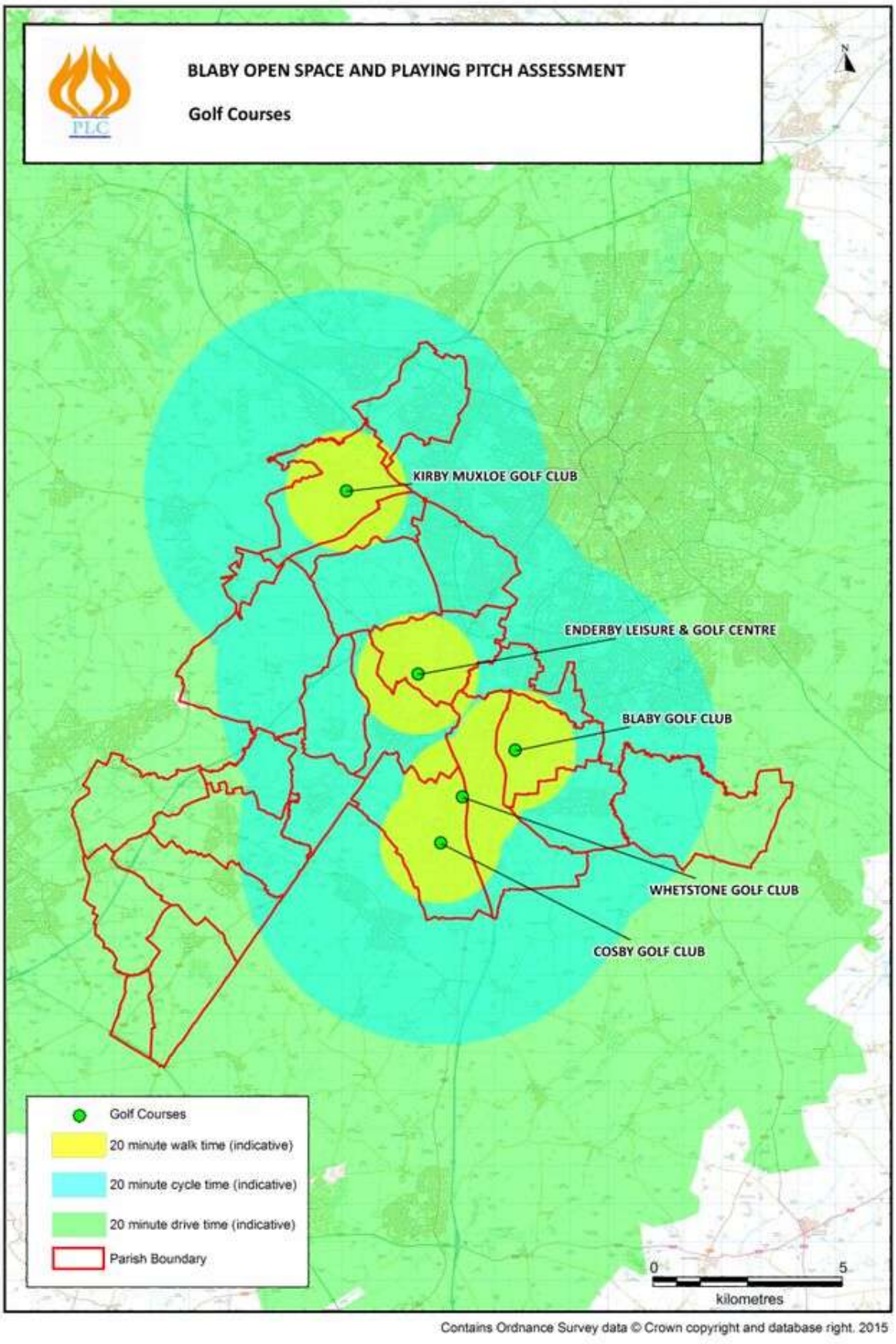
The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Course -** All the courses are rated as at least 'above average'.
- **Clubhouse -** All the clubhouses are rated as at least 'average'.
- **Disabled and general access -** This is rated as at least 'average' at every site.

6.15.3 Accessibility analysis

Accessibility to golf in Blaby district is mapped below. England Golf Union research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for golfers. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest golf course.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest golf course.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest golf course.


BLABY OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
Golf Courses
PLC
N
KIRBY MUXLOE GOLF CLUB
ENDERBY LEISURE & GOLF CENTRE
BLABY GOLF CLUB
WHETSTONE GOLF CLUB
COSBY GOLF CLUB
Golf Courses
20 minute walk time (indicative)
20 minute cycle time (indicative)
20 minute drive time (indicative)
Parish Boundary
0
5
kilometres
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015

6.16 Village and community halls

6.16.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 33 village and community halls in Blaby district are listed below:

Facility	*Address*
All Saints' Parish Hall	Church Lane, Narborough LE19 2GL
Blaby & District Social Centre	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Braunstone Civic Centre	209, Kingsway, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP
Braunstone West Social Centre	St. Mary's Avenue, Braunstone LE3 3FT
Cosby Community Church	The Baptist Chapel, Croft Road, Cosby LE9 1SE
Cosby Village Hall	Park Road, Cosby LE9 1RN
Countesthorpe Village Hall	Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TB
Croft Community Centre	Brookes Avenue, Croft LE9 3GJ
Elmesthorpe Village Hall	Wilkinson Lane, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SG
Enderby Civic Centre	King Street, Enderby LE19 4NT
Enderby Village Institute	Cross Street, Enderby LE19 4NJ
Glen Parva Memorial Hall	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JD
Glenfield Memorial Hall	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL
Huncote Community Centre	Denman Lane, Huncote LE9 3BS
Kirby Muxloe Community Centre	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN
Leicester Forest Parish Hall	Kings Drive, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JE
Littlethorpe Village Hall	Biddle Road, Littlethorpe LE19 2HE
Narborough Parish Centre	Desford Road, Narborough LE19 2EL
Robjohn Hall	School Lane, Narborough LE19 2GS
St Andrew's Church Centre	Main Street, Countesthorpe LE8 5PQ
St. James' Church Hall	Narborough Road, Huncote LE9 3AW
St. John's Community Centre	Packhorse Drive, Enderby LE19 2RP
St. Peter's Church Parish Centre	High Street, Whetstone LE8 6BA
Sapcote Methodist Church Hall	Leicester Road, Sapcote LE9 4JE
Sapcote Sports Pavilion	Hinckley Road, Sapcote LE9 4FS
Sharnford Evergreen Hall	Leicester Road, Sharnford LE10 3PP
Sharnford Youth and Community Centre	Park View, Sharnford LE10 3PT
Stoney Stanton Community Hall	Station Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 3PT
Stoney Stanton Village Hall	New Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LQ
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Off Lakin Drive, Braunstone Town LE3 3RU
Thurlaston Village Hall	Desford Road, Thurlaston LE9 7TE
Whetstone Memorial Hall	High Street, Whetstone LE8 6LP
Whetstone Parish Council Offices	Cemetery Road, Whetstone LE8 6LL

The distribution of village and community halls in each parish is detailed below:

Parish	*Population*	*Halls per capita*
Blaby	6,194	1: 6,194
Braunstone	16,850	1: 5,617
Cosby	3,506	1: 1,753

Parish	*Population*	*Halls per capita*
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 3,189
Croft	1,639	1: 1,639
Elmesthorpe	509	1: 509
Enderby	6,314	1: 2,105
Glenfield	9,643	1: 9,643
Glen Parva	6,189	1: 6,189
Huncote	1,756	1: 1,756
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 4,667
Leicester Forest East	6,719	1: 6,719
Narborough	8,448	1: 2,112
Sapcote	2,442	1: 1,221
Sharnford	985	1: 493
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1: 1,897
Thurlaston	807	1: 807
Whetstone	6,566	1: 2,189
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***1: 2,845***

No benchmark data was available for per capita levels of provision of village and community halls in the neighbouring local authorities.

6.16.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of village and community halls in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. Two sets of criteria were assessed:

The capacity of the halls to accommodate a wide range of sport and physical activity, which was scored as follows:

- **Provision for formal sport -** Including dedicated sports facilities and markings and changing rooms. These were given a rating of 5 or 4.
- **Available for informal activities -** The provision of a space which can be used for exercise classes such as yoga or aerobics. These were given a rating of 3.
- **Not available for physical activity but with meeting space -** These were given a rating of 2.
- **Social Clubs** - These were given a rating of 1

The overall quality and condition of the building. The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1.

Facility	*Sports capacity*	*Overall condition*
All Saints' Parish Hall	3	3
Blaby & District Social Centre	3	4

Facility	*Sports capacity*	*Overall condition*
Braunstone Civic Centre	3	5
Braunstone West Social Centre	3	4
Cosby Community Church	2	3
Cosby Village Hall	3	4
Countesthorpe Village Hall	3	5
Croft Community Centre	3	2
Elmesthorpe Village Hall	3	4
Enderby Civic Centre	3	3
Enderby Village Institute	3	3
Glen Parva Memorial Hall	3	5
Glenfield Memorial Hall	3	5
Huncote Community Centre	3	2
Kirby Muxloe Community Centre	3	4
Leicester Forest Parish Hall	3	5
Littlethorpe Village Hall	3	4
Narborough Parish Centre	3	2
Robjohn Hall	3	3
St Andrew's Church Centre	3	3
St. James' Church Hall	2	3
St. John's Community Centre	3	3
St. Peter's Church Parish Centre	3	3
Sapcote Methodist Church Hall	3	4
Sapcote Sports Pavilion	4	5
Sharnford Evergreen Hall	3	5
Sharnford Youth and Community Centre	3	3
Stoney Stanton Community Hall	3	3
Stoney Stanton Village Hall	3	2
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	4	5
Thurlaston Village Hall	3	3
Whetstone Memorial Hall	3	2
Whetstone Parish Council Offices	2	5

The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Sports capacity -** Only three halls (9.1%) are rated as below 'average' for sports capacity.
- **Overall condition -** Only five halls (15.2%) are rated as below 'average' condition.

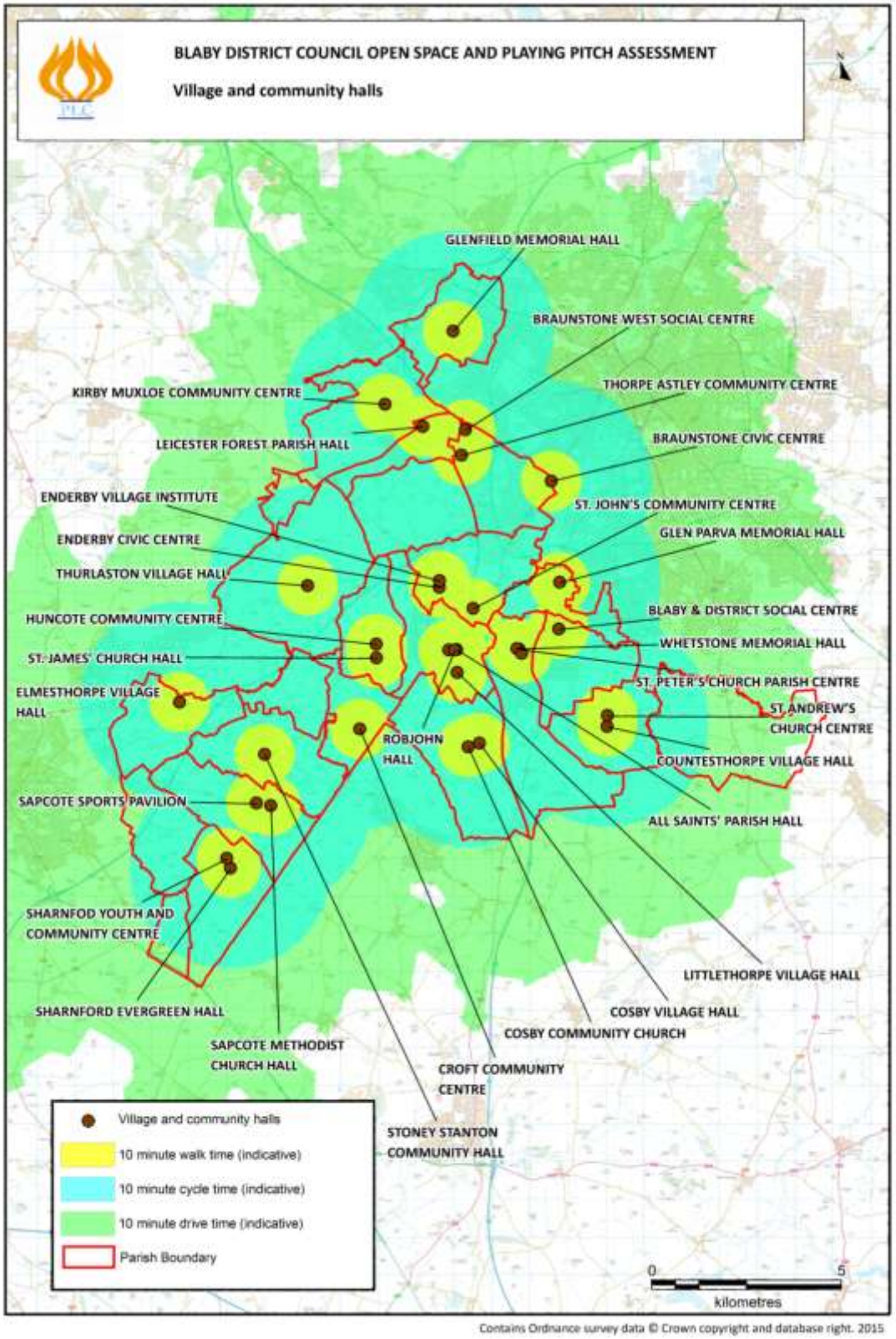
6.16.3 Accessibility analysis

Because village halls are effectively local scale facilities, a 10 minute travel time catchment has been applied. 10-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of their nearest village or community hall.

- **Cycling** - About 90,000 people (95.8% of the district population) are within 10 minutes cycle of their nearest village or community hall.

- **Walking** - About people 60,000 people (63.9% of the district population) are within 10 minutes walk of their nearest village or community hall.



6.17 Summary of open space supply in Blaby district

6.17.1 Parks and gardens

There are five parks and gardens in the district, totalling 14.16ha, primarily in the more built-up parts of the district. However, there is no provision in several of the larger parishes, including Enderby, Glen Parva and Leicester Forest East.

The quality of provision is generally good.

Given the limited number of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 16 minute travel time catchment embraces only around half of the district population.

6.17.2 Natural greenspace

There are 40 natural greenspace sites, totalling 221.0ha, or 2.35ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but three parishes, although per capita levels of provision are generally better in the more rural parishes.

The quality of around nine sites is rated as below 'average'.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 25 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.3 Informal open space

There are 194 informal open space sites, totalling 93.90ha, or 1.00ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but one parish, although per capita levels of provision vary widely.

The quality of provision is variable, although only 15.5% of the larger sites assessed (0.2ha or more) were rated as below 'average' quality. Many of the smaller sites offer little more than visual amenity, although some serve an important role providing links between other key sites in the wider green infrastructure network.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.4 Provision for children and young people

There are 41 equipped play sites, totalling 5.38ha, or 0.06ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all parishes.

The quality of provision is generally high, with only 9.8% of sites rated as below 'average'. However, provision for disabled users is often poor, with little or no disabled equipment and poor physical access to play areas for disabled children and/or disabled carers.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 13 minute travel time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.5 Allotments

There are 16 allotment sites, totalling 20.34ha, or 0.22ha per 1,000 residents. There is no provision in seven parishes, including two of the more urban areas (Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva). There are waiting lists at several sites and the survey of parish councils identified a number of areas where demand outstrips supply, in particular Blaby and Stoney Stanton.

The quality of 17.7% of sites is rated as below 'average'.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 18 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.6 Churchyards and cemeteries

There are 30 cemeteries and churchyards, totalling 19.60ha, or 0.21ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but two parishes, although per capita levels of provision vary widely.

The quality of provision is variable, although only 10.0% of sites are rated as below 'average'.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.7 Adult football Pitches

There are 42 adult football pitches with community use and used, supplemented by six that are available but not used and two that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are relatively even across the district, with only five parishes without at least one pitch.

Only one pitch is rated as 'poor' and therefore in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at eight sites, but several other sites score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.8 Youth football (11 v 11) Pitches

There are nine youth football (11v11) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used and three that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more built-up parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at one site, is absent from another and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.9 Youth football (9 v 9) Pitches

There are 10 youth football (9v9) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but unused and 12 which are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are generally better in the larger parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.10 Mini-soccer (7 v 7) Pitches

There are 10 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by two that are available but not used and 16 that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are generally better in the larger parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.11 Mini-soccer (5 v 5) Pitches

There are 13 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by two that are available but not used and five that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are generally better in the larger parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.12 Cricket Pitches

There are 20 cricket pitches with community use and used, supplemented by five that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more rural parishes.

Pitch and outfield quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at four sites, there is no dedicated pavilion at one of the school sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.13 Rugby Pitches

There are 13 rugby pitches with community use and used. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more urban parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are also rated as at least 'standard' quality.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.14 Synthetic turf Pitches for hockey

There are no synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Blaby district, although there are two 'small-sided' which provide for some training needs. Local needs are served by nine pitches in neighbouring areas, whose catchments overlap the district boundary.

All the pitches are rated as at least 'standard' quality and are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.15 '3G' football turf Pitches

There is one full-sized '3G' football turf pitch in the district, supplemented by one five smaller facilities suitable for training.

The full-sized and 'small-sided' pitches are all rated as 'good' quality and are therefore not in a condition that will compromise their levels of use.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.16 Bowls greens

There are seven bowls greens in the district, equivalent to 1: 13,414 people, which is just above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities. There is a bowls green in seven parishes.

The quality of all greens and changing facilities is at least 'standard' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. Disabled access is poor at three sites.
The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.17 Tennis courts

There are 40 tennis courts in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,348 people, which is the best per capita figure for the neighbouring local authorities. There is at least one court in nine parishes.

The quality of all court surfaces is at least 'above average' at 38 courts and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. However, the courts in Shakespeare Park are rated 'below average' which will adversely affect their usage capacity. Changing is rated as below 'average' at two sites and disabled and general access is below 'average' at one site.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.18 Golf courses

There are five golf courses in the district, equivalent to 1: 23,475 people, which is well above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities.

The quality of all aspects of all courses is at least 'average' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.19 Village and community halls

There are 33 village and community halls in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,845 people.

Only three halls are rated as below 'average' for sports capacity, whilst five need some quality improvements.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment.

Countesthorpe Village Hall

7 THE BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND

7.1 Introduction

This section analyses the balance between the supply of and demand for open space in Blaby district.

The methodology applied to assess the supply-demand balance for different types of open space follows the recommended guidance and is summarised below:

7.2 Open space methodology

To identify the current balance between supply and demand of open spaces in Blaby district, generating and applying locally-derived, evidence-based standards of provision is the most appropriate way of assessing the adequacy of provision. The standards involve three elements:

7.2.1 Quantity

The quantity of provision is assessed by identifying a per capita standard based upon:

- Establishing existing levels of provision of each type of open space per capita.
- Local consultation to identify views on the extent to which the number of open space sites meets existing needs.

7.2.2 Quality

The quality of provision is assessed by identifying a quality standard based upon:

- The standardised definitions of the quality of each aspect of each open space type assessed through the site audits.
- The policy position of the local authority on the quality threshold to which all open space sites should conform (e.g. to seek to achieve at least an 'average' rating for all sites).

7.2.3 Accessibility

The accessibility standard is identified by:

- Survey data on the time and or distance that at least 80% of open space users are prepared to travel to access facilities in the study area.
- Survey data on the travel mode preferences of facility users to access open space in the study area (i.e. reflecting current behavioural patterns).
- The policy position of the local authority on whether it wishes to influence future accessibility factors - for example, should accessibility be defined in relation to walking time catchments discourage car usage.

The standards are then applied to establish the extent to which residents are served or under-provided in relation to each type of open space by applying the respective standards at both a districtwide and sub-area level.

7.3 Playing pitch methodology

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent' sessions at each site.

- An indication of the extent to which natural grass pitches are being used during their respective peak periods.

- The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed** - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.

- **Being played to the level the site can sustain** - where use matches the carrying capacity.

- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play** - where use falls below the carrying capacity.

The situation at individual sites can then be aggregated to identify the position at a sub-area level, to identify the potential for excess demand at some sites to be accommodated by excess supply at others in the locality. Other factors can also be assessed such as:

- The extent of any demand being accommodated on sites with unsecured community access.

- The impact of latent or displaced demand.

- The situation at priority sites.

This analysis then enables an assessment to be made of the adequacy of existing pitch provision.

7.4 Sports facilities methodology

The patterns of usage of other types of sports facilities differ from playing pitches, in that they typically involve significant elements of frequently 'unmetered' casual usage, rather than exclusively organised team play.

As a result, generating and applying locally-derived, evidence-based standards of provision is the most appropriate way of assessing the adequacy of current and future provision. The standards involve three elements:

7.4.1 Quantity

The quantity of provision is assessed by identifying a per capita standard based upon:

- Establishing existing levels of provision of each type of facility per capita.
- Local consultation to identify views on the extent to which the number of facilities meets existing needs.
- Benchmarking levels of provision with neighbouring local authority areas.
- The views of the respective governing bodies of sport on facility needs, including size and capacity.
- Governing body of sport or Sport England guidance on dimensions and facility specifications.

7.4.2 Quality

The quality of provision is assessed by identifying a quality standard based upon:

- The standardised definitions of the quality of each aspect of each facility type assessed through the site audits.
- Any governing body of sport or Sport England quality thresholds.
- The policy position of the local authority on the quality threshold to which all facilities should conform (e.g. to seek to achieve at least an 'average' rating for all sites).

7.4.3 Accessibility

The accessibility standard is identified by:

- Survey data on the time and or distance that at least 80% of facility users are prepared to travel to access facilities in the study area.
- Survey data on the travel mode preferences of facility users to access facilities in the study area (i.e. reflecting current behavioural patterns).
- The policy position of the local authority on whether it wishes to influence future accessibility factors - for example, should accessibility be defined in relation to walking time catchments to discourage car usage.

The standards are then applied to establish the extent to which residents are served or under-provided in relation to each type of pitch and outdoor sports and recreation facility by applying the respective standards at both a districtwide and parish level.

7.5 Parks and gardens

7.5.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for parks and gardens was devised:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	0.20ha of parks and gardens per 1,000 people in all larger parishes of 6,000 people or more.	• Current levels of provision are 0.19ha per 1,000 residents of the larger parishes. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • 88% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of parks and gardens in the district are 'average' or better. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • Parks and gardens provide high quality, multi-function green spaces to compensate for the absence or relative shortage of other forms of open space in urban areas. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • There is no evidence of any unmet demand for parks and gardens in the district at present, so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all parks and gardens should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole urban population within 16 minutes travel time of the nearest park.	• 16 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of local parks users. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 91% of local parks users walk to access their nearest park. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009).

7.5.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - On the basis of applying the standard of provision at the larger parish level, the surplus of provision in Blaby and Braunstone parishes partially offset the deficits elsewhere, leaving a small overall districtwide deficiency in larger parishes of 1.86ha:

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Blaby	6,194	7.12ha	1.55ha	5.57ha
Braunstone	16,850	4.46ha	3.37ha	1.09ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0	1.28ha	(1.28ha)
Enderby	6,314	0	1.39ha	(1.39ha)
Glenfield	9,643	1.36ha	1.92ha	(0.56ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	0	1.24ha	(1.24ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	1.34ha	(1.34ha)
Narborough	8,448	1.22ha	1.69ha	(0.47ha)
Whetstone	6,566	0	1.31ha	(1.31ha)
LARGER PARISHES	***73,300***	***14.16ha***	***14.66ha***	***(0.50ha)***

- **Quality of provision** - The following aspects of specific parks and gardens are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

Entrance	*Boundaries*	*Paths*	*Planted areas*
Northfield Park	Northfield Park	Franklin Park	• Bouskell Park • Franklin Park • Narborough Recreation Ground • Northfield Park

- **Accessibility of provision** - There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

7.6 Natural greenspace

7.6.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for natural greenspace was devised:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	2.35ha of natural greenspace per 1,000 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate 2.35ha per 1,000 people – *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • 74% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of natural greenspace in the district is 'average' or better. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • There is no evidence of any unmet demand for natural greenspace in the district at present, so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes travel time of the nearest natural greenspace site.	• 20 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of natural greenspace site users. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 70% of local natural greenspace users drive to access their site. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009).

7.6.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a small collective surplus of 0.33ha of natural greenspace in the district as a whole, but a notional deficit in provision in 12 of the 19 parishes, more than offset by the large surpluses in provision primarily in the more rural parishes.

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Blaby	6,194	6.71ha	14.56ha	(7.85ha)
Braunstone	16,850	21.46ha	39.60ha	(18.14ha)
Cosby	3,506	0	8.24ha	(8.24ha)

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Countesthorpe	6,377	12.56ha	14.99ha	(5.35ha)
Croft	1,639	7.89ha	3.85ha	4.04ha
Elmesthorpe	509	11.43ha	1.20ha	10.23ha
Enderby	6,314	15.35ha	14.84ha	0.51ha
Glenfield	9,643	8.17ha	22.66ha	(14.49ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	27.10ha	14.54ha	12.56ha
Huncote	1,756	19.38ha	4.13ha	15.25ha
Kilby	270	0	0.63ha	(0.63ha)
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.19ha	10.97ha	(9.78ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	6.87ha	15.79ha	(8.92ha)
Narborough	8,448	16.72ha	19.85ha	(2.93ha)
Sapcote	2,442	1.38ha	5.74ha	(4.36ha)
Sharnford	985	57.38ha	2.31ha	55.07ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	4.36ha	8.91ha	(4.55ha)
Thurlaston	807	6.63ha	1.90ha	4.73ha
Whetstone	6,566	0	15.43ha	(15.43ha)
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***221.0ha***	***220.67ha***	***0.33ha***

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

Sites
• Countesthorpe Country Park
• Enderby Balancing Lake
• Kings Walk Spinney
• Land at Hinckley Way
• Land at New Bridge Road
• Land at Oakcroft Avenue
• Land east of Riverside Way
• Land north-east of Croft Hill
• Land south of Gynsill Lane

- **Accessibility of provision** - There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

7.7 Informal open space

7.7.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for informal open space was devised:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	1.00ha of informal open space per 1,000 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate 1.00ha per 1,000 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • 60% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of informal open space in the district are 'average' or better. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • There is no evidence of any unmet demand for informal open space in the district at present, so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 10 minutes travel time of the nearest informal open space.	• 10 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of informal open space users. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 89% of informal open space users walk to access their site. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009).

7.7.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a notional deficit in provision in 11 of the 19 parishes and given the limited 10 minutes travel catchment, the surpluses in provision in the remaining parishes are beyond the travel time tolerance of some residents, leaving some limited local deficiencies.

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Blaby	6,194	8.85ha	6.19ha	2.66ha
Braunstone	16,850	33.85ha	14.32ha	19.53ha
Cosby	3,506	1.06ha	2.98ha	(1.92ha)
Countesthorpe	6,377	4.03ha	5.42ha	(1.39ha)
Croft	1,639	0.48ha	1.39ha	(0.91ha)
Elmesthorpe	509	1.10ha	0.43ha	0.67ha
Enderby	6,314	3.51ha	5.37ha	(1.86ha)
Glenfield	9,643	2.19ha	8.20ha	(6.01ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	1.93ha	5.26ha	(3.33ha)
Huncote	1,756	6.69ha	1.49ha	5.20ha
Kilby	270	0.74ha	0.23ha	0.51ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.43ha	3.97ha	(2.54ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	9.94ha	5.71ha	4.23ha
Narborough	8,448	8.95ha	7.18ha	1.77ha
Sapcote	2,442	0.75ha	2.08ha	(1.33ha)
Sharnford	985	0.48ha	0.84ha	(0.36ha)
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1.40ha	3.22ha	(1.82ha)
Thurlaston	807	0	0.69ha	(0.69ha)
Whetstone	6,566	6.46ha	5.58ha	0.88ha
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***93.90ha***	***93.90ha***	***Balanced***

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

Sites	
• Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space • Langham Drive open space	• Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Winchester Avenue open space • Woodhouse Road open space

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are some accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.8 Provision for children and young people

7.8.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for equipped play areas was devised:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	0.06ha of equipped play areas per 1,000 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate 0.06ha per 1,000 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • 61% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of equipped play areas in the district are 'average' or better. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • There is no evidence of any unmet demand for equipped play areas in the district at present, so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 13 minutes travel time of the nearest equipped play area.	• 13 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of equipped play area users. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 83% of equipped play area users walk to access their site. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009).

7.8.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a small deficit at a district level, although provision in 11 of the 19 parishes shows a small surplus.

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Blaby	6,194	0.85ha	0.37ha	0.48ha
Braunstone	16,850	0.85ha	1.01ha	(0.16ha)
Cosby	3,506	0.32ha	0.21ha	0.11ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0.25ha	0.38ha	(0.13ha)
Croft	1,639	0.15ha	0.10ha	0.05ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0.01ha	0.03ha	(0.02ha)
Enderby	6,314	0.07ha	0.38ha	(0.31ha)
Glenfield	9,643	0.34ha	0.58ha	(0.24ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	0.38ha	0.37ha	0.01ha
Huncote	1,756	0.21ha	0.11ha	0.10ha
Kilby	270	0.06ha	0.02ha	0.04ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	0.20ha	0.28ha	(0.08ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.15ha	0.40ha	0.25ha
Narborough	8,448	0.50ha	0.51ha	(0.01ha)
Sapcote	2,442	0.20ha	0.15ha	0.05ha
Sharnford	985	0.09ha	0.06ha	0.03ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.19ha	0.23ha	(0.04ha)
Thurlaston	807	0.11ha	0.05ha	0.06ha
Whetstone	6,566	0.44ha	0.39ha	0.05ha
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***5.38ha***	***5.63ha***	***(0.25ha)***

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

Site
• Crescent play area
• Fosse Meadows play area
• Sharnford play area
• Stafford Leys Community Centre

- **Accessibility of provision -** There are some accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.9 Allotments and community gardens

7.9.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for allotments and community gardens was devised:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	0.25ha of allotments per 1,000 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate 0.22ha per 1,000 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • 53% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of allotments in the district are 'average' or poorer. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 22% of parish councils surveyed identified local shortfalls in allotment provision - *Blaby District Quantitative Audit* (2015). • Given the evidence of unmet demand for allotments in the district at present, a standard slightly above the current levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 18 minutes travel time of the nearest allotments.	• 18 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of allotment users. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 60% of allotment users walk to access their site. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009).

7.9.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a collective deficit of 3.14ha at a district level and 14 of the 19 parishes show a shortfall in provision.

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Blaby	6,194	1.89ha	1.55ha	0.34ha
Braunstone	16,850	6.64ha	4.21ha	2.43ha
Cosby	3,506	0	0.88ha	(0.88ha)
Countesthorpe	6,377	0.98ha	1.59ha	(0.61ha)
Croft	1,639	1.34ha	0.41ha	0.93ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0	0.13ha	(0.13ha)
Enderby	6,314	1.48ha	1.58ha	(0.10ha)
Glenfield	9,643	0.48ha	2.41ha	(1.93ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	0	1.55ha	(1.55ha)
Huncote	1,756	1.50ha	0.44ha	1.06ha
Kilby	270	0	0.07ha	(0.07ha)
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.10ha	1.17ha	(0.07ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	1.68ha	(1.68ha)
Narborough	8,448	1.53ha	2.11ha	(0.58ha)
Sapcote	2,442	1.93ha	0.61ha	1.32ha
Sharnford	985	0	0.20ha	(0.20ha)
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.63ha	0.95ha	(0.32ha)
Thurlaston	807	0	0.20ha	(0.20ha)
Whetstone	6,566	0.56ha	1.64ha	(1.08ha)
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***20.34ha***	***23.48ha***	***(3.14ha)***

- **Quality of provision** - The following site is rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

Site
• Salisbury Avenue Allotments • Windermere Drive allotments

- **Accessibility of provision -** There are some accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.10 Cemeteries and churchyards

7.10.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for the open space functions of cemeteries and churchyards was devised:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	0.21ha of cemeteries and churchyards per 1,000 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate 0.21ha per 1,000 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • 53% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of cemeteries and churchyards in the district are 'average' or better. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 11% of parish councils surveyed identified local shortfalls in cemetery provision - *Blaby District Quantitative Audit* (2015). • Given the limited evidence of any unmet demand for cemeteries and churchyards in the district at present, a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes travel time of the nearest cemetery or churchyard.	• 15 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of cemetery and churchyard users. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009). • 50% of cemetery and churchyard users drive to access their site. - *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009).

7.10.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a small collective deficit of 0.12ha at a district level, although provision in 6 of the 19 parishes shows a deficit.

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Blaby	6,194	2.77ha	1.30ha	1.47ha
Braunstone	16,850	0	3.54ha	(3.54ha)
Cosby	3,506	0.86ha	0.74ha	0.12ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	1.97ha	1.34ha	0.63ha

Parish	*Population*	*Existing provision*	*Required provision*	*Surplus/ (Deficit)*
Croft	1,639	1.03ha	0.34ha	0.69ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0.51ha	0.11ha	0.40ha
Enderby	6,314	2.26ha	1.33ha	0.93ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.82ha	2.03ha	(1.21ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	0	1.30ha	(1.30ha)
Huncote	1,756	0.43ha	0.37ha	0.06ha
Kilby	270	0.43ha	0.06ha	0.37ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	2.02ha	0.98ha	1.04ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.58ha	1.41ha	(0.83ha)
Narborough	8,448	1.78ha	1.77ha	0.01ha
Sapcote	2,442	1.07ha	0.51ha	0.56ha
Sharnford	985	0.85ha	0.21ha	0.64ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.66ha	0.80ha	(0.14ha)
Thurlaston	807	0.41ha	0.17ha	0.24ha
Whetstone	6,566	1.11ha	1.38ha	(0.27ha)
BLABY DISTRICT	***93,900***	***19.60ha***	***19.72ha***	***(0.12ha)***

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

Site
• Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery
• All Saints' Church, Sapcote
• St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wigston Parva

- **Accessibility of provision -** There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.11 Overall open space provision at parish level

Because spare capacity in some forms of open space may offset deficiencies in other forms, analysis of overall levels of provision at a parish level gives a helpful insight into the wider context of local provision. The table below sets out overall provision in each parish and maps of the open space sites in each parish are contained in Appendix I.

Parish	*Popn.*	*Parks & Gardens*	*Natural greenspace*	*Informal open space*	*Children's play*	*Allotments*	*Cemeteries churchyards*	*Total*	*Ha./ 1,000*
Blaby	6,194	7.12ha	6.71ha	8.85ha	0.85ha	1.89ha	2.77ha	28.19ha	4.55ha
Braunstone	16,850	4.46ha	21.46ha	33.85ha	0.85ha	6.64ha	0	67.26ha	3.99ha
Cosby	3,506	0	0	1.06ha	0.32ha	0	0.86ha	2.24ha	0.64ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0	12.56ha	4.03ha	0.25ha	0.98ha	1.97ha	19.77ha	3.10ha
Croft	1,639	0	7.89ha	0.48ha	0.15ha	1.34ha	1.03ha	10.89ha	6.64ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0	11.43ha	1.10ha	0.01ha	0	0.51ha	13.05ha	25.63ha
Enderby	6,314	0	15.35ha	3.51ha	0.07ha	1.48ha	2.26ha	22.67ha	3.59ha
Glenfield	9,643	1.36ha	8.17ha	2.19ha	0.34ha	0.48ha	0.82ha	13.36ha	1.39ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0	27.10ha	1.93ha	0.38ha	0	0	29.41ha	4.75ha
Huncote	1,756	0	19.38ha	6.69ha	0.21ha	1.50ha	0.43ha	28.21ha	16.06ha
Kilby	270	0	0	0.74ha	0.06ha	0	0.43ha	1.23ha	4.56ha

Parish	Popn.	Parks & Gardens	Natural greenspace	Informal open space	Children's play	Allotments	Cemeteries churchyards	Total	Ha./ 1,000
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	0	1.19ha	1.43ha	0.20ha	1.10ha	2.02ha	5.94ha	1.27ha
Leics Forest E.	6,719	0	6.87ha	9.94ha	0.15ha	0	0.58ha	17.54ha	2.61ha
Narborough	8,448	1.22ha	16.72ha	8.95ha	0.50ha	1.53ha	1.78ha	30.70ha	3.63ha
Sapcote	2,442	0	1.38ha	0.75ha	0.20ha	1.93ha	1.07ha	5.33ha	2.18ha
Sharnford	985	0	57.38ha	0.48ha	0.09ha	0	0.85ha	58.80ha	56.70ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0	4.36ha	1.40ha	0.19ha	0.63ha	0.66ha	7.24ha	1.91ha
Thurlaston	807	0	6.63ha	0	0.11ha	0	0.41ha	7.15ha	8.86ha
Whetstone	6,566	0	0	6.46ha	0.44ha	0.56ha	1.11ha	8.57ha	1.31ha
DISTRICT	***93,900***	***14.16ha***	***221.0ha***	***93.90ha***	***5.38ha***	***20.34ha***	***19.60ha***	***404.38ha***	***4.31ha***

The analysis provides a general snapshot of respective levels of local open space provision and the variations therein. Whilst there are wide local variations, per capita levels of provision are generally below the district average in the larger parishes and this underlines the importance of maintaining and where possible enhancing levels of provision in these parts of the district.

7.12 Adult football pitches

7.12.1 Site-specific assessment

The site specific analysis for adult football pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a 'good' quality adult pitch will accommodate three match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

Site	Pitches	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Cosby Recn. Ground	2	4.0	Cosby United FC Cosby United Youth FC	4.5*	-0.5	* Use of adult pitches by youth teams
Countesthorpe Comm. College	6	6.0*	Enderby Mission Utd. FC Suecastle FC	1.0	+5.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage
County Hall Sports Ground	1	3.0*	County Hall FC	0.5	+2.5	* 'Good' quality pitch
Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	2	4.0	Blaby United FC Medz FC	1.5	+2.5	
Glenfield Sports Ground	2	4.0	Glenfield Town FC	1.0	+3.0	
Holmes Park	1	3.0	Leicestershire FA	1.5	+1.5	
Huncote Sports & Social Club	2	6.0	Huncote SSC FC Huncote Sunday FC United Revolution FC	3.0	+3.0	
Kings Drive Playing Field	1	2.0	Epworth Forest Juniors FC	2.5*	-0.5	* Use of adult pitches by youth team
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Kirby Muxloe 88 JFC	1.0*	+1.0	* Use of adult pitches by youth teams

Site	Pitches	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	1	3.0*	Kirby Muxloe FC	1.5	+1.5	* 'Good' quality pitch
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	2	4.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	1.5	+2.5	
Meadows Sports Ground	2	4.0	Magna 73 FC Oadby &Wigston Ladies Star & Garter FC The Alliance FC	4.5	-0.5	
Memorial Playing Fields	3	6.0	AFC Woolley FC Bulls Head	1.0	+5.0	
Mossdale Meadows	2	4.0	AFC Bees Knees Braunstone Trinity FC	1.5	+2.5	
Northfield Park	1	2.0	FC Tumar	0.5	+1.5	
Oakfield Park	1	2.0	Blaby Bulls FC	0.5*	+1.5	* Use of adult pitch by youth team
Saffron Dynamo FC	2	6.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	2.0	+4.0	* 'Good' quality pitches
Southey Close Playing Fields	1	2.0	Enderby Social Club FC	0.5	+1.5	
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	2.0	Forest East FC Forest Park FC Leics. Constabulary FC	1.5	+0.5	
Thurlaston Sports Club	2	4.0	Thurlaston Magpies FC	3.0	+1.0	
Whetstone Youth Club	1	3.0*	Blaby & Whetstone Ath. FC Blaby Foxes Whetstone Veterans FC	4.5	-1.5	* 'Good' quality pitch
Willoughby Road Pl. Field	1	1.0*	Countesthorpe Athletic	2.5	-1.5	* Capacity reduced by poor quality pitch
Winstanley Comm. College	3	3.0*	Studs Junior FC	1.0**	+2.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage ** Use of adult pitches by youth teams
Winston Avenue Sports Ground	1	2.0	Enderby Bullets FC	2.5	-0.5	
TOTALS	***42***	***82.0***	***-***	***45.0***	***+37.0***	***-***

7.12.2 Qualitative analysis

The following aspects of sites that provide adult football pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

Pitch quality	Changing facilities
• Willoughby Road Playing Field	• Cosby Recreation Ground • Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground. • Mossdale Meadows • Northfield Park • Oakfield Park • Willoughby Road Playing Field

7.12.3 Summary

The key findings on adult football pitches are as follows:

- Six sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- 18 sites have some spare usage capacity.

Leicester Road Recreation Ground, Enderby

7.13 Youth football (11v11)pitches

7.13.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for youth football (11v11) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a 'good' quality youth pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

Site	*Pitches*	*Weekly capacity*	*Users*	*Weekly demand*	*Weekly balance*	*Comments*
Brockington College	1	1.0*	Football & Fitness Academy	2.0	-1.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage
Glenfield Sports Ground	2	4.0	Glenfield United YFC	2.0	+2.0	
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	1	4.0*	Kirby Muxloe 88 FC	2.5	+1.5	* 'Good' quality pitch
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Narborough & Enderby Foxes FC	2.5	-0.5	

Site	Pitches	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Meadows Sports Ground	2	4.0	Oadby & Wigston Ladies	5.0	-1.0	
Mossdale Meadows	1	2.0	Braunstone Trinity FC	2.0	Balanced	
Winston Avenue Sports Ground	1	2.0	Croft Juniors (2013) FC	4.0	-2.0	
TOTALS	***9***	***19.0***	***-***	***20.0***	***-1.0***	***-***

7.13.2 Qualitative analysis

The changing facilities at Mossdale Meadows that serve youth football (11v11) pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits and there are no changing facilities at all at Leicester Road Recreation Ground, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience.

7.13.3 Summary

The key findings for youth football pitches are as follows:

- Four sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At one site usage is balanced
- Two sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.14 Youth football (9v9)pitches

7.14.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for youth football (9v9) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a 'good' quality youth pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

Site	Pitches	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Brockington College	1	1.0*	Football & Fitness Academy	3.0	-2.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Cosby United Youth FC	6.5	-4.5	
Glenfield Sports Ground	2	4.0	Glenfield United YFC	4.5	-0.5	
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Kirby Muxloe 88 FC	4.0	-2.0	

Site	Pitches	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Narborough & Enderby	3.0	-1.0	
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	2.0	Balanced	
Mossdale Meadows	1	2.0	Braunstone Trinity FC Kingsway Rangers JFC	2.0	Balanced	
Saffron Dynamo FC	1	4.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	3.5	+0.5	* 'Good' quality pitch
Whetstone Youth Club	1	4.0*	Advanced Football Acad. Blaby & Whetstone FC	5.0	-1.0	* 'Good' quality pitch
TOTALS	***10***	***23.0***	**-**	***24.5***	***-1.5***	**-**

7.14.2 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve youth football (9v9) pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits and in the case of Leicester Road Recreation Ground there is no provision, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

Site
• Cosby Recreation Ground
• Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground
• Leicester Road Recreation Ground
• Mossdale Meadows

7.14.3 Summary

The key findings for youth football (9v9) pitches are as follows:

- Six sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At two sites usage is balanced
- One site has some spare usage capacity.

7.15 Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches

7.15.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for mini-soccer (7v7) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

In line with FA guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality mini-soccer pitch will accommodate six match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

Site	Pitches	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	4.0	Cosby United Youth FC	1.5	+2.5	
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	1	4.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	2.0	+2.0	
Meadows Sports Ground	2	8.0	Oadby & Wigston Ladies	2.0	+6.0	
Mossdale Meadows	1	4.0	Braunstone Trinity FC Kingsway Rangers JFC	2.5	+1.5	
Oakfield Park	1	4.0	Blaby Bulls FC	1.5	+2.5	
Saffron Dynamo FC	2	12.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	1.5	+10.5	* 'Good' quality pitches
Thurlaston Sports Club	1	4.0	Thurlaston Magpies FC	1.0	+3.0	
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	1	4.0	*Aylestone Park FC*	2.0	+2.0	
TOTALS	***10***	***44.0***	***-***	***14.0***	***+30.0***	***-***

7.15.2 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve mini-soccer (7v7) pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

Site
• Cosby Recreation Ground
• Mossdale Meadows
• Oakfield Park
• Warwick Road Recreation Ground

7.15.3 Summary

All sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.16 Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches

7.16.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for mini-soccer (5v5) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

In line with FA guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality mini-soccer pitch will accommodate six match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

Site	Pitches	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	4.0	Cosby United YFC	2.0	+2.0	
Kings Drive Playing Fields	1	4.0	Epworth Forest JFC	1.0	+3.0	
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	2	8.0	Kirby Muxloe 88 FC	3.0	+5.0	
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	2	8.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	2.0	+6.0	
Meadows Sports Ground	1	4.0	Oadby & Wigston Ladies	1.5	+2.5	
Mossdale Meadows	1	4.0	Braunstone Trinity FC Kingsway Rangers JFC	3.0	+1.0	
Oakfield Park	1	4.0	Blaby Bulls FC	1.0	+4.0	
Saffron Dynamo FC	2	12.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	1.5	+10.5	* 'Good' quality pitches
Thurlaston Sports Club	2	8.0	Thurlaston Magpies FC	1.0	+7.0	
TOTALS	***13***	***56.0***	***-***	***16.0***	***+40.0***	***-***

7.16.2 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve mini-soccer (5v5) pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

Site
• Cosby Recreation Ground
• Kirby Muxloe recreation Ground
• Mossdale Meadows
• Oakfield Park

7.16.3 Summary

All sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.17 Cricket pitches

7.17.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for cricket pitches in Blaby district is set out below. As per Sport England guidance, capacity is expressed as match equivalents per ***season***, as opposed to per ***week*** for all other pitch types.

- In line with ECB guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality wicket will accommodate 5 matches per season, a 'standard' quality wicket will accommodate 4 matches per season and a 'poor' quality wicket will accommodate 3 matches per season.

- Adult teams account for an average of 0.5 'home' games per week and junior teams for 0.36 'home' games per week.

- Artificial turf wickets are shown in brackets in the table below and will accommodate 35 matches per season.

Site	*Wickets*	*Seasonal capacity*	*Users*	*Seasonal demand*	*Seasonal balance*	*Comments*
Cosby Recn. Ground	10(1)	85	Cosby Cricket Club	66.0	+19.0	
Countesthorpe Cricket Club	12(1)	95	Countesthorpe Cricket Club	80.4	+14.6	
County Hall Sports Ground	8(1)	67	County Hall Cricket Club	10.0	+57.0	
Enderby Cricket Club	6(1)	50	Enderby Cricket Club	76.0	-26.0	
Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	9(1)	65	Anstey & Glenfield CC	20.0	+45.0	
Huncote Sports & Social Club	10	50	Huncote Cricket Club	20.0	+30.0	
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	8	32	SPA Cricket Club	20.0	+12.0	
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	9(1)	80	Kirby Muxloe Cricket Club	48.8	+31.2	
Leicester Ivanhoe CC	16(1)	115	Leicester Forest Cricket Club Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club	78.8	+36.2	
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	12(1)	95	Narborough & Littlethorpe CC	94.8	+0.2	
Lissman Fields	6	24	Sharnford Cricket Club	20.0	+4.0	
Meadows Sports Ground	10	40	Wigston Town Cricket Club	37.2	+2.8	
Northfield Park	4	16	Blaby Cricket Club	10.0	+6.0	
Saffron Dynamo FC	8	40	Leicester Teachers & Mossdale	40.0	Balanced	
Sapcote Recn. Ground	6	24	Sapcote Cricket Club	20.0	+4.0	
Thurlaston Sports Club	4	16	Friar Lane Taverners CC Thurlaston Cricket Club	20.0	-4.0	
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	6	24	Whetstone Town Cricket Club	20.0	+4.0	
Winstanley Comm. College	(1)	35	Braunstone Cricketers CC	20.0	+15.0	
Winston Ave. Sports Ground	8(1)	67	Croft Cricket Club	48.8	+18.2	
TOTALS	***143(9)***	***1020***	***-***	***750.2***	***+269.8***	***-***

7.17.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of all cricket pitches and outfields is either 'good' or 'standard' (although two non-turf wickets are rated as 'poor' and this is reflected in the individual site capacity calculations.

The following pavilions that serve cricket pitches are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits and in the case of Winstanley Community College, there is no dedicated pavilion, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

Site
• Lissman Fields • Meadows Sports Ground • Northfield Park • Winstanley Community College • Winston Avenue Sports Ground

7.17.3 Summary

The key findings for cricket pitches are as follows:

- Two sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At one site usage is balanced
- 16 sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.18 Rugby pitches

7.18.1 Site-specific analysis

The site specific analysis for adult rugby pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions at peak times.

- In line with RFU guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality pitch will accommodate 2 matches per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate 1.5 matches per season and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate 1 match per week.
- Adult and junior teams account for an average of 0.5 'home' games per week and mini-rugby teams for 0.25 'home' games per week.

Site	*Pitches*	*Weekly capacity*	*Users*	*Weekly demand*	*Weekly balance*	*Comments*
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Cosby Rugby Club	1.0	+1.0	
Leicester Forest RFC	3	6.0	Leicester Forest Rugby Club	8.75	-2.75	
Old Newtonians RFC	3	6.0	Old Newtonians Rugby Club	3.5	+2.5	
Vipers Rugby Club	3	6.0	Vipers Rugby Club	7.75	-1.75	
Westleigh Park	3	6.0	Leicester Lions Rugby Club	5.0	+1.0	
TOTALS	***13***	***26.0***	***-***	***26.0***	***Balanced***	

7.18.2 Qualitative analysis

All rugby pitches in the district are at least 'standard' quality. The following changing facilities require improvement and upgrading:

Site
• Leicester Forest Rugby Club • Old Newtonians Rugby Club • Vipers Rugby Club • Westleigh Park

7.18.3 Summary

The key findings for rugby pitches are as follows:

- Two sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- Three sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.19 Standards for grass pitches

The most accurate method for assessing a per capita standard for grass pitches is to:

- Identify the number of pitches needed at present, based upon the application of the playing pitch guidance supply-demand methodology.
- Divide the number of pitches thus identified by the current population.

The table below contains the calculations for Blaby district:

Pitch type	*Pitches required*	*Pitches required per capita*
Adult football	23	1: 4,082
Youth football (11v11)	10	1: 9,390
Youth football (9v9)	13	1: 7,223
Mini-soccer (7v7)	7	1: 13,414
Mini-soccer (5v5)	8	1: 11,738
Cricket	19	1: 4,942
Rugby	13	1: 7,223

7.20 Synthetic Turf Pitches for hockey

7.20.1 Site-specific analysis

There are no synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Blaby district, but the supply and demand data for the facilities with catchments that overlap the district boundaries is set out below.

In line with Sport England guidance weekly capacity is expressed in terms of availability at peak times only. In addition to hockey use there is football training on most pitches.

Site	*Weekly capacity*	*Users*	*Weekly demand*	*Weekly balance*	*Comments*
Groby Community College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	22.0	+3.0	
William Bradford Academy	25.0	Football training and casual hire	10.0	+15.0	
John Cleveland College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	20.0	+5.0	
St. Margaret's Pasture	25.0	Leicester Thursday HC Leicester Westleigh HC Panthers Hockey Club South Leicester Hockey	25.0	Balanced	

Site	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Moat Community College*	25.0	Football training and casual hire	21.0	+4.0	
Roger Bettles Sports Centre	25.0	Football training and casual hire	25.0	Balanced	
Soar Valley College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	20.0	+5.0	
Leicester Grammar School	25.0	Leicester Hockey Club	20.0	+5.0	
Leicester Grammar School	25.0	Leicester Hockey Club	20.0	+5.0	
TOTALS	***225.0***	***-***	***183.0***	***+42.0***	***-***

7.20.2 Qualitative analysis

All synthetic turf pitches for hockey with catchments that overlap the district boundaries are rated as at least 'standard' quality.

7.20.3 Summary

All but two of the synthetic turf pitches for hockey with catchments that overlap the Blaby district boundaries have some spare capacity.

7.21 '3G' Football Turf Pitches

7.21.1 Site-specific analysis

The site specific analysis for '3G' football turf pitches in Blaby district is set out below:

Site	Weekly capacity	Users	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Comments
Brockington College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	25.0	Balanced	

7.21.2 Qualitative analysis

The pitch is rated as 'good' quality.

7.21.3 Football Association Assessment of '3G' pitch needs

The Football Association has devised an internal mapping exercise to establish an estimated baseline figure for the number of '3G' pitches required to meet football needs in a locality. The calculation involves the following assumptions:

- Every football team in a locality will require one training 'slot' per week on a '3G' pitch, defined as one-third of the area of a full-sized pitch for one hour.
- Based upon Sport England national research on synthetic turf pitch usage, an average of 55 training 'slots' per week will be available at a full-sized '3G' pitch.
- Smaller and/or commercially provided '3G' pitches are capable of accommodating 10 training 'slots' per week.

With one full-sized '3G' pitch in Blaby district) and five smaller '3G' pitches, 105 training 'slots' per week are available. With 233 football teams in the district, there is a notional shortfall of 128 slots per week, equivalent to 2.33 full-sized '3G' pitches.

7.21.4 Summary

The key findings for '3G' football turf pitch use are as follows:

- The only '3G' football turf pitch in Blaby district at present is used to full capacity.
- The FA's calculation identifies a need for 2.33 additional '3G' pitches for football usage. This equates to one '3G' football turf pitch per 22,165 people.

7.22 Bowls greens

7.22.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues and consultation with local clubs, the following standard of provision for outdoor bowls greens was set:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	One outdoor bowls green per 13,500 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor bowls green per 13,414 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • The number of outdoor bowls greens per capita in Blaby district is just above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are around the norm for similar areas. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • Based on the above evidence, a standard around the current per capita levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a green and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes drive of the nearest green.	• 'Most users will live locally and travel less than 15 minutes. 90% of users will travel by car'. - *'Bowls Design Guidance'* (2005). • The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest bowling green. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).

7.22.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of bowls greens in Blaby district at present and no evidence of any latent demand.
- **Quality of provision** - The disabled access at the following facilities are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

Site
• Glenfield Bowls Club • Narborough & District BC • Shakespeare Park BC

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.23 Tennis courts

7.23.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues and consultation with local clubs and the Lawn Tennis Association, the following standard of provision was set:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	One outdoor tennis court per 2,350 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor tennis court per 2,348 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • The number of tennis per capita in Blaby district is the best for the neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for similar areas, although there is no evidence of significant spare capacity locally. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • Based on the above evidence, a standard around the current per capita levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a court and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes drive of the nearest court.	• Research commissioned by the Lawn Tennis Association revealed that outdoor tennis court users typically travel for up to 15 minutes to reach their chosen facility and more than 70% travel by car. - *LTA* (2002). • The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest tennis court. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).

7.23.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of tennis courts in Blaby district at present and no evidence of any latent demand.

- **Quality of provision** - The aspects of the following facilities that are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits are tabulated below:

Courts	*Changing*	*Access*
• Shakespeare Park	• Enderby Tennis Club • Thorpe Astley Tennis Club	• Enderby Tennis Club

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.24 Golf courses

7.24.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues and consultation with local clubs and the English Golf Union, the following standard of provision was set:

Element	*Standard*	*Justification*
Quantitative	One golf course per 23,500 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate to one golf course per 23,475 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • The number of golf courses per capita in Blaby district is well above the mean for the neighbouring areas, although there is no evidence of significant spare capacity locally. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • Based on the above evidence, a standard around the current per capita levels of provision is appropriate - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a course should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest golf course.	• Research commissioned by the English Golf Union revealed that golfers typically travel for up to 20 minutes to reach their chosen course and more than 90% travel by car. - *EGU* (2004) • The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest golf course. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).

7.24.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of golf courses in Blaby district at present and no evidence of any latent demand.
- **Quality of provision** - All aspects of golf courses and their ancillary facilities in Blaby district are rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.25 Village and community halls

7.25.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision was set:

Element	Standard	Justification
Quantitative	One village or community hall per 2,850 people.	• Existing levels of provision equate to one village or community hall per 2,845 people - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • There is no evidence that current levels of provision are inadequate to meet local needs - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a course should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 10 minutes drive of the nearest hall.	• As local scale facilities, 10 minutes travel time is an appropriate catchment. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015). • The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of their nearest hall. - *Blaby District Open Space Audit* (2015).

7.25.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of village and community halls in Blaby district at present and no evidence of any latent demand.

- **Quality of provision** - The aspects of the following village and community halls that are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits are tabulated below:

Sports capacity	Overall quality
• Cosby Community Church • St. James' Church Hall • Whetstone Parish Council Offices	• Croft Community Centre • Huncote Community Centre • Narborough Parish Centre • Stoney Stanton Village Hall • Whetstone Memorial Hall

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.26 Summary of current needs

Based upon the supply-demand analysis, the following current needs have been identified:

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
Parks and gardens	• Districtwide deficit of 0.50ha • Localised shortfall in 7 of the 9 urban parishes partly offset by surpluses in Blaby and Braunstone parishes.	• Entrance and boundary improvement needed at Northfield Park. • Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park. • Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park, Franklin Park, Narborough Recreation Ground and Northfield Park	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Typology	*Quantity*	*Quality*	*Accessibility*
Natural greenspace	• Districtwide surplus of 0.33ha • Localised shortfall in 12 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere.	Quality improvements needed at: • Countesthorpe Country Park • Enderby Balancing Lake • Kings Walk Spinney • Land at Hinckley Way • Land at New Bridge Road • Land at Oakcroft Avenue • Land east of Riverside Way • Land north-east of Croft Hill • Land south of Gynsills Lane	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Informal open space	• Supply and demand are balanced at district level. • Localised shortfalls in 11 of the 19 parishes.	Quality improvements needed at: • Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space • Langham Drive open space • Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Winchester Avenue open space • Woodhouse Road open space	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Provision for children and young people	• Districtwide deficit of 0.25ha • Localised shortfall in 8 of the 19 parishes.	Quality improvements needed at: • Crescent play area • Fosse Meadows play area • Sharnford play area • Stafford Leys Community Centre	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Allotments	• Districtwide deficit of 3.14ha • Shortfall in 14 of the 19 parishes.	Quality improvements needed at: • Salisbury Avenue Allotments • Windermere Drive allotments	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Cemeteries and churchyards	• Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha • Shortfall in 6 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere.	Quality improvements needed at: • Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery • All Saints' Church, Sapcote • St. Mary the Virgin, Wigston Parva	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Adult football pitches	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 18 good quality pitches. • 6 sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 18 sites have some spare usage capacity.	Drainage improvements needed at Willoughby Road Playing Field. Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Northfield Park • Oakfield Park • Willoughby Road Playing Field	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Typology	*Quantity*	*Quality*	*Accessibility*
Youth football (11v11) pitches	• Districtwide deficit equivalent to 0.5 standard quality pitches. • 4 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 2 sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Leicester Road Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	• Districtwide deficit equivalent to 1 standard quality pitch. • 6 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 2 sites usage is balanced • 1 site has some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground • Leicester Road Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 7.5 standard quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park • Warwick Road Recreation Ground	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 10 good quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Cricket pitches	• Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 54 good quality wickets. • 2 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 16 sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Lissman Fields • Meadows Sports Ground • Northfield Park • Winstanley Community College • Winston Avenue Sports Ground	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Rugby pitches	• Districtwide supply and demand are balanced. • 2 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 3 sites have some spare capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: • Leicester Forest Rugby Club • Old Newtonians Rugby Club • Vipers Rugby Club • Westleigh Park	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 2 pitches at facilities in neighbouring areas.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
'3G' football turf pitches	Deficit of 2.33 '3G' pitches based on FA calculations	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Bowls greens	No additional facilities needed.	Disabled improvements needed at • Glenfield Bowls Club • Narborough & District BC • Shakespeare Park BC	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Typology	*Quantity*	*Quality*	*Accessibility*
Tennis courts	No additional facilities needed.	Court improvements at Shakespeare Park Changing improvements needed at : • Enderby Tennis Club • Thorpe Astley Tennis Club Access improvements needed at Enderby Tennis Club	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Golf courses	No additional facilities needed.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Village and community halls	No additional facilities needed.	Extra sports capacity needed at: • Cosby Community Church • St. James' Church Hall • Whetstone Parish Council Offices Quality improvements needed at: • Croft Community Centre • Huncote Community Centre • Narborough Parish Centre • Stoney Stanton Village Hall • Whetstone Memorial Hall	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

8 PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This section examines the considerations that Blaby District Council will take into account in refining sport and recreation facilities planning policies in the study area.

8.2 Locally-derived standards of provision

The National Planning Policy Framework states that 'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities'.

The assessment in the *'Blaby District Council Open Space Audit'* follows Sport England's recommended methodologies and is based upon a detailed assessment of local needs. It therefore comprises a robust and defensible basis for assessing the adequacy of local provision.

8.3 Recommended standards of provision

Based upon the findings of the *'Blaby District Council Open Space Audit'*, the following standards of provision are recommended, to supercede those contained in policy CS15 in the *'Blaby District Local Plan Core Strategy'* (2013):

- **Parks and gardens -** 0.2ha per 1,000 people in the larger parishes with 6,000 people or more, within 16 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Natural greenspace -** 2.35ha per 1,000 people within 20 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Informal open space -** 1.00ha per 1,000 people within 10 minutes walk and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Children's play -** 0.06ha of equipped play areas per 1,000 people within 13 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Allotments -** 0.25ha per 1,000 people within 18 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Cemeteries and churchyards -** 0.21ha per 1,000 people for open space needs within 15 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Grass pitches for football, cricket and rugby -** As per the assessment in section 7.19.
- **Synthetic turf pitches for hockey -** no standard set.

- **'3G' football turf pitches -** one pitch per 55 football teams (one per 22,165 people) within 20 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.

- **Bowling greens -** one green per 13,500 people within 15 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.

- **Tennis courts -** one court per 2,350 people within 15 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.

- **Golf courses -** one 18-hole course per 23,500 people within 20 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.

- **Village and community halls -** one hall per 2,850 people within 10 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.

8.4 Protection of existing provision

To protect existing provision, it is recommended that BDC adopts the following policy.

'Blaby District Council will resist the loss of open space and sports facilities, unless one of more of the following policy exceptions applies:

- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision in the catchment and that the site has no special significance to the local community or the interests of sport.

- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as open space or a sports facility and does not affect the quantity or quality of provision or adversely affect its use.

- The open space or sports facility which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development'.

8.5 Provision relating to new developments

To secure appropriate levels of provision relating to new developments, it is recommended that BDC adopts the following policy.

The following principles should apply:

- All new developments which result in an increase in the number of dwellings should contribute towards the provision of open space and sports facilities. For smaller developments where on-site provision is not achievable, a financial contribution will be sought from developers towards the improvement of provision elsewhere, where appropriate schemes can be identified within the defined catchment.

- The precise nature, composition and size of open space and sports facilities provision in new developments will be determined in relation to the overall size of the development and with reference to the minimum standards of provision.

8.6 Regular review

Because the assessment of the adequacy of open space and sports facilities provision is based upon an aggregation of supply and demand factors which may vary over time, the assessment will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the information upon which it is based remains current.

8.7 Summary

The planning policy considerations will inform local planning policy on open space and sports facilities, which will in turn protect existing provision where appropriate and define the basis for achieving additional facilities to meet identified needs.

9 ACTION PLAN

9.1 Introduction

This section comprises an action plan for meeting the deficiencies identified in this Audit. It examines the options for meeting the shortfalls, the delivery partners and an action plan that specifies what needs to be provided and where and proposes how best this might be achieved.

9.2 Dealing with deficiencies

9.2.1 New provision

Providing entirely new open space and sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by:

- Identifying entirely new sites for provision in appropriate locations.
- Extending existing provision where feasible.
- Disposing of existing provision to reinvest the capital receipt in new provision of at least equivalent quantity, quality and accessibility.
- Incorporating open space and sports facilities into new community provision and housing developments.

9.2.2 Upgrading and refurbishing

Upgrading and refurbishing existing open space and sports facilities would help to meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified:

- Physically expanding the area of an existing site or facility will increase its capacity for use and may enhance its wildlife and biodiversity value. Providing linkages between existing areas of greenspace can help to create green corridors and strategic routes for green travel and wildlife migration.
- Providing additional play equipment in children's play areas, to expand the range of ages and abilities catered for, will attract additional users. Habitat restoration and development improves the biodiversity value of natural greenspace.
- The provision of floodlights for some outdoor sports facilities would extend the period in which they can be used.
- Changing facilities are poor or absent at some facility sites in the district and improvements would significantly enhance the experience of users.

9.2.3 Enhanced access

Improving access to existing open space and sports facilities can be achieved in a number of ways:

- **Formal agreements -** Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard public usage of open space and in some cases may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements. One example is the designation of Access Land under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000), which allows additional public access at specified sites in addition to traditional linear footpaths and bridleways. Another option is to investigate the possibility of developing community access to open space on school sites.

- **Physical improvements -** A number of physical improvements to greenspace sites can improve access, especially for people who are generally less mobile such as the elderly and disabled. Examples include surfaced pathways, the provision of accessible gates and stiles and in the case of sites in rural areas that are relatively distant from the more built-up parts of the district, dedicated car parking.

- **Rights of way improvements -** Improving the rights of way network to ensure that there are appropriate linkages between key open space sites and settlements in the district would improve access and promote more sustainable forms of transport. The designation of additional named and/or themed trails in and around the district would promote the use of key routes.

- **Information and awareness -** The provision of interpretive panels at sites with nature conservation interest can help to educate and inform users and enhance the user experience. Similarly, good on-site signposting can improve user confidence in exploring larger sites or following marked trails. By the same token, off-site signposting creates greater awareness of sites by non-users and may therefore encourage usage. Finally, the development and distribution of publicity materials promoting open space sites and sports facilities will also raise awareness amongst potential users.

9.2.4 Integrated provision

There are already a number of sites in the district where several open space functions are served at the same site. A good example is the many village recreation grounds, where sports pitches are often located alongside children's play facilities, other outdoor sports facilities and amenity greenspace. When making new provision in the future, there are a number of advantages in integrating open spaces:

- **Community cohesion -** The combination of different uses of open space will encourage a wider range of users, including family groups and will promote community cohesion.

- **Maintenance -** Maintenance will be simplified and rationalised if more provision is concentrated at a single site, rather than on a dispersed basis.

9.2.5 Reinstating playing pitches

Reinstating playing pitches where usage has, for a variety of reasons, been discontinued in recent times, affords a straightforward response to increased local demand.

9.3 Delivery partners

A wide range of organisations will have a role in implementing the recommendations in the *'Blaby District Council Open Space Audit'*. The type of roles are summarised below.

9.3.1 Blaby District Council

The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic open space and sports facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.

9.3.2 Town and Parish Councils

Town and parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining open space and sports facilities.

9.3.3 Schools

Many schools in Blaby district already provide sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities both to provide additional facilities on school sites to extend and formalise community access to a range of existing provision.

9.3.4 Sports clubs

Local sports clubs are significant providers of sports facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may be interested in taking on delegated management responsibilities for facilities management and maintenance from Blaby District Council or parish councils.

9.3.5 Voluntary and charitable organisations

Local and national conservation trusts (such as the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) also provide and manage natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, including the creation of new areas from time to time. Sustrans is responsible for promoting and maintaining the National Cycle Network and also for promoting sustainable transport.

9.3.6 Developers

The developers of new housing and commercial projects in Blaby district will be required either to provide new open space and sports facilities as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the provision must meet the needs of the residents of the new developments, as opposed to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies.

9.3.7 Partnership arrangements

Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

9.4 Action plan for meeting existing needs

The action plan identifies the ways in which current deficiencies might be met.

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Parks and gardens	• Districtwide deficit of 0.50ha. • Entrance and boundary improvements needed at Northfield Park. • Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park. • Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park, Franklin Park, Narborough Recreation Ground and Northfield Park.	• Enhance provision at Jubilee Park, Enderby with improved paths, benches and planting, to upgrade informal open space to a park. • Upgrade entrance and boundary at Northfield Park. • Upgrade path surfaces at Franklin Park. • Implement planting schemes needed at Bouskell Park, Franklin Park, Narborough Recreation Ground and Northfield Park.
Natural greenspace	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Access and management issues need to be resolved at Countesthorpe Country Park. • Quality improvements needed at nine sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Resolve the access and management issues with Countesthorpe Country Park. Enhance signage and information at: • Enderby Balancing Lake. • Kings Walk Spinney. • Land Hinckley Way. • Land at New Bridge Road. • Land at Oakcroft Avenue. • Land east of Riverside Way. • Land north-east of Croft Hill. • Land south of Gynsills Lane.
Informal open space	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Quality improvements needed at 11 sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Install benches and litter bins at: • Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space • Langham Drive open space • Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Winchester Avenue open space • Woodhouse Road open space

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Provision for children and young people	• Districtwide deficit of 0.25ha. • Quality improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Identify opportunities to provide new or extended play areas in parishes with the current deficits: - Braunstone - Countesthorpe - Enderby - Glenfield • Improve disabled access and equipment at: - Crescent play area - Fosse Meadows play area - Sharnford play area - Stafford Leys Community Centre
Allotments	• Districtwide deficit of 3.14ha. • Quality improvements needed at two sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Identify opportunities to provide new or extended allotments in parishes with the greatest deficits: - Glenfield - Glen Parva - Leicester Forest East - Whetstone • Improve disabled access and equipment at: - Salisbury Avenue allotments - Windermere drive allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	• Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha. • Quality improvements needed at three sites. • No significant accessibility deficiency.	• Identify opportunities to provide new or extended cemeteries and churchyards in parishes with the greatest deficits: - Braunstone - Glenfield - Glen Parva • Install benches at: - Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery - All Saints' Church, Sapcote - St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wigston Parva
Adult football pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Pitch quality improvements needed at one site. • Changing improvements needed at seven sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kings Drive Playing Field - Meadows Sports Ground - Whetstone Youth Club - Willoughby Road Playing Field - Winston Avenue Sports Ground • Make pitch quality improvements at Willoughby Road Playing Field • Make changing improvements at: - Cosby Recreation Ground - Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows - Northfield Park - Oakfield Park - Willoughby Road Playing Field

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Youth football (11v11) pitches	• Districtwide deficit of 0.5 pitches. • Four sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at two sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 11v11 deficit. • Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Brockington College - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Meadows Sports Ground - Winston Avenue Sports Ground • Make changing improvements: - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	• Districtwide deficit of one pitch. • Six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 9v9 deficit. • Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Brockington College - Cosby Recreation Ground - Glenfield Sports Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Whetstone Recreation Ground • Make changing improvements at: - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Make changing improvements at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park • Warwick Road recreation Ground
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Make changing improvements at: • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park

Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Cricket pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at five sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Enderby Cricket Club - Thurlaston Sports Club • Make changing improvements at: - Lissman Fields - Meadows Sports Ground - Northfield Park - Winstanley Community College - Winston Avenue Sports Ground
Rugby pitches	• Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. • Changing improvements needed at four sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: - Leicester Forest Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club • Make changing improvements at: - Leicester Forest Rugby Club - Old Newtonians Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club - Westleigh Park
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency.	No action required
'3G' football turf pitches	• Deficit equivalent to 2.35 pitches. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Investigate the feasibility of developing '3G' pitches in sub-areas with the greatest shortfall of grass pitches (Narborough and Whetstone). • Seek funding for the developments if the feasibility is proven.
Bowls greens	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Disabled access improvements needed at three sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	Make disabled access improvements at: • Glenfield Bowls Club • Narborough and District Bowls Club • Shakespeare Park Bowls Club
Tennis courts	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Court surface improvements needed at one site. • Changing improvements needed at two sites. • Access improvements needed at one site. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Make court surface improvements at Shakespeare Park. • Make changing improvements at: - Enderby Tennis Club - Thorpe Astley Tennis Club • Make access improvements at Enderby Tennis Club.
Golf courses	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency.	No action required

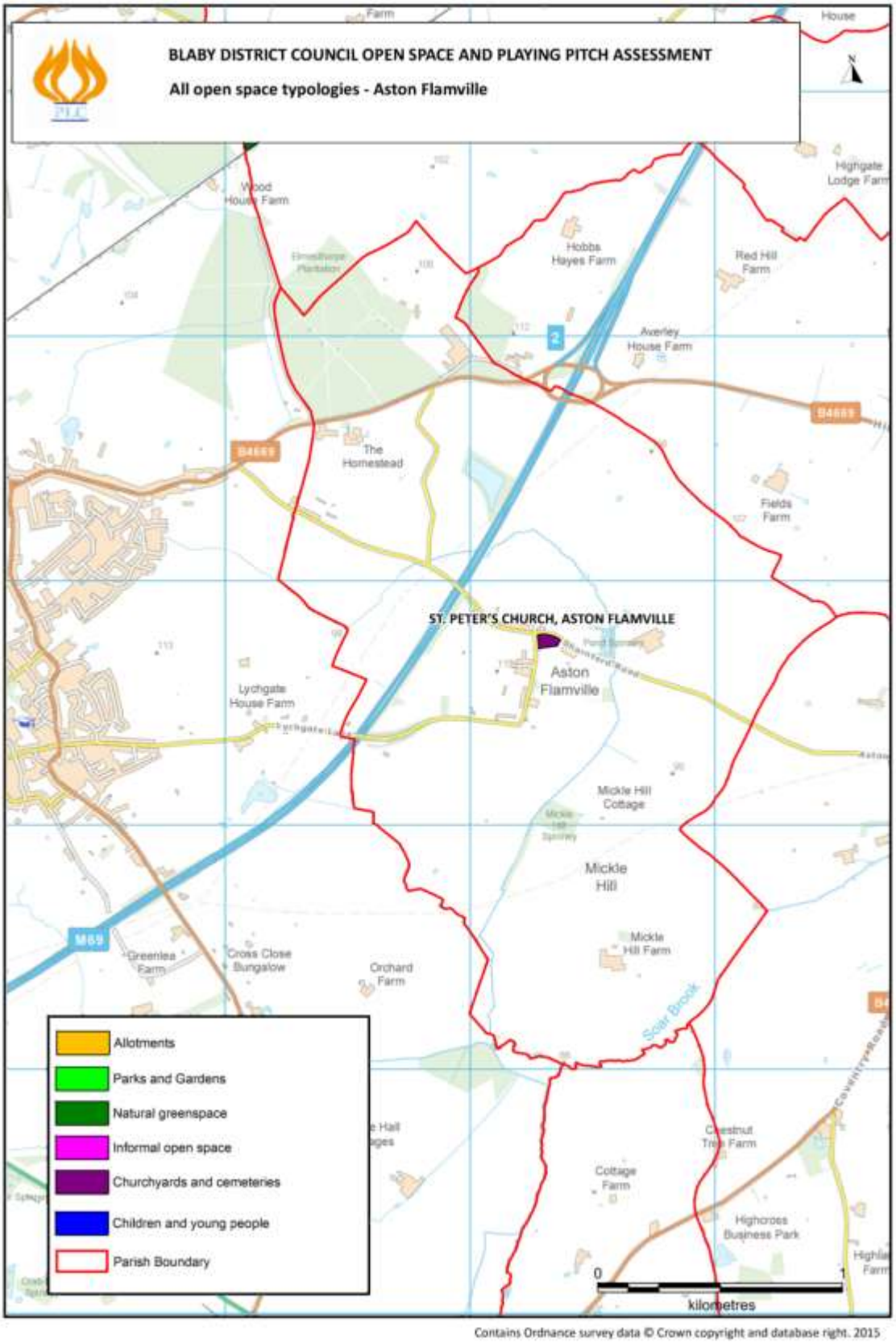
Typology	*Current assessed deficiency*	*Action plan for meeting deficiency*
Village and community halls	• Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Sports capacity improvements needed at three sites. • General condition improvements needed at five sites. • No accessibility deficiency.	• Make sports capacity improvements at: - Cosby Community Church - St. James' Church Hall - Whetstone Parish Council Offices • Make general condition improvements at: - Croft Community Centre - Huncote Community Centre - Narborough Parish Centre - Stoney Stanton Village Hall - Whetstone Memorial Hall

9.5 Provision for reviews

Because sport and physical activity is a rapidly changing environment, to ensure that the proposals in the strategy continue to address local needs and strategic priorities, the situation will be reviewed regularly.

APPENDIX I

PARISH MAPS


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Aston Flamville
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ASTON FLAMVILLE
Aston Flamville
Mickle Hill
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
kilometres
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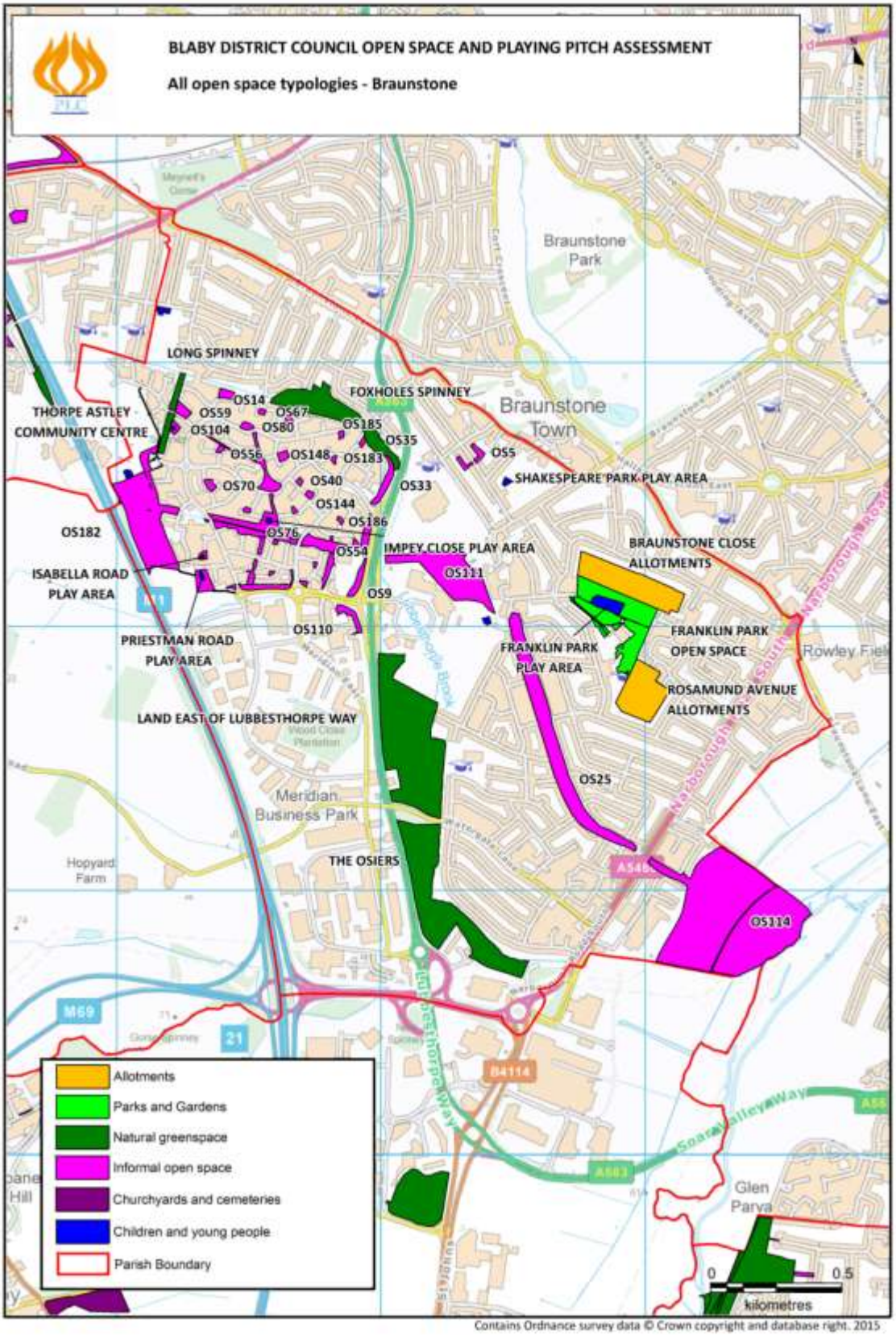
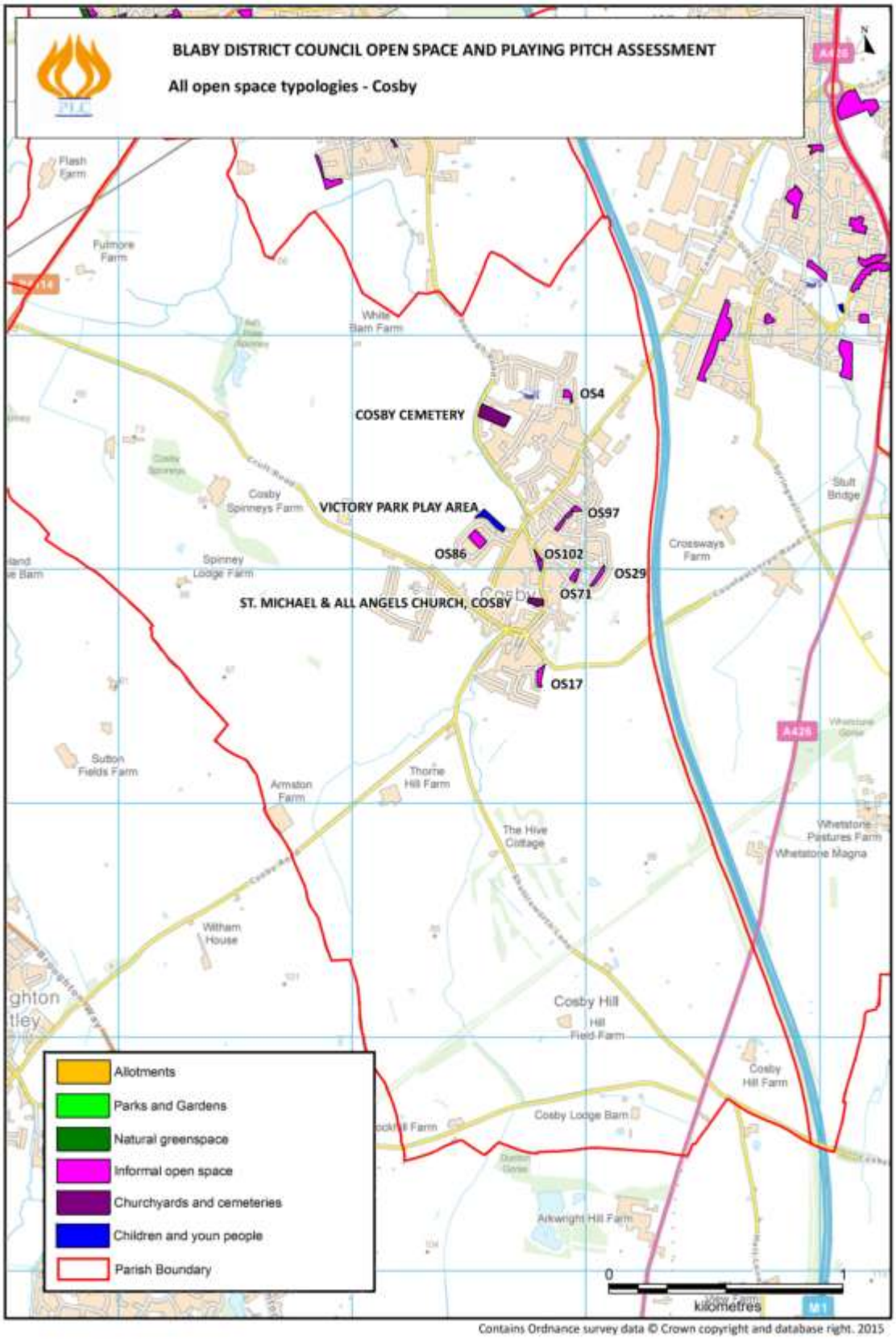

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Braunstone
Braunstone Park
Braunstone Town
LONG SPINNEY
FOXHOLES SPINNEY
THORPE ASTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
OS14
OS59
OS67
OS104
OS80
OS185
OS35
OS55
OS56
OS148
OS183
OS70
OS40
OS33
SHAKESPEARE PARK PLAY AREA
OS144
OS186
OS182
OS76
OS54
IMPEY CLOSE PLAY AREA
BRAUNSTONE CLOSE ALLOTMENTS
ISABELLA ROAD PLAY AREA
OS111
OS9
OS110
PRIESTMAN ROAD PLAY AREA
FRANKLIN PARK PLAY AREA
FRANKLIN PARK OPEN SPACE
ROSAMUND AVENUE ALLOTMENTS
LAND EAST OF LUBBESTHORPE WAY
OS25
Meridian Business Park
THE OSIERS
OS114
Hopyard Farm
M69
B4114
Glen Parva
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
0.5
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Cosby
COSBY CEMETERY
OS4
VICTORY PARK PLAY AREA
OS97
OS86
OS102
OS29
OS71
ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, COSBY
OS17
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and youn people
Parish Boundary
kilometres
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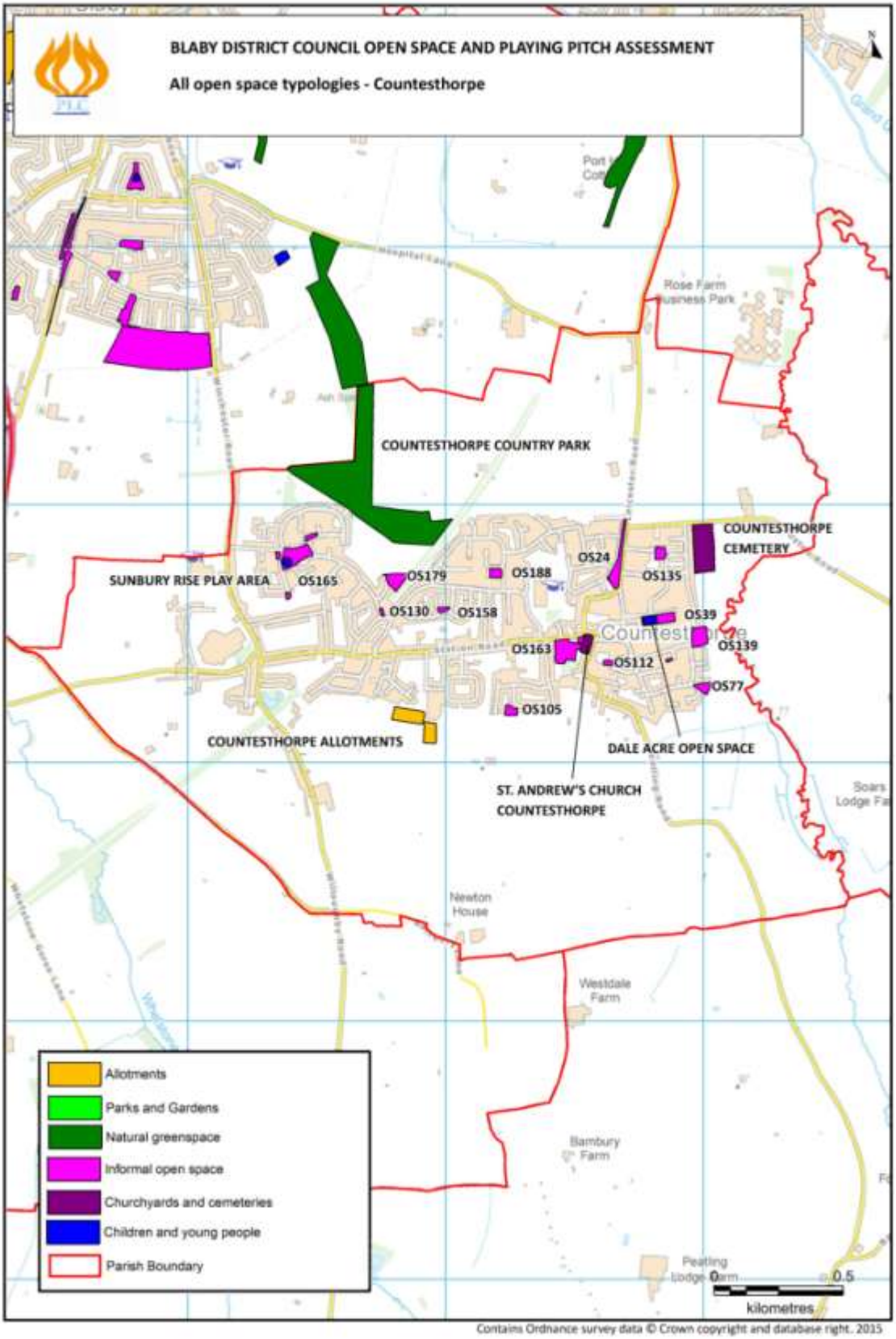
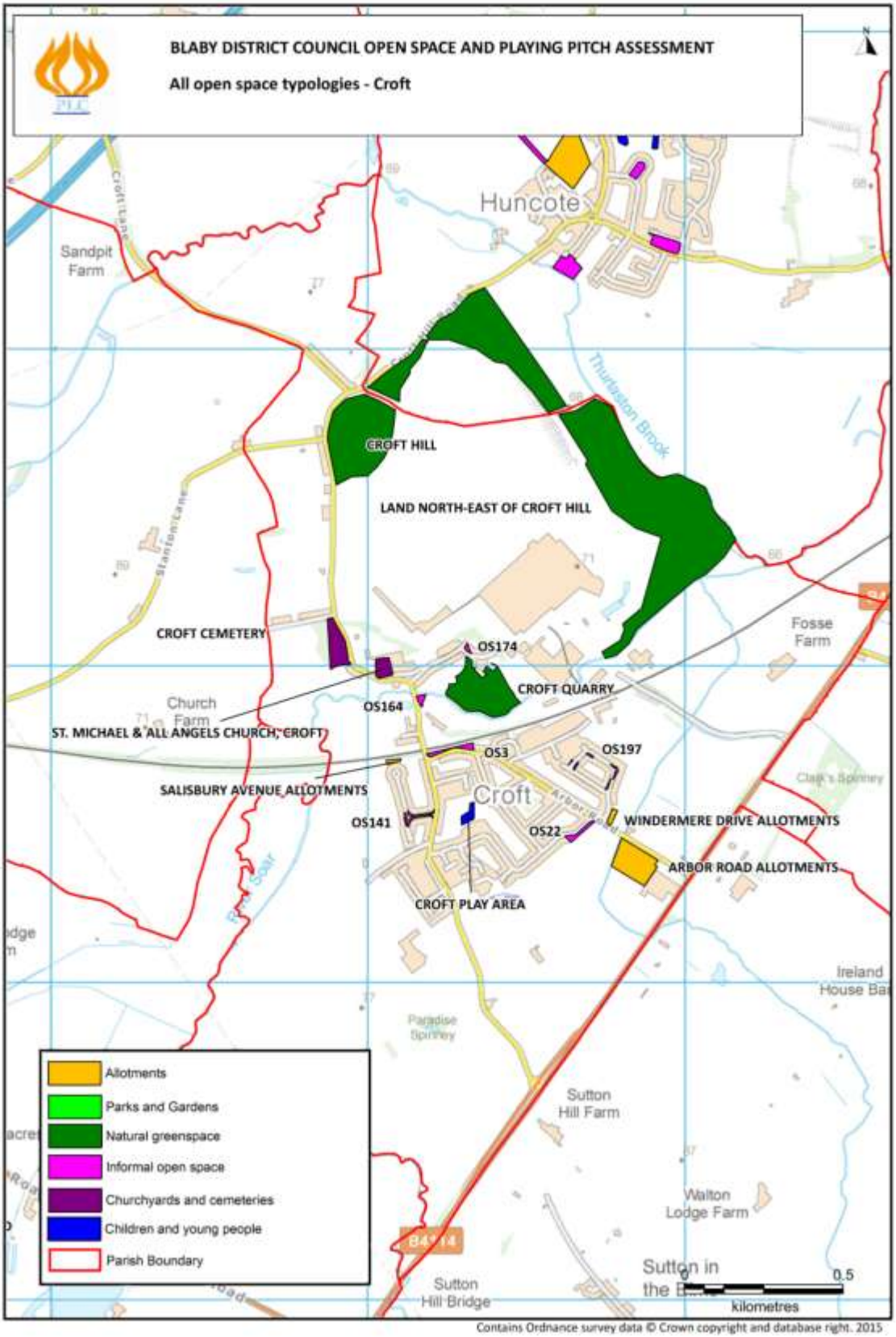

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Countesthorpe
COUNTESTHORPE COUNTRY PARK
COUNTESTHORPE CEMETERY
SUNBURY RISE PLAY AREA
OS165
OS179
OS188
OS24
OS135
OS130
OS158
OS39
OS163
OS139
OS112
OS77
OS105
COUNTESTHORPE ALLOTMENTS
DALE ACRE OPEN SPACE
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH COUNTESTHORPE
Rose Farm
Newton House
Westdale Farm
Bambury Farm
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
0.5
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Croft
Huncote
Sandpit Farm
Thurlaston Brook
CROFT HILL
LAND NORTH-EAST OF CROFT HILL
CROFT CEMETERY
OS174
CROFT QUARRY
OS164
ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, CROFT
Church Farm
Fosse Farm
OS3
OS197
SALISBURY AVENUE ALLOTMENTS
Croft
OS141
OS22
WINDERMERE DRIVE ALLOTMENTS
ARBOR ROAD ALLOTMENTS
CROFT PLAY AREA
Ireland
Paradise
Sutton Hill Farm
Walton Lodge Farm
Sutton Hill Bridge
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
0.5
kilometres
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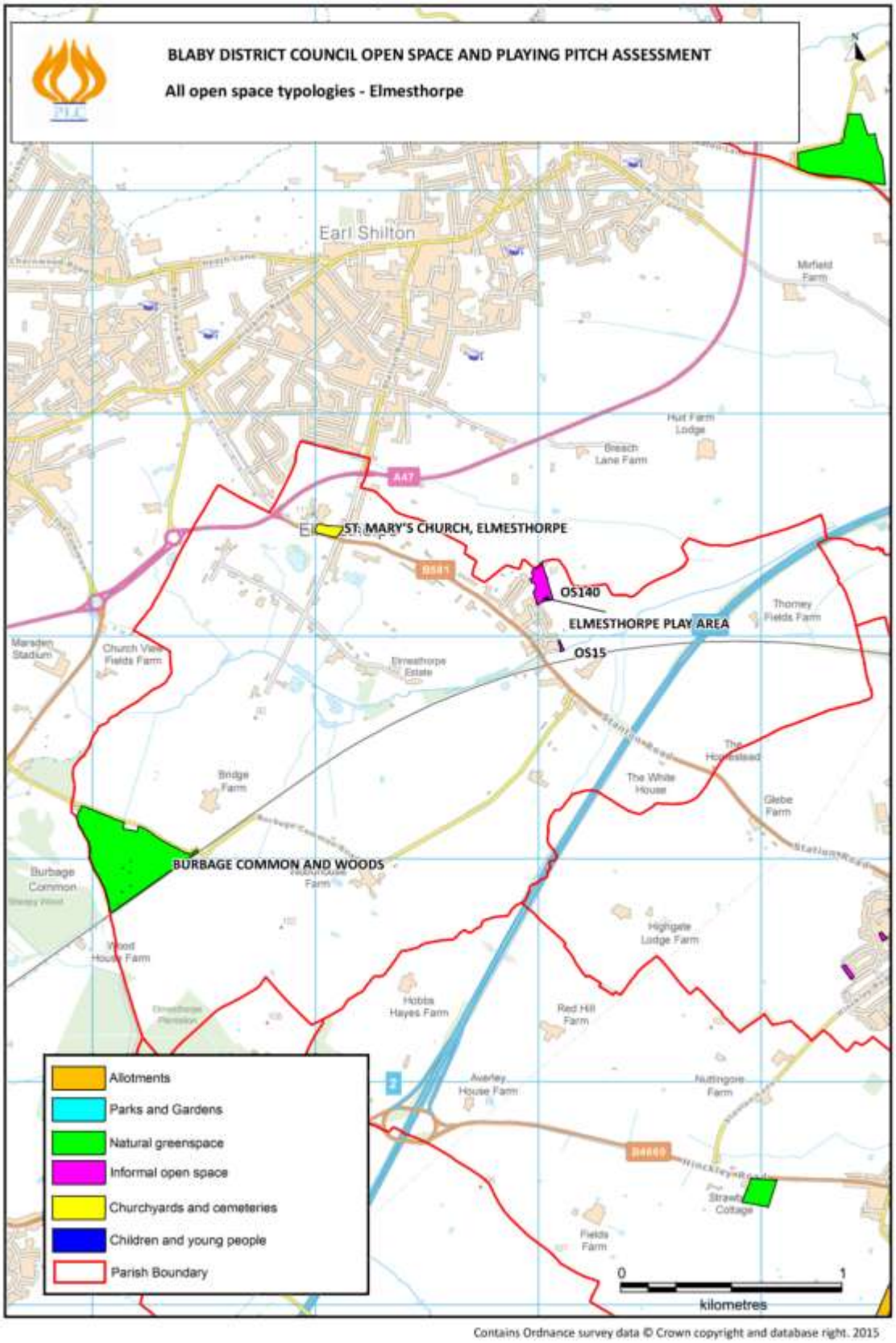

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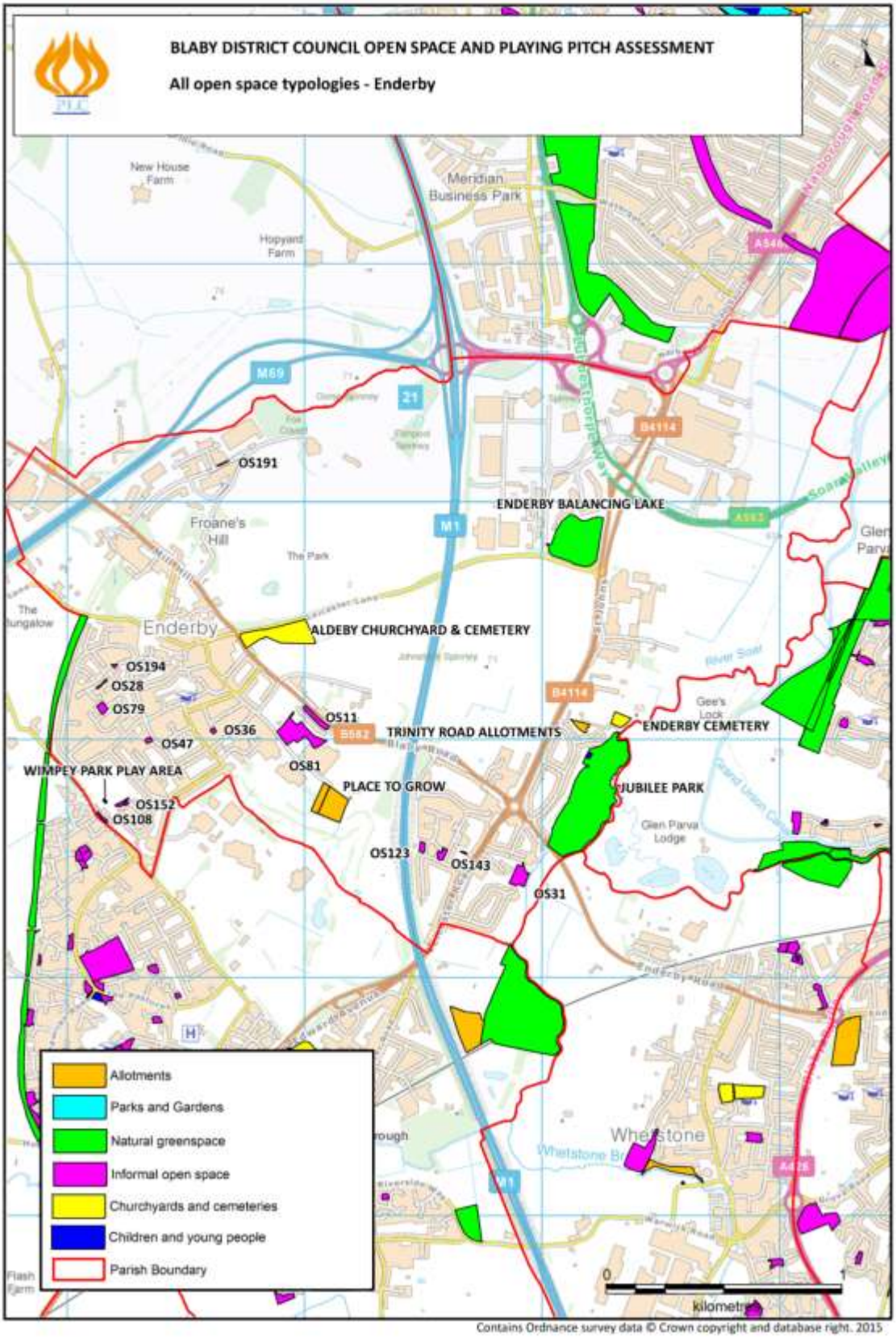
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Enderby
New House Farm
Meridian Business Park
Hopyard Farm
M69
21
M1
B4114
A563
OS191
ENDERBY BALANCING LAKE
Froane's Hill
The Park
Enderby
ALDEBY CHURCHYARD & CEMETERY
OS194
OS28
OS79
OS536
OS11
B582
TRINITY ROAD ALLOTMENTS
ENDERBY CEMETERY
OS47
OS81
WIMPEY PARK PLAY AREA
PLACE TO GROW
JUBILEE PARK
OS152
OS108
Glen Parva Lodge
OS123
OS143
OS31
Whetstone
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
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kilometres
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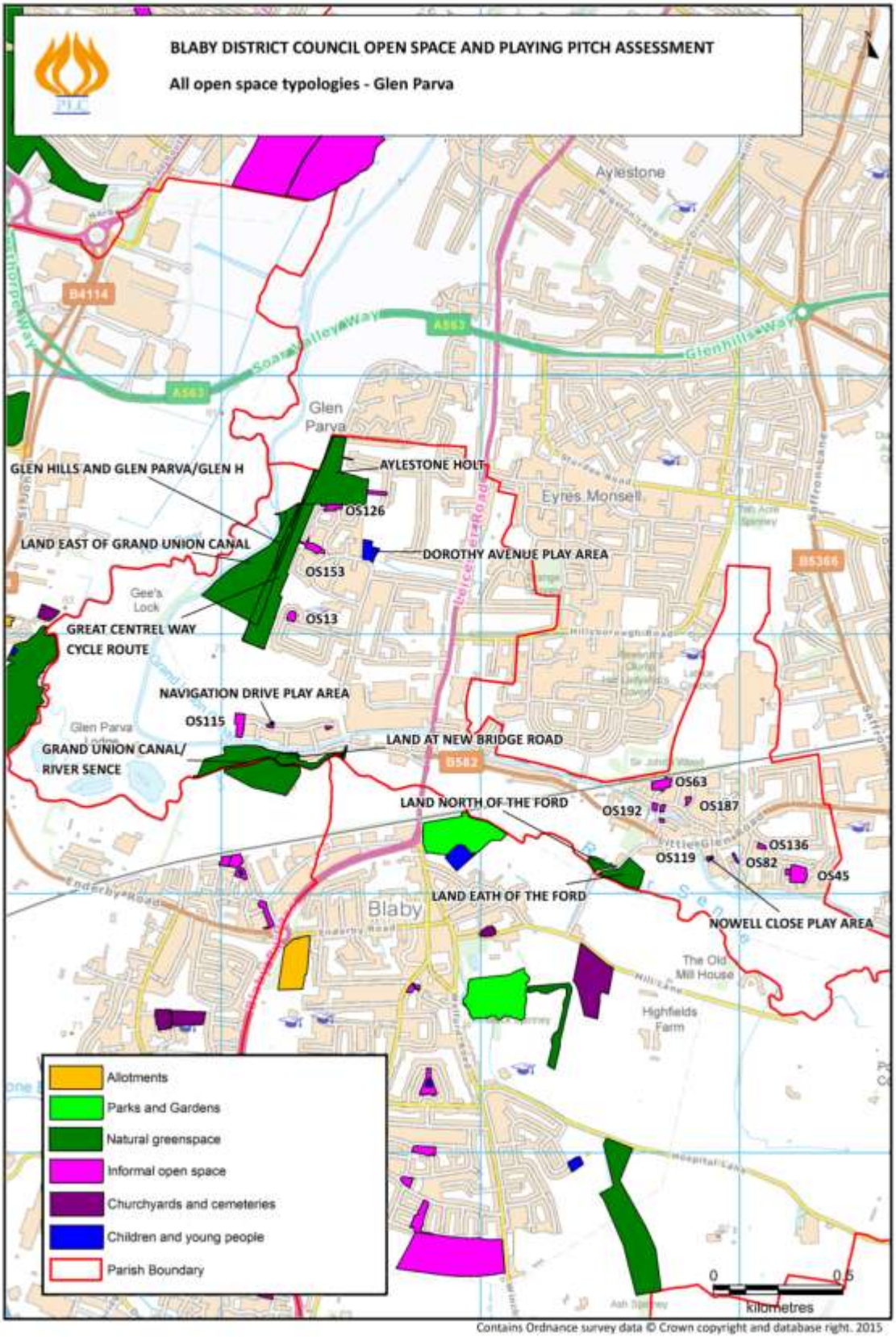
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Glen Parva
Aylestone
B4114
A563
Glen Parva
GLEN HILLS AND GLEN PARVA/GLEN H
AYLESTONE HOLT
OS126
LAND EAST OF GRAND UNION CANAL
OS153
DOROTHY AVENUE PLAY AREA
Eyres Monsell
B5366
Gee's Lock
OS13
GREAT CENTREL WAY CYCLE ROUTE
NAVIGATION DRIVE PLAY AREA
OS115
Glen Parva Lodge
GRAND UNION CANAL/ RIVER SENCE
LAND AT NEW BRIDGE ROAD
B582
OS63
OS187
LAND NORTH OF THE FORD
OS192
OS136
OS119
OS82
OS45
LAND EATH OF THE FORD
NOWELL CLOSE PLAY AREA
Blaby
The Old Mill House
Highfields Farm
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
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kilometres
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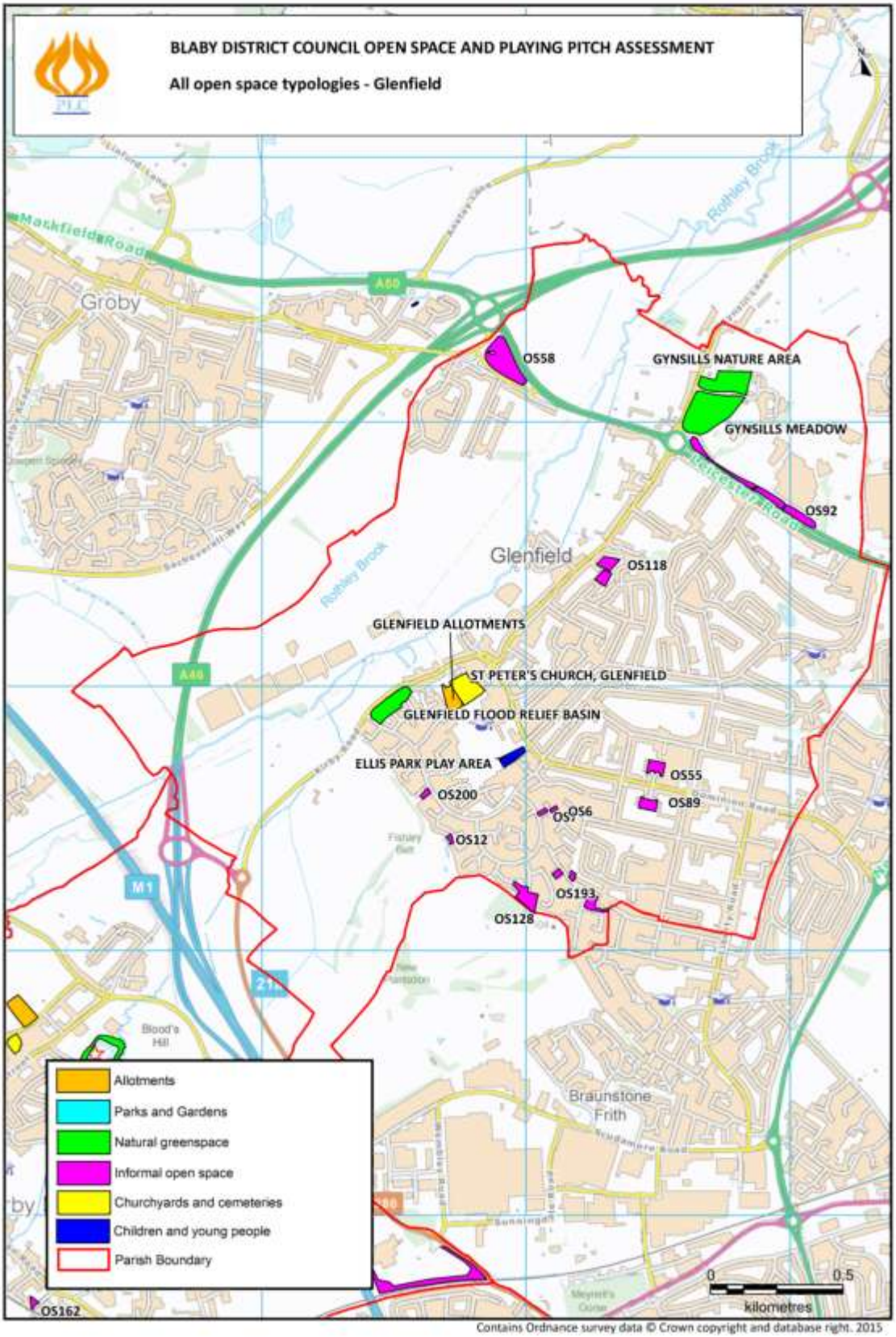
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Glenfield
Groby
Glenfield
Braunstone Frith
Markfield Road
Rothley Brook
A50
A46
M1
OS58
GYNSILLS NATURE AREA
GYNSILLS MEADOW
OS92
OS118
GLENFIELD ALLOTMENTS
ST PETER'S CHURCH, GLENFIELD
GLENFIELD FLOOD RELIEF BASIN
ELLIS PARK PLAY AREA
OS200
OS55
OS89
OS6
OS7
OS12
OS193
OS128
OS162
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
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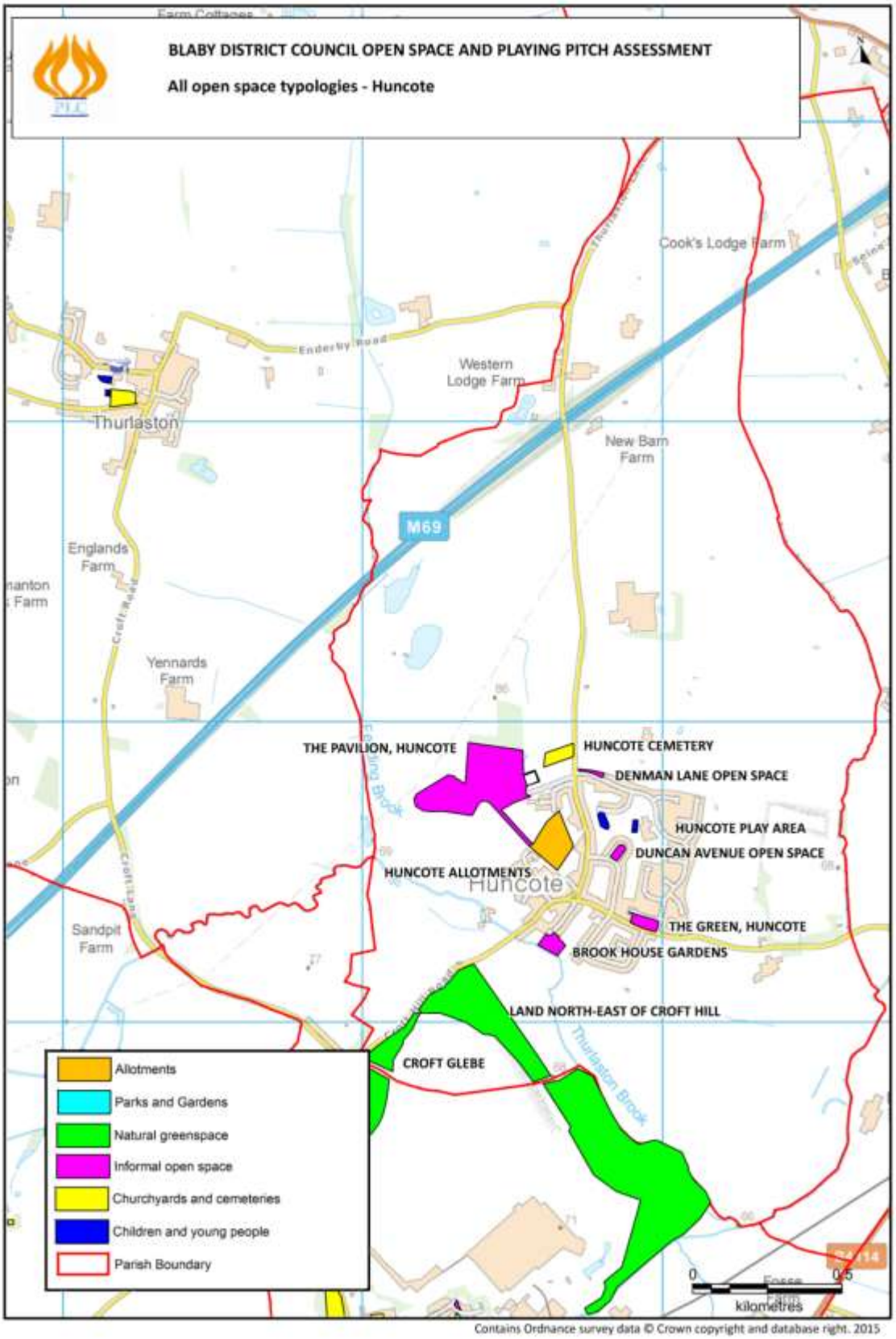
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Huncote
Cook's Lodge Farm
Western Lodge Farm
New Barn Farm
Thurlaston
Enderby Road
M69
Englands Farm
Yennards Farm
Croft Road
Sandpit Farm
Huncote
THE PAVILION, HUNCOTE
HUNCOTE CEMETERY
DENMAN LANE OPEN SPACE
HUNCOTE PLAY AREA
DUNCAN AVENUE OPEN SPACE
HUNCOTE ALLOTMENTS
THE GREEN, HUNCOTE
BROOK HOUSE GARDENS
LAND NORTH-EAST OF CROFT HILL
CROFT GLEBE
Thurlaston Brook
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
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kilometres
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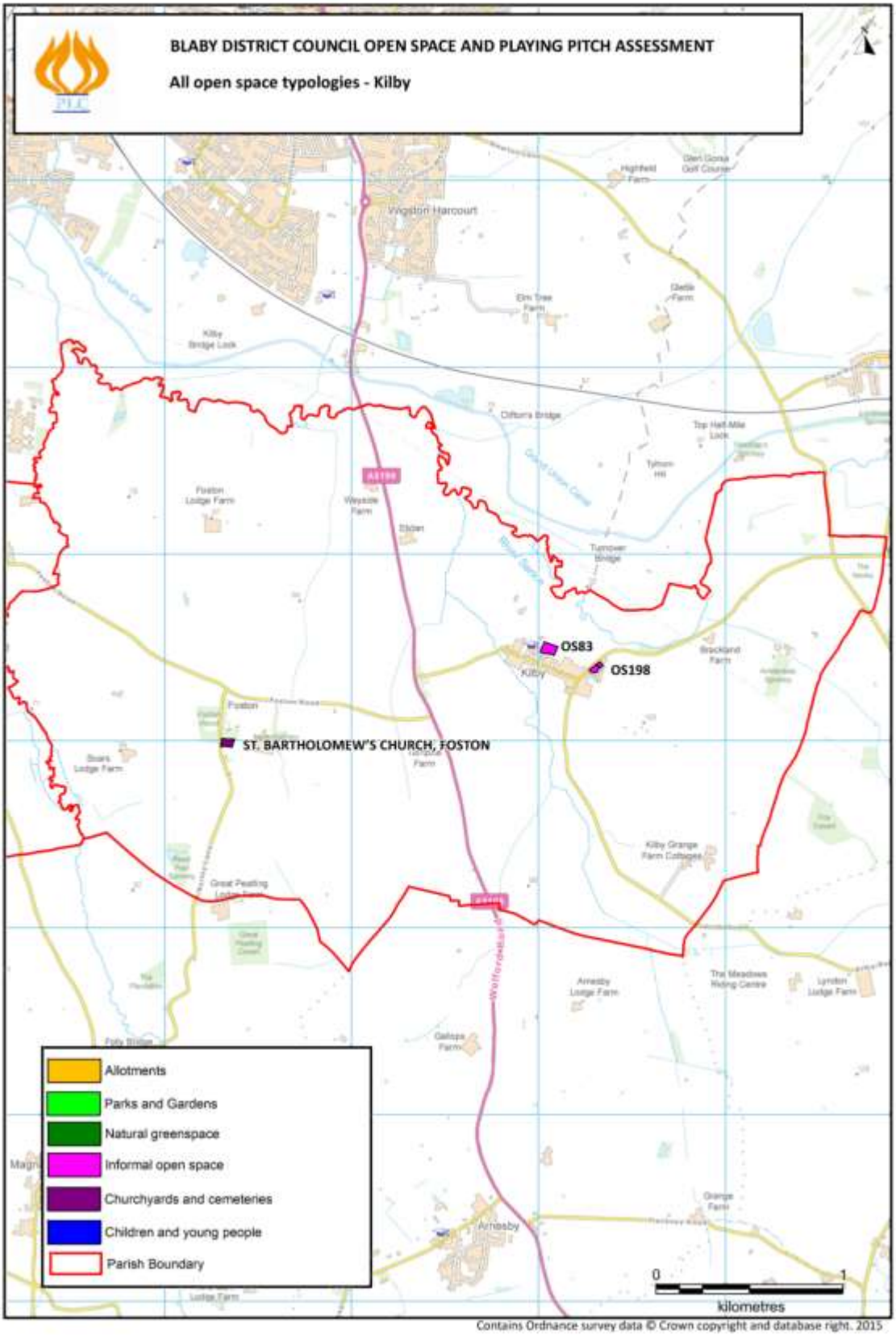
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Kilby
OS83
OS198
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, FOSTON
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
1
kilometres
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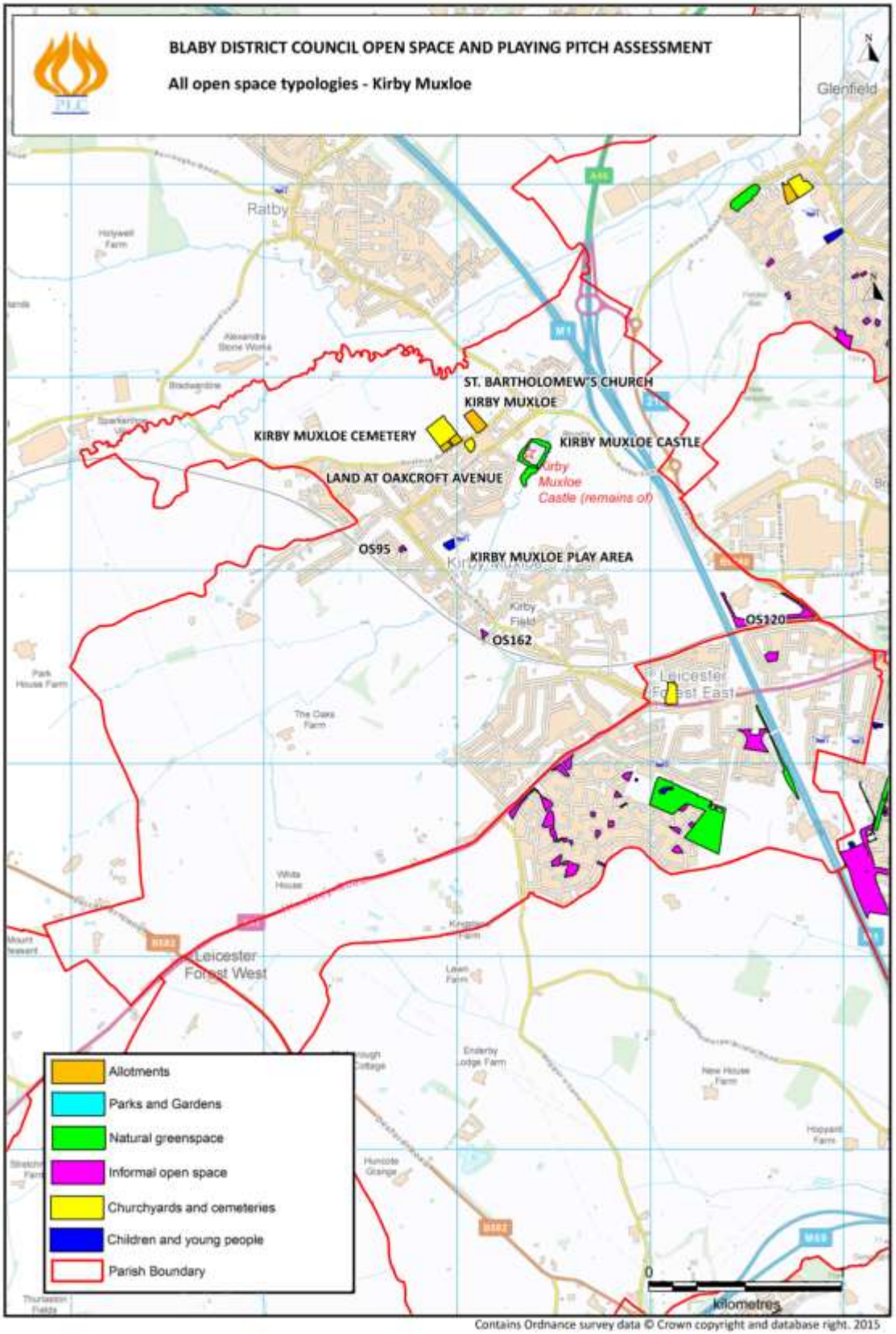
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Kirby Muxloe
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
KIRBY MUXLOE
KIRBY MUXLOE CEMETERY
KIRBY MUXLOE CASTLE
LAND AT OAXCROFT AVENUE
Kirby Muxloe Castle (remains of)
OS95
KIRBY MUXLOE PLAY AREA
OS120
OS162
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
kilometres
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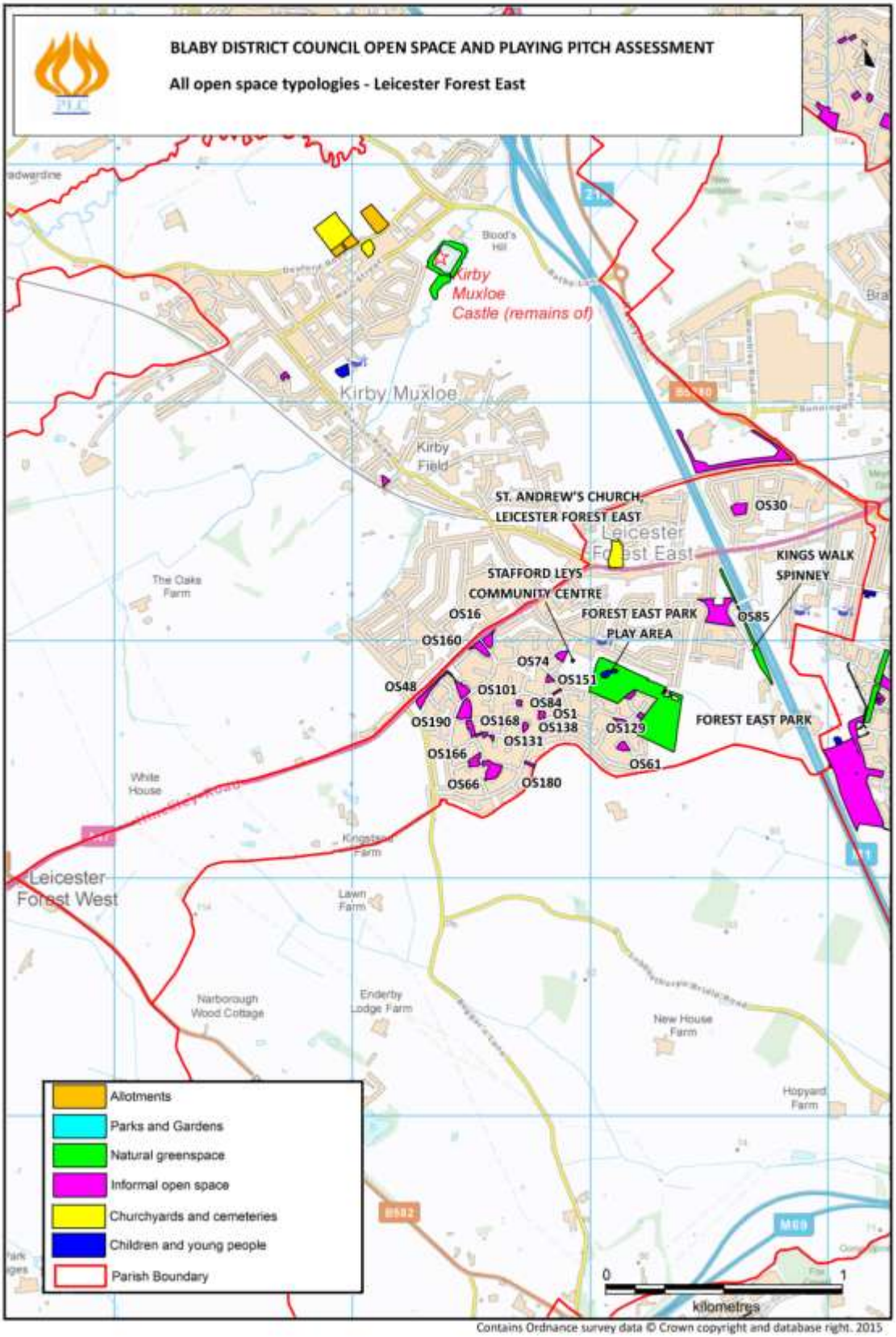
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Leicester Forest East
Kirby Muxloe Castle (remains of)
Kirby Muxloe
Kirby Field
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, LEICESTER FOREST EAST
OS30
KINGS WALK SPINNEY
STAFFORD LEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE
FOREST EAST PARK PLAY AREA
OS585
OS16
OS160
OS574
OS151
OS48
OS101
OS84
OS1
OS190
OS168
OS138
OS129
FOREST EAST PARK
OS131
OS166
OS61
OS66
OS180
Leicester Forest West
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
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kilometres
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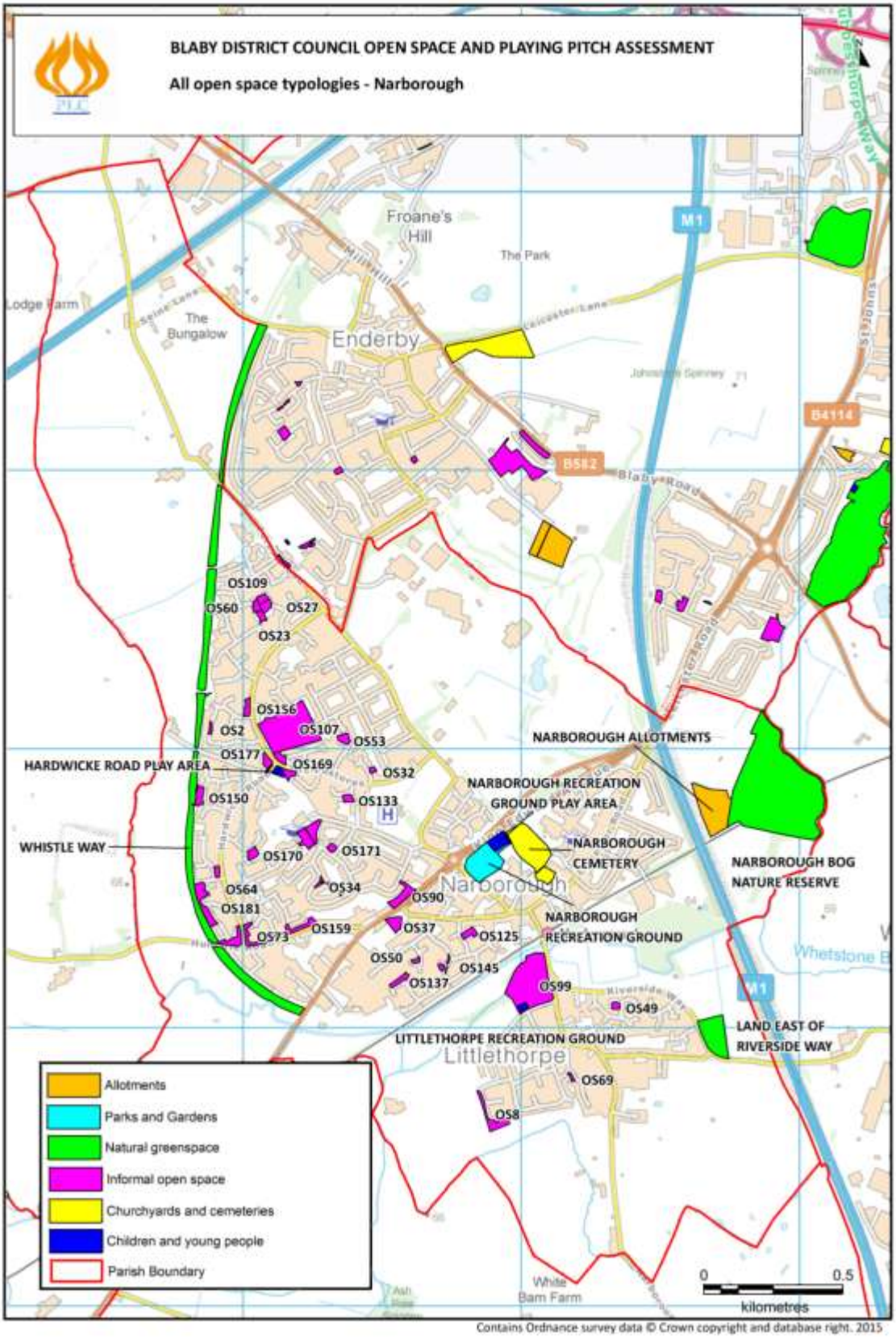
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Narborough
Froane's Hill
The Park
Lodge Farm
The Bungalow
Enderby
M1
B4114
B582
Blaby Road
OS109
OS60
OS27
OS23
OS156
OS2
OS107
OS53
OS177
OS169
OS32
HARDWICKE ROAD PLAY AREA
OS150
OS133
NARBOROUGH ALLOTMENTS
NARBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA
WHISTLE WAY
OS170
OS171
NARBOROUGH CEMETERY
NARBOROUGH BOG NATURE RESERVE
OS564
OS181
OS534
OS90
Narborough
OS73
OS159
OS37
OS125
NARBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND
OS50
OS145
OS137
OS99
OS49
LAND EAST OF RIVERSIDE WAY
LITTLETHORPE RECREATION GROUND
Littlethorpe
OS69
OS8
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
White Barn Farm
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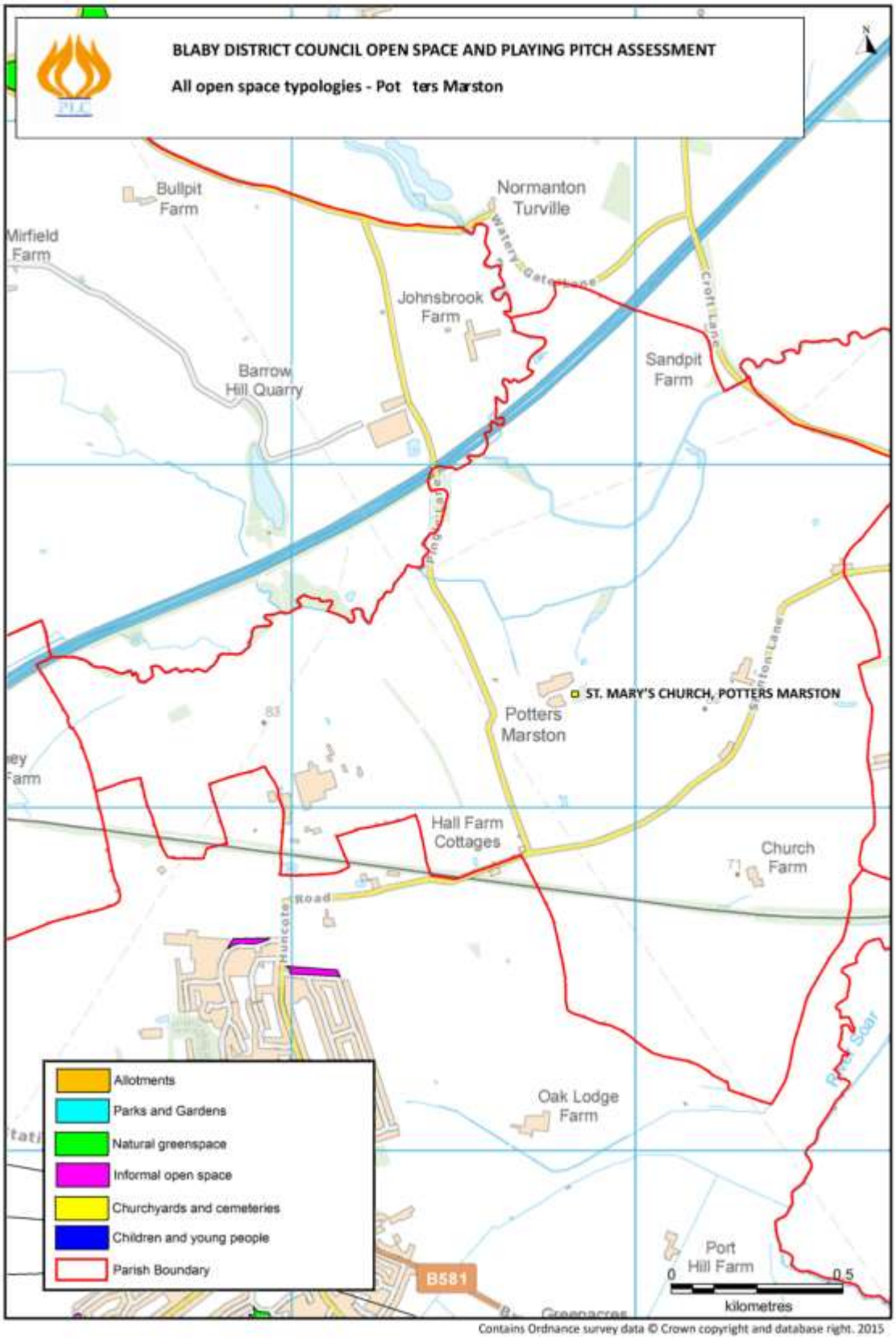
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Pot ters Marston
Bullpit Farm
Normanton Turville
Mirfield Farm
Johnsbrook Farm
Barrow Hill Quarry
Sandpit Farm
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, POTTERS MARSTON
Potters Marston
Hall Farm Cottages
Church Farm
Oak Lodge Farm
Port Hill Farm
B581
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
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kilometres
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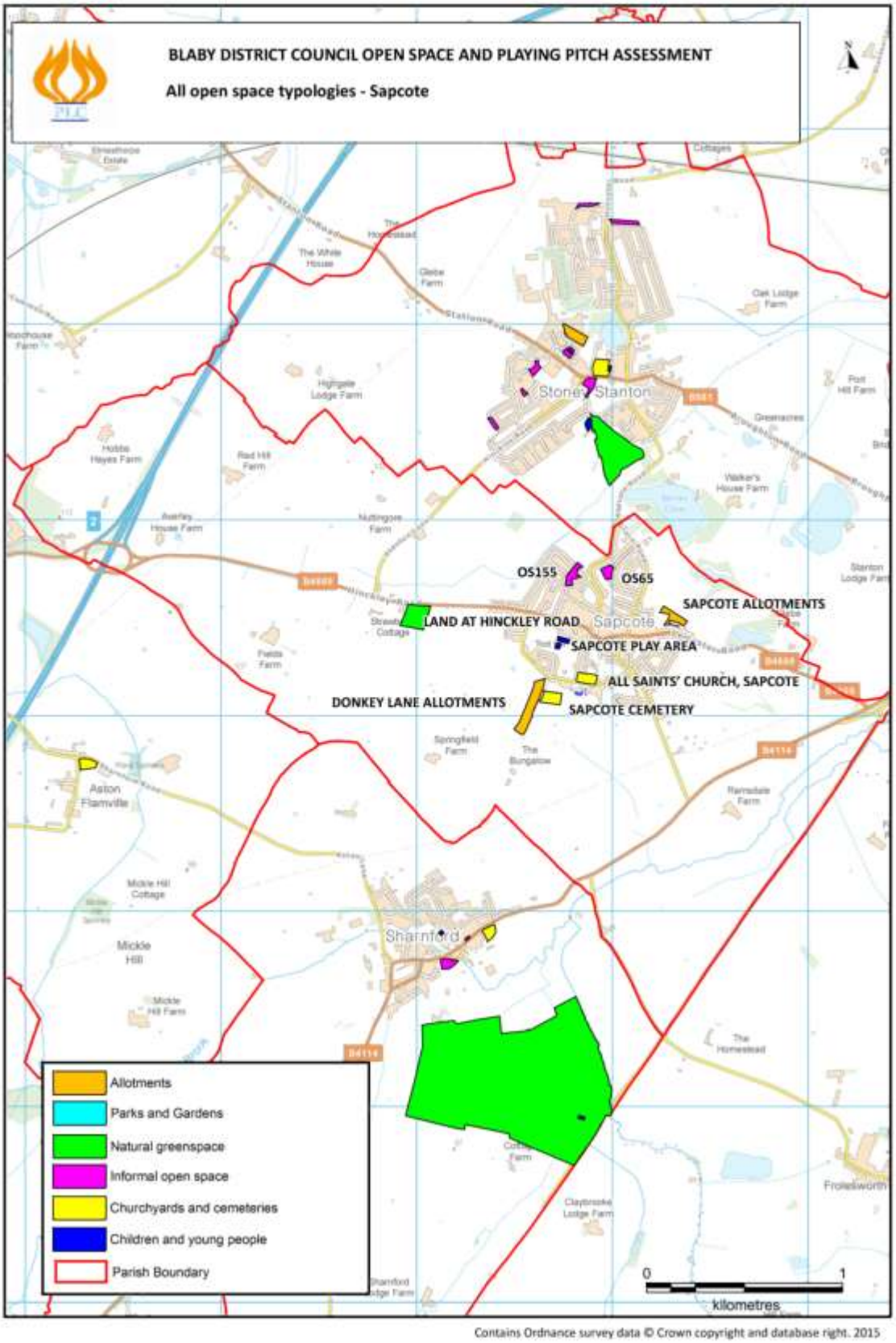

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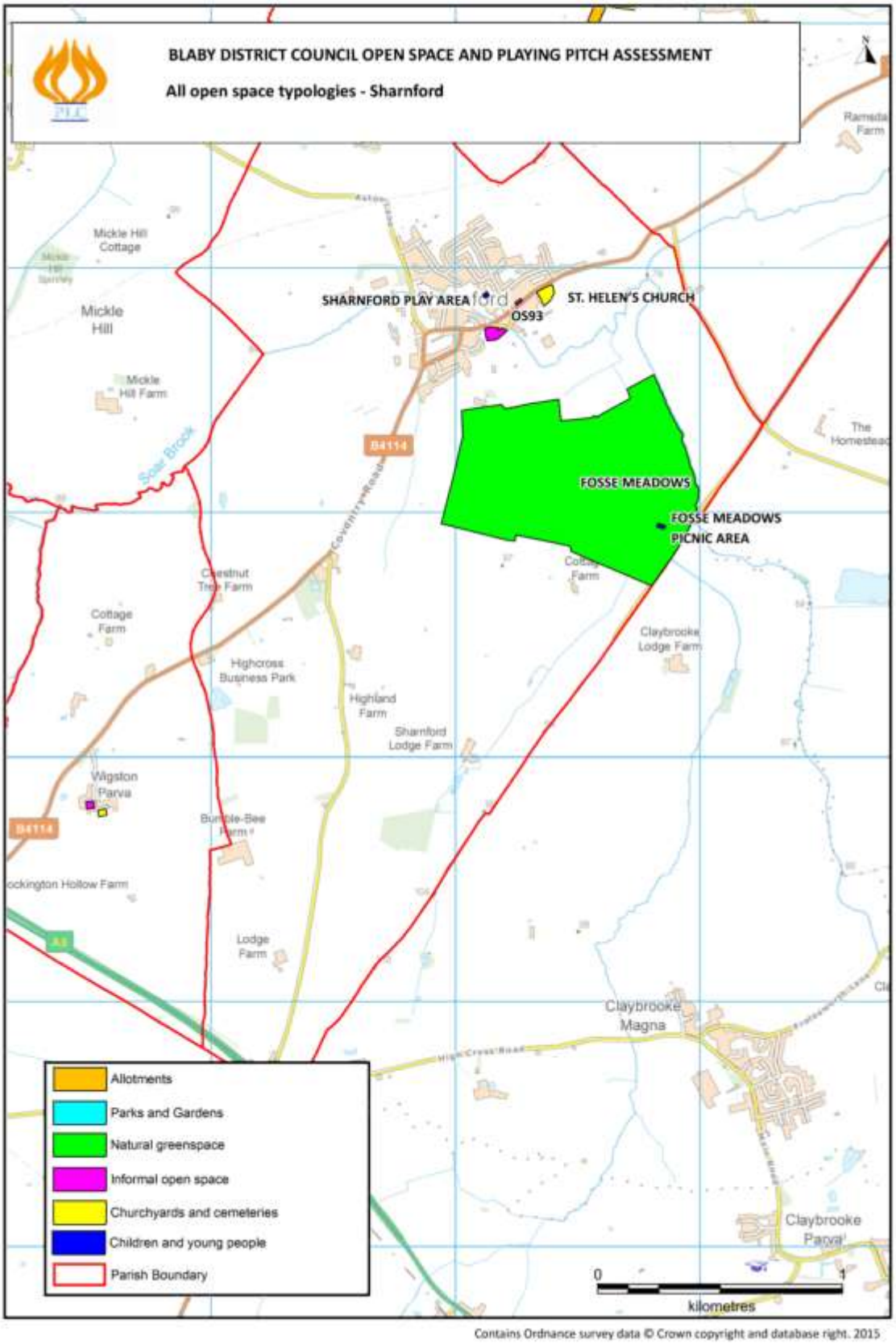
BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Sharnford
SHARNFORD PLAY AREA
OS93
ST. HELEN'S CHURCH
FOSSE MEADOWS
FOSSE MEADOWS PICNIC AREA
Mickle Hill Cottage
Mickle Hill
Mickle Hill Farm
Soar Brook
B4114
Coventry Road
Chestnut Tree Farm
Cottage Farm
Highcross Business Park
Highland Farm
Sharnford Lodge Farm
Claybrooke Lodge Farm
Wigston Parva
Bumble-Bee Farm
Lodge Farm
Claybrooke Magna
Claybrooke Parva
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
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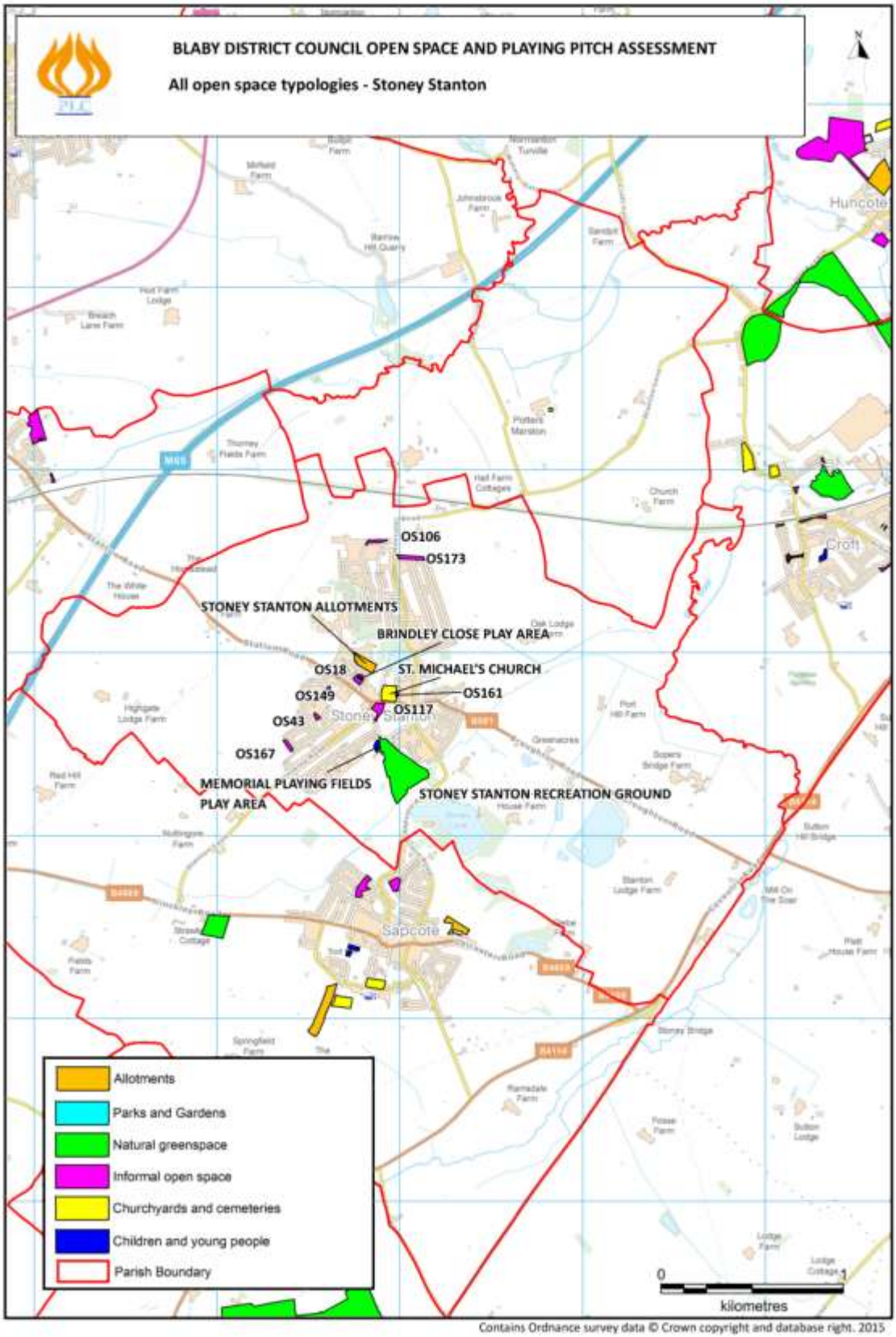
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Stoney Stanton
OS106
OS173
STONEY STANTON ALLOTMENTS
BRINDLEY CLOSE PLAY AREA
OS18
ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
OS149
OS161
OS117
OS43
OS167
MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS
PLAY AREA
STONEY STANTON RECREATION GROUND
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
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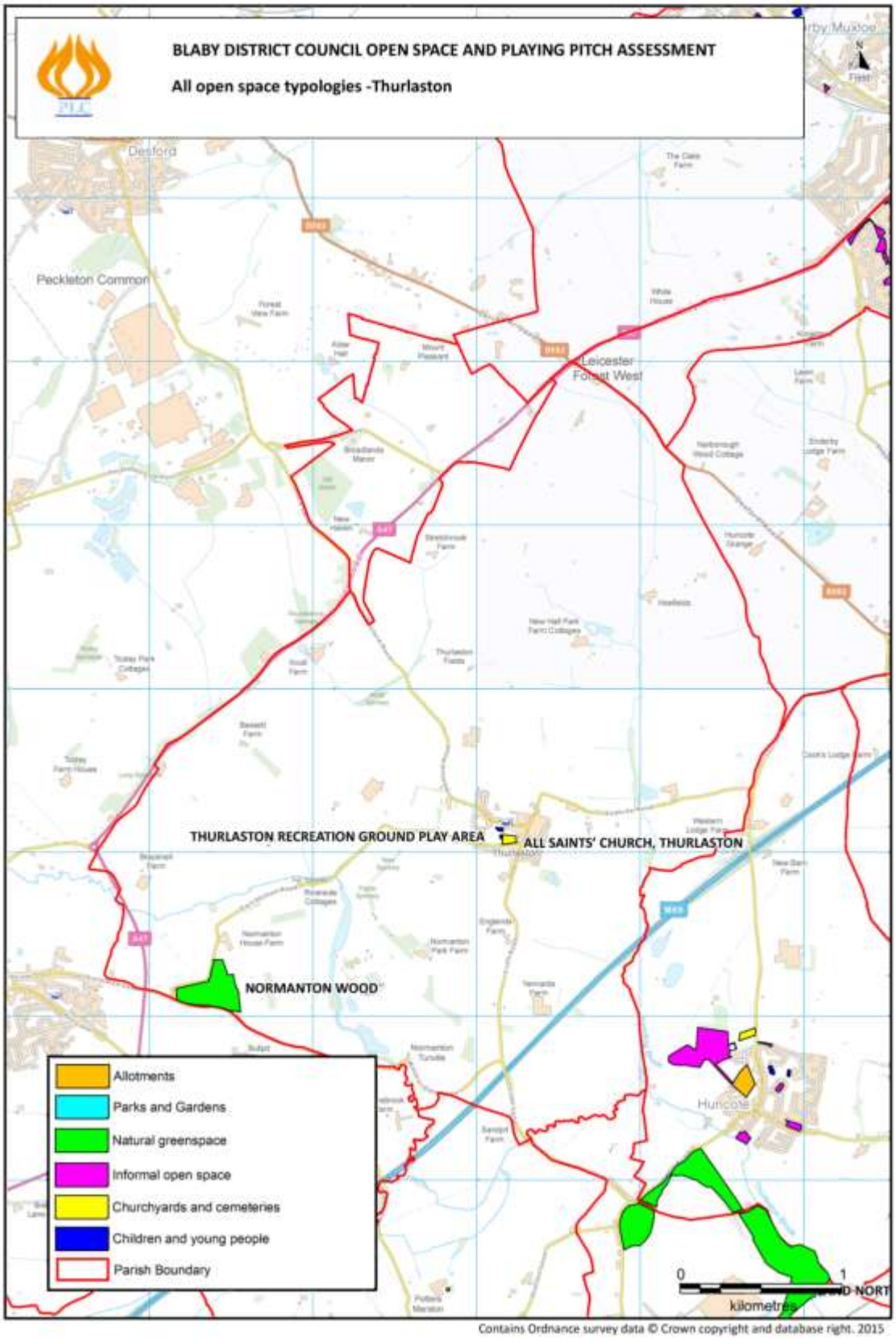
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies -Thurlaston
Desford
Peckleton Common
Leicester Forest West
THURLASTON RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, THURLASTON
NORMANTON WOOD
Huncote
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
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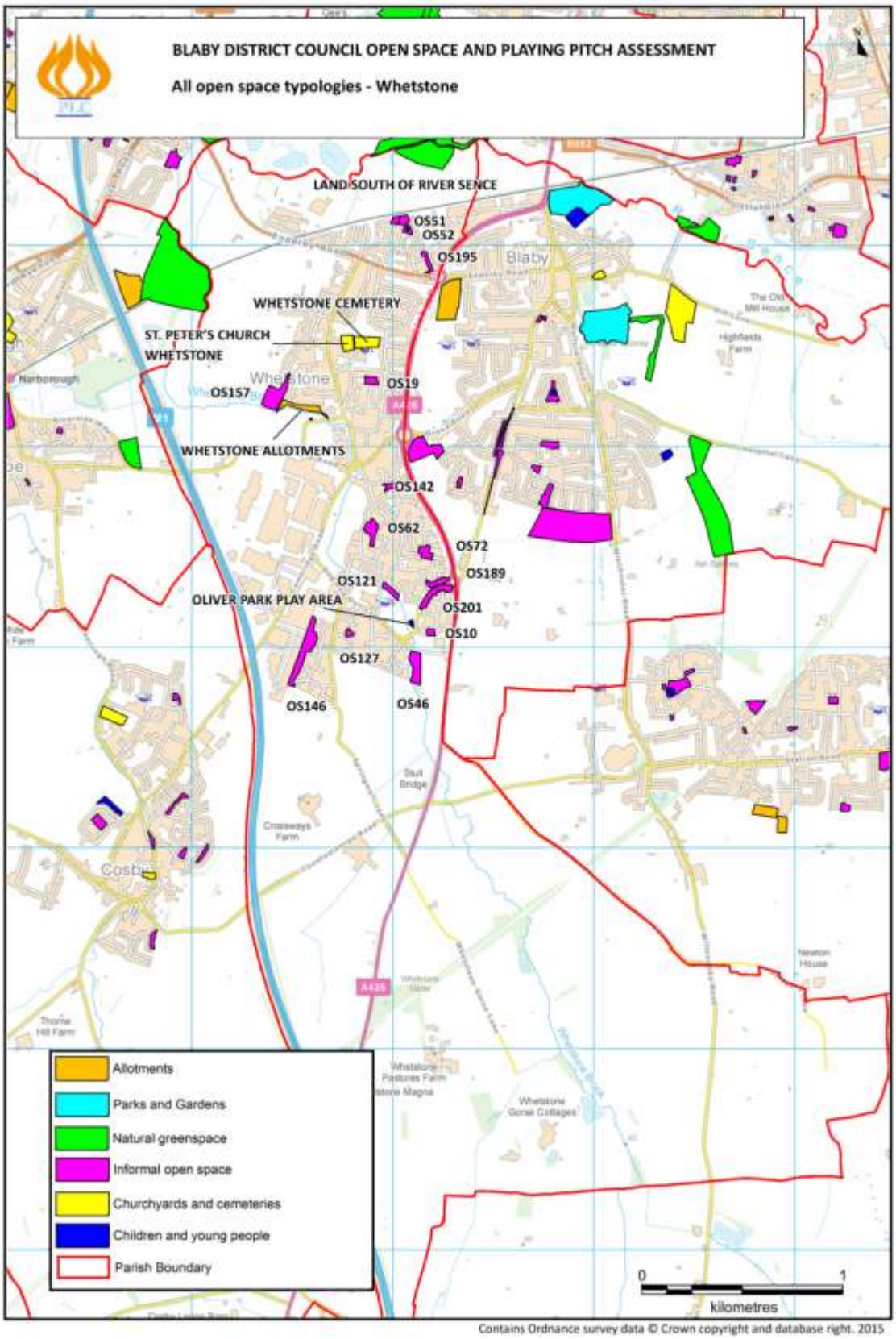
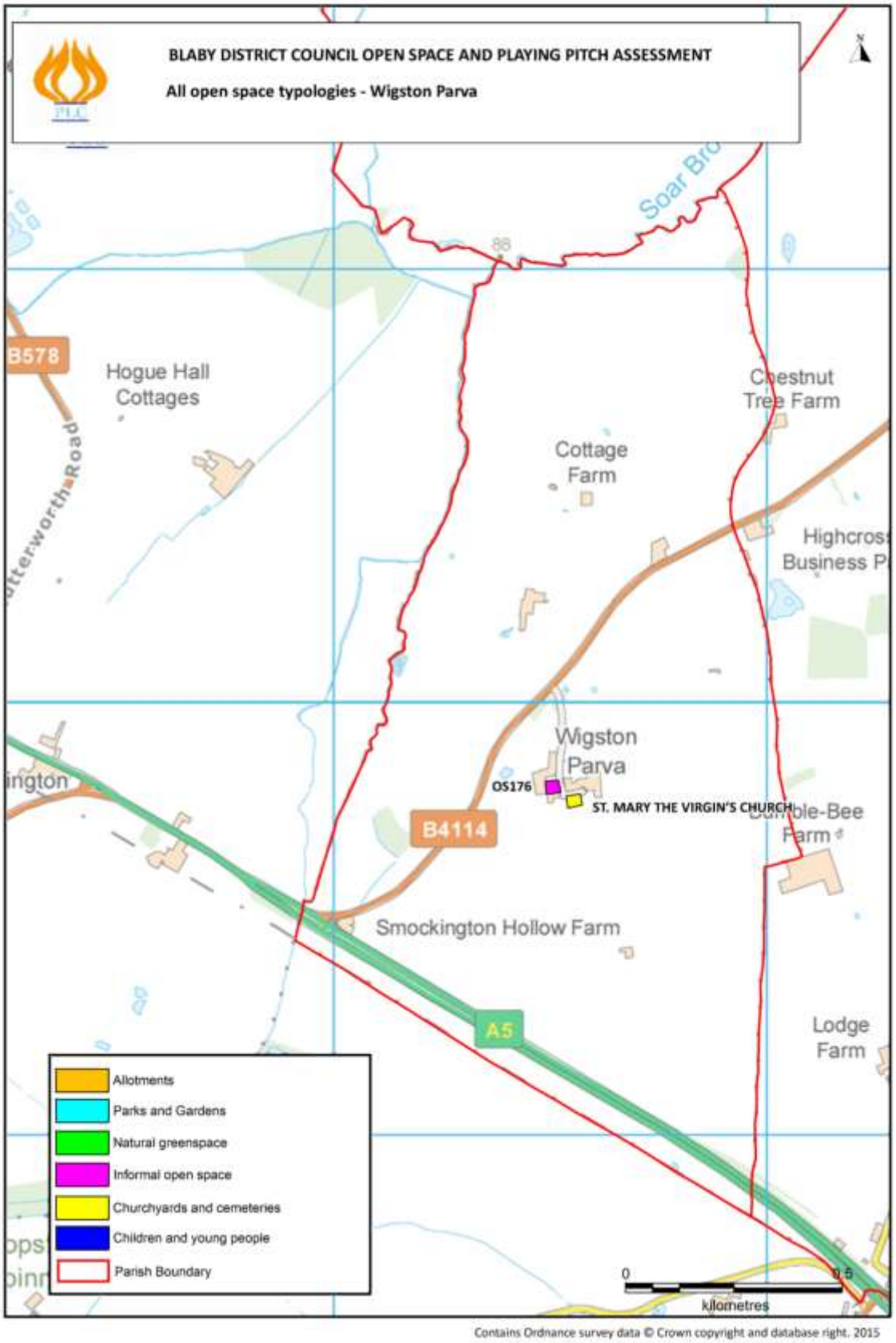
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Whetstone
LAND SOUTH OF RIVER SENCE
OS51
OS52
OS195
WHETSTONE CEMETERY
ST. PETER'S CHURCH
WHETSTONE
OS157
OS19
WHETSTONE ALLOTMENTS
OS142
OS62
OS572
OS189
OS121
OLIVER PARK PLAY AREA
OS201
OS10
OS127
OS146
OS546
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
1
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015


BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT
All open space typologies - Wigston Parva
Soar Brook
B578
Hogue Hall Cottages
Chestnut Tree Farm
Cottage Farm
Highcross Business Park
Wigston Parva
OS176
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN'S CHURCH
B4114
Bumble-Bee Farm
Smockington Hollow Farm
A5
Lodge Farm
Allotments
Parks and Gardens
Natural greenspace
Informal open space
Churchyards and cemeteries
Children and young people
Parish Boundary
0
0.5
kilometres
Contains Ordnance survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015

APPENDIX II

QUALITATIVE AUDIT METHODOLOGY

1) *PARKS AND GARDENS:*

a) ***Main entrance:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Easy to find with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well-maintained and inviting.	5
Above Average	Appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well-maintained and inviting.	4
Average	Obvious, open, inviting, adequately maintained and clean.	3
Below Average	Apparent as an entrance and clean.	2
Poor quality	Obscure as an entrance, dirty and poorly maintained.	1

b) ***Site boundaries:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	All clearly defined and well-maintained.	5
Above Average	All clearly defined, maintenance 'patchy'.	4
Average	All clearly defined, maintenance 'patchy'.	3
Below Average	Mostly clearly defined, maintenance 'patchy'.	2
Poor quality	Poorly defined and poorly maintained.	1

c) ***Roads, paths, cycleways and access:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well-defined, surfaces clean, debris and weed free and good disabled access throughout.	5
Above Average	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well-defined and disabled access in most areas.	4
Average	Suitable materials, level for safe use and some disabled access.	3
Below Average	Suitable materials but with some faults and poor disabled access.	2
Poor quality	Roads and paths in the correct place, but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted.	1

d) ***Planted areas:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Numerous plants, with appropriate mix, installed and maintained to a high standard.	5
Above Average	Numerous plants, with appropriate mix, installed and maintained to a reasonable standard.	4
Average	Numerous plants, with appropriate mix of plants and 'patchy' maintenance.	3
Below Average	Limited range of plants, maintenance acceptable.	2
Poor quality	Limited planting with limited maintenance.	

e) ***Grassed areas:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut.	5
Above Average	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds, grass cut frequently to keep it short.	4
Average	Full grass cover throughout main area but some thin patches evident, some bald areas discrete, grass cut frequently but length excessive between cuts, cut quality good.	3
Below Average	General grass cover patchy, with some bald areas, cut infrequently or at poor frequency, clippings obvious or cut quality poor.	2
Poor quality	General grass cover poor, wear has led to patchy/poor cover with little or no attempt to correct the problem, clippings obvious and cut quality poor.	1

f) ***Litter bins:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Numerous and in good condition.	5
Above Average	Numerous and in average condition.	4
Average	Adequate number and in good/average condition.	3
Below Average	Insufficient number but in good condition.	2
Poor quality	Insufficient number and in poor condition.	1

g) ***Seating:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Numerous for the size of site and in good condition.	5
Above Average	Numerous for the size of site and in average condition.	4
Average	Adequate number and in good/average condition.	3
Below Average	Insufficient seats but in good condition.	2
Poor quality	Insufficient seats and in poor condition.	1

h) ***General cleanliness:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	5
Above Average	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	4
Average	Some evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	3
Below Average	Substantial evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	2
Poor quality	Widespread evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	1

i) ***Safety and security:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	A very good sense of safety at all times, with excellent sight lines throughout the entire site, good lighting of appropriate areas and no obvious safety hazards.	5
Above Average	A good sense of safety at all times, with good sight lines throughout the site, reasonable lighting of appropriate areas and no obvious safety hazards.	4
Average	A reasonable sense of safety at all times, with good sight lines throughout most of the site and no obvious safety hazards.	3
Below Average	A reasonable sense of safety in daylight, with reasonable sight lines across some of the site and some limited safety hazards.	2
Poor quality	A poor sense of safety, with concealed areas throughout the site and several obvious safety hazards.	1

j) ***Parking and general access:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with adequate spaces, site clean, tidy in good condition and well sign posted.	5
Above Average	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with adequate spaces, but maintenance could be better.	4
Average	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with limited spaces and reasonable maintenance.	3
Below Average	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with limited spaces and poor maintenance.	2
Poor quality	Parking provision very limited.	1

2) ***NATURAL GREENSPACE:***

The presence/absence of:

- Signposting to the site.
- Information board(s)/interpretation panel(s).
- Marked paths.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Complies with six/five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

3) *INFORMAL OPEN SPACE:*

The presence/absence of:

- General access.
- Grassed areas and planting.
- Marked paths.
- Seating.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

4) *CHILDREN'S PLAY:*

The presence/absence of:

- The variety, quantity and quality of the play equipment.
- Perimeter fencing and gates.
- Seats and litter bins.
- Disabled access.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

5) *ALLOTMENTS:*

The presence/absence of:

- Site boundaries fenced.
- Water supply on site to all plots.
- Secure sheds/huts provided.
- Toilets provided on site.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Complies with six/five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

6) *CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS:*

The presence/absence of:

- Paths.
- Grassed areas.
- Seats.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Complies with six/five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

7) *FOOTBALL PITCHES*

Element	Rating				
Playing surface					
Grass Cover	Good <80%	Adequate 60-80%	Poor >60%		
Does the pitch meet minimum size?	Yes	No			
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat	Moderate	Poor		
Length of grass	Good	Too long	Too short		
Eveness of pitch	Good	Adequate	Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/ litter/vehicle tracks	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/ damage to the surface	None	Yes - some	Severe		
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)	4 or less	5 to 7	8 plus		
Pitch facilities					
Are goalposts safe?	Yes	No			
Is the site secure or open?	Secure	Open	Boundary fence		
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes	No			
Is there a perimeter rail around the pitch?	Yes	No			
Is there a training area separate to the pitch(es)?	Yes	No			
Is there a covered stand?	Yes	No			
Ancillary facilities					
Is there a clubhouse on site?	Yes	No			
Is there changing accommodation?	Yes	No			
Total number of changing rooms					
Quality of the changing (exterior)	Good	Adequate	Poor		
Quality of changing (interior)	Good	Adequate	Poor		
Are the showers communal or self contained?	Communal	Self contained			
Is there access to spectator toilets?	More than 5	1 to 4	None		
Are the toilets for players self contained?	Communal	Self contained			
Is there an officials changing room ?	Yes	No			
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes	No			
Are accessible (DDA compliant) facilities provided?	Yes	No			
Is appropriate car parking available?	Yes	No			
Maintenance programme Are any of the items applied to the pitches?					
Sand	Yes	No	Not known		
Seed	Yes	No	Not known		
Feed	Yes	No	Not known		
Weed kill	Yes	No	Not known		
Pitch maintenance How often a year is each carried out?					
Aerated	three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Sand dressed	three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Fertilised	three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Weed killed	three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Chain harrowed	three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Drainage type	Natural (adequate)	Pipe and slit drained	natural (inadequate)		
Pipe Drained	Unknown				

8) *CRICKET PITCHES*

Element	Rating				Guidance notes
About the cricket outfield					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	<80% is below ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even	Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp		
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		e.g .informal, casual use.
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		eg from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc.
Artificial Wickets					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No	There should be no trip points		
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels		
Stump holes	Yes	No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball		
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No	There should be none		
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No	If "yes" contact site manager		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No	If "yes" contact site manager		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No			
Grass Wickets					
Presence of line markings	Yes	No			
Evidence of rolling	Yes	No	i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform		
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No	3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square		
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No	Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%> = No		
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface bounce?	Yes	No			
Changing/ Pavilion					
Umpires provision	Yes	No			
Toilets	Yes	No			
Hot/cold water	Yes	No			
Heating	Yes	No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No			
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes	No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No			
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes	No			

9) ***RUGBY PITCHES:***

Qualitative information (gathered on site)				
Grass Coverage	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Size of pitch	Acceptable	Not acceptable		
Length of grass	Too Long	Good	Too short	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None	Yes - some	Yes lots	
Are goalposts installed?	Yes	No		
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes	No		
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes	No		
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes	No		
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes	No		
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes	No		
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes	No		
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes	No		
Aerated (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Chain harrowed	every week	fortnightly	monthly	never

10) ***SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES:***

Element	**Rating**			
Age of Surface	less than 2 years	2-5 years	5-10 years	over 10 years
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Holes or rips in surface	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Grip underfoot	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Line markings - quality	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots	
Access for disabled players. i.e. width of gates	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Surrounding fencing	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Adequate safety margins (where appropriate)	Yes - fully	Adequate	Inadequate	
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes	No		
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes	No		
Are there dug outs?	Yes	No		
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes	No		
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes	No		

11) *BOWLS GREENS:*

a) ***Playing surface:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	An entirely flat surface with uniform grass cover and regulation banks and ditches.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat surface with almost uniform grass cover and regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter.	4
Average	An effectively flat surface with wear around the ends of each rink and regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter.	3
Below Average	A slightly uneven surface with some wear and non-regulation banks and ditches.	2
Poor quality	A significantly uneven surface, with non-uniform, worn grass cover and non-regulation banks and ditches.	1

b) ***Pavilion/changing facilities:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	On-site facilities with social area, separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	5
Above Average	On-site facilities with social area and male and female changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	4
Average	On-site facilities with limited social area and changing facilities, adequately maintained and cleaned.	3
Below Average	Some limited on-site changing facilities, poorly maintained and cleaned.	2
Poor quality	No on-site changing facilities.	1

c) ***Disabled access:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Full disabled access throughout the site and provision of a ramp to the green, dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Disabled access to all key areas of the site, including a ramp to the green dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	4
Average	Disabled access to most of the site, including a ramp to the green, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities and no ramp to the green.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	1

d) ***Car parking and general access:*** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

12) *TENNIS COURTS:*

a) ***Playing surface:***

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	An entirely flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for tennis.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for tennis.	4
Average	A reasonably flat surface, non-slip with appropriate footwear with line markings for tennis.	3
Below Average	An uneven surface, with some cracks and slippery when wet, with limited line markings for tennis.	2
Poor quality	A very uneven, frequently slippery surface, with many cracks/holes and with limited line markings for tennis.	1

b) ***Fencing of the courts:***

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Playing area fully enclosed by a high surrounding fence in good repair, with lockable gate.	5
Above Average	Playing area fully enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.	4
Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.	3
Below Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in poor repair.	2
Poor quality	No perimeter fence	1

c) ***Disabled access:***

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates and a level or ramped paved path to any changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates and a paved path to any changing facilities.	4
Average	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates but no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access to the court(s) due to adequate width access gates and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access to the court(s) - access gate width is too narrow, steps up to the track and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	1

d) ***Car parking and general access:*** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

13) ***GOLF COURSES:***

a) ***The course:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	An 18-hole course, with high-quality greens and fairways.	5
Above Average	An 18-hole course, with good-quality greens and fairways.	4
Average	A 9-hole course, with high-quality greens and fairways.	3
Below Average	A 9-hole course, with reasonable quality greens and fairways.	2
Poor quality	An 18 or 9-hole course, with poor-quality greens and fairways.	1

b) ***Clubhouse/changing facilities:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	On-site facilities with social area, separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	5
Above Average	On-site facilities with social area and male and female changing facilities, well-maintained and cleaned.	4
Average	On-site facilities with limited social area and changing facilities, adequately maintained and cleaned.	3
Below Average	Some limited on-site changing facilities, poorly maintained and cleaned.	2
Poor quality	No on-site changing facilities.	1

c) ***Disabled access:***

Rating	*Definition*	*Score*
High Quality	Full disabled access throughout, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	5
Above Average	Disabled access to all key areas, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	4
Average	Disabled access to most of the site, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	1

d) ***Car parking and general access:*** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

Rating	***Definition***	***Score***
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

14) ***VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS:***

a) ***Sports capacity:*** The capacity of the halls to accommodate a wide range of sport and physical activity, which was scored as follows:

- **Provision for formal sport -** Including dedicated sports facilities and markings and changing rooms. These were given a rating of 5 or 4.
- **Available for informal activities -** The provision of a space which can be used for exercise classes such as yoga or aerobics. These were given a rating of 3.
- **Not available for physical activity but with meeting space -** These were given a rating of 2.
- **Social Clubs** - These were given a rating of 1

b) ***The overall quality and condition of the building:*** The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1.

ITEM 15

Blaby District Council

the heart of Leicestershire

Date: 3 August 2015
My Ref:
Your Ref:
Contact: Louisa Horton
Tel No: 01455 272 7636
Fax No: 0116 275 0368
Email: Louisa.horton@blaby.gov.uk

All Parish Clerks

Dear Clerk

Parish Remuneration Panel

I refer to the above and write to advise you that Blaby District Council are looking to arrange a meeting of the Parish Remuneration Panel.

This is due to advice received from LRALC and NALC to one Parish Council within the area and I understand that some Parish Council's may have an Allowances Scheme which has not taken into account the views of an Independent Panel.

The purpose of the Panel is to provide advice to Parish Council's on the payment of allowances to Parish Councillors. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, govern the payment of allowances and provides that where a parish council proposes to pay a basic allowance, whether to its chairman only or to each of its members, it must have regard, in setting the level or levels of such allowances, to the recommendations which have been by a parish remuneration panel.

A Parish Council does not have to pay an allowance at all, that discretion is entirely down to the decision of the Parish Council.

In addition to an allowance, a parish council may pay to its elected and co-opted members expenses in respect of travelling and subsistence, where they are carrying out a duty within one or more of the following categories

(a) the attendance at a meeting of the council or of any committee or sub-committee of the council , or of any other body to which the council makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;

(b) the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the council is a member;

(c) the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order made under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to

be present while tender documents are opened;

(d) the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises; and

(e) the carrying out of any other duty approved by the council , or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the council or of any of its committees or sub-committees.

The Parish Remuneration Panel, will produce a report making recommendations regarding

(a) the amount of parish basic allowance payable to members of the parish councils it was established for and

(b) the amount of travelling and subsistence allowance payable to members of such authorities

That report will then be sent to each Parish Council. Each Parish Council will then be able to determine whether or not to pay allowances or expenses, to whom and at what rates. The Parish Council is not bound by the recommendations, but must have regard to the recommendations.

Ordinarily the expenses of the parish remuneration panel would have to be met by the parish council(s) which had requested the panel to be set up, however on this occasion the District Council consider a district wide review to be beneficial and as such will bear the costs.

It is my intention to arrange for such a Panel to be held in September 2015 and in order to inform the Panel, I would be grateful if you could send details of your Parish Council's current policy with regard to the payment of allowances and expenses to me by 31 August 2015.

I will be in touch again on this matter after the Panel has met.

Yours sincerely

Louisa Horton
Democratic Services and Governance Manager

DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY 2015

Table of Contents

Foreword 4

Chapter 1: National Strategic Direction 5

Laying the foundations: A Housing Strategy for England 2011 5

Localism Act – Affordable Rent 5

The Queens Speech – May 2015 5

Emergency Budget – July 2015 6

Chapter 2: Local Strategic Overview 8

The Blaby Plan 2015 - 2018 8

Local Housing Related Policy 9

Chapter 3: Setting the Scene 11

Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014 11

Need for Different Types of Affordable Homes 12

Net Need for Different Sizes of Homes 12

The Importance of the Private Rented Sector 14

Guidance on Market Housing Mix 14

Our New Priorities and Themes 16

- Priority 1: Increasing housing supply across the tenures 16
- Priority 2: Providing appropriate housing options and support services for vulnerable households 16
- Priority 3: Making the best use of the existing housing stock 16

Chapter 4: Priority 1 - Increasing the Supply of Housing across the Tenures 17

Background 17

Affordability 17

Demand for Affordable Housing 17

Funding Affordable Housing 17

The Right Size and Mix of Market Housing 18

New Homes Bonus 18

The Structure of the Blaby Housing Market 18

The Home Ownership Sector 19

The Role of the Private Rented Sector 20

Rural Housing 20

Gypsy and Traveller Provision 20

Affordable Housing Supply 21

Maximising Funding Sources & Other Resources for Affordable Housing 21

Diversifying the size and tenure of Affordable Housing 21

Size and Mix 21

Increasing the Choice of Aspirational Housing 22

Chapter 5: Priority 2 – Providing appropriate housing options and support services for vulnerable households 23

Public Sector Finance and Support Services 24

Ambition East Midlands 25

Blaby Employment and Training (BEAT) 25

Leicestershire's Housing Offer to Health 26

The Care Act 2014 26

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 27

Local Area Co-ordinators 27

The Light Bulb Project 28

Hospital Housing Enabling Officers (HHEO) 29

What we will do (Summary): 30

Chapter 6: Priority 3 – Making the best use of the existing housing stock 31

Housing Standards / Condition in the Private Sector 31

The Private Rented Sector 31

Local Housing Company 32

The Social Rented Sector 32

Bringing Empty Homes Back into Use 33

Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMO) 34

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) 34

The Empty Homes Working Group 35

Energy Efficiency 35

Code for Sustainable Homes 35

Tackling Fuel Poverty 35

4 Ways to Warmth 36

Consultation Statement 37

Foreword

By Councillor Maggie Wright Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Blaby District Council.

Housing is about more than just bricks and mortar – the ability to access good quality, affordable housing and housing related services can make a real difference to people's lives. It has long been understood that poor quality housing can have a significantly adverse impact on the wellbeing of occupants and on the quality of life in an area.

The availability, condition and affordability of housing is of paramount importance in the financial health, regeneration and physical well-being of the district. Blaby District's Housing Strategy provides a vision for housing and related services that will make a significant contribution towards the Council's Corporate Vision of "Blaby District being made up of vibrant communities where people are happy to live, work and visit."

We recognise that many of the residents in the District face challenges in accessing appropriate housing, and the provision of affordable and decent housing is a key corporate priority for Blaby District Council. However, we also recognise that the solution doesn't lie with any one particular type of home, so in our strategy we consider all types of housing in the district whether it is rented from a housing association or a private landlord or whether it is owned and lived in by the householder and family.

This strategy has been drawn up at a time of considerable change, both in terms of continuing constraints on local government budgets and change in national housing, planning, economic and social welfare policies. The newly elected conservative Government has confirmed that it will be introducing three new bills that will have a direct impact on housing, the Housing Bill, the Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill and the Immigration Bill.

The District's continued success depends on meeting the diverse housing needs of all of its residents. Appropriate, sustainable, decent and affordable housing is a powerful contributor to the health of the district's economy, environment, neighborhoods and residents.

The strategy acknowledges resource limitations and emphasises the need for us as a Council to ensure that we continue to target investment to the areas where it can make the most difference. The final strategy will be underpinned by an action plan setting out our ambitions. The action plan will be monitored quarterly and updated on an annual basis.

This (draft) Housing Strategy document offers a range of priorities to encourage debate and we encourage you to take this opportunity to join the discussion.

Chapter 1: National Strategic Direction

Laying the foundations: A Housing Strategy for England 2011

The Government's National Housing Strategy, published in 2011, sets out a clear agenda to boost the economy by stimulating the housing market by building new homes. The strategy sets out a range of measures including the change to funding of affordable housing, requirements in relation to design, quality and improved environmental standards of new and existing homes; making best use of existing stock (including empty homes) and the introduction of fixed term social housing tenancies.

Localism Act – Affordable Rent

The Localism Act 2011 introduced the power for Registered Providers to charge an affordable rent for their rented housing stock. Affordable rent is charged at up to 80% of open market rent and Registered Providers are able to use the difference between the Social Rent' level and 'Affordable Rent' to fund future affordable housing development in conjunction with much lower levels of Government grant administered by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The Registered Providers will charge affordable rent on all new build properties which have received Government funding from the Homes and Communities Agency and also an agreed percentage of their re-lets. Affordable rent will work alongside other measures in the Localism Act to enable greater mobility for tenants.

As part of the Localism Act all Local Authorities are required to publish a Tenancy Strategy. Our Tenancy Strategy was adopted in July 2012 and gives Registered Providers operating in the District information regarding our priorities and other key issues facing the District. It sets requirements with regard to the tenures that the Council would like to see allocated. The aim of the 'Tenancy Strategy 2012' is to "set out the broad objectives to be taken into consideration by individual social landlords operating in the District regarding their own policies and the granting and re-issuing of tenancies."

The Queens Speech – May 2015

Following the general election the Queens Speech was presented to Parliament on 27th May 2015. It gives an overview of legislation and policies that the new Conservative government intends to introduce over the next 12 months. The following 3 bills will have the biggest impact on housing:

<u>Housing Bill</u>

The government will introduce a Housing Bill that will encompass a number of measures:

- Extending the right to buy to housing association tenants who have held a tenancy for 3 years or above, offering discounts worth up to £78,000 outside London and £104,000 in London.
- Requiring local authorities to sell their most valuable homes when they become vacant, the proceeds will be used to compensate housing associations for the discounts on homes they sell under right to buy and to fund the building of more affordable homes in the area.
- Providing the statutory framework for the delivery of starter homes, new build properties which will be made available exclusively to first time buyers under the age of 40 at 20% below normal market prices.
- Requiring local authorities to help custom and self builders to identify suitable plots of land.
- Introducing a statutory register of brownfield land.
- Simplifying and speeding up the neighbourhood planning system.

Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill

The full employment and welfare benefits bill will introduce the following measures:

- Removing 18-21 year olds' automatic entitlement to housing benefit. The Conservative manifesto has previously suggested that housing benefit would be withdrawn from under 21s who also receive job seekers allowance.
- Freezing working age benefits for a further two years, from 2016/17.
- Lowering the overall benefit cap from £26,000 per household to £23,000.

Immigration Bill

A new Immigration Bill is to be introduced, its main aim is to control immigration and it will include a measure to make it easier to evict illegal immigrants. There is also a commitment to fully roll out a requirement that private sector landlords check prospective tenants' immigration status, which is currently being piloted in the West Midlands. This was a measure originally introduced in the 2014 Immigration Act.

Implications for Blaby

Extending the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants will have some major implications for our District where we already have such a high need for more affordable homes to be built each year. Early feedback from our Registered Provider partners indicates that they too are extremely concerned about the potential loss of vital social and affordable homes.

The Government has indicated that each home sold would be replaced on a one to one basis, however despite this being the intention under the current scheme it is not happening in practice. In rural areas this is extremely concerning and our Rural Housing Association partners in partnership with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England are lobbying the Government to make rural affordable homes exempt from the extended Right to Buy.

Cutting housing benefit for under 21's could have a serious impact on vulnerable young people who have left home, including those who have been rough sleeping and may be forced to return to it. Blaby District Council will continue to work alongside our development partners with a view to enabling appropriate accommodation with the right level of support, education and training tailored to the needs of vulnerable young people.

Emergency Budget – July 2015

In addition to the Queens Speech the July 2015 emergency budget had a heavy focus on housing, the key items are detailed below.

Social Housing Rents to fall by 1% for Four Years

Perhaps the biggest impact will come from the announcement that from 2016 social landlords and housing associations will be forced to reduce rents by 1% a year for four years. This will see housing association income streams reduce considerably. The Office for Budget Responsibility has warned that this will result in tens of thousands of affordable homes not being built. The impact in Blaby is still to be measured, however housing associations have already indicated that they are not currently in a position to take on allocations of affordable units on major developments.

Social housing tenants earning more than £30,000 per year (£40,000 in London) will also see their rents increased to full market rates, meaning that housing associations will need to find out how much their tenants now earn.

Welfare Reform

The budget also gave more detail regarding the upcoming welfare reform cuts including confirmation that any loss of income to families as a result of the overall benefit cap reduction to £20,000 will be initially recovered from housing benefit payments. Landlords are already voicing concerns regarding the inevitable increase in arrears. The government will allocate £800 million of discretionary housing payments for Councils to help affected tenants.

Confirmation that automatic entitlement to housing benefit for 18-21 year olds would be stopped for new claimants from April 2017 was also included in the budget announcement. There will be exceptions made for vulnerable young people, those unable to return to the family home and those who were in work for six months prior to making a claim.

The freeze on working age benefits means that the Local Housing Allowance (housing benefit for people renting from private landlords) will fall below the level of inflation as the chancellor attempts to stop the housing benefit bill rising at its current rate.

Changes to Income Tax for Private Landlords

Wealthier private landlords will no longer be able to claim tax relief of up to 45% on interest payments from buy to let mortgages with all mortgage relief being limited to the basic rate of income tax. The private rented sector is the fastest growing tenure in the District of Blaby and remains really important due to the high need for affordable homes and high house prices in the market sale sector. Landlord groups have warned that these costs could be passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases, alternatively it could act as a disincentive to landlords who were previously looking to invest in the sector.

Currently private landlords can deduct 10% of the rent from their profits to account for wear and tear, however in future landlords will have to provide proof of improvements before they can make this deduction from taxed profits.

Chapter 2: Local Strategic Overview

The Blaby Plan 2015 - 2018

The Housing Strategy 2015 links with the new Blaby Plan 2015 – 2018 which has the following overarching principles:

- To work in partnership, using resources wisely to meet the needs of our customers.
- Focus on and adapt to what matters to our customers.
- Help people to help themselves.
- Be open to new and innovative ways of working.

The Strategic Housing Team already works effectively in terms of building effective partnerships, focusing on the needs of the District's communities and assisting people to make use of the various housing options that we as a Council have created. In enabling further housing options we have needed to remain agile, creative and opportunistic, utilising limited resources and in doing so unlocking other funding streams from central Government, the County Council as well as Recycled Grant from Registered Providers. This approach has been essential at a time of wider public sector cost savings and reduced public subsidy for affordable homes.

The previous Housing Strategy (2009) was written at a time that the Council was going through Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT), the housing stock being transferred to our Registered Provider Partner 'East Midlands Housing Group' (EMHG). Prior to this the Council had performed poorly in terms of building new affordable homes, despite the growing demand for such accommodation within the District.

LSVT presented the Council with an opportunity to forge a strong and effective partnership with EMHG as well as other Registered Providers operating in Leicestershire, this has resulted in the building of over 345 new affordable homes since 2008, a large proportion of which have been built and are managed by EMHG who now own over 80% of the affordable homes in our District. The following are examples of new schemes that have been enabled since 2008:

- Rural Exception sites developed in the villages of Croft, Sapcote, Thurlaston, Elmesthorpe and Sharnford resulting in more affordable homes specifically for local people.
- A 50 unit Extra Care Facility and 13 associated bungalows built in the town of Blaby.
- The regeneration of a Council owned housing estate in Huncote which resulted in 49 new affordable homes.
- All affordable developments in the parishes of Braunstone and Whetstone where there is a particularly high need for affordable homes.

The last National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) 2011-15 presented difficulties for the Council as a result of the East Midlands fairing worst than most other regions in terms of the amount of Government subsidy allocated. This meant that alternative funding arrangements needed to be sourced in order to ensure that the Council's affordable housing build programme remained in place.

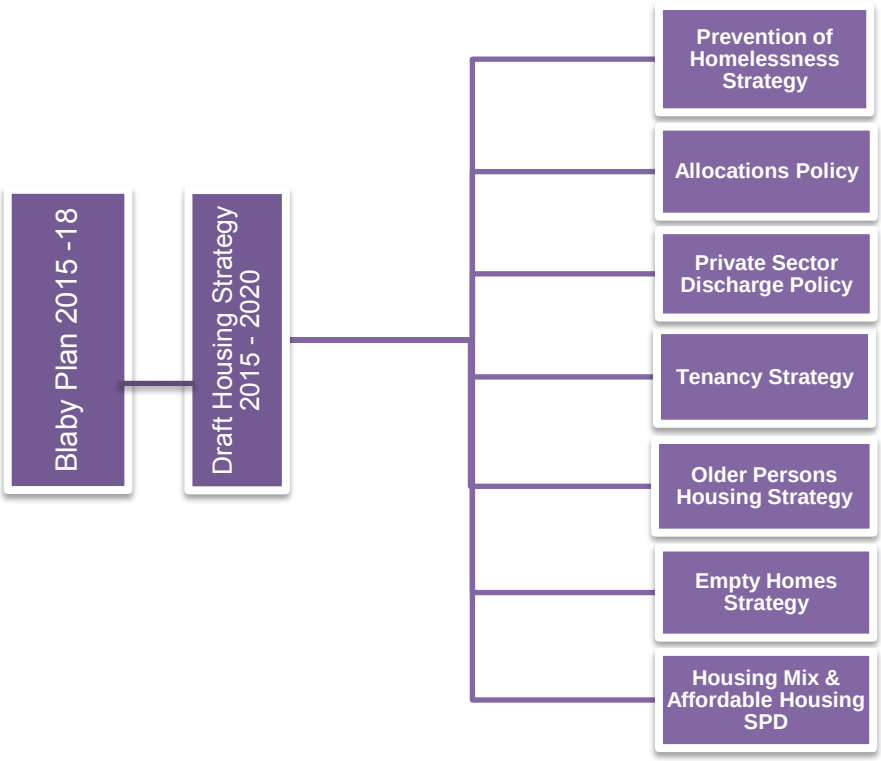
The Council reacted to this by committing almost £0.5 million of its own New Homes Bonus receipts and in doing so levered out almost £10 million of funding from other sources which

has contributed to the building of the Oak Court Extra Care Scheme, 3 new Rural Exception Sites, grants given to Private Landlords for bringing empty properties back into use and further properties for the District's ageing population in the form of 13 new bungalows at Winchester Road in Blaby.

Local Housing Related Policy

This is an overarching document that focuses and co-ordinates a number of other housing related strategies that we have developed and adopted since LSVT in 2008. These housing policies enable us to continue our impetus to help address the housing needs of the District and provide a consistent drive towards achieving our priorities. We are committed to making sure that all of our housing work continues to align and work together to provide effective and efficient services in a time of reducing resources and increased need.

Figure 1 - The Housing Strategy Family



In this strategy we have set out clear commitments to improving the issues identified through consultation and research, as well as building on the successes of the previous housing strategy. Delivery of the new Housing Strategy will also make sure that services internal and external to the Council are able to adapt to and work towards addressing the District's housing needs.

Key Achievements since the Last Housing Strategy:

- Implementation of the country's first Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS), helping over 150 new households' access home ownership and providing a financial return for the Local Authority of over £70,000.

- Development of a strategic approach and understanding of the local housing market, this includes identifying the needs of residents that is specifically tailored to each individual parish in the District, therefore informing future supply of market and affordable homes.

- Commitment from the Council of £0.5m of New Homes Bonus receipts to boost our Affordable Homes Program.

- The Regeneration of a Rural Housing Estate in Huncote resulting in the demolition of 16 old Cornish flats and the development of 49 all affordable units to meet the needs of the local village.

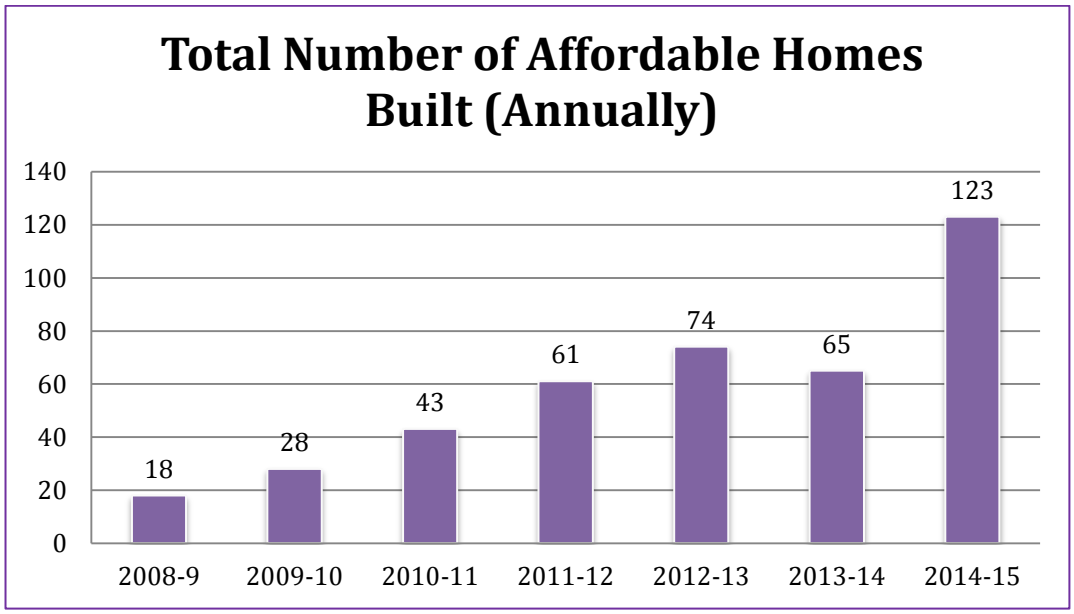
- The transfer of the Council's Housing Stock and subsequent achievement of all previously owned Council homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard.

- 5 new all affordable housing schemes in rural villages, bringing much needed affordable homes specifically for local people.

- A 50 unit extra care scheme and adjacent properties to help meet the needs of the Districts ageing population.

- Partnership Work with our stock transfer Registered Provider (EMH Homes) to achieve over 200 new affordable homes in the District.

- A total of approximately 400 new affordable homes built in partnership with all of our partner Registered Providers since the last Housing Strategy in 2008/09.



- Development and Delivery of 'Blaby Home-Search' the Council's Choice Based Lettings Scheme.

- Development of the award winning 'Homefinder' scheme, the Council's on line Private Rented Accommodation advertising and landlord advice website.

- Established Empty Homes policies and working group resulting in 843 properties being brought back into use since the Empty Homes Strategy was adopted in 2010.

- Adoption of Blaby District's Local Plan (Core Strategy) in 2013.

- Adoption of the Housing Mix and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document 2013.

- New 'Prevention of Homelessness Strategy 2014.

Chapter 3: Setting the Scene

The District of Blaby covers 80 square miles and is a mix of both urban areas in the north and rural areas in the south of the District. The population of the District is currently 95,000 which is expected to increase to 102,208 by the time of the next census in 2021, the fastest growing age group being that of the ageing population. Blaby already has a higher than average over 65 population at 18.9% compared to 16.9% for England.

Blaby is well linked to major transport networks by both the M1 and M69 motorways. There are direct train routes to Leicester and Birmingham and 2 international airports (Birmingham and East Midlands Airport are located within a 30 minute drive away).

81% of Blaby residents own their own home, which is significantly high compared to the 70% of homeowners in the rest of the Country. This would indicate that the District is a fairly affluent area, however it also means that there are a number of households who are in real need of affordable housing to rent in either the affordable or market rented sector. This is further demonstrated by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 (SHMA).

Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014

The SHMA analysis is based on secondary data that incorporates information from the census 2011, demographic projections, house prices, rents, income information and a range of other local, regional and national databases. The approach taken by the consultants (GL Hearn) is consistent with the Communities and Local Government (CLG) 2007 SHMA guidance and also the more recent CLG SHMA Practice Guidance issued in 2014.

Estimates of housing need are provided for the 25 year period between 2011 and 2036. The previous SHMA estimated housing need for the 7.5 year period between 2008 and 2015.

The Leicester and Leicestershire SHMA (2008) identified an affordable housing need of 2023 which over a 7.5 year period meant that we required 289 new affordable homes per year in order to meet the affordable housing need in the District. Since that SHMA was released 6 years ago we have managed to build a total of 290 new affordable homes, which averages out at approximately 48 new homes per year.

The new SHMA 2014 calculates the affordable housing need figure for the 25 year period up to 2036. This totals 8,725 new homes, giving a new annual affordable housing need figure for the District of 349. This represents a significant increase and means that in order to meet the affordable housing need over 96% of all homes built in the District would need to be affordable. Clearly this is neither achievable nor viable.

It is important to note that the above housing need assessment is taken at a particular point in time and is affected by the differential between incomes and housing costs at that point. Over the last 10 years the affordable housing stock has increased by approximately 2% compared to

10% which represents the overall housing increase in the District. However the turnover of affordable homes has decreased meaning that there are less affordable homes becoming available.

The affordable housing need assessment assumes that all households in housing need will need to be housed in an “affordable home” and therefore the shortfall is calculated As a caveat to this there are 2 key factors that also need to be considered;

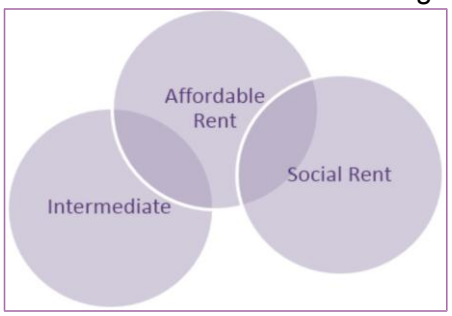
1)Some households defined as in housing need may chose to spend more than 30% of gross income on housing costs, and

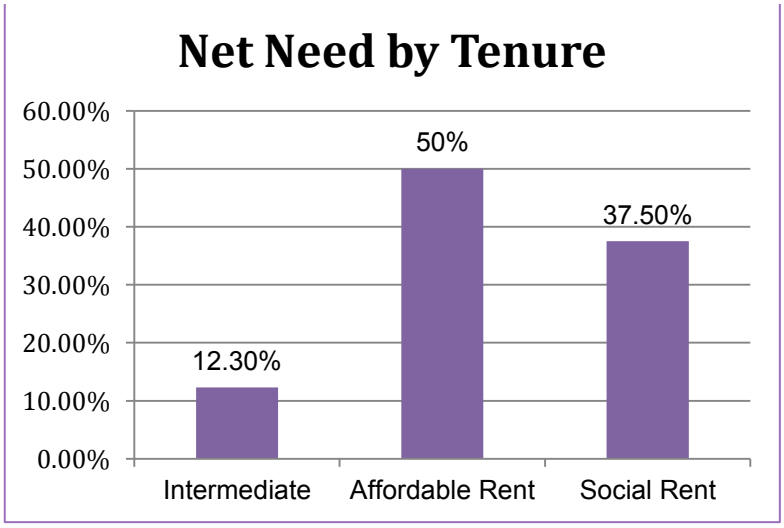
2)Some households defined as in housing need are accommodated in the Private Rented Sector and supported by the Local Housing Allowance.

Need for Different Types of Affordable Homes

Using the required information to assess the need for affordable housing the SHMA estimates the proportion of households who can afford intermediate, social and affordable rented housing.

Social Rent appears to be a dying brand in the delivery of new affordable homes. The Government have emphasised in their prospectus for the “National Affordable Housing Programme 2015 - 2018” that their preferred tenure is Affordable Rent with no Government subsidy being allocated to Social Rent, though whilst new delivery of social rented properties has gradually reduced it still remains the most affordable product for many households in the District and this is demonstrated in the table below.





Since the Government introduced affordable rent in 2011 Blaby District Council have managed to secure a further 131 social rented units on various sites across the District. This represents approximately 49% of all new affordable homes built in this period. Whilst we recognise that this figure is likely to decrease over the forthcoming National Affordable Housing Programme period (2015-18), the Strategic Housing Team will continue to seek social rent on major sites wherever possible.

Net Need for Different Sizes of Homes

In determining the sizes of homes required the SHMA takes into account the following key factors:

- The size and composition of households.
- The sizes of homes different households can afford to rent or buy.
- Long term demographic trends, including a growing older population.
- Government interventions such as Help to Buy, the Starter Home Initiative, Welfare Reform and the more recent intent to extend Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants.

Demographic changes are the key long term driver on demand for different sizes of homes, especially the changing age structure of the population. Generally speaking there has been a shift towards a higher need for 1 bedroomed accommodation with the ageing population being a big contributor to this. Across Leicester and Leicestershire two thirds of the demand for 1 bed affordable housing up to 2036 will be down to demand from the ageing population, in the District of Blaby this figure is even higher at 88%.

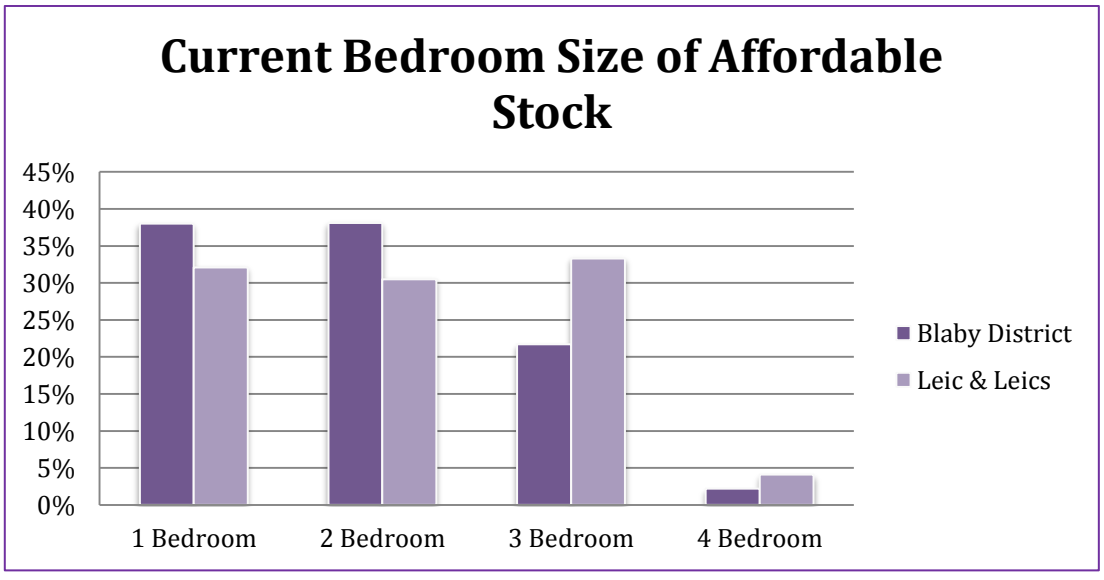
Imbalances in the current market and affordable housing stock also need to be considered. We know from previous analysis conducted for the Councils Housing Strategy 2009 that Blaby's housing stock remains highly skewed in 3 respects:

- In relation to property type: in the high proportion of larger detached homes and in the lower supply of smaller terraced housing, especially flats and maisonettes
- In relation to size: as a corollary of the above, in the high proportions of larger 4 and 5 bed homes and in the low supply of smaller 1 and 2 bed homes
- In relation to tenure: in the well above average home ownership sector and the well below average social and private rented sectors

The analysis also considers the mix of affordable housing needed through assessment of what households can afford and also stock turnover. (The full modelling methodology is explained in more detail in section 7 of the SHMA 2014).

Fully projecting the net need for different sizes of homes is not a simple task as households are able to rent or buy any size of property e.g. there is no reason why a single person can't buy a four bed house as long as they are able to afford it, though this issue is less relevant in the affordable sector and particularly since the introduction of the under occupation charge (better known as the bedroom tax).

The SHMA does emphasise that it is important to consider the current stock of affordable housing and also the extent to which an area has particularly high levels of over-crowding and under-occupation. Data obtained from the 2011 census shows us that in the affordable stock Blaby already have a greater proportion of 1 bedroom homes, a low proportion of 4 bedroom homes (which is to be expected) and perhaps most surprisingly a small proportion of 3 bedroom homes (lower than all other Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities).



Given the analysis and consideration of all of these anomalies the SHMA 2014 estimates the need in terms of size for affordable housing up to 2036 for the Blaby District, this is detailed in

the table below:

	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed
Affordable	**35-40%**	**30-35%**	**20-25%**	**5-10%**

Whilst the above table does recommend a high proportion of 1 bedroomed accommodation the SHMA advises that Local Authorities will need to apply local knowledge in terms of the high turnover of such accommodation. The other important factor being that over 88% of the 1 bed need in the District will be driven by the ageing population (age 75 or over) emphasising the need for more aspirational accommodation for older people, for example in the form of affordable extra care. It would also be prudent to continue to address some of this need through the addition of more 1 and 2 bed bungalows (especially whilst this age group remains exempt from the bedroom tax).

Whilst there is a clear need for smaller properties we also need to be mindful that our stock of 4 bedroomed affordable units is also considerably low. Over the previous SHMA period local surveys have shown a need and demand for some larger affordable homes, whilst these households represent a small percentage of those in need of affordable housing, the likelihood of those needs being met presently remains very low due to the low turnover and lack of new build 4 bed (or larger) homes in the affordable sector.

The Importance of the Private Rented Sector

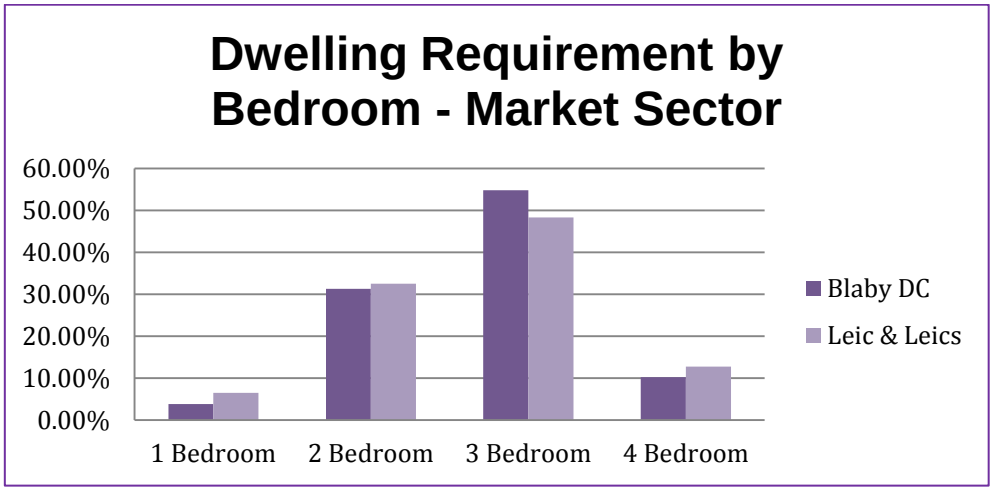
Valuation Office Agency (VOA) data shows that in the Private Rented Sector overall rents are highest in the District of Blaby than anywhere else in Leicestershire. The census 2011 has shown that the Private Rented Sector in the District has grown by over 50% over the previous 10 years. However the actual number of homes in the Private Rented Sector remains below the national average and the sector will need to grow further if it is to continue to assist with affordable housing demand.

Landlords in the sector will also need to be encouraged to accommodate tenants who are claiming Local Housing Allowance and its important that the Council continues to further develop it's strong relationship with Landlords through its established Landlords Forums and services such as the new "Homefinder" service. This in turn will help to assist affordable housing need because (as previously mentioned) despite the best efforts of the Strategic Housing Team to enable development it is unrealistic to assume that the future new supply of affordable homes can meet demand.

The SHMA also recognises that the Governments suite of welfare reforms will add further pressure and demand on affordable housing, which will again have a knock on effect in terms of demand in the private rented sector. In summary the Private Rented Sector has played an extremely important role in addressing some of the shortfall of affordable housing in the District over the last few years and it is essential that it continues to do so throughout the policy period of the new SHMA and this Housing Strategy.

Guidance on Market Housing Mix

All of the above information has been drawn together with the wider analysis in the SHMA to provide similar strategic guidance on the mix of housing which would be appropriate in the market sector for the Housing Market Area and at a District level. The table below shows the requirement for the Blaby District as well as Leicester & Leicestershire:



As with affordable housing this analysis should be considered as indicative and a number of local factors, particularly at an individual site level and potentially as the housing market changes over time may suggest an alternative profile.

The Strategic Housing Team will continue to consider the recommendations of the SHMA 2014 along with other local evidence (i.e. population profiles, existing stock, local household sizes, affordable housing requirements and current and future housing supply) in order to balance the required housing mix across the District on a site by site basis.

The SHMA recognises that delivery of larger family homes in the affordable sector will play an important role in terms of releasing supply of smaller properties for other households, however this needs to be balanced with the limited flexibility that one bed properties offer to changing household circumstances especially in terms of higher turnover and wider housing management issues.

In the market sector the SHMA recognises there will be a higher demand for smaller 1 and 2 bedroomed properties as well as some demand for medium sized 2 and 3 beds, especially from older households wishing to downsize and release equity whilst at the same time having enough room for family and friends to stay.

Given this analysis and taking into account the overall recommendations of the SHMA and also being mindful of viability constraints, the Strategic Housing Team have concluded that as an overall District profile the following table represents the ideal affordable and market housing mix for new developments across the District:

	1 Bedroom (inc Extra Care and Bungalows)	2 Bed Bungalows	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Affordable	**20%**	**10%**	**35%**	**30%**	**5%**
Market	**5%**	**10%**	**30%**	**40%**	**15%**

Clearly this cannot be applied to each new individual development site as local implications previously explained in this report will apply. Therefore each proposal will be treated on its own merits and the data collated and updated regularly by the Strategic Housing Team on a parish level basis will be utilised for the purpose of recommending an appropriate housing mix for each new large scale (10 or more units) development.

Our New Priorities and Themes

In consultation with our partners we have decided that this new housing strategy will have 3 overarching priorities that reflect the fundamental housing needs of the District. Within these, there are a number of themes detailing areas of need which have been highlighted as those areas that matter the most and will make the most impact, the three new priority areas will be:

- **Priority 1: Increasing housing supply across the tenures**
  - New Affordable Housing
  - Mix and Size of Market Housing
  - Maximising Funding Sources
  - Increasing Choice
  - Attracting economically active households

- **Priority 2: Providing appropriate housing options and support services for vulnerable households**
  - Appropriate accommodation options for vulnerable people including the young and the District's ageing population
  - Supporting Blaby's Housing offer to Health
  - Supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities

- **Priority 3: Making the best use of the existing housing stock**
  - Decent Warm & Healthy Homes
  - Bringing Empty Homes back into use
  - Improving the Private Rented Sector
  - Forming a Local Housing Company

Chapter 4: Priority 1 - Increasing the Supply of Housing across the Tenures

Background

Various factors have an impact on the supply of housing: the availability of land and finance to develop it, the buoyancy of the market, the amount buyers are prepared to pay, density levels, and planning policies. Against the background of continuing housing market uncertainty and constrained grant funding for new affordable housing, the Council will need to take a more proactive and innovative approach to deliver homes of different sizes and types, for a range of incomes. This means working within the context of current market conditions to ensure the continuing supply of housing across all sectors.

Affordability

The tightening of lending criteria by many banks and building societies has had a significant impact on the affordability of market housing. First Time Buyers are particularly affected as they are more reliant on flexible lending criteria and often have insufficient savings for a deposit. There are several Government schemes designed to give First Time Buyers a route into home ownership, these include the 'Help to Buy' schemes and the more recent 'Starter Homes Exceptions Schemes' announced by Government in March 2015. The Council itself has also been able to assist First Time Buyers through its own Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS) which enabled the Local Authority to work in partnership with Lloyds Bank and assist first time buyers to get a foot onto the housing ladder. The scheme was the first to be launched in the country and assisted those who could afford mortgage repayments but did not have the means to raise the required 20 – 25% deposit. In total the Council assisted well over 150 first time buyers to obtain a mortgage. More aspiring home owners unable to afford market housing have also been helped through a number of intermediate housing options that have been negotiated with our Registered Provider partners, the most popular being Shared Ownership.

Demand for Affordable Housing

The 2014 SHMA indicates that an additional 340 affordable homes are required annually to ensure we meet current and future need which is neither viable nor achievable. The level of affordable housing need represents an increase of approximately 27% on the level of need identified in the 2008 SHMA study and highlights the growing pressure on affordable housing delivery in the District. This evidence from the SHMA is supported by evidence from the Choice Based Lettings Register.

In April 2015 there were 937 households on the housing register, but only 257 properties became available for letting in 2014/15 which is one indicator that demonstrates the demand for affordable housing vastly outweighs the supply. Applicants needing large family homes also have difficultly in being able to afford suitably sized larger properties in the private rented sector. This is likely to be exacerbated by the reductions in Local Housing Allowance rates under the Government's programme of welfare reforms.

Funding Affordable Housing

As part of the Localism Act 2011 the Government introduced a new tenure called 'Affordable Rent,' with the aim of sustaining development despite the sharp reduction in capital grant funding. Registered Providers are now able to charge up to 80% of market rents on new developments and on a proportion of their re-let housing. The additional income can then be used to enable affordable housing development. The Homes and Communities Agency's new approach to investment means there is a presumption against grant funding from central government for social rented housing (apart from in exceptional cases) – the HCA programme will now mostly only fund affordable rent properties and intermediate housing. This is further emphasised in the 2015-18 National Affordable Housing Prospectus, which underlines that Registered Providers are expected to charge an affordable rent on allocations of affordable housing on all major developments (section 106 sites).

The Right Size and Mix of Market Housing

The Council's Core Strategy was adopted in February 2013, it considers the number and location of additional homes (market and affordable), in addition to the development of infrastructure and economic growth within the District up to 2029, whilst taking into account the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Core Strategy has the following strategic objectives:

1) *To provide the appropriate quantity and mix of housing to meet the needs of the District's current and future populations;*

2) *To optimise the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs; and,*

3) *To improve the design and quality of all new developments in the District including the need to design out crime.*

In July 2013 the Council adopted its "Housing Mix and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)" which supplements the Core Strategy and provides further detail on how Blaby District Council will interpret and apply specific policies contained in the Core Strategy. The main objectives of the SPD being:

To provide guidance regarding the interpretation of policies CS7 and CS8 of the Blaby District Council Local Plan (Core Strategy) and;

1) *To address local imbalances in both the market and affordable housing stock;*

2) *To optimise the provision of affordable housing to meet identified needs.*

New Homes Bonus

Introduced in April 2011, funding from New Homes Bonus provides an incentive for councils to provide new homes. For each new home delivered or empty property brought back into use, councils receive the national average of Council Tax for that property per annum over a period of six years. In addition, there is a flat rate of £350 per annum payable over six years for each additional affordable home delivered.

Since New Homes Bonus was introduced in 2011 the Council has re-invested almost £400,000 of its receipt in new affordable housing. In doing so it has also levered out funds from other sources, which have in total contributed to over 100 new affordable homes in the District. This includes a new 50 unit extra care scheme in Blaby and also homes in rural areas to meet the needs of people with strong local connections to specific villages.

The Council will need to continue to remain agile and opportunistic in order to take advantage of future funding streams and in doing so enable the development of affordable housing, especially for those that are vulnerable and most in need.

The Structure of the Blaby Housing Market

As mentioned previously the Housing Strategy (2009) highlighted that the housing stock in the District is highly skewed in 3 respects:-

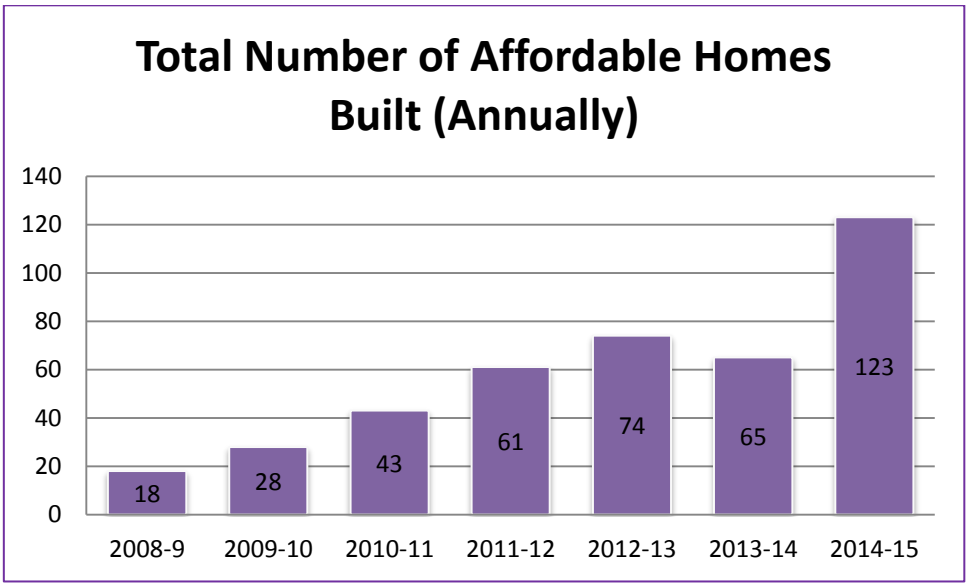
1) In relation to property type: in the high proportion of larger detached homes and in the lower supply of smaller terraced homes, and especially flats and maisonettes.

2) In relation to size: as a corollary of the above, in the high proportions of larger 4 and 5 bed family homes and in the low supply of smaller 1 and 2 bed homes.

3) In relation to tenure: in the well above average home ownership sector and the well below average social and private rented sectors.

Such a structure of supply provides a good choice of homes for those seeking family housing, especially in the market sector, and will act as a 'pull' factor in exacerbating 'city flight' from Leicester. However, the current housing supply offers a much more limited choice of homes for single people and couples, especially in the affordable sector (and as is demonstrated by the SHMA (2014) in terms of the lack of entry level market homes for single people and young couples to buy. This pattern of constrained choice is evident across the main tenures.

The last housing strategy (2009) also highlighted that supply of new affordable homes had been limited with the effect that right to buy sales have resulted in a net loss of 20 units between 2002 and 2007. Since then numbers have improved with over 350 new affordable homes being built in the District since 2008. The year ending 2014/15 will deliver the most number of new affordable homes built since the 1970's totaling well over 100 new properties across the District.



The Home Ownership Sector

In contrast with the social rented sector, supply in the home ownership sector is skewed towards family housing, and the main property types traded are semi-detached and detached properties with smaller 1 and 2 bed properties making up only 22% of total new build and resale dwellings. As a result, the demand for smaller and more affordable homes is very strong, with competition strengthened by the increase in private landlords investor activity.

Access to home ownership for a 1 bed re-sale home at the average values is likely to be in the region of £100k; £127k for a 2 bed and £170k for a 3 bed home. We have estimated that access to properties at these values for newly emerging households is likely to be just under half of single income and one third for joint income households, but shared ownership (e.g. homebuy) options would improve access rates by a further 15%.

The supply of new housing has in recent years been geared towards larger family homes, and whilst this will act as a further draw for movers into the area it does little to assist first time buyers wishing to remain in the District. During 2014, 76% of all new homes sold in Blaby were detached; 24% were semi detached or town houses, statistics also show 1% of total new build sales were 1 bed dwellings and new build 2 bed homes made up 10% of total sales for this period.

The Councils adoption of a Housing Mix and Affordable Housing SPD aims to address this matter, whilst still maintaining attractive homes for movers to the area it also attempts to ensure that the needs of smaller households in the District are provided for. Despite this, increasing the supply of more smaller and affordable aspirational homes remains a major challenge for the authority with Developers claiming that a more balanced mix affects viability.

The Role of the Private Rented Sector

The combined circumstances of strong demand for affordable housing, a limited supply of both smaller and larger homes in the social rented sector and of smaller homes for owner occupation means that the private rented sector plays a crucial 'intermediary' role in meeting local need and demand. As a result, competition for available properties is strong with typical access prices of £450 a month for 1 bed properties; £585 for a 2 bed and £700 for a 3 bed property. Such rents are between 2 and 3 times the equivalent of some social rents but still below the cost of home ownership. The challenge here is how to grow this sector by maximising the use of properties such as empty homes. The census 2011 has shown that the number of Private Rented homes in the District has increased by 50% with a total of 4,200, despite this increase the number of privately rented homes in the District still remains less than the national average by some 7%.

Rural Housing

Provision of affordable housing in rural areas remains important to the Council. Since the last housing strategy we have developed Rural Exception Sites (RES) in the villages of Croft, Sapcote, Elmesthorpe, Thurlaston and Sharnford. This has resulted in a total of 39 new affordable homes specifically for people with strong local connections to the rural villages where house prices remain out of touch for many local people. In the past this has resulted in households needing to move away in order to find housing that meets their needs.
We will continue to support the development of affordable rural housing by utilising planning policy to encourage the development of RES in our rural villages. Section 106 agreements will be used to limit allocation of affordable units to people with a strong local connection. The Council continues to support the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and in doing so has a five year rolling plan of villages to be surveyed with a view to identifying housing need and supporting affordable housing development where necessary.

Gypsy and Traveller Provision

The Housing Act 2004 included a statutory requirement to undertake an assessment of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers known as a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). The National Planning Policy for Traveller sites (March 2012), which supplements the NPPF, provides further guidance on planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites.

In 2012 the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Local Authorities commissioned De Montfort University to carry out a refresh of the previous GTAA. The study showed that the District of Blaby had exceeded it's Gypsy and Traveller provision meaning that its Gypsy and Traveller population is bigger now than anticipated in the 2007 study. This has an impact on future population size and pitch requirements. The current position in Blaby is equivalent to the level of provision that the 2007 GTAA report would have required to be achieved by 2021.

The table below sets out future accommodation requirements in 5-year tranches to 31st March 2027 and then a 4-year tranche from 1st April 2027 to 31st March 2031 based on growth of 3% per annum compound.

	2012[1] - 2017	**2017-2022**	**2022 - 2027**	**2027 - 2031**
Newly arising need from household growth	20	23	26	**24[2]**
Tenure:				
Social rented pitches for newly arising need	5	6	7	**6**
Private residential pitches	**15**	**17**	**19**	**18**

[1] Each year begins 1st April, so first column is for five years from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2017, and so on.
[2] This column contains only 4 years (rather than 5 year tranches used in the preceding columns), in recognition that the study period requested by the clients ends 31st March 2031.

Affordable Housing Supply

This Housing Strategy fully supports the Local Development Framework and we will continue to work closely with planning colleagues to deliver affordable housing. There are planning permissions in place for 675 additional affordable homes in the District which could be developed over the next 5 years by both developers and Registered Providers. Several sites are either now being developed or are expected to commence within the next two years where RPs have HCA grant available. Reserved Matters planning applications are about to be submitted from developers for the first phase of the District's Sustainable Urban Extension at Lubbesthorpe. It is expected that over the predicted 25 year build period this will result in an additional 4,250 new homes of which up to 1,063 will be affordable.

We have set an annual housing target of 60 additional affordable homes based on the findings of the SHMA and what can be realistically achieved without constraining the overall delivery of housing in the District. This target includes the 675 in the development pipeline. The private rented sector will also play a much greater role in the provision of affordable housing to meet our target, this is described in more detail in a later Chapter (Making the Best use of the Existing Housing Stock).

Maximising Funding Sources & Other Resources for Affordable Housing

We remain committed to delivering new affordable housing in the District to meet our housing needs and will be exploring innovative and creative methods to supplement provision through the current Affordable Rent programme and Section106 agreements. This is vital if we are to rise to the challenge of developing ways to increase the affordable housing supply at a difficult time of reduced public sector funding. We will, therefore, explore a range of funding sources and methods including:

- Planning Policy – affordable housing secured through planning conditions and Section 106 agreements.
- Recycling grant funds held by Registered Providers, including grants recycled through the sale of shared ownership properties.
- Local authority funding, e.g. commuted sums collected on an exceptional basis (or in accordance with the SPD) in lieu of affordable housing being provided on site.
- Funds raised by Registered Providers under the new Affordable Rent programme.
- Making best use of any remaining council land and assets.
- Maximising the number of empty properties brought back into use as affordable housing in the Private Rented sector through take up of our grants and loans.

Diversifying the size and tenure of Affordable Housing

In terms of the tenure mix, the SHMA recommends a 50:50 tenure split between social or Affordable Rented housing and intermediate housing. We have set out guidance on the preferred tenure mix of affordable housing through our Housing Mix and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document mentioned earlier.

Size and Mix

Based on the SHMA recommendations for a mix of affordable housing required to meet need and address imbalances in the overall stock, we will propose that development schemes will include the following affordable housing target mix (expressed as a percentage of the total number of affordable dwellings in a scheme):

	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
Affordable Dwellings	**35-40%**	**30-35%**	**20-25%**	**5-10%**

The above percentages are respective of the need in the whole of the District. However the mix will also be considered on a site by site basis and adjusted accordingly depending on additional local housing mix assessments.

Increasing the Choice of Aspirational Housing

As well as increasing the supply and range of affordable housing, this Strategy supports the delivery of good quality, sustainable development proposals aimed at diversifying the District's overall housing mix. This is necessary in order to retain and achieve an in-migration of high-earners and professional households, thereby creating a more balanced socio-economic population and supporting a thriving local economy and a sustainable District.

What we will do (Summary)

- Continue to monitor the districts housing stock and demographic data with a view to providing the optimum housing mix for the District.
- Make recommendations on all major planning applications for the right type, size and tenure of new homes.
- Increase the overall supply and accessibility of smaller homes across the tenures.
- Look at ways of increasing opportunities for first time buyers including utilising government schemes such as First Buy.
- Explore alternative funding mechanisms to support future affordable housing development.
- Continue to support the growth of good quality accommodation in the Private Rented Sector with initiatives such as Homefinder, Rent Deposit Schemes and the Landlord Forums.
- Progress the Councils Rural Exception Site program and support the delivery of more affordable rural homes across the County of Leicestershire.
- Increase quality and availability of homes in the Private Rented Sector
- Work towards provision of a 'Foyer' scheme for younger vulnerable adults that provides training and educational facilities.

Chapter 5: Priority 2 – Providing appropriate housing options and support services for vulnerable households

As a result of the Localism Act the Government embarked on a radical programme to shift power to local Councils and communities. This included the reform of social housing with an aim to make things fairer and to strike a balance between new and existing tenants. The intention was to ensure that the support which social housing provides is focused on those that need it most. It gives our partner housing associations new power that enables them to best meet the needs of individual households who need assistance, but only for as long as they need it.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 brought about the biggest overhaul of the benefits system since the 1940's. Changes to welfare benefits have been taking place since April 2011 and add significant risks of increased homelessness as household's incomes are reduced and they struggle to meet their housing costs.

The first changes were the reduction of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates affecting housing benefit paid on privately rented properties by changing the basis on which the allowances were based (from rents at the 50th percentile in the market to rents at the 30th percentile in the market). Additionally the capping of LHA rates at a four bed rate were introduced, followed by the increase of the age limit at which the shared accommodation (single room) rate is paid from claimants under 25 to under 35.

In April 2013 the Government introduced the under-occupation charge, more commonly known as the 'bedroom tax' by which social housing tenants under-occupying properties would have their housing benefit reduced;

- by 14% if they had one unused bedroom and
- by 25% if they had two unused bedrooms.

At the same time the Council Tax Benefit scheme was replaced by a locally determined Council Tax Support scheme. Because the government required savings to be made by councils as they implemented the scheme the maximum support (benefit) to be paid in Blaby to working age claimants has been capped at 91.5% of the tax due for year 1 and 85% for year 2. For those previously affected by the Local Housing Allowance reductions, or by the bedroom tax, this is a second reduction in benefit income, and there are concerns about the cumulative impact of these changes.

In July 2013 phase 1 of the 'benefit cap' was implemented for smaller sized authorities. The intention of this measure is to ensure that no family receives more than £500 per week in benefits and no individual receives more than £350 per week. The cap started by the household's housing benefit being cut. In Blaby those affected were all large families, there were around 20 potential households containing approximately 60 children that had their benefits reduced. Officers from the Housing Options Team and the Housing Benefits Team continue to work closely with our Registered Provider partners to try and address these cases. The new Housing Bill which is due in September 2015 will incorporate a further cut to the overall amount of benefit that a family can receive, reducing the household income by approximately £60 per week.

Changes to the assessment of benefits for disabled people are also likely to negatively affect some households. The timetable for the introduction of Universal Credit is not final but it may begin for some new claimants in the District in the latter part of 2015. Registered Providers are very concerned about the possible increases in rent arrears if housing benefit is paid direct to the tenant, rather than to the landlord (as happens with social housing claimants at present), Blaby District Council will work with Registered Providers to be proactive with an aim to mitigate the impact of direct payments. Universal Credit will be paid monthly in arrears and it is feared that some low income households will struggle to manage their budgets. We continue to liaise closely with our Registered Provider partners to try to minimise the impact of all welfare benefit reforms.

Following the first wave of Welfare Reforms the Council set up an 'Impact on Housing' working group which includes internal partners from Housing Benefits, Housing Strategy and the Housing Options Team. Additional partners also include the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Registered Providers operating in the District. The remit of this group is to monitor the impact that welfare reform has had on households within the Blaby District and to formulate ideas of how these issues can be addressed.

Public Sector Finance and Support Services

The Supporting People programme funding that the government provides to Leicestershire County Council is no longer ring-fenced meaning that this can now be spent on non housing support issues. Many homeless clients, especially rough sleepers and those with complex needs, need support to help them obtain and sustain tenancies. Any reduction in that funding may threaten the ability of vulnerable clients in accessing settled housing.

Since the last Housing Strategy was adopted in 2008 the Council has set up its own 'Support Team', which is placed within the Community Services Group. The Support Team offers a floating support service that provides housing related support to people in their own homes or tenancies. The aim of the service is to:

- Develop or sustain an individuals skill to live independently and safely in their accommodation
- Provide support to prevent people losing their home

The Support Team also includes two Domestic Abuse Workers and a Substance Use Officer. The Domestic Abuse Workers provide a service to both female and male victims of domestic abuse. It is often harder for men suffering from domestic abuse to come forwards and by having a designated male worker for this service we are able to offer the same services as we do to women, this includes one to one confidential support on practical and emotional issues. The service can also help with financial or housing matters as well as access to work and education.

The Substance Use Officer provides support for people of all ages who are substance dependent. This could be for an individual who binge drinks or uses drugs to help them cope. The service provides one to one individual support and can also provide support to family members.

In addition, children and families are supported both through the Children's Workers (who work with children who have been affected by living in households where there has

been domestic abuse and/or substance use) and a team of four family support workers will help vulnerable families to turn their lives around, avoiding the need for them to deal with several different agencies. Known as Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) this is part of a new Government initiative. The countywide service brings together the county and district councils, the police, the NHS and other agencies, to help 500 families each year.

Research on Leicestershire's most complex families shows that:

- 80 per cent are out of work or have low income or benefits
- 61 per cent have a parent with a substance misuse problem
- 48 per cent have a family member who is or was an offender
- 59 per cent are lone parent households

At the time of writing the Council is currently supporting 28 complex families through the Leicestershire Supporting Families Programme.

In addition to local support services being offered by Blaby District Council there are also sub-regional partnerships with the other Leicester and Leicestershire Local Authorities as well as other outside organisations offering support such as 'the Y' and 'the Bridge'.

Ambition East Midlands

Ambition East Midlands is an exciting innovative 'housing first' support project that is being led by 'The Y' in Leicester and Leicestershire. A significant contribution is also being made by local housing, education and other support organisations, enabling expertise to be joined up and individualised in order to get the best outcomes for young vulnerable adults. The project has been awarded £2.95 million from the Communities and Local Government Fair Chance Fund.

Each young adult (aged 18 – 24) referred to Ambition will have a dedicated link worker who will provide intensive, personalised support that begins by helping them find a stable place to live. Over three years they will be helped to sustain their tenancies and develop the skills and confidence to enter education, training or employment. They will also have support for some of the wider complex issues that young people face including, budgeting, health, offending, drug and alcohol addiction and relationships. The project aims to support 100 young adults across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Blaby Employment and Training (BEAT)

BEAT is a service for Blaby residents of working age who need to be in employment or increase their working hours. It provides support in the areas of education and training as well as motivational support, confidence building, practical support with job searching and applications, work placements and apprentiships.

BEAT works with various partners to ensure that the right type of support is tailored to individual needs, partners include Voluntary Action Leicester, training providers, community groups, local businesses, internal departments and external agents.

The aims and objectives of the BEAT project are:

- Help more people gain employment.
- Assist individuals to gain more skills and to be motivated towards work.
- Raise self esteem creating savings for the NHS.
- Making economic savings on JSA, ESA, Council Tax and Housing benefits.
- Maximising household incomes.

Leicestershire's Housing Offer to Health

In 2013 the 7 Leicestershire Districts commissioned the Chartered Institute of Housing to produce a report detailing the 'Housing Offer' that the District Council's could deliver to support the Health and Well Being Strategy objectives. The report sets out how the District Councils' housing services can support and promote the health and wellbeing of residents across Leicestershire. The aims of the report are to:

- provide the national policy context around the links between health and housing;
- show the links between health and housing demonstrated through national research;
- establish the current position for Leicestershire based on local research;
- develop the Leicestershire 'Housing Offer for Health and Wellbeing'.

The full report can be accessed here:
http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/draft_cih_housing_offer_to_health_report_-_final_v1_no_table_160913.pdf
The following paragraphs show the steps that Blaby District Council in partnership with the other Leicestershire Districts Housing Services are taking in order to fulfill its own Housing Offer for Health and Wellbeing.

The Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014, together with a range of regulations and statutory guidance, is the base upon which social care will develop over the next few decades. It enshrines the new statutory principle of individual wellbeing, the driving force behind the Act, and makes it the responsibility of local authorities to promote wellbeing when carrying out any of their care and support functions.

Under the Care Act:

- The suitability of living accommodation is explicitly listed as part of the definition of well-being, which sets the tone for the whole Act;
- Housing is now clearly referenced as part of a local authorities duty to promote the integration of health and care;
- Registered providers are now explicitly listed as one of the partners a local authority must co-operate with when considering and planning a persons need for care and support.

These changes mean that planning for appropriate accommodation is recognised as an essential part of supporting health and wellbeing of vulnerable people. At Blaby District Council we have worked with the County Council, our Leicestershire District Council partners and Registered Providers to commission new services and appropriate accommodation for vulnerable people (examples of which are given in more detail in the

following paragraphs) and will continue to do so in order to identify and enable appropriate supported housing options to meet the specific needs of vulnerable people.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs) analyse the health needs of populations to inform and guide commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services within local authority areas. The JSNA underpins the health and wellbeing strategy and commissioning plans. The main goal of a JSNA is to accurately assess the health needs of a local population in order to improve the physical and mental health and well-being of individuals and communities and to act as the overarching evidence base for health and wellbeing boards to decide on key local health and social care priorities.

The JSNA in 2012 demonstrates that the key health issues for Leicestershire were: giving children the best start in life, managing the shift to early intervention and prevention and supporting the ageing population. Mental health and targeting the communities with the greatest needs were identified as key themes running across the whole life course .This led us to develop our Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to underpin our central themes of:

- adding quality and years to life;
- addressing needs effectively through the life course
- targeting communities with the greatest needs; and
- a specific focus on mental health needs.

Leicestershire JSNA is currently under review, the JSNA/JHWS Steering Board oversees it, which is a sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board. More detail with regards to the priorities in Leicestershire's JSNA 2015 will be included in the final draft of this housing strategy.

Local Area Co-ordinators

Local Area Coordination (LAC) is a model of support for vulnerable people. It focuses on identifying and supporting people who need help before they reach crisis. LAC originated in Australia and has now been implemented across parts of England and Wales. The project will initially be piloted across 4 Districts in Leicestershire, these being Blaby, Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth and Melton. The 8 Local Area Co-ordinators will:

- Support around 60 people in their local communities, typically older people and those with low to moderate mental health needs experiencing a level of vulnerability.

- Normally work in outreach based community hotspots (e.g. library, community centre, GP surgery, VCS agency).

- Provide social interaction and support.

- Spend time to understand the persons strengths and aspirations.

- Identify a range of community assets and resources that individuals can access.

- Link individuals to sources of informal support from other individuals.

- Help individuals to access other relevant services.
- Monitor an individuals progress against agreed aims.

The overall aim is to improve the Health and Wellbeing of individuals and communities therefore reducing demand on public services. Some of the outcomes that are expected for individuals and communities include:

- Improved health and wellbeing.
- Fewer hospital/emergency admissions and visits to GP.
- Better quality of life; improved confidence and independence.
- Stronger individuals, families and communities.
- Improved community links and social interactions.
- Greater community cohesion, community capacity and resilience.
- Positive use of community assets and resources.
- Increased levels of people engaging in volunteering, training or employment

The Light Bulb Project

The Light Bulb Project has recently been awarded funding of £1 million from the Governments 'Transformation Challenge Award'. The project will integrate practical housing support into a single service that is available to all, easier to access, easier to use, and will provide support shaped around an individual's need not an organisation's processes.

Light Bulb will include access to the traditional housing support offer - i.e. a housing based assessment which could identify a minor adaptation such as a handrail or a major change such as a downstairs bathroom. Where Light Bulb differs is the assessment wouldn't limit itself to just those options and may also suggest a handyperson service, access to cheaper recycled furniture and offer affordable warmth advice – anything basically that could make a home safer, and improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

Light Bulb would manage this offer of support differently in three key ways by:

1) Having a single point of contact;
2) Providing a single, broader assessment process which will be accompanied by a case management service;
3) Offering a wider variety of housing support and advice

There will be no hand offs between organisation's and no bureaucracy to negotiate. Light Bulb has the potential to make all housing support services easier to access, better targeted, stigma free, tenure neutral, more efficient and more effective.

Hospital Housing Enabling Officers (HHEO)

In November 2014 Blaby District Council provided a Housing Officer from its Housing Option Team to work in the Leicestershire Royal Infirmary. The post, which is funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for assisting patients to return to independent living either in their own home or by facilitating new provision by liaising with various partners including the 7 District Housing Services.

There are many reasons why patients are unable to return home despite them being physically fit to leave hospital. These reasons may include unsuitable accommodation to return to, lack of support networks and financial issues. The following case study demonstrates the effectiveness of this service. (Names have been changed to protect the identity of the patient):

Case Study – Steven (a single male) was referred to the HHEO from the Specialist Discharge Team. Steven was almost ready for discharge but unable to return to his previous address due to a relationship breakdown.

Steven needed a ground floor, wheel chair access property due to his disability. The HHEO was able to interview the patient on the ward about discharge and housing options. Full Housing Options & Homelessness routes were explored. The HHEO was able to give information and advice on all the options for Steven within his District. The HHEO was also able to discuss medical conditions and housing requirements with an Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, the patient's former partner & the Ward Nurse. The HHEO contacted the Homefinder team to see if they had any knowledge about suitable/adaptable private rented property in the area.

The next step was to contact the relevant Local Authority with details of the patient to start the homeless process as it was unlikely that any suitable accommodation would be made available without delaying the discharge from the hospital. The Local Authority needed a housing application and medical form completing and the HHEO was able to do that with Steven on the ward which helped to speed up the process.

The Local Authority offered temporary accommodation in a hotel near to the patients' family for support that had disabled facilities. The Occupational Therapist from the hospital was able visit the hotel to check that it was suitable for the patient.

The patient also raised concerns over their lack of income and food. The HHEO contacted various services within the Department of Work and Pensions and was able to facilitate an ESA claim and a short term loan. The HHEO was also able to source Hamper2home from the Hospital and also give the patient contact details of food parcel services in that area.

Steven was discharged 9 days after first contact from the HHEO. Feedback from the ward was that the patient would normally have been in the ward until relatives had been able to find alternative accommodation for him, which in their experience would have been many weeks.

The above case study details just one example of how effective the HHEO has been in a short space of time. Given the size of the task in assisting people to go from hospital to appropriate accommodation, the service is now to be extended, with two more HHEO posts being recruited from April 2015.

What we will do (Summary):

- Work together with partners including CAB, The Y and Registered Providers in order to understand the Impact of welfare reform to Blaby households.
- Continue to monitor the impact of current and future welfare reforms through the 'Impact on Housing' group.
- Identify specific households or individuals in need of housing, drug or domestic abuse related support and enable support provision through the Councils Support Team.
- Encourage individuals to become digitally, financially and socially independent through the new 'BEAT' project.
- Continue to develop the 'Lightbulb Project' with a vision to provide integrated support services from a single access point for the ageing population across Leicestershire.
- Align public services to provide a more integrated holistic service to residents in need of support.
- Provide housing related solutions (through the HHEO's and / or the re-enablement accommodation) for individuals ready to be discharged from hospital but unable to do so due to a breakdown in accessible accommodation.
- Continue to work with our partners to provide more specialist supported accommodation for all vulnerable groups.

Chapter 6: Priority 3 – Making the best use of the existing housing stock

The imbalance in the Councils housing stock (mentioned previously) has been further emphasised more recently in the 2011 census which shows that the District of Blaby has the 3rd lowest percentage of renters in England and Wales (despite a 50% growth in the private rented sector over the most recent 10 year census period) and it also has the 3rd highest percentage of people purchasing homes with a mortgage in England and Wales. This may be interpreted as the District being fairly affluent, however the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment concludes that some 349 affordable homes need to be built each year in order to meet the needs of households in the District. This represents 96% of the Districts target for new homes, clearly this is neither achievable nor viable and therefore the Districts existing housing stock will also need to play an important role in meeting the needs of households.

Housing Standards / Condition in the Private Sector

The most recent survey of housing conditions in the private sector was carried out in 2010. The key findings of the survey indicated that:

- 31.5% of private housing within Blaby fails the Decent Homes Standard overall with a total cost implication of £29,321,855 (including HHSRS); an average of £2,601.07 per household.
- 37% of households have an income of less than £15,000
- Households spending more than 10% of income on fuel bills are considered to be in fuel poverty: the level of fuel poverty across Blaby District is estimated to be 28.4%.
- 16% of households living in the District are classed as being vulnerable, 59.2% of which are classed as being in fuel poverty.
- The major hazards are thermal comfort and falling on stairs.

The responsibility for the maintenance of private properties rest with the homeowner but there is a need to assist vulnerable and low income households and also some private tenants to raise energy efficiency standards. Since the stock condition survey was published in 2010 a number of initiatives have been introduced and there are signs that the standard of homes in the private sector has continued to rise.

The Private Rented Sector

According to the 2011 census there are 4,182 households now living in the private rented sector. Despite this figure being amongst the lowest percentage of private rented homes in the country it has grown by more than 50% since the previous census in 2001 and now comfortably exceeds the public sector stock in the District. The private rented sector is the fastest growing sector in the housing market and the government is encouraging a wider range of investors into the sector. Significantly there are a number of people making long term family homes in the private rented sector and we have a responsibility to ensure that they are living in safe housing conditions managed by decent landlords.

Blaby District Council has an active landlord's forum that is managed by the Housing Options Team. The forum regularly attracts over 100 landlords and agents and provides

a platform for them to network and share information. The forum also enables us to provide updates and information on changes to legislation and to reinforce landlord's responsibilities. The forum is often attended by representatives from the East Midlands Landlords Accreditation Scheme and Landlords are actively encouraged to join the scheme with a view to raising standards in the private rented sector.

In 2013 Blaby District Council launched homefinder.uk.com which is a scheme set up to support the District's Landlords and Letting Agents. The scheme (which in 2014 won the 'CIH Business Transformation of the Year Award') was created and is administered by BDC and incorporates properties from the 7 District Councils across Leicestershire as well as Leicester City Council. The aim of the scheme is to provide a range of advice and support services for landlords on one website.

Homefinder also offers landlords a platform to advertise properties for free, it promotes good practice by keeping landlords up to date with current legislation and information on grants and loans that are made available by the partnering Councils. There are some landlords who choose to rent to tenants on low income and advertise their properties through Homefinder as "Local Housing Allowance Friendly" in order to attract such tenants. These landlords are generally satisfied that having longer term tenants offsets the lower rent. However forthcoming challenges to this sector which include further housing benefit restrictions and also the introduction of universal credit could discourage landlords from renting to LHA recipients in the near future.

There is no doubt that as well as the current housing crisis, the shortage in the District of new affordable homes as well as the low percentage of smaller homes in the market sector has meant there is a growing demand for accommodation in the Private Rented Sector. Our challenge is to facilitate this growth by working in partnership with landlords and encouraging sustainability in the sector by means of raising awareness of standards and continuing to encourage accreditation and increased access to private rented accommodation.

Local Housing Company

The Council is currently looking into setting up a Local Housing Company to assist the availability of homes in the private sector and to support on-going service delivery. The creation of a housing company would provide the Council with the opportunity to develop and/or acquire and manage housing in the private sector, providing a quality alternative for private rented property at various levels of affordability, as well as creating a new property asset base generating a revenue stream and an increase in capital over time.

The Social Rented Sector

As has been previously mentioned the Social Rented housing stock previously owned by the Council now all meets the Decent Homes Standard. This was part of a five year programme undertaken by our stock transfer partner East Midlands Homes following Large Scale Voluntary Transfer in 2008. East Midlands Homes now own and manage the majority of the social rented stock in the District. The Strategic Housing Team at Blaby District Council continues to work with all Registered Providers that are active in the Blaby District with a view to providing more social and affordable rented homes.

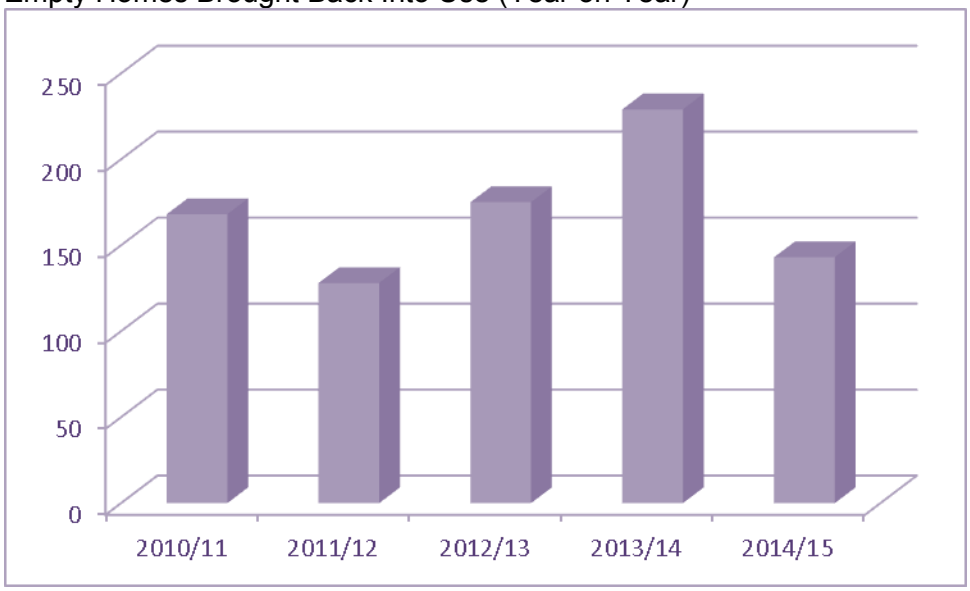
Bringing Empty Homes Back into Use

Empty homes are a very visible sign of under-utilised housing stock. Making best use of these properties is central to our housing strategy. The Council adopted our Empty Homes Strategy in 2010. The strategy recognises there are a range of reasons that can result in a property becoming empty. It sets out a range of tools that can be utilised in order to assist owners to bring a property back into use. There are also enforcement options that are available to the Council which include Enforced Sale, Empty Dwelling Management Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders, all of which assist in bringing empty homes back into use.

Since the introduction of the Empty Homes Strategy we have been successful in bringing 843 empty homes back into use.

In 2010/11 there were over 300 long-term empty properties in the District. With such a high need for affordable homes in the District, these properties represent a wasted resource as well as attracting crime, anti-social behavior and vermin.

Empty Homes Brought Back Into Use (Year on Year)



In the last 2 years we have increased the tools available to us in dealing with Empty Properties, these now include:

- Creating an Empty Homes Working Group that meets on a regular basis and oversees the Empty Homes Programme.
- Developing a comprehensive package of assistance.
- Introducing additional funds into the Empty Homes Grant and Loans scheme (which gives the Council two years nomination rights to house applicants from the housing register).
- Securing £100,000 of New Homes Bonus receipts to bring empty properties back into use.

- Developing an approach for the use of Enforced Sale and Compulsory Purchase Orders to bring older properties back into use.

- Changes to the Council Tax rates to discourage keeping homes empty.

- Developing a matrix scoring mechanism, which identifies specific properties where action is required.

The matrix scoring mechanism allows us to select properties where intervention is most likely to be required and in doing so maximises use of the Councils resources.

The Council may also use certain powers in connection with empty homes, these are:

- Where a property is adversely affecting the amenity of an area, the Council may serve a Section 215 Notice (Town and Country Planning Act 1990) which results in certain steps being taken in order to remedy the condition of the property in question;
- Where a property is dangerous or requires boarding up, the Council may carry out works or require the owner to carry out works to make the property safe (Building Act 1984);
- Where a property is likely to become a danger to public health (Public Health Act 1936), is causing a statutory nuisance (Environmental Protection Act 1990) or where there are pest control issues (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949) the Council may serve notices or carry out works to remedy conditions;
- Where a hazard exists at a property that has the potential to result in harm (The Housing Act 2004) the Council may serve notices or carry out works to remedy conditions;
- Where a local land charge has been made on a long term empty property (possibly through enforcement action outlined above), the Council can force the sale of a property to a third party.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMO)

The Housing Act 2004 gives Local Authorities powers to take over management and secure occupation of empty an property, either directly or via an intermediary (for example a Registered Social Landlord). It may be used as a final step if a voluntary leasing arrangement cannot be agreed upon between the owner and the Council.

The ultimate aim of an Empty Dwelling Management Order is to empower a third party to act as landlord for the property, which will be used to accommodate a household in need. The owner of the property may continue in ownership with an arms length arrangement whilst receiving a regular income. The managing organisation will undertake management and maintenance of the property for an agreed fee.

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

A Compulsory Purchase Order is a lengthy legal process that the Council will not undertake lightly. They may only be used in appropriate cases, where despite the Council's best endeavours an owner has consistently failed to bring an empty property back into use.

Where the local authority has tried and failed to return a property to use by all other methods, Compulsory Purchase may be considered. It is perhaps the strongest power available to tackle problem properties. Compulsory Purchase proceedings are often not completed because owners have been prompted by the process to bring the property back into use themselves.

The Empty Homes Working Group

The Empty Homes working group has remained flexible in its approach and has been proactive in responding to new methods and opportunities which have resulted to some changes to procedures. As a result the current Empty Homes Strategy will need to be refreshed and updated during 2015/16 and will contain some detail on how future funds will be sought ensuring the Empty Homes programme continues to be successful.

Energy Efficiency

Local Authorities are uniquely placed to assess the needs of their areas and local residents and to act as catalysts for change. The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995 recognises local council's ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation in their areas.

The Council's HECA report 2013-2015 sets out the energy conservation measures we consider practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvements in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the District. The Council is committed to its Climate Local Commitment which it signed on 21st December 2012 and as a result intend to engage, motivate and drive forward action through using the HECA report as a working tool in relation to carbon reduction for the District and Council policies. The full HECA report can be found at: http://www.blaby.gov.uk/resident/

Code for Sustainable Homes

From April 2014, the Government incorporated the level 3 energy standard into the building regulations. All newly built homes are expected to meet code level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes as a minimum in addition to any national and local planning authority standards.

Tackling Fuel Poverty

Our Private Sector Housing Team promotes energy efficiency in the home, offering advice to home owners, tenants and landlords. Free advice is also available from the Warm Homes Officer.

Poorly insulated properties, lack of efficient heating systems and the inability to afford to pay for heating, all contribute to 'Fuel Poverty'.

Fuel Poverty arises where households have to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel in order to keep their homes warm. There is a possibility that the lack of affordable heating, particularly in homes that are more difficult to heat, could be contributing to excess winter deaths.

Although Fuel Poverty levels are not as high in the district as in other parts of the country, Fuel Poverty is a real issue for some of our elderly, disabled and low income households. High fuel prices have certainly not helped those households dependent on pensions or benefits.

Over a quarter of the UK's annual carbon dioxide emissions come from the energy we use in our homes. The Government has set itself an ambitious target to cut the UK's carbon emissions (CO) by 60% by the year 2050. Energy use in the home accounts for more than a quarter of energy used and carbon dioxide emissions in the UK; more energy is used in housing than in road transport or industry.

4 Ways to Warmth

Leicestershire County Council and its partners across Leicester and Leicestershire which include the District Councils, local communities, the voluntary sector and other statutory organisations have joined together to deliver the '4 Ways to Warmth Campaign'. It aims to reduce the number of deaths and ill health associated with the winter by providing support to people living in cold housing and further help vulnerable individuals, families and carer's prepare for potential cold or sever weather conditions.

The 4 ways to warmth team also offer free household energy checks to residents across Leicester and Leicestershire. The checks are carried out by a team of energy experts who will assess levels of insulation, timers and thermostats and check that residents are on the cheapest energy tariffs. The energy experts analyse where the most energy is used and help households to save both energy and money. Typical savings for households range from between 10-35%.

What we will do (Summary):

- Continue to provide effective services for private landlords (e.g. Homefinder), encouraging them to work with the Council to address need from the housing register.
- Encourage private landlords to attain accreditation through the East Midlands Landlords Accreditation Scheme (EMLAS).
- Work with owners of empty properties with a view to assisting them to bring homes back into use.
- Encourage take up of available grant for owners of empty homes that are willing to rent to households on the housing register.
- Identify households that are experiencing fuel poverty issues and offer effective support through the 4 Ways to Warmth service.
- Ensure that future properties are built to the correct standard incorporating the appropriate efficiency levels.
- Continue to explore options for the creation of a local housing company in order to generate a revenue stream to support on-going service delivery.

Consultation Statement

This Draft Housing Strategy is an overarching document that focuses and co-ordinates a number of other housing related strategies that we have developed and adopted since LSVT in 2008. These housing policies enable us to continue our impetus to help address the housing needs of the District and provide a consistent drive towards achieving our priorities. We are committed to making sure that all of our housing work continues to align and work together to provide effective and efficient services for the benefit of residents in the Blaby District in a time of reducing resources and increased need.

The strategy sets out 3 main priorities, which are;

1) Increasing housing supply across the tenures
2) Providing appropriate housing options and support services for vulnerable households
3) Making the best use of the existing housing stock

Blaby District Council is now notifying interested bodies and persons of this draft Housing Strategy and in doing so invites them to make representations to the District Council about the contents of the document. Copies can be obtained from the District Council Offices or viewed online at www.blaby.gov.uk

Please submit any representations in writing to be received no later than **4.45pm** on the **11th September 2015 to:**

The Housing Strategy Team
Blaby District Council
Council Offices
Desford Road
Narborough
Leicester
LE19 2EP

Alternatively you can submit representation to the following email address:
housing.strategies@blaby.gov.uk

Many thanks,

The Housing Strategy Team

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Corporate management				
Income				
1	Precept	£477,804.00	£222,561.67	-£255,242.33
2	VAT received	£0.00	£7,472.48	£7,472.48
3	Misc & Photocopying	£0.00	£88.13	£88.13
4	Reserves			
4/3	Town Mayor 13/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4/4	Civic Roof Survey	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4	Total	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5	Town Mayor 15/16	£0.00	£747.35	£747.35
7	Income from General Reserve	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
12	Sale Of Assets	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
14	Council Tax Support Grant	£49,786.00	£0.00	-£49,786.00
229	Interest on No 1	£0.00	£139.65	£139.65
230	Interest On No 2 Account	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
231	Interest On Deposit Account Bof I	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
232	New Homes Bonus	£3,279.00	£0.00	-£3,279.00
233	Interest on Co-Op Invest Acc	£2,500.00	£0.00	-£2,500.00
234	Interest on The Cambridge Saver	£3,000.00	£0.00	-£3,000.00
Total Income		£536,369.00	£231,009.28	-£305,359.72
Expenditure				
3	Misc	£0.00	£106.00	-£106.00
4	Reserves			
4/3	Town Mayor 13/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4/4	Civic roof survey	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4	Total	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5	Town Mayor 14/15	£0.00	£4,010.98	-£4,010.98
101	Salaries No.2	£334,608.00	£109,000.00	£225,608.00
103	Pensions	£39,500.00	£0.00	£39,500.00
104	Supplies, Stationery, Postage	£5,500.00	£1,081.79	£4,418.21
106	Telephone	£2,500.00	£1,457.99	£1,042.01
107	Fares Expenses Allowances	£500.00	£12.60	£487.40
109	Insurance	£14,500.00	£2,328.68	£12,171.32
111	Photocopier	£1,500.00	£229.68	£1,270.32
112	Computer Supplies, Training, Service Contract	£7,000.00	£3,235.49	£3,764.51
113	Audit	£3,000.00	£833.28	£2,166.72
114	Elections	£6,000.00	£353.40	£5,646.60
117	Legal Fees	£250.00	£200.00	£50.00
121	Adverts and Life	£4,400.00	£1,860.00	£2,540.00
123	Subscriptions	£2,150.00	£969.02	£1,180.98
125	Contingency (Council Tax Support Grant)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
132	Councillors allowance	£7,875.00	£0.00	£7,875.00
133	Councillors Expenses	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
141	Council/Staff Training	£1,250.00	£0.00	£1,250.00
143	New Homes Bonus	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£430,833.00	£125,678.91	£305,154.09

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Open Spaces/Parks Management				
Income				
20	Misc	£100.00	£265.63	£165.63
21	Pitch Season Fees (Standard VAT	£4,000.00	£0.00	-£4,000.00
22	Snow Warden	£150.00	£0.00	-£150.00
23	Thorpe Astley Commuted Sums	£22,796.00	£0.00	-£22,796.00
24	Holmfield Park Project	£0.00	£4,166.67	£4,166.67
Total Income		£27,046.00	£4,432.30	-£22,613.70
Expenditure				
153	Loan Charges			
153/1	Loans- PWLB	£12,328.48	£0.00	£12,328.48
153/2	Mossdale Meadows LOAN - PWLB	£10,993.53	£0.00	£10,993.53
153	Total	£23,322.00	£0.00	£23,322.00
154	Maintenance/ Running Costs (Standard)			
154/2	Laundry Services/Waste etc	£2,560.00	£96.00	£2,464.00
154/3	M M Building Expenditure	£4,800.00	£2,582.24	£2,217.76
154/4	S P Building Expenditure (Bowls)	£1,000.00	£189.46	£810.54
154/5	H P Building Expenditure	£0.00	£10.02	-£10.02
154/6	Football Pitch Maintenance	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
154/7	Petrol for equipment	£1,000.00	£62.35	£937.65
154	Total	£10,360.00	£2,940.07	£7,419.93
155	General Maintenance & Expenditure (non bus vat)			
155/1	Repairs, General Maintenance/Supplies	£11,000.00	£6,618.97	£4,381.03
155/2	Playground equip & Surface repairs	£9,000.00	£0.00	£9,000.00
155/3	Machinery Hire	£500.00	£15,754.73	-£15,254.73
155/4	M M Telephone	£510.00	£0.00	£510.00
155/5	Vehicle Costs	£18,000.00	£115.87	£17,884.13
155	Total	£39,010.00	£22,489.57	£16,520.43
157	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
158	Thorpe Astley Comm Sums Expenditure	£20,500.00	£0.00	£20,500.00
Total Expenditure		£93,192.00	£25,429.64	£67,762.36

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Civic Centre				
Income				
31	Licensed Bar	£19,000.00	£5,277.80	-£13,722.20
32	Foyer Phone (standard VAT)	£100.00	£0.00	-£100.00
33	Library Service Charge	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
34	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
40	New Hirings			
40/1	Community Groups - Zero	£23,500.00	£5,002.78	-£18,497.22
40/2	Braunstone Town Residents Zero	£11,500.00	£4,736.60	-£6,763.40
40/3	Commercial/Private Hire Zero	£50,500.00	£16,277.11	-£34,222.89
40/4	Catering and Other - VAT	£1,000.00	£168.49	-£831.51
40	Total	£86,500.00	£26,184.98	-£60,315.02
Total Income		£105,600.00	£31,462.78	-£74,137.22
Expenditure				
181	Loan Interest & Repayments	£35,994.00	£26,695.80	£9,298.20
184	General Expenditure (com rooms/offices)			
184/1	Rates Zero	£20,500.00	£7,100.00	£13,400.00
184/2	PE Utility Bills & Heating Repairs PE	£23,500.00	£6,399.06	£17,100.94
184/3	PE Alarm Maintenance PE	£1,000.00	£171.63	£828.37
184/4	PE Laundry/Waste Services PE	£7,200.00	£1,764.92	£5,435.08
184/5	PE Fire Extinguisher Service PE	£400.00	£259.21	£140.79
184/6	PE Cleaning Materials PE	£2,100.00	£901.05	£1,198.95
184/7	PE Repairs Renewals & M'ce PE	£17,000.00	£7,923.59	£9,076.41
184	Total	£71,700.00	£24,519.46	£47,180.54
185	General Expenditure (Community Rooms Only)			
185/1	E Printing ads stationery E	£1,600.00	£837.19	£762.81
185/2	E Performing Rights Society E	£1,300.00	£0.00	£1,300.00
185/3	E Telephone E	£13,000.00	£89.85	£12,910.15
185/4	Catering supplies and Other Services VAT	£0.00	£392.16	-£392.16
185	Total	£4,200.00	£1,319.20	£2,880.80
197	Ref Deposits - Zero	£12,000.00	£3,110.27	£8,889.73
198	Card processing and Transit fees	£1,062.00	£595.25	£466.75
199	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£124,956.00	£56,239.98	£68,716.02

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Planning & Environment				
Income				
1	Misc / Poop Scoop (standard VAT)			
1/1	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1/2	Poop Scoop	£1,600.00	£462.51	-£1,137.49
1	Total	£1,600.00	£462.51	-£1,137.49
Total Income		£1,600.00	£462.51	-£1,137.49
Expenditure				
500	Professional Fees	£250.00	£100.00	£150.00
501	Dog Waste Collection / Poop Scoops			
501/1	Dog Waste Collection	£8,000.00	£0.00	£8,000.00
501/2	Poop Scoop Bags	£1,600.00	£516.00	£1,084.00
501	Total	£9,600.00	£516.00	£9,084.00
502	Misc / grit bins	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
509	Notice Boards/Street Seats	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
Total Expenditure		£10,300.00	£616.00	£9,684.00

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Crime Reduction				
Income				
11	Sale of cycle locks/alarms & Misc.	£300.00	£49.58	-£250.42
Total Income		£300.00	£49.58	-£250.42
Expenditure				
131	Printing & Signs	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
132	Crime Prevention, CCTV, Misc	£300.00	£124.90	£175.10
Total Expenditure		£800.00	£124.90	£675.10

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Social Inclusions				
Income				
4	Service level agreement BDC	£22,000.00	£0.00	-£22,000.00
8	Entertainments Programme			
8/102/2/1		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/119	do not use			
8/119/0				
8/119	Total	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/130	Musical Band Concert - 28/3/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/131	Community Quiz Night - 4/4/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/132	Vaisaki - 11/4/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/133	WWI Hathern 12/9/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/134	Brassamatazz 26/9/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/135	60s/70s evening 3/10/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/136	Diwali 17/10/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/137	History & Archive 18/10/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/138	Flower Demo 14/11/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/139	Craft Fayre 22/11/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/140	Minibus Quiz night 28/11/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/141	carol service 7/12/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/142	Ratby Carol concert 18/12/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/143	Panto 3/1/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/144	Fashion Show 30/1/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/145	Barn Dance 27/02/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/146	Photo Display 7/3/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/147	Quiz night St Crisp 27/3/15	£0.00	£256.46	£256.46
8/148	Vaishaki 17/4/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8/149	Childs halloween disco 31/10/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8	Total	£6,000.00	£256.46	-£5,743.54
11	Summer Fete			
11/1	Pre Payment Summer Fete	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
11/2	Summer Fete 2014	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
11/3	Summer Fete 2015	£1,200.00	£576.51	-£623.49
11	Total	£1,200.00	£576.51	-£623.49
51	Waste and Garden bags(Zero)	£0.00	£140.00	£140.00
52	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
116	Civic Functions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Income		£29,200.00	£972.97	-£28,227.03
Expenditure				
152	Summer Fete 10/11 do not use	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
610	Town Mayors Allowance	£750.00	£625.00	£125.00
616	Civic Functions	£2,500.00	£2,031.19	£468.81
619	Community Grants	£6,000.00	£2,417.00	£3,583.00
620	Library/Service Shop	£20,000.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
639	Arts & Entertainment			
639/100	Minibus Quiz 28/11/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/101	Carol Service 7/12/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/102	Panto 3/1/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/103	Fashion show 30/1/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/104	Barn Dance 27/02/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/105	Photo Display 7/3/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/106	Quiz St Crispins 27/3/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/107	Vaishaki 17/4/15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/108	Ratby Xmas Concert 19/12/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/43	Advertising and Printing	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/78	cheques for awards evening 14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/90	Musical band concert - 28/3/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/91	Community Quiz Night - 4/4/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/92	Vaisaki - 11/4/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/93	WW1 Hathern 12/9/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/94	Brassamatazz 26/9/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/95	60s/70s 3/10/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/96	Diwali 17/10/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/97	History & Archive 18/10/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/98	Flower Demo 14/11/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639/99	Craft Fayre 22/11/14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
639	Total	£9,000.00	£0.00	£9,000.00
644	Misc	£0.00	£92.53	-£92.53
649	Waste and Garden Bags(Zero)	£0.00	£445.76	-£445.76
650	Loan Interest & Repayment	£4,880.00	£0.00	£4,880.00
651	Citizens Advice Bureau/BTC Minibus			
651/1	Minibus	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
651/2	Citizen Advice Bureau - SLA	£2,750.00	£0.00	£2,750.00
651	Total	£2,750.00	£0.00	£2,750.00
653	Summer Fete			
653/1	Pre Payments Summer Fete 15	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
653/2	Summer Fete 15	£2,000.00	£1,371.97	£628.03
653/3	Summer Fete 16	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
653	Total	£2,500.00	£1,371.97	£1,128.03
Total Expenditure		£48,380.00	£6,983.45	£41,396.55

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Young People				
Income				
145	Young People	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Income		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure				
128	Young People	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,200.00
Total Expenditure		£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,200.00

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Thorpe Astley Community Centre				
Income				
634	Misc TA	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
640	New Hirings TA			
640/1	TA Community Groups - zero	£1,500.00	£1,540.52	£40.52
640/2	TA Braunstone Town Residents zero	£10,500.00	£2,720.72	-£7,779.28
640/3	TA commercial zero	£33,784.00	£14,214.07	-£19,569.93
640/4	TA Misc Catering VAT	£500.00	£132.81	-£367.19
640/5	Individual Match Fees (VAT)	£0.00	£79.88	£79.88
640/6	Court/Multi Play (vat)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
640/7	Changing Rooms (VAT)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
640	Total	£46,284.00	£18,688.00	-£27,596.00
Total Income		£46,284.00	£18,688.00	-£27,596.00
Expenditure				
784	TA General Expenditure (Com Rooms/office)			
784/1	PE TA Rates zero	£7,100.00	£2,400.00	£4,700.00
784/2	PE TA Utility Bills and Heating Repairs PE	£8,300.00	£948.62	£7,351.38
784/3	PE TA Alarm Maintenance PE	£3,000.00	£2,342.00	£658.00
784/4	PE TA Laundry/ Waste Services PE	£3,200.00	£921.23	£2,278.77
784/5	PE TA Fire Extinguisher Services PE	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00
784/6	PE TA Cleaning Material	£1,000.00	£198.33	£801.67
784/7	PE TA Repairs, Renewals and Maintenance	£3,000.00	£2,164.11	£835.89
784/8	Credit Charge/Banking	£738.00	£0.00	£738.00
784	Total	£26,738.00	£8,974.29	£17,763.71
785	TA General Expenditure (Comm Rooms)			
785/1	E TA Printing, Ads and Stationery E	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
785/2	E TA Performing Rights Society E	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00
785/3	E TA Telephone and Computer E	£1,000.00	£19.75	£980.25
785/4	TA Catering Supplies and Other VAT	£0.00	£26.03	-£26.03
785	Total	£2,400.00	£45.78	£2,354.22
797	TA Refundable Deposits - Zero	£7,600.00	£2,121.50	£5,478.50
798	Misc	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£36,738.00	£11,141.57	£25,596.43

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 31/07/15 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

	2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Total Income	£746,399.00	£287,077.42	
Total Expenditure	£746,399.00	£226,214.45	
Total Net Balance	**£0.00**	**£60,862.97**	