

CALDERDALE LOCAL PLAN

Open Space and Local Green Space

Technical Paper

**Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
2018**

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Introduction

1.1 Open space, sport and recreation facilities form an essential part of Calderdale's environment and play an important role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of its residents. They contribute towards quality of life by improving the quality of the environment and enabling exercise and other pastimes to take place, and they can play a key role in sustainable development. Open spaces often come under pressure for development and this pressure is set to increase in the future. There are limited opportunities to increase the amount of open space, particularly in urban areas, and therefore it is imperative that existing open space is preserved and that it is protected from loss and inappropriate development that would harm its character, appearance or function.

1.2 There will be exceptional occasions when it will be appropriate to release open space for development. Uses appropriate to the particular open space area which would bring community benefits may be acceptable such as outdoor sports facilities, interpretation centres, toilets, refreshment facilities, woodlands, allotments, cemeteries, and horticulture. The onus will be upon prospective developers to demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect in terms of the various functions that the open space fulfils. The extent of Open Space is identified on the Policies Map in the Local Plan.

1.3 This Technical Paper provides the context for the designation and protection of valuable and important open spaces and local green space in the Calderdale Local Plan. It provides the context and background information for open space and local green space designations and for the related policies included in the Local Plan.

National Planning Context

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines open space as “All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.”

2.2 Additionally, National Planning Policy Guidance (nPPG) states that “Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure (see NPPF paragraph 114), as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development (see NPPF paragraphs 6-10)”.

2.3 Paragraph 73 of the NPPF 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. It also states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.

2.4 Paragraph 74 of the NPPF states that 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 loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

2.5 Paragraph 77 of the NPPF introduces a new local green space designation that enables local communities to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them. Local green space designation will rule out development on these sites other than in very special circumstances.

Local Planning Context

RCUDP

3.1 Open Space amounting to approximately 1750ha was identified for protection in the Calderdale RCUDP. This included areas of open land of 0.4ha or above in size identified as being valuable for sport, recreation, amenity or wildlife. Open spaces in both public and private ownership were identified, including all areas of public open space and school grounds containing playing fields. Parks, recreation grounds, natural and semi-natural greenspace, play areas, allotments, public and private playing pitches, education sites with playing fields, amenity greenspace, churchyards and cemeteries were included in this designation.

Local Plan

3.2 Open Space amounting to approximately 1711ha has been identified for protection in the Calderdale Local Plan. This represents a loss of 39ha over that protected in the RCUDP.

3.3 The main policy protecting open space in the Local Plan is GN6: Protection and Provision of Open Space, Sport and recreation Facilities:

Policy GN6: Protection and Provision of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities

The [Policies Map](#) identifies areas of Protected Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities that shall be safeguarded from development to maintain local character and amenity of settlements and their communities and/or recreational function. Within the areas identified under this policy, development will only be permitted where:

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

Improvements in the provision of Open Space in areas of deficiency should be undertaken. Development proposals that conserve, improve, maintain or create open space will be permitted providing that they are consistent with other relevant local plan policies.

Development proposals for new or replacement schools or other education facilities, extensions to existing education establishments and changes of use for school or other educational and training purposes that include sports and recreation facilities, will only be permitted where recreational facilities are provided to the wider community outside of school hours.

All new residential developments should provide for the recreational needs of the prospective residents, by providing, laying out and maintaining recreational and amenity open space of a scale and kind reasonably related to the development within an agreed timescale or, where on site provision cannot be delivered, by way of a financial contribution to improving local off-site provision.

In determining the required open space provision, the council will have regard to the type of development proposed and the availability, quality and accessibility of open spaces in the area assessed in accordance with the Council's Borough wide open space standards and relevant national standards.

3.4 Further policy protection for open space is provided by the following Local Plan policies:

Policy GN7: Allotments

Development proposals which would result in the loss of, or otherwise adversely affect the continued operation and character of allotments will not be permitted unless:-

- it is demonstrated that this would not result in unmet demand for allotments within reasonable walking distance, and the proposals are for an alternative community use of an open space nature;
- appropriate alternative allotment provision is made of at least an equivalent standard and in a satisfactory location before the use of the existing allotment ceases; and
- the proposed development is consistent with other relevant Local Plan policies.

Proposals for the provision of new allotment sites will be permitted provided that they:-

- are of a high standard of design and external appearance which is based on ecological principles;
- provide for suitable pedestrian and vehicular access;
- do not detrimentally harm the amenity of adjacent residents; and
- are consistent with other relevant Local Plan policies.

Policy GN8: Protection of Local Green Spaces

Development that would affect the openness and character of a designated Local Green Space will not be permitted other than in very special circumstances, except:-

- provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation and for cemeteries, provided they do not conflict with the purpose of the Local Green Space designation;
- the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original building;
- the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces.

Designations

3.5 The extent of Open Space is identified on the [Policies Map](#) in the Local Plan. Open Space will be deleted at the following locations:

- Tenterfields, Burnley Road, Luddenden Foot (LP0011) Part deletion;
- Land off Key Syke Lane, Kilnhurst, Todmorden (LP0053) Part deletion;
- Land at Horley Green Road, Claremount, Halifax (LP0103) Full deletion;
- Land to West of West View, Church Lane, Stainland, Elland (LP0146) Full deletion;
- End of Wilton Street, Brighouse (LP0174) Part deletion;
- Land at Turner Avenue South, Ovenden, Halifax (LP0261) Part deletion;
- Land to Rear 109 Fairfax Crescent, Southowram, Halifax (LP0353) Full deletion;
- Land off Armitage Road, King Cross, Halifax (LP0370) Part deletion;
- Land adjacent to Daisy Bank, Savile Park, Halifax (LP0397) Part deletion;
- Land at Jct of Granny Hall Lane & Blackburn Road, Brighouse (LP0548) Part deletion;
- Land at Bowling Alley/Scholey Avenue, Rastrick, Brighouse (LP0565) Part deletion;
- Land off the Hollins, Stansfield Hall Road, Todmorden (LP0640) Part deletion;
- Land to Rear 302 Halifax Road, Todmorden (LP0659) Part deletion;
- Works Depot, Stannary Place, Halifax (LP0815) Full deletion;
- Land off Woodlands Avenue, Todmorden (LP0901) Full deletion;
- Land Opposite 46-48 Hollins Road, Walsden, Todmorden (LP0914) Part deletion;
- Land at West End Golf Club, Paddock Lane, Halifax (LP0968) Part deletion;
- Land off Woodhouse Lane, Rastrick (LP1000) Full deletion;
- Land off Binns Hill Lane, Warley, Halifax (LP1003) Part deletion;
- Site of demolished School, Clough Lane, Mixenden, Halifax (LP1009) Full deletion;
- Land at West Street & Halifax Street, Shelf (LP1041) Part deletion;
- Land at Shirley Grove, Lightcliffe, Brighouse (LP1060) Full deletion;
- Land Between Dewsbury Road and New Hey Lane, Rastrick (LP1078) Full deletion;
- Park Lane, Siddal, Halifax (LP1197) Full deletion;
- George Street, Rastrick (LP1322) Full deletion;
- Hollins Park, Cemetery Lane, Sowerby Bridge (LP1356) Part deletion;
- Furness Drive/Turner Avenue South, Illingworth, Halifax (LP1368) Full deletion;
- Heathmoor Park Road/Field Head Lane, Illingworth, Halifax (LP1379) Part deletion;
- Land on the West Side of Brockwell Lane, Sowerby Bridge (LP1398) Part deletion;
- Land North of Lower Brockwell Lane, Sowerby Bridge (LP1412) Part deletion;
- Former St Catherine's High School, Holmfield, Halifax (LP1429) Part deletion;
- Land at Stoney Hill, Lilland Lane, Brighouse (LP1469) Part deletion;
- Former St Catherine's High School Grounds, Holmfield, Halifax (LP1481) Part deletion;
- Land at Stoney Lane, Hebden Bridge (LP1503) Full deletion;
- Gully House, Stansfield Hall Road, Todmorden (LP1544) Part deletion;
- Land at Abbey Park, Illingworth, Halifax (LP1547) Full deletion;
- Land at Titan Works, Claremount Road, Boothtown, Halifax (LP1609) Part deletion;
- Land in front of Bardnor House, Todmorden (LP1637) Part deletion;
- Politt Fields, 8 Ripon House, Sowerby Bridge (LP1654) Part deletion;
- Land at Whitwell Green Lane, Elland (LP1657) Part deletion;
- Gardens & Garages to Rear of Melrose Terrace, Elland (OSNew-47) Full deletion;

- Health centre, Keighley road (OS04-04) Full deletion;
- Firestation, Keighley Road (OS04-05) Full deletion;
- Hebble View, Siddal (OSNew-127a) Full deletion;
- The Carriage House, Hollywell Green (OSE6-08) Full deletion;
- Bridleway Court, Warley Ward (OS266/OS1015) Full deletion;
- Land adj to Great Edge Road/Butts Green Lane, Warley (OS14-10) and (KKP 9416) Full deletion;
- Land behind the delvers PH, Wainstalls (OS2-2) Full deletion.

3.6 Open space and local green space will be added at the following locations:

- Play Area, Sandhall Green, Warley (OS9540);
- Village Green, Bowling Green Road, Stainland (LGS21);
- Daisy Bank Allotments (Wooded Area), Clover Hill Road, Halifax (LGS26);
- Hoult Lane, Elland (LGS30).

3.7 Justification for open space deletions and additions can be found in the site reports in the Site Allocations Assessment Methodology which is available on the Council's Local Plan Evidence page.

Evidence Base

Introduction

4.1 A number of studies have been carried out to assess the supply and demand for open spaces and playing pitch provision in Calderdale. A comprehensive Open Space Study was undertaken by consultants Knight, Kavanagh & Page in 2006 and later updated in-house in 2015. These studies included an assessment of the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open spaces, as well as looking at future needs and demand. They also identified recommendations to address the deficits and surpluses in open space provision across the district. A Playing Pitch Strategy for Calderdale was published in 2017 providing an analysis of playing pitch provision for football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket, hockey, tennis and bowls. A Built Facilities Strategy and a Local Green Space Report were also completed in 2017 which looked at Indoor Sports Facilities and Local Green Spaces in Calderdale, respectively.

4.2 In order to help inform the preparation of the Calderdale Local Plan, and comply with the requirements in NPPF (paragraph 73) that local plans should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of local needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision, the following studies have been undertaken to provide up-dated evidence:-

- Calderdale Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2006 (Updated 2015);
- Calderdale Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan (2017);
- Calderdale Built Facilities Strategy (2017);
- Local Green Space Report (2017).

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, 2006

4.3 The 2006 Open Space Sports and Recreation Study was undertaken by consultants KKP to provide baseline information and to accord with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (July 2002). The study identified local needs through assessment, audited public and private public space, sport and recreation facilities in the district and set local standards for provision. The study did not seek to produce options for future strategy and policies.

4.4 Existing sites were surveyed in terms of quantity, quality, accessibility and value. Public consultation was undertaken to obtain views on the adequacy of existing open space provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility and the results were used in formulating appropriate local standards.

4.5 The 2006 Open Space Sports and Recreation Study included a Playing Pitch Strategy which established demand for pitch provision and identified then current and future need for such facilities. The Playing Pitch Strategy was updated separately by the Council in 2012 and again in 2017.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update, 2015

Background

4.6 The 2015 Open space, sport and recreation strategy and action plan has been prepared by Calderdale Council and forms part of the evidence base to the Council's Local Plan. It summarises work carried out through 2013-15, to update the Council's open space database and includes sites which have come into being since the original study, together with any sites which were missed or inaccurately plotted in the 2006 assessment. The update includes a review of Amenity open space in Calderdale. It also provides the Council with evidence that can be used:

- in the development of policy, including at future examinations into policy documents;
- to inform the Land allocations and designations process;
- in determining planning applications;
- in planning appeals;
- as initial data to inform future open space strategies;
- to provide further analysis of the Open Space, sport and recreation study in light of emerging practice.

Assessment Criteria

4.7 Site visits to open spaces in Calderdale were undertaken to assess their quality and value. In total, 531 sites were visited as part of the update, comprising:

- Parks and gardens 41
- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces 140
- Amenity greenspace 145
- Outdoor Sports Facilities 94
- Provision for children and teenagers 10
- Allotments, community gardens and urban farms 36
- Cemeteries, disused churchyards & other burial grounds 59
- Green Corridors 5
- Civic spaces 1

4.8 Open spaces, with the exception of provision for children and teenagers (see below) were evaluated using the criteria summarised below which are consistent with those used in the 2006 Open Space, Sport and Recreation study. The criteria were based upon those used for Green Flag (national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by the Civic Trust) and 'Green Space Strategies: A good practice guide', published by CABI Space (2004). To provide a comprehensive picture of quality and value, site visit data has been supplemented by additional data relating to issues such as community involvement, management plans etc.

4.9 Open Space site visit criteria:

- Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts;
- Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths;
- Parking, e.g., disabled parking;
- Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information;
- Equipment and facilities, e.g., artwork, toilets – includes assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins;
- Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace;
- Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti;
- Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., staff on site;
- Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of landscape;
- Typology specific profile, e.g., presence of environmental education facilities (natural/semi-natural provision);
- Site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people;
- Site potential; and
- Non site visit information, e.g., community involvement, management plan.

4.10 Provision for children and teenagers covers ‘areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas and teenage shelters.’ Site visits to provision for children and teenage facilities were conducted for the 2006 Open Space Sport and Recreation study to identify the range, nature and type of equipment provided. The criteria used for the 2006 study was developed using the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) guidelines and included:

- Signage;
- Fencing;
- Seating;
- Number of pieces of equipment;
- Surface;
- Provision for toddlers, children, teenagers; and
- Type (NPFA classification).

4.11 The data obtained during the 2006 site visits has provided the basis for assessing the current provision for children and teenagers in the district with any improvements made to these facilities since the original study was published being taken into consideration.

Key Findings by Typology

Parks and Gardens

Introduction

4.12 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designated landscapes), which provide ‘accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.’

Quality of provision

4.13 The quality of Parks and Gardens in Calderdale is generally good with the Brighouse and Elland areas scoring consistently well. Quality scores in the Halifax, Mytholmroyd, Northowram and Shelf, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge and Todmorden areas are more variable. Hebden Bridge is the only area where the quality of provision scores for Parks and Gardens are consistently poor. District wide, six parks currently hold a Green Flag with two others aiming for the award through the work of Friends Groups.

Accessibility

4.14 Provision of Parks and Gardens in Calderdale is variable with a distinct East West divide. In the East of the District, access to parks and gardens is very good with the areas of Halifax, Brighouse, Northowram and Shelf, Elland and Sowerby Bridge all having good catchment area coverage. In the West of the District, provision is more variable with moderate to good catchment area coverage in the valley bottoms of Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Todmorden with poor coverage in the more sparsely populated parts of these areas. The Ripponden area as a whole has poor access to parks and gardens.

Key Issues

4.15 The quality of Parks and Gardens in Calderdale is generally good with accessibility being more variable. Significant infrastructure improvements have been carried out in recent years through Section 106 funding from housing developments which has been used to match fund monies raised through grant applications by community groups.

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

Introduction

4.16 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland, which provide 'wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness'.

Quality of provision

4.17 The quality of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces in Calderdale is generally good with the Elland, Halifax, Mytholmroyd, Northowram and Shelf and Sowerby Bridge areas scoring consistently well. Quality scores in the Brighouse, Hebden Bridge and Todmorden areas are more variable. Ripponden is the only area where the quality of provision scores for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces are consistently poor.

Accessibility

4.18 Calderdale is well provided for in terms of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces with good coverage throughout the district. The majority of the population live within or in close proximity to the catchment areas of this typology with only the more sparsely populated areas affected by deficits.

Key Issues

4.19 The quality of and access to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces in Calderdale is good.

Green Corridors

Introduction

4.20 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers green corridors, which provide 'walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration'.

Quality of Provision & Accessibility

4.21 Analysis of the quality of provision and accessibility of Green Corridors in Calderdale is not a straight forward task. Most Green Corridors are made up of a number of smaller sites where Green Corridors are the sub- typology and other typologies, such as Amenity Greenspace and Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace, are the primary typology. As such, Quality of Provision and Accessibility scores cannot be meaningfully analysed as part of this update.

Key Issues

4.22 Whilst Green Corridors have not been scored using the same methodology as the other typologies, the quality of these areas and their accessibility would appear to be good.

Amenity Greenspace

Introduction

4.23 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers amenity greenspaces, which provide 'opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.'

Quality of provision

4.24 The quality of Amenity Greenspace in Calderdale is variable with some areas scoring much better than others. The Brighouse, Halifax and Northowram and Shelf areas all score consistently well, with scores for the Elland, Mytholmroyd, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge and Todmorden areas being more variable. Hebden Bridge is the only area where the quality of provision scores for Amenity Greenspace are consistently poor.

Accessibility

4.25 Calderdale is generally well provided for in terms of Amenity Greenspace with good coverage in both the urban areas in the East of the District and the valley bottoms to the West. The majority of the population live within or in close proximity to the catchment areas of amenity greenspace with only the more sparsely populated areas affected by deficits.

Key Issues

4.26 The quality of Amenity Greenspace in Calderdale is variable with access being good. There is potential for change of use at some sites to correct deficiencies in other typologies in the area.

Provision for Children and Teenagers

Introduction

4.27 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers 'areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.'

Quality of provision

4.28 Since the 2006 strategy a number of sites have been refurbished through the Government's Play Builder Programme and the Council's capital programme. Notwithstanding this, the quality of Provision for Children and Teenagers in Calderdale is variable with some areas scoring much better than others. The Elland area scores consistently well, with scores for the Halifax and Ripponden areas being more variable. In Brighouse and Todmorden the quality of provision scores for Children and Teenagers are generally poor.

Accessibility

4.29 Whilst Provision for Children and Teenagers is generally good within the urban populated areas of Brighouse, Elland, Halifax and Sowerby Bridge, some small pockets of deficit are evident in these areas. Similarly, provision in the populated valley bottoms of the Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Todmorden areas is generally good with limited provision in the more remote sparsely populated parts of these areas. The Northowram and Shelf area as a whole has poor provision for Children and Teenagers.

Key Issues

4.30 The quality of Provision for Children and Teenagers in Calderdale is variable with access being good. Future improvements to facilities will have greater reliance on fund raising by community groups.

Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms

Introduction

4.31 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers allotments, community gardens and urban farms, which provide 'opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.'

Quality of provision

4.32 The quality of Provision for Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms in Calderdale is variable with some areas scoring much better than others. The Brighouse and Halifax areas score consistently well, with scores for the Elland, Hebden Bridge, Northowram and Shelf and Sowerby Bridge areas being more variable. Mytholmroyd, Ripponden and Todmorden are the only areas where the quality of provision scores for Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms are consistently poor.

Accessibility

4.33 Allotments and Community Gardens clearly demonstrate a deficit in their provision district wide and this is evidenced by local waiting lists for allotments in a large number of areas. Accessibility to this typology is particularly poor in Mytholmroyd and Ripponden. In Todmorden, whilst there are long waiting lists at Council sites, a number of privately run sites have recently opened, partly through the Incredible Edible Todmorden movement. However, Halifax and Sowerby Bridge provide a sharp contrast to the rest of the district where the level of provision is comparatively good. Also, waiting lists in some other areas have decreased due to the splitting of larger plots and more frequent inspections to ensure plots are cultivated.

4.34 In order to build on the success of Incredible Edible Todmorden, the Council is developing a community growing initiative to encourage people to grow their own food and are making available any suitable council owned land. This will help increase access to Allotments and Community Gardens district wide.

Key Issues

4.35 The quality of Allotments and Community Gardens in Calderdale is variable with access being poor. Some privately owned sites are not being used or the plot rental is high.

Cemeteries, Churchyards and other Burial Grounds

Introduction

4.36 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds, which provide 'quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity'.

Quality of provision

4.37 The quality of Provision for Cemeteries, Churchyards and other Burial Grounds in Calderdale is variable with some areas scoring much better than others. The Elland, Halifax and Sowerby Bridge areas score consistently well, with scores for the Brighouse, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Northowram and Shelf and Ripponden areas being more variable. Todmorden is the only area where the quality of provision scores for Cemeteries, Churchyards and other Burial Grounds are consistently poor.

4.38 Notwithstanding this, work creating and improving the condition of footpaths in operational Cemeteries has been completed since the last study. In addition to Council funded work, there are three active friends groups at sites managed by the Council who help with maintenance and fund raising for improvement projects.

Accessibility

4.39 Provision of Cemeteries, Churchyards and other Burial Grounds in Calderdale is variable with a distinct East West divide. In the East of the District, access to this typology is generally good with the areas of Halifax, Brighouse, Northowram and Shelf, Elland and Sowerby Bridge all having good catchment area coverage. In the West of the District, provision is more variable with moderate to good catchment area coverage in the valley bottoms of Hebden Bridge and Todmorden with poor coverage in the more sparsely populated parts of these areas. The Mytholmroyd and Ripponden areas as a whole have poor access to cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds.

4.40 Specifically, there is a long standing issue of finding a suitable new burial site in Todmorden. A survey of 29 sites was conducted a few years ago and these are being re-examined. However, at present, the Council's Bereavement Service is finding it difficult to locate a suitable site.

Key Issues

4.41 The quality of and access to Cemeteries, Churchyards and other Burial Grounds in Calderdale is variable. There is an urgent need for a new burial site in Todmorden.

Civic Spaces

Introduction

4.42 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, which provide ‘a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.’

Quality of provision

4.43 The quality of Provision for Civic Spaces in Calderdale is generally poor. Halifax is the only area to score consistently well, with scores for the Brighouse area being more variable. Elland, Hebden Bridge, Sowerby Bridge and Todmorden are all areas where the quality of provision scores for Civic Spaces are consistently poor. It should be noted, however, that a number of markets throughout the district have been upgraded since the original study in 2006 and that the Piece Hall has recently undergone a multimillion pound facelift.

Accessibility

4.44 By their nature, the accessibility of Civic Spaces throughout Calderdale is variable, with some areas having better access than others. Those areas with relatively good accessibility include Halifax and Brighouse. Accessibility to Civic Spaces is more variable in the Elland and Todmorden areas with the remaining areas in the District as a whole having poor access.

Key Issues

4.45 The quality of Civic Spaces in Calderdale is generally poor with access being variable.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Introduction

4.46 This typology, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) - including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas.

Quality of Provision & Accessibility

4.47 Analysis of the quality of provision and accessibility of Outdoor Sports Facilities in the District is covered by the Calderdale Playing Pitch Strategy.

Built Facilities Strategy, 2017

Background

4.48 The Built Facilities Strategy was completed in 2017 and looks at Indoor Sports Facilities in Calderdale for the period 2017 – 2027. The Assessment Report and Strategy have been prepared by Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd in accordance with Sport England’s ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) guidance and in consultation with Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (CMBC), Sport England, national governing bodies of sport, local sports clubs and key stakeholders.

4.49 The focus of the Strategy is to provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop a more flexible, efficient and sustainable range of community based sport and leisure facilities that Calderdale requires. This will ensure residents have the opportunity to be physically active and healthier and where appropriate develop their sporting ambitions within their local community.

Recommendations

- *Commit to replacing Halifax pool; with a facility mix that enables the continued delivery of all the key sports currently delivered at the facility (i.e. swimming, diving, and synchronised swimming) as well as addressing the current shortfall in swimming pool provision within the area.*
- *Commit to replacing or redeveloping North Bridge Leisure Centre and develop it into a wet and dry facility, thus maximising future efficiencies from the operation of the facility.*
- *Consider the potential to expand the health and fitness offer at both Brighouse and Sowerby Bridge.*
- *Continue to maintain key facilities to their current quality by ensuring sufficient funds are available to do so.*
- *Protect community access to key facilities (through community use agreements) where there is no agreement in place and there is the potential risk that facilities could fall out of community use.*
- *Ensure that the community uses of any new facilities developed are protected by community use agreements.*
- *Maximise the investment into existing and new sports facilities through the effective use of the Council’s planning system, linked to strategic housing and population growth across the Borough.*

- *Ensure that the indoor and built provision required for the future also links to the findings within the Playing Pitch Strategy.*
- *The strategic programming of sports facilities to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of key sports to enable them to grow and increase participation.*

Playing Pitch Strategy, 2017

Background

4.50 The Playing Pitch Strategy provides guidance and support in order to understand and assess the need for playing pitches in Calderdale. It provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches. This includes ancillary facilities between 2017 and 2022, covering the following playing pitches and outdoor sports:

- Football;
- Cricket;
- Rugby Union;
- Rugby League;
- Hockey;
- Tennis; and
- Bowls.

Headline Findings

4.51 Table 1 below highlights the quantitative headline findings from the Playing Pitch Assessment Report:

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2039)¹
Football	Calderdale	Current demand is being met	Shortfall of 3 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions
3G AGPs	Calderdale	Shortfall of six full size 3G pitches based on FA training model (Please note that this figure differs from the figures for moving mini/youth match play to 3G).	Shortfall of six full size 3G pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
Cricket	Calderdale	Current demand is being met although	Future demand can be met although

		overplay is evident, particularly in Lower Valley analysis area.	overplay is evident
Rugby league	Calderdale	Current demand is being met although overplay amounts to 19 match equivalent sessions.	There is a future requirement for an increase in floodlit pitches
Rugby union	Calderdale	Current demand is being met although overplay amounts to 19 match equivalent sessions.	Requirement for an additional minimum of 4 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	Calderdale	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met although pitches will require resurfacing
Tennis	Calderdale	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
Bowls	Calderdale	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met

National and Local Open Space Standards

5.0 National and local standards for accessible open space enable assessment of resource against need which makes it possible to establish if a sufficient resource exists. Such standards have been used for some time and include the Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards and Calderdale Open Space, Sport and Recreation Standards.

5.1 The Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards recommend that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minute's walk) from home;
- At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

5.2 Locally, the Calderdale Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Open Space Assessment Report (2006) sets the following open space standards which have been carried forward in the 2015 update:

Table 2: Calderdale Open Space, Sport and Recreation Standards		
Typology	Standard	
Parks and gardens	Quality	Score of 60% or higher on qualitative site assessment
	Accessibility	All settlement areas within 400m of small local open space (0.04ha-1ha) and 600m of local park (1.00ha-3.00ha) and 1200m of Borough park (greater than 3ha)
Natural/semi-natural greenspace	Quality	Score of 60% or higher on qualitative site assessment
	Accessibility	All settlement areas within 400m of a site (0.04ha-1ha) and 600m of a site (1.00ha-3.00ha) and 1200m of a site greater than 3ha
Amenity greenspace	Quality	Score of 60% or higher on qualitative site assessment
	Accessibility	All settlement areas within 400m of a site (0.04ha-1ha) and 600m of a site (1.00ha-3.00ha) and 1200m of a site greater than 3ha
Allotments	Quality	Score of 60% or higher on qualitative site assessment
	Accessibility	All settlement areas within 400m of a site (0.04ha-1ha) and 600m of a site (1.00ha-3.00ha) and 1200m of a site greater than 3ha
Provision for children and young people	Quality	Score of 60% or higher on qualitative site assessment
	Accessibility	All settlement areas within 240m (5min walk) of a LEAP and 600m (15min walk) of a NEAP
Cemeteries	Quantity	0.286 ha/1000people
	Quality	Score of 60% or higher on qualitative site assessment
	Accessibility	Accessibility is not a directly relevant measure
Civic spaces	Quantity	0.021 ha/1000people
	Quality	Score of 60% or higher on qualitative site assessment
	Accessibility	Accessibility is not a directly relevant measure
Outdoor sports facilities	Quantity	1.73 ha/1000people
	Quality	Site quality rating of good (as defined by Sport England Electronic Toolkit)
	Accessibility	Teams to have access to appropriate site at relevant time

5.3 Where possible, all new development should seek to achieve these standards. In taking forward proposals that involve the provision of natural greenspace and/or any tree planting in the near vicinity of the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area, Calderdale Council (and other bodies as appropriate), will need to liaise with Natural England, to ensure its protection from habitat change or the adverse impact of predator species.

Local green Space, 2017

National Policy Context

6.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) introduced the concept of Local Green Spaces. Paragraph 76 of the document says that local communities should be given the opportunity to identify green areas of particular importance to them through local and neighbourhood plans. Paragraph 76 reads as follows:

‘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’.

6.2 Paragraph 77 of the NPPF states that the Local Green Space designation would not be appropriate for most green areas. It sets out the following criteria for designating Local Green Spaces:

‘The Local Green space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- *Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- *Where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- *Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

6.3 Paragraph 78 of the NPPF states that the protection given to Local Green Spaces should be in line with that given to Green Belt land.

Local Green Space Assessment

6.7 The council has received a number of requests, including through the Local Plan consultation process, proposing land for designation as local green space in the Local Plan. These sites have been assessed against the local green space criteria set out in the NPPF (paragraphs 76-78) and guidance in nPPG.

6.8 The council has used the following methodology (table 3) in compliance with national policy to determine the suitability of designating land as local green space.

Test	Criteria	Justification
Test 1	Does the site already have planning permission for an incompatible alternative use or is it allocated or likely to be allocated for an incompatible alternative use?	<p>The nPPG states that Local Green Space designations will rarely be appropriate where the land already has planning permission for development or where it is allocated or proposed for development in the Local Plan.</p> <p>In such instances, no further assessment should be carried out.</p> <p>An exception to this may be where the proposed or approved development would be compatible with the Local Green Space designation or where the planning permission or proposed allocation is no longer capable of being implemented. In such instances the council would continue to assess the sites potential designation as a Local Green Space.</p> <p>Additionally, if land is already protected by Green Belt or Open Space policy, consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained.</p>
Test 2	Is the site reasonably close to the community it serves?	The NPPF states that Local Green Space should be reasonably close to the

		<p>community it serves.</p> <p>Local Green Space should be within easy walking distance of the community it serves.</p>
Test 3	<p>Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?</p>	<p>The size of Local Green Spaces should reasonably relate to the community that it serves.</p> <p>The NPPF is clear that the Local Green Space designation should only be used where the land is not an extensive tract of land. The areas would normally be fairly self-contained with clearly-defined edges.</p>
Test 4	<p>Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?</p> <p>The proposed designation of spaces must be based on evidence to demonstrate why the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance. To meet this requirement an area must fulfil one or more of the following criteria:</p>	<p>Beauty:</p> <p>It is understood that beauty is a subjective matter.</p> <p>This relates to the visual attractiveness of the site, and its contribution to landscape, character and/or setting of the settlement.</p> <p>Historic significance:</p> <p>The site is considered to be of local significance because of its historic importance to the local community. This could be because of the areas role in providing the setting for heritage assets, historic assets or other locally valued landmarks.</p> <p>Recreational value:</p> <p>The site must have local significance for recreation, perhaps through the variety of activities it supports, and be of value to the community.</p>

		<p>Tranquillity:</p> <p>For a site to be considered suitable for Local Green Space designation for its tranquillity value, it would need to demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feeling of remoteness or quiet contemplation for the majority of the site. • A general inability to see man-made structures. • Has a general lack of artificial noise from vehicles or industry. <p>Richness of wildlife:</p> <p>For a site to be considered suitable for Local Green Space designation for its richness of wildlife, it would need to relate to one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designated as a Local Wildlife Site. • Include a significant area of semi-natural or natural priority habitat as defined in the Calderdale or UK Biodiversity Action Plan. • Include a combination of important landscape features such as Ancient Hedgerows, Ancient Woodland, Veteran Trees and pockets of woodland. • Support a unique and or diverse range of wildlife evidenced by records, surveys and/or expert advice. <p>Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will not be appropriate for Local Green Space designation as these are considered to be adequately protected by national legislation and other Local Plan policies.</p>
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	Other Reason: The site has a particular local significance for the community for reasons other than those identified above.
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6.9 Some of the sites put forward for local green space designation are already protected through other allocations or policy designations, such as open space or green belt policy. Where sites are already protected the Council has considered whether any additional benefit would be gained by designation as local green space.

6.10 Sites already subject to statutory designation, such as Historic Parks & Gardens or Scheduled Ancient Monuments, have high levels of protection and would not necessarily benefit from an additional local designation. Similarly, sites within the curtilage of a listed building or conservation area or subject to a tree preservation order do not necessarily need additional protection as local green space as their importance and contribution to the area must be considered if a planning application is submitted within or near these sites.

6.11 Table 4 below lists three sites selected for Local Green Space designation in the Local Plan. These sites will be included on the Local Plan proposals map as sites recommended for protection under the relevant policy in the Local Plan.

Table 4: Local Green Space Designations		
Site Ref	Site Address	Reason for Designation
LGS21	Village Green, Bowling Green Road, Stainland	As the site is council owned and located in a Conservation Area, Local Green Space designation would be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. In addition, the site has local significance, can be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community and is not an extensive tract of land.
LGS26	Daisy Bank Allotments (Wooded Area), Clover Hill Road, Halifax	Whilst parts of the site benefit from an Open Space designation and a number of Tree Preservation Orders, these do not cover the whole site nominated as LGS26 and do not offer full protection. The site has an important visual amenity value to the adjacent Conservation Area, the setting and character of the settlement as a whole and the local community. The site also has wildlife and biodiversity value that is worthy of Local Green Space designation.

LGS30	Hoults Lane, Elland	As the site is council owned, Local Green Space designation would be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. In addition, the site has local significance, can be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community and is not an extensive tract of land. However, designation of the site as LGS is dependent on the outcome of planning application 17/00937/LAA which is for a non-compatible use. If the planning application is approved, the site should not be put forward as LGS in the Local Plan (Update: 17/00937/LAA has been withdrawn).
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Conclusion

7.1 Open spaces are an important part of the quality and function of places and form an integral part of the Calderdale Local Plan. The Council has demonstrated that planning for open space, sport and recreation is a priority for the borough. As shown in this technical paper, the policies in the Local Plan covering open space and local green space are based on robust local evidence and assessments. This is in line with Paragraph 73 of the NPPF which states that policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.