

**Rochford New Local Plan:  
Spatial Options Consultation 2021**

Topic Paper 10: Open Space and Recreation

Temporary Cover

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**Advisory Note**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was subject to a formal revision in July 2021, just before these papers were published. As a consequence, paragraph numbers and other references to the 2019 NPPF made in this document may no longer relate exactly to the latest version of the NPPF.

The principles set out in referenced paragraphs have not been subject to extensive change and references made are therefore still considered to be accurate reflections of national policy.

## 1 What is this topic paper about?

- 1.1 Rochford District Council is preparing a new Local Plan that will cover the period up to 2040. As a comprehensive and up to date evidence base is essential for plan preparation, the Council has undertaken a range of studies, both in house and with external consultants to support this process.
- 1.2 The Open Space Study topic paper summarises the latest available evidence on open space quantity, quality, and accessibility within the Rochford District. This topic paper does not contain any policies, proposals or site allocations and should be seen as an explanatory supporting document.

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 This topic paper is one in a series produced to accompany the Rochford new Local Plan that will cover the period up to 2040. It considers:
  - National and local policy and guidance.
  - Evidence base
  - Feedback from the Issues and Options consultation; and engagement with key stakeholders and meeting its obligations under the Duty to Cooperate.
- 2.2 Within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>1</sup>, open space and leisure provision sit alongside other community facilities as key components of healthy, inclusive, and safe communities. The focus of this topic paper relates to:
  - **Open Space**, such as play provision, allotments, parks, natural and amenity green space; and
  - **Recreation and Outdoor Sports Provision**, including indoor facilities, football, rugby, and cricket.
- 2.3 Rochford District Council will need to consider the needs of both existing and future communities for open space and recreation provision, and how the new emerging Local Plan can provide for these needs.
- 2.4 Open space plays an important role in the health, well-being, and quality of life of communities by facilitating physical activity and social interaction. Physical and mental illnesses associated with inactivity and isolation are an increasing social and economic issue, and several organisations and government bodies have promoted the possible physical and mental health benefits of access to open space<sup>2</sup>. The relationship between planning and health '*has been long established*' and promoting

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

<sup>2</sup> [Spatial Planning for Health 2017 Public Health England: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904439/Improving\\_access\\_to\\_greenpace\\_2020\\_review.pdf;](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenpace_2020_review.pdf)  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal11.html>; <sup>2</sup>National Planning Policy Framework February 2019 MHCLG,

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‘*healthy* [and] *inclusive*’ communities is a central tenet of national planning policy<sup>3</sup>. Open space also contributes to green infrastructure, biodiversity and nature conservation and forms an important habitat and environmental resource, as well as mitigating climate change.

- 2.5 This topic paper provides a context and background to the approach to planning for open space and recreation within the new emerging Rochford Local Plan. It will provide a brief overview of the linkages between open space and health and wellbeing before outlining national planning policy with regard to open space and recreation. Next, it summarises the findings and conclusions of the emerging Open Space Study, an important evidence study that has assessed the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing open space and outdoor recreational provision within the Rochford District. It also considers and summarises other evidence base documents including Built Facility and Playing Pitch Strategies and Action Plans 2018<sup>4</sup> as well as the following Provision of 3G Football Pitches Study 2021.

*Covid-19*

- 2.6 It is important to note that that the emerging Open Space Study has been prepared during the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to national guidance during 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 there were periods when access to sport and leisure provision (both indoors and outdoors) were restricted which placed more importance on having access to quality open space for informal recreation that was within walking distance of homes. The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated how important natural green space, and local green spaces for recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors is for communities.

### **3 Health and Wellbeing**

*Physical, Mental and Social Wellbeing*

- 3.1 A large body of public and academic research has explored the relationship between open space and health. Evidence suggests that access to open and green space has a direct impact upon physical health and mental wellbeing. A number of studies, for example, have demonstrated a positive relationship between access to open space and longevity, physical health, mental health, and perceived health<sup>5</sup>. They have demonstrated that access to open space is linked to greater levels of physical activity, increased levels of happiness, and a healthier overall living environment.
- 3.2 In addition to physical activity and recreation, open space provides opportunities for social interaction and participation in community activities, which can reduce social

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<sup>3</sup> National Planning Practice Guidance (2014), MHCLG, para. 002, ref. ID 53-002-20140306; National Planning Policy Framework (2019), Ch. 8, p.27

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rochford.gov.uk/playing-pitch-strategy-and-action-plan-2018>

<sup>5</sup> Ward Thompson, C., Roe, J., Aspinall, P., Mitchell, R., Clow, A., Miller, D. (2012) ‘More Green Space is Linked to Less Stress in Deprived Communities: Evidence from Salivary Cortisol Patterns’, *Landscape and urban Planning*, 105, pp. 221-229; [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904439/Improving\\_access\\_to Greenspace\\_2020\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to Greenspace_2020_review.pdf)

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isolation, improve community cohesion and impact positively upon people's health. For example, social interaction is thought to protect against cognitive decline in older people, whilst access to nature and green space is widely acknowledged as having a positive influence upon the quality of life of people who have dementia.

### *Environment*

- 3.3 Open and green spaces can also enhance the environmental quality of an area and contribute to a 'healthier living environment' more generally through improved air and water quality, noise absorption and reduced urban island heat effects.<sup>6</sup>

## 4 Policy Context

### *Defining Open Space*

- 4.1 Citing the Open Spaces Society: "There is no universal definition of open/green space, in respect of size, quality or description. However open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground. Open space may be managed under public or local acts of parliament (such as parks and open spaces held by local authorities under the Open Spaces Act 1906), or under schemes of management (made by local authorities for common land and town/village greens)<sup>7</sup>
- 4.2 The preparation of the new Local Plan has been influenced by broad national, strategic, and local policy context and strategies, which are identified and discussed below. However, given the lack of detail on open space assessments in the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), assessments of provision tend to follow the PPG17 and Companion guidance, which set out a logical and clear structure to assess baseline and future needs.
- 4.3 Local planning authorities are required to address various requirements set out in national policy and legislation in preparing their local plans, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, February 2019) and supporting National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG).
- 4.4 At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.
- 4.5 National advice on the provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities is provided through the NPPF with further guidance through the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The main elements of the NPPF that influence open space, sport and leisure are summarised below in Table 1.

### **Table 1: Summary of National Planning Policy Guidance**

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<sup>6</sup> Public Health England, UCL Institute of health Equity (2014) Local Action on Health Inequalities: Improving Access to Green Spaces, pp.11, 14; Clark, P., Mapes, N., Burt, J., Preston, S. (2013) *Greening Dementia: A Literature review of the Benefits and Barriers Facing Individuals Living with Dementia in Accessing the Natural Environment and Local Greenspace* (Natural England Commissioned Report NECR137).

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.oss.org.uk/frequently-asked-questions-open-spaces/>

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**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

All policies should be based on relevant and up-to-date evidence which should be adequate and proportionate and take into account market signals (paragraph 31).

Local Plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant economic, social, and environmental objectives (paragraph 32).

Chapter 8 promotes healthy and safe communities. A key element from this section includes:

- Places where people live and work should be designed to be safe, accessible, and to encourage social interaction and healthy lifestyles (paragraph 91 a) and b)).
- Plans should encourage communities to adopt healthy lifestyles, by providing open space, sports facilities, and local food growing opportunities. The design of the built environment should encourage walking and cycling (paragraph 91(c)).
- Planning and policies should provide communities with the facilities and spaces to meet their needs, including new open space, sport, and recreation facilities. These should take into account any local strategies, plus any deficits or surpluses. (paragraph 92 (a) and (b)).
- Plans should protect community facilities and services and help them to evolve to ensure they continue to meet local needs, aiding retention (paragraph 92 (c) and (d)).
- The provision of community facilities and services should be considered at the same time as when proposals for new homes and economic uses are developed (paragraph 92 (e)).
- Policies should be substantiated by an assessment of the need for open space, sport, and recreation facilities. Both quantitative and qualitative tools should be used to understand local needs, supply, and where new facilities could be provided. This need should then be accommodated through the plan (paragraph 96).
- Policies should retain existing open space, sports, and recreational facilities, with development only acceptable if there is evidence that it is surplus, or would be replaced by equivalent or better provision, or provide substantial sports and recreational benefit (paragraph 97).
- Policies should also protect and enhance public rights of way and access and improve route connectivity through adding new links (paragraph 98).
- Communities are given the right through the local and neighbourhood plan process to identify open space, which is important to them, which

can then be designated as Local Green Space (paragraph100).

#### National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)

The National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) is a comprehensive list of guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government that is available online and is subject to regular review and updates<sup>8</sup>.

It contains several important sections relevant to the preparation of Local Plans and expands upon many of the chapters and policies set out in the NPPF as described above.

Key guidance relevant to this topic paper can be found within the Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space<sup>9</sup> section, which aligns with Paragraphs 91-101 of the NPPF. Issues are set out under headings including:

- Open space, sports, and recreation facilities.
- Public rights of way and National trails.
- Local Green Space designation.

4.6 Planning practice guidance reinforces the NPPF's requirement for open space to be considered when new development is planned or if any proposal arises which could affect existing open space. It places a requirement on local planning authorities to assess local needs and opportunities for new open space to be delivered. Open space may serve a wide area, extending beyond a local authority boundary and may need to be considered within duty to cooperate discussions.

4.7 For sport and recreation facilities, it suggests authorities follow Sport England's guidance. It also sets out Sport England's role as a statutory consultee on proposals that affect existing playing fields and advises that Sport England should also be consulted when development may result in new or the loss of sports facilities (including water-based proposals) and on developments of 300 or more new homes.

#### Local Green Space

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<sup>8</sup> National Planning Guidance (PPG), available to view online at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>9</sup> PPG, section on Housing and economic land availability assessment, available to view online at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment>



- 4.8 Planning guidance provides detailed information on designating land as Local Green Space. This is land, identified by the community as being of particular importance to them, which can then be protected through the designation of local and neighbourhood plans and which affords a similar protection to that of green belts. Guidance sets out when the designation would be appropriate, and the criteria it should meet to be designated.

### *Existing Local Planning Policy Context*

#### Joint Planning

- 4.9 Rochford District Council has and continues to undertake co-ordinated working with adjoining districts on planning issues and its evidence base. Rochford District Council has an extensive history of working with neighbourhood authority on strategic issues, including green infrastructure and the strategic provision for recreational sports.
- 4.10 The emerging South Essex Plan will be a non-statutory framework that sets an overall high-level strategy for South Essex, containing ambitions relating to housing, the economy and the environment. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the South Essex partners (Basildon Council, Brentwood Borough Council, Castle Point, Essex County Council, Rochford District Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock). The South Essex Plan will provide a strategy context informing the preparation of individual local plans.

#### New Local Plan

- 4.11 The new Local Plan for the period up to 2040 will replace the following previous Plan documents:
- Allocations Plan (adopted 2014)
  - Core Strategy (adopted 2011)
  - Development Management Plan (adopted 2014)
  - Hockley Area Action Plan (adopted 2014)
  - London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan (adopted 2014)
  - Rochford Town Centre Area Action Plan (adopted 2015)
  - Rayleigh Centre Area Actions Plan (adopted 2015)
- 4.12 The current planning policies on open space, sports and leisure can be found in these documents.

## 5 Summary of Key Evidence

### *Rochford District Council Open Space Study (Emerging)*

#### Introduction

- 5.1 The Council has commenced a new Open Space Study in 2020 to assess and build upon the 2009 Open Space Study,<sup>10</sup> regarding the quantity, quality, and accessibility of existing open spaces. It has also taken into account future planned open spaces that have been enabled by permissioned housing developments enabled through the planning process. The study also makes recommendations for future needs and planning policy standards to inform future local policies and development proposals.
- 5.2 The Study identified 217 publicly accessible open spaces in the Rochford District across a number of typologies. Identified within *PPG17* (2002), these included Parks and Gardens, Natural and semi-natural Green Space, Amenity Green Space, Allotments, Cemeteries and Churchyards, Outdoor Sports and Recreation and provision for Children and Young People, and Civic Space as summarised within Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Summary of Open Space Typologies**

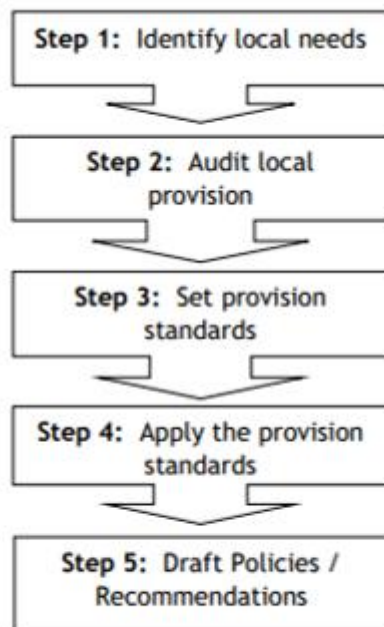
Type of Open Space	Primary Purpose
Parks and Gardens, and Country Park	Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.  Country parks can be considered also as natural areas and are rated according to their size and the facilities they provide.
Civic Space	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations, and community events. Provides for social interaction for local communities.
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental education awareness
Amenity Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work
Allotments	Opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health, and social inclusion
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning\\_evibase\\_openspacestudy.pdf](https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_evibase_openspacestudy.pdf)

	dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters
Outdoor Sports and Recreation	Includes recreation grounds, playing fields, privately owned sites such as golf courses and sites that provide other sports such as bowls or tennis. Playing field sites usually have playing pitches with pavilions and changing room facilities. Recreation grounds include areas of mown grass used for informal activities such as dog walking

Methodology

5.3 The Open Space Study followed the methodology from the PPG 17 Companion Guide to:



- 5.4 **Step 1** – Stakeholders and local community engagement was reviewed (previous consultations including the Issues and Options Feedback Document<sup>11</sup>, and the South Essex Green Blue Infrastructure Study (stakeholder workshops)).
- 5.5 **Step 2** – A comprehensive desktop audit was undertaken of current and future planned open space provision in the District. A total of 171 open space sites were visited of which 166 (after omitting privately owned and ceased sites) were audited to assess the quality, and accessibility (using Fields in Trust standards<sup>12</sup>) to help inform the compilation of Geographical Information System data (mapping).
- 5.6 **Step 3** – In order to set proposed standards for the different typologies, the Study took into account: the existing levels of provision across the District, settlement and by ward; the findings of the previous community and stakeholder engagements; the findings from the previous Study (2009); and consideration of existing and national standards or benchmarks.

Quantity standards were proposed in terms of hectares per 1000 population, as well as accessibility standards depending on the typology. For example, it is considered acceptable to expect to travel further to an allotment than a children's play area.

A baseline quality mark (using Green Flag Award criteria<sup>13</sup>) was also recorded for each site, and included in Appendix A.

**Step 4** – This compared the existing provision of each typology by ward, by settlement and by population ratio.

**Step 5** – This includes higher level strategic options which may be applicable at settlement, ward, and study area wide level, as well as draft policies to be considered in the emerging Local Plan.

### *Standards (Quantity, Quality and Accessibility)*

- 5.7 The Open Space Study surveyed and mapped (using GIS) a range of typologies, but cemeteries / churchyards and civic space were not progressed to proposed standards as these are less likely to come forward as a result of development.
- 5.8 The Study is clear that standards that have been proposed are for **minimum guidance levels of provision**. Therefore, even though a geographical area (ward) may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards, this does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used, a site may be of strategic importance, e.g., a Country Park or Local Nature Reserve, and there may be lower provision in the neighbouring ward. It is also important to note that the quantity, accessibility, and quality standards need to be considered together – they should not be considered in isolation. For example, even if there may be sufficient supply of a particular open space typology against the quantity standard, there may still be gaps in access, or the existing provision may be poor quality / not fit for purpose – and therefore there would still be shortfalls against the standards.

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<sup>11</sup> New Local Plan Issues and Options Feedback Report 2018 Rochford District Council

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

5.9 A comprehensive audit of each of the identified sites enabled existing open space provision within the Rochford District to be assessed and for local standards of provision to be defined and developed in terms of quantity, quality, and accessibility.<sup>14</sup> Nationally recognised benchmark standards (Fields in Trust (FiT) and Natural England’s Accessible Natural and Semi-natural Green Space Standard (ANGSt)) were applied to each typology and previous consultation exercises were reviewed to identify areas within Rochford District which do and do not have access to different types of spaces, parts of the District which have above or below the recommended standard in terms of quantity of provision per 1,000 people, and sites and facilities which are performing well and less well in terms of quality.

Results

5.10 The Open Space Study has identified a current quantity provision of all open space at 8ha per 1,000 people within the Rochford District. When quantity provision of open space by typology in the Rochford District is compared with the FiT national benchmark standards (as set out in Table 2 below), the provision in Rochford District mainly falls below that standard, apart from Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace, Recreation & Outdoor Sports and Country Park. Not all categories have a national benchmark standard due to the type of provision, for example, Churchyards and Cemeteries are associated with provision of burial ground, therefore not primarily for recreation (although their contribution to open space functions is valuable).

5.11 Future population provision (Tables 3 and 4) (Ha/1,000) of open spaces is based on government estimated population statistics<sup>15</sup> for the Rochford District to the year 2040. The future provision calculation assumes very little change in the total area of open space in the District, therefore only demonstrates the change in provision due to population growth, and not due to changes in the amount of open space.

**Table 3: Hectare per 1000 Population Benchmark by Typology**

Typology	Rochford District Current Population Provision (Ha/1,000)	Rochford District Future Population Provision (Ha/1,000)	Fields in Trust National Benchmark (Ha/1,000)
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>	0.02	0.02	0.80
<b>Natural and semi-Natural Greenspace</b>	2.92	2.66	1.80

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<sup>14</sup> In terms of quality, each site (excluding Cemeteries and Churchyards) was assessed against the criteria of the Green Flag Award. Accessibility defines the maximum distance that residents should be expected to travel to use an open space.

<sup>15</sup> ONS, 2019 Population Projections (2020)

<b>Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>	3.48	3.16	1.20 (playing pitches) – 1.60 (other)
<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>	0.29	0.26	0.60
<b>Play Spaces and Provision for Young People</b>	0.06	0.05	0.25
<b>Allotments</b>	0.13	0.11	0.3 <sup>16</sup>

**Table 4: Open Space Provision by Population**

<b>Population Projection</b>	<b>Current Population (2019)</b>	<b>Current Population Provision (Ha/1000)</b>	<b>Future population (2040)</b>	<b>Future Population Provision (Ha/1000)</b>
ONS Population projection	87,368	8.09	98,289	7.19

*Quantity and Accessibility*

**5.12** Table 5 below sets out a summary of existing provision of open space typologies across the District, based on the Study’s mapping methodology. The figures for the population ratio are based on the ONS 2019 mid-year population statistics, which were the most current at the time of writing the Study.

**Table 5: Summary of Existing Provision of Open space Across the District**

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Existing (ha)</b>	<b>Existing (ha/1000)<sup>17</sup></b>
Parks and Gardens	2	0.02
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	255	2.92
Recreation & Outdoor Sports Facilities	304	3.48

<sup>16</sup> This figure is from the Fit survey findings – see Additional Information on Allotment Standards

<sup>17</sup> ONS, 2020

Amenity Greenspace	25	0.29
Play Space & Provision for Young People	5	0.06
Allotments	11	0.13
Country Park	83	0.94
Civic Space	0.05	0.001
Cemetery & Churchyards	22	0.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>8.09</b>

5.13 Table 6 below also sets out the percentage change (increase or decrease in open space provision by ward, indicating the pattern of population change across the District. All wards had an increase in population with most wards showing a decrease in hectare per 1000 population of open space provision.

**Table 6: Open Space Provision by Ward Population**

Ward	Current Population provision 2019 (Ha/1000)	Future Population Provision 2040 (Ha/1000)	% Change in Open Space provision (Up or Down)
<b>Downhall &amp; Rawreth</b>	6.45	5.74	-9
<b>Foulness &amp; The Wakerings</b>	3.49	3.10	-9
<b>Hawkwell East</b>	0	0	0
<b>Hawkwell West</b>	5.18	4.61	-10
<b>Hockley</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>13.76</b>	-9
<b>Hockley &amp; Ashingdon</b>	4.79	4.26	-8
<b>Hullbridge</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>13.72</b>	-9
<b>Lodge</b>	4.73	4.21	-9
<b>Roche North &amp; Rural</b>	<b>13.36</b>	<b>11.88</b>	-10
<b>Roche South</b>	<b>26.92</b>	<b>23.93</b>	-9
<b>Sweyne Park &amp; Grange</b>	0.944	0.84	-9

<b>Trinity</b>	3.03	2.70	-7
<b>Wheatley</b>	7.53	6.69	-9

5.14 Table 7 below sets out a summary of the recommended minimum guidance for quantity and accessibility standards for future provision in the Rochford District having had regard to a range of national benchmarks set by professional bodies e.g., FiT, as presented in the Open Space Study.



**Table 7: Recommended Quantity and Access Standards for Future Provision in the Rochford District**

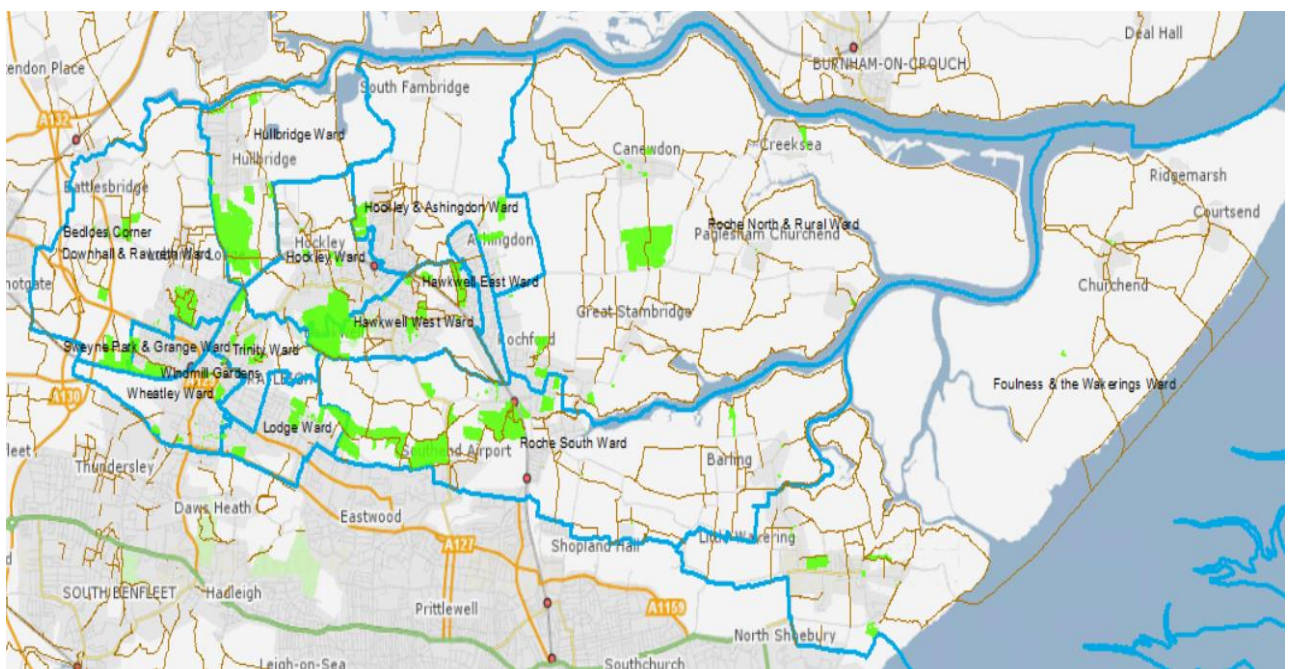
Typology	Quantity standards for assessing existing provision and requirements for new provision (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
<b>Allotments</b>	0.30	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
<b>Amenity Green Space (sites &gt;0.15 ha)</b>	0.70	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
<b>Park and recreations Grounds (public and private combined)</b>	1.70	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
<b>Play Space (Children)</b>	0.05	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
<b>Play Space (Youth)</b>	0.05	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
<b>Natural Green Space</b>	1.0	920 metres or 20 minutes' walk time ANGst Standards

- 5.15 The Study shows that there is a disparity in provision of open space by size and typology across the District, settlements, and wards, and whilst the District contains many play spaces, there is scope for more provision.
- 5.16 Open spaces are concentrated in the west and centre of the District, generally close to the main population centres of Rayleigh, Hockley, Hawkwell and Rochford (see Map 1 below). The east of the District, which contains relatively fewer settlements and residents, has far fewer spaces. Factors explaining this include these areas containing a large amount of private farmland (which, whilst generally open and green is not publicly accessible), and the considerable portion of the District occupied by Ministry of Defence sites northeast of Great Wakering, which have severely restricted access. See the Accessibility section for further detail on distribution and accessibility of open space by typology in the Open Space Study.
- 5.17 There is a limited distribution of **Parks and Gardens** which tend to be focused in the west of the District in central Rayleigh (Windmill Gardens and Brooklands Public Gardens) and in Rawreth (Bedloes Corner). **Natural / Semi-natural Greenspace** and

the sole **Country Park** also tend to be found in the west and centre of the District. **Sport and Recreation** open spaces tend to be found in or close to more populated residential areas, and on the fringes of settlements such as Rayleigh and Rochford, or in the surrounding Green Belts. Yacht facilities are found on the District's main waterways – the River Crouch and River Roach. **Amenity** green spaces are typically found in suburban areas, such as Rochford, Rayleigh, Ashingdon and Hawkwell. Larger amenity spaces border areas, such as Turret House Open Space or Hollytree Gardens, Rayleigh, or Little Wakering Road Open Space, Little Wakering. **Play spaces** are well distributed across the District, although there are fewer spaces in the east of the District. **Allotments** are distributed fairly evenly across the District's main settlements, with the exception of Hockley. However, neighbouring Hawkwell and Hullbridge contain sites which may provide some of this need. **Cemeteries and Graveyards** are also well distributed.

5.18 Whilst Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Green Corridors in the District have not been assessed as part of the Open Space Study, it is important to acknowledge the role they play in linking together the District's settlements and various open spaces and other sites (e.g., Local Wildlife Sites and SSSIs) and play a crucial role in allowing communities to access open space and its wide range of benefits. In addition, PRoW are also often green corridors in their own right, surrounded by vegetation and enabling greater recreation and biodiversity along their routes. PRoWs are widespread across much of the District and play a key role in linking nearby and adjacent green spaces into a more coherent network. This is seen in the Upper Roach Valley, where PRoWs connect important sites such as Hockley Woods, Grove Woods, and Cherry Orchard Country Park, to the District's main settlements of Rochford, Rayleigh, and Hockley. In the North and East of the District, where there is a smaller amount of open space, PRoWs help compensate for this by facilitating access to important coastal areas and nature reserves, including the Roach and Crouch Estuaries, and Wallasea Island.

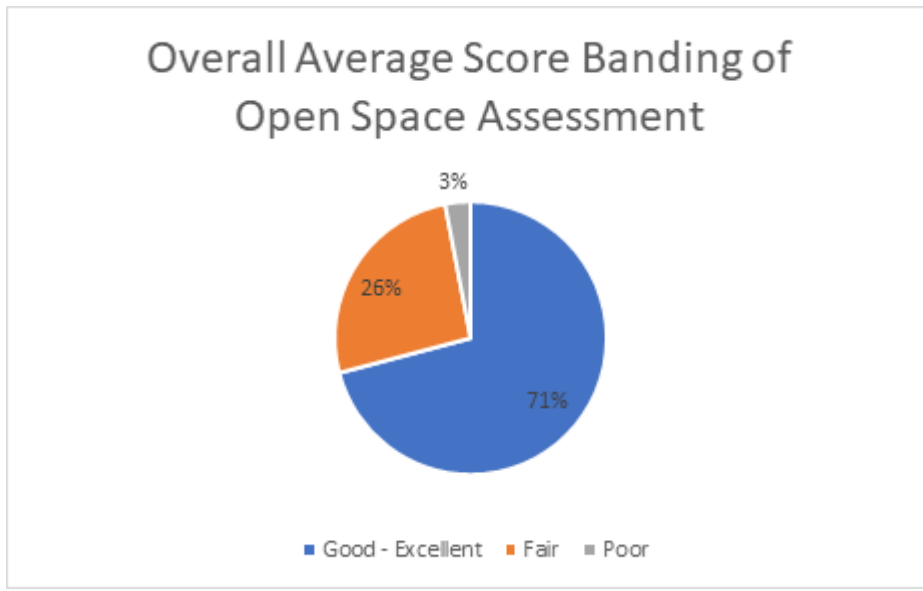
**Map 1: Distribution of Open Spaces and PRoW across Rochford District**



*Quality*

5.19 The District generally enjoys high quality open spaces, as highlighted from the Quality assessment which used Green Flag Award scoring criteria. Overall, 71% of open spaces fall into the Good/Very Good/Excellent bandings as detailed below in Figure 1. Table 7 below sets out the quality audit results by typology.

**Figure 1: Overall Average Quality Score Banding**



**Table 8: Open Space Quality Audit Results**

	Excellent (90+%)	Very Good (80-89%)	Good (70-79%)	Fair (50 - 69%)	Poor (0 - 49%)	Total
Parks and Gardens	0	1	2	0	0	3
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	2	6	8	8	1	25
Recreation & Outdoor Sports Facilities	14	7	13	13	1	48
Amenity Greenspaces	7	14	9	8	1	39
Play Spaces & Provision for Young People	11	12	4	9	2	38
Allotments	0	0	3	5	0	8
Country Park	0	0	3	0	0	3
Civic Space	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Proportion of Open Space Audits %</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>

5.20 The quality score ranged between 20% (Poor) (Betts Wood former Play Space, Westminster Drive, Hockley and South West of Causton Way former Play Space, Rayleigh) and 95% (Excellent) as detailed below:

- Laburnum Grove Play Space and Provision for Young People, Hockley
- Ferry Road Natural / Semi-Natural Greenspace, Hullbridge
- Lower Road Cricket and Football Grounds, Hullbridge
- Bedford Close Play Space and Amenity Space, Rayleigh

- Watchfield Lane Tennis Courts, Rayleigh
- Priory Chase Tennis Courts, Rayleigh
- King George V Bowling Green, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh
- Christmas Tree Crescent Play Space and Amenity Space, Hawkwell
- Highwell Gardens Amenity Space, Hawkwell
- Alfred Gardens Amenity Space, Hall Road, Rochford
- Bellingham Lane Civic Space, Rayleigh

The average score for sites that scored Very Good was 83%, Good 73%, and Fair 59%. Further detail on each open space typology will be available in the Open Spaces Study when published.

### *Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2018<sup>18</sup>*

- 5.21 The Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), together with Essex County Council and Sport England commissioned Knight Kavanagh Page (KKP) to undertake an assessment of indoor outdoor sport facility needs across the individual local authority areas, including the Rochford District in 2018. The purpose of the Strategy and Action Plan was to bring the individual strategies together, setting out key recommendations that relate to and impact on the wider South Essex region and encourage local authorities to work together in a partnership approach.
- 5.22 The aim of the Study was to provide details about qualitative and quantitative standards of provision and to compare this with likely future demand in order to provide an action plan to ensure that outdoor sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents.
- 5.23 The Strategy covered the following facilities:
- Football pitches (including 3G AGPs<sup>19</sup>)
  - Cricket pitches
  - Rugby union pitches
  - Rugby league pitches
  - Hockey pitches (san/water-based AGPs)
  - Outdoor tennis courts
  - Outdoor netball courts
  - Outdoor bowling greens
  - Outdoor athletics tracks
  - Golf courses
  - Outdoor cycling tracks
  - Parkour
  - Multi-use games area (MUGAs)
- 5.24 Although the study area was for the whole of the Rochford District, more specific analysis areas were created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision. Table 9 below sets out the analysis areas.

### **Table 9: Agreed Analysis Areas**

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<sup>18</sup> [https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning\\_evibase\\_playpitch\\_actionplan.pdf](https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_evibase_playpitch_actionplan.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Artificial grass pitch

Analysis area	Wards included
West	Downhall & Rawreth, Sweyne Park & Grange, Wheatley, Trinity, Lodge, Hullbridge
Central	Hockley, Hockley & Ashingdon, Hawkwell West, Hawkwell East, Roche North, & Rural, Roche South
East	Foulness & the Wakerings

- 5.25 The Study identified current levels of all playing pitch provision within the Rochford District across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors.

Headline Findings

- 5.26 The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan, and its accompanying Assessment Report, assessed a range of facilities and made qualitative and quantitative observations across a large range of sports and facilities. These observations have generally not been included in this topic paper but are available in these published reports.
- 5.27 Table 10 below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the assessments. It is important to note that the future demand shortfalls may need to be revisited in light of expected future demand exceeding current projections. It is noted that Sport England have a Playing Pitch Calculator which can be used alongside the assessment to generate a more nuanced understanding of pitch needs resulting from exact population growth, when known.

Table 10: Quantitative Headline Findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand shortfall	Future demand shortfall (2037)
Football (grass pitches)	Central	No current shortfalls	0.5 youth 11v11 match sessions 2 youth 9v9 match sessions 1 mini 5v5 match session
	East	No current shortfalls	0.5 youth 11v11 match sessions
	West	No current shortfalls	1.5 youth 11v11 match sessions
	<b>Overall</b>	No current shortfalls	<b>2.5 youth 11v11 match sessions</b>
Football (3G AGPs) <sup>1</sup>	Central	2 full size 3G pitches	2 full size 3G pitches
	East	2 full size 3G pitch	1 full size 3G pitch
	West	3 full size 3G pitches	3 full size 3G pitches
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>6 full size 3G pitches</b>	<b>6 full size 3G pitches</b>
Cricket	Central	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
	East	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
	West	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
	<b>Overall</b>	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
Rugby union	Central	6 match sessions	8.5 match sessions
	East	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
	West	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Six match sessions</b>	<b>8.5 match sessions</b>
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full size hockey suitable AGP</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full size hockey suitable AGP</b>

- 5.28 The quantitative analysis concluded that there were current and future shortfalls in particular of 3G pitches, hockey pitches and rugby union pitches and future shortfalls of football pitches. Only in relation to cricket is both current and future demand likely to met. The Study emphasised that the shortfalls evidence was relatively minimal when compared to other local authorities, and that it was not necessarily the case that new provision was required. For example, the Study considered that shortfalls may be met through better utilisation of existing provision and encouraging or enabling access to unused / unavailable provision, such as school facilities.
- 5.29 The Study also emphasised that the shortfall of 3G pitches in the Rochford District was significant, with no full sized modern pitches currently provided at the time of the Study. It recommended that 3G provision could help to reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.
- 5.30 The Study recommends protecting existing quantity of tennis courts, as well as sustaining quality of club courts for competitive play through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.



### Summary of Strategic Recommendations

5.31 Strategic recommendations for the Strategy were developed via consultation, site visits and analysis, and key drivers. They are not specific to just one sport.

- Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through implementation of local planning policy.
- Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.
- Improve quality.
- Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- Secure developer contributions.
- Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

### ***Built Facility Strategy and Action Plan 2018<sup>20</sup>***

5.32 Similar to the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan, the same South Essex authorities commissioned KKP to prepare a Built Facility Strategy and Action Plan.

5.33 The Built Facility Strategy considered provision for:

- Sports Halls
- Swimming Pools
- Health and Fitness Suites
- Indoor Bowls
- Sailing and Watersports
- Indoor Tennis
- Squash
- Gymnastics
- Table Tennis

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<sup>20</sup> [https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning\\_evibase\\_indoor\\_actionplan.pdf](https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_evibase_indoor_actionplan.pdf)

- 5.34 Alongside a range of specific observations on current provision for those sports, the Built Facility Strategy made the following general recommendations:
- Improve the basis of strategic work across a range of agencies including Public Health and Active Rochford to ensure that real progress is made in respect of all aspects of increasing physical activity and sport.
  - Ensure that RDC owned facilities make a progressively greater (and measured) contribution to the needs of all residents and are fully accessible to all the District's communities through targeted initiatives, facilities, programming and training.
  - Work with neighbouring authorities and the other swimming pool operators in Rochford to ensure future demand for swimming can be accommodated.
  - Improve the quality of its own swimming offer.
  - Improve the breadth, depth and quality of performance management data collected (and shared) and the associated analysis of facility usage to inform future marketing, promotion, programming and pricing etc.
  - Ensure that all school sports facilities continue to accommodate for community use.
  - Coordinate community access to, and the programming and pricing of, facilities (including schools) across the District within the public estate.
  - Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community.
- 5.35 It is recognised that Sport England have made a Sport Facility Calculator available which can be used alongside the Built Facility Strategy to develop an understanding of the likely need for indoor sports provision once a more precise understanding of future population is known.

### ***Provision of 3G Football Pitches Report***

- 5.36 Following on from the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2018, a feasibility study focusing solely on the provision of 3G Artificial Grass Pitches within Rochford District was also undertaken as part of a joint Study with Basildon Council.
- 5.37 3G pitches comprise of an artificial surface that is generally able to sustain greater levels of matchplay than traditional grass pitches. The provision of a suitable supply of 3G pitches is therefore advantageous to a community as they provide a more resilient resource for local sports clubs, both for training and matchplay.

### **Scope of Feasibility Study**

5.38 The Study took into account the sites as listed below.

**Table 11: Provision of 3G Football Pitches Assessed Sites**

<b>Rochford DC</b>			
Clements Hall Leisure Centre	Clements Hall Way	Hawkwell	SS5 4LN
King Edmund Business and Enterprise School	Vaughan Close	Rochford	SS4 1TL
Rayleigh Leisure Centre	Priory Chase, Rawreth Lane	Rayleigh	SS6 9NF
Burroughs Park (Great Wakering Rovers FC)	Little Wakering Hall Lane	Great Wakering	SS3 0HH
Greensward Academy	Greensward Lane	Hockley	SS5 5HG
Hullbridge Sports FC	Lower Road	Hullbridge, Hockley	SS5 6BJ
<b>Site in Neighbouring Authority</b>			
Fossets Farm – Southend Utd. FC	Fossets Way, Eastern Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SS2 4DQ

Findings / Recommendations of Feasibility Study

- 5.39 There is no full size 3G provision in the Rochford District. The Study recommends siting a new pitch where it will have most impact on the local community, at **Rayleigh Leisure Centre**.
- 5.40 The Study recommends that the Council, Essex FA and the Football Foundation support development of 3G pitches at the established **Hullbridge Sports FC**. The Club provides for a senior level of football but suffers poor ground conditions. 3G would remove the threat of postponements and create an income stream for the club. Facilities would be available to the local community and local clubs for hiring.
- 5.41 **Apex Sports Ground** which is part of the Greensward Academy school is not supported in the Study for the development of 3G pitches due to no floodlighting and no continual staffing, limited access and a need for improved car parking which limits play for community use. However, it is recommended that the potential is re-examined in the future.
- 5.42 The Study supports and recommends development of 3G pitches at **Clements Hall Leisure Centre** which offers the only 3G pitch (not full size) in the Rochford District. This is due to an existing established venue with a management team, sufficient car parking, and changing room capacity and complimentary to existing range of leisure activities. 3G pitches would enable an increase in the leisure offer.
- 5.43 The Study recommends that development of 3G pitches is supported by Rochford Council with Essex FA and the Football Foundation at **King Edmund Business and Enterprise School**. The school has an extensive range of sports facilities, available to the public on a daily basis, including a floodlit ATP, with a management team. Provision would enable the school to meet unmet-demand and have a positive impact on the local community.
- 5.44 **Burroughs Park (Great Wakering Rovers FC) & Great Wakering Recreation Ground** is not supported in the Study for 3G pitch development due to lack of site management and conflict between the protection of open space and promotion of playing fields. The Study does recommend that investigation is undertaken in consultation with local clubs to identify a suitable site within a short travel time of

Great Wakering Village, and that in the short term, an open space MUGA or small sided 3G could be considered.

- 5.45 Tables within the Study provide a summary matrix of the findings and recommendations that uses a traffic light system to indicate the recommendations made about 3G pitch provision in certain locations.

## 6 What are the issues for the new Local Plan to address?

- 6.1 This Topic Paper has set out to evidence how the provision of Open Space, Children's Play, Sport, Recreation, and Leisure will be taken into account through the formulation of the new Local Plan policies and proposals.
- 6.2 The new Local Plan will be supported by an up-to-date evidence on Open Space assessment in accordance with the national planning practice guidance.
- 6.3 Future policies and proposals will need to provide an integrated open space network, that is of high quality, well-connected and serves multiple functions. In these challenging times of climate change emergency and Covid-19 pandemic, it has never been more important to enhance our open spaces and opportunities for physical activity and enjoyment of the outdoors.
- 6.4 Future policies and proposals should provide a strong framework for decision-making, especially in those instances where open space may need to be re-provided as part of new development, and to ensure that new development contributes to providing high quality open spaces for new communities.
- 6.5 The **emerging Open Space Study** has provided a useful understanding of both the quality and accessibility of existing open spaces. This has allowed us to identify areas where open space provision is generally lacking, including central and eastern Rayleigh, northern Rochford, central Hullbridge and several outlying villages and hamlets. It also identifies other areas where open space provision is exemplary. The mapping of open space accessibility that will be provided by the Open Space Study also allows us to consider how accessible potential future development sites will be to existing open spaces, allowing us to identify opportunities for development to enhance open spaces, or where development would need to provide need open spaces. This may include areas where locating development could be used as a mechanism for providing new open space for existing communities.
- 6.6 The NPPF makes a reference to a particular designation available through plan-making known as Local Green Space. This designation offers a high degree of protection to areas of importance to the local community. This is on the basis that the land meets certain criteria to achieve the designation.
- 6.7 National planning guidance<sup>21</sup> states that,

*“Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities...Anyone who wants an area to be designated as Local Green Space should contact the local planning authority about the contents of its local plan or get involved in neighbourhood planning...Local Green space designation should not be used in a way that undermines [the] aim of plan making.”*

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<sup>21</sup> Local Green Space Designation, MHCLG, 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space#Local-Green-Space-designation>

- 6.8 National planning guidance also sets out that if the land is already protected by Green Belt, “*consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained.*”
- 6.9 Management (involving landowners and local communities) of potential Local Green Space designations also needs to be considered.
- 6.10 The emerging Open Space Study has identified 45 potential open spaces that could meet the Local Green Space designation criteria based around the principles as stated within the NPPF and associated guidance. The three key criteria are:
- Reasonably proximity to the community it serves.
  - 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
  - Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- 6.11 The Council is consulting on these spaces as part of its Spatial Options consultation and representations received will influence the final list of Local Green Spaces taken forward into future stages of plan-making. A full list of the identified sites is set out in Appendix 1.
- 6.12** The **Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan** suggests that playing pitches across the District are generally of good quality but that some local facilities could benefit from enhancement. Existing and projected overplay of pitches is a particular issue affecting the growth of local sports clubs. Assuming around 7,200 homes are built by 2040, Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator identifies an additional peak weekly demand for up to 18 match sessions for football at all levels, 1.8 match sessions for rugby union, 1.6 match sessions for hockey and 55 match sessions per season for cricket. However it is important to recognise that some of this additional demand can be met from improved utilisation of existing under-used pitches.
- 6.13** The **Indoor Built Facility Strategy and Action Plan** identifies that certain facilities, such as Rayleigh Leisure Centre, are of a good quality and that most residents live within 20 minutes of an indoor built facility. However there are areas, particularly in the East, which have limited access to facilities within Rochford District. Furthermore facilities for certain activities, such as swimming, are relatively limited.
- 6.14 The Strategies both advocate a hierarchy approach to planning for recreational facilities, tiering facilities as hub-sites and key centres with all other facilities being of local importance. Such an approach could be embedded into the plan in order to prioritise and direct investment and renewal to those facilities of greatest importance.
- 6.15 A prospective hierarchy based on these strategies could be as set out in Table 13 below.

**Table 13: Potential Hub Sites and Key Centres**

Category	For playing pitches	For indoor recreation
<b>Potential 'Hub Sites'</b>	King Edmund School	Clements Hall Leisure Centre Rayleigh Leisure Centre King Edmund School
<b>Potential Key Centres</b>	Greensward Academy Sweyne Park School Westcliff Rugby Club Burroughs Park Rawreth Lane Playing Fields Rayleigh Sports and Social Club	Greensward Academy Sweyne Park School Fitzwimarc School

- 6.16 The **Provision of 3G Pitches Report** identifies good opportunities for new pitches at locations such as Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Clements Hall Leisure Centre and King Edmund Business and Enterprise School. As recognised elsewhere in this topic paper, the advantage of 3G pitches is their greater resilience to wear and their ability to therefore support much higher levels of use than traditional grass pitches. It is recognised across the evidence base that the provision of further 3G pitches could be one of the most effective tools for addressing any future demand for playing pitches and that equally new development could be an effective tool for funding new 3G facilities through planning obligations.
- 6.17 The key options for addressing open space and recreation needs through the new Local Plan include:

Option	Explanation
Designating and protecting locally-important spaces through the local green space designation where they meet the criteria for inclusion	The NPPF sets out that local authorities can identified areas as 'local green spaces' where open spaces hold particular community value. This option would be to designate new local green spaces through the new Local Plan and, in line with national policy, afford these spaces similar protections to those afforded to green belts.  A list of prospective local green spaces is set out in Appendix 1 and will be reviewed based on representations received to the Spatial Options consultation.
Designating and protecting other important open spaces through the plan which are not eligible for local green space designation but are still worthy of	The Council's existing local development plan identifies a large number of open spaces and includes a policy providing for their protection and enhancement.

<p>protection and enhancement</p>	<p>This option would be to continue to protect open spaces in line with the emerging Open Space Study.</p>
<p>Embedding a hierarchy approach into policy that seeks to prioritise and direct investment to the most important recreational facilities, including potential hub sites and key centres</p>	<p>This option would be to embed the facility hierarchies proposed in the Playing Pitch and Built Facility Strategies into the new Local Plan, allowing for the identification of key hub sites and centres where investment should be prioritised.</p>
<p>Ensuring our qualitative and quantitative open space and recreational needs are met within our area through the plan, and any supporting infrastructure delivery plan, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Requiring new developments to make suitable on-site provision for new open and green spaces, and/or sport and recreation facilities, or</li> <li>b. Requiring new developments to contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of existing open spaces and recreation facilities in the locality, or contributing to enhancing open space or recreation facilities at existing hub sites and key centres</li> </ul>	<p>Population growth is likely to create increased demand for open space and sports facilities. New developments can help to deliver improvements to open spaces and sports facilities, both in terms of quality and quantity. This option would be to require new development to contribute to improvements to open space and sport facilities, either through provision on-site or through the co-ordination of improvements to hub sites and key centres.</p>
<p>Working with neighbouring authorities to explore opportunities to address our open space and recreational needs across boundaries (such as hub sites in other authority areas)</p>	<p>National policy identifies that open space and recreation needs can be addressed across local authority boundaries. This option would be to work with neighbouring authorities to consider how these needs can be best addressed through collaborative planning. This may include identification of key hub sites in one area which are expected to serve a wider area. The new Local Plan could help to facilitate the delivery of such a hub site through planning obligations.</p>





Appendix 1: Proposed Local Green Spaces

Reference (Appendix A)	Open Space Name	Address	Location	Ward	Open Space Type	Open Space Approx. Size (ha)
5,10	Canewdon Cricket / Football Ground	Althorne way, Canewdon	Canewdon	Roche North & Rural	Cricket / Football	1.83
8	Play Space	Canewdon Playing Field	Canewdon	Roche North & Rural	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.13
9	The Village Green	Sycamore Way, Canewdon	Canewdon	Roche North & Rural	Amenity Green Space	0.93
14	Great Wakering Common	Common Road, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	5.46
15	Great Wakering Recreation Ground	High Street, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Tennis Courts	0.11
21	Play Space	High Street, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.07
25	Great Wakering Recreation Ground	Leisure Centre, High Street, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Football	5.9
27	Spencers Park Public Open Space	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	4.8
29	Clements Hall Cricket	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Cricket	5.87 (dual use)

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	Ground					
30	Play Space	Clements Hall, Clements Hall way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.11
33	Hawkwell Common	Main Road, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity Green Space	0.27
35	Clements Hall Playing Field	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Football	0.15
43	Play Space	Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Hockley	Hockley & Ashingdon	Play Space (LEAP)	0.17
50	Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve	Marylands Avenue, Hockley	Hockley	Hockley	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	3.03
51	Plumberow Mount	Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Hockley	Hockley & Ashingdon	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	6.29
52	Kendal Park Nature Reserve	Ferry Road, Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	3.05
55	Play Space	Pooles Lane Playing Field, Pooles Lane Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.07
60	Hullbridge Playing Field	Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Football	3.65
62	Rayleigh Mount	Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Natural / Semi-natural Green	1.64

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					Space	
66	Wheatley Wood	Near Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	35.34
76	Fairview Playing Field	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Tennis Courts	0.22
86	Play Space	Sweyne Park, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.4
87	Play Space	Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Play Space (LEAP)	0.08
88	Play Space	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Play Space (LEAP)	0.05
89	Play Space	St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Sweyne Park & Grange	Play Space (NEAP)	0.05
91	Play Space	Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Lodge	Play space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.15
93	King George V Playing Field Space	Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Play space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.21
96	St John Fisher Playing	Little Wheatley Chase,	Rayleigh	Sweyne Park & Grange	Football	5.58

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	Field	Rayleigh				
98	Grove Road Playing Field	Grove Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Lodge	Football	3.41
100	Rawreth Lane Playing Field	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Football	6.8
105	Sweyne Park Open Space	Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	9.35
108	King George V Playing Field	Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Football	3.57
110	Fairview Playing Field	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Football	5.82
111	Turret House Open Space	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Amenity Green Space	5.11
120	King George Playing Field Play Space	Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Rochford	Hockley & Ashingdon	Play Space (NEAP)	0.07
121	Play Space	Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	Rochford	Roche North & Rural	Play Space (NEAP)	0.19
123	Play Space	Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Rochford	Hawkwell West	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.06
129	Rochford Recreation Ground	Stambridge Road, Rochford	Rochford	Roche North & Rural	Football	3.85
130	Magnolia Nature	Magnolia Road,	Rochford	Roche North &	Natural / Semi-	16.01

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	Reserve	Hawkwell		Rural	natural Green Space	
131	King George Playing Field	Ashingdon Road, Rochford	Rochford	Hockley & Ashingdon	Football	7.02
New Site 1	Play Space	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Play Space (LAP)	0.04
New Site 2	Amenity (west)	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	1.19
New Site 3	Amenity (east)	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	0.41
New Site 13	Amenity Area (cenotaph)	High Elms park, Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Amenity	0.96
New Site 30	Windmill Gardens	Off Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Parks & Gardens	0.14