

Chapter 3 Strategic Overview

Background

- 3.1 This chapter reviews the strategic context and provides background on the national, regional and local picture relevant to open space, sport and recreation facilities. It provides details on the context in which the findings of this PPG17 study sit and the key strategic documents included that reference or influence the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the city.
- 3.2 As stated in chapters 1 and 2, this document follows the key principles of PPG17 and its companion guide. PPG17 reflects a recognition from the Government of the wider benefits derived from the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- 3.3 Local strategic documents specific to only a single typology are introduced within the individual typology sections. Specific strategic objectives that link into this study have been referenced where appropriate. Local strategic documents impacting on the delivery of more than one type of open space, have been summarised later in this chapter.
- 3.4 A short summary of the relevant strategic documents with key influences highlighted with regard to open space, sport and recreation follows below.

National – Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- 3.5 In May 2010, a new coalition Government was formed. This has caused a move away from the previous Government's Public Service Agreement targets to a new business planning approach. Although sport and active recreation has cross-cutting impacts, for example improved health through increased physical activity levels (tackling childhood obesity etc) - its key policy agenda and accountability is allocated to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The aim of the DCMS is:

'To improve the 'quality of life' for all through cultural and sporting activities, support the pursuit of excellence, and champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.'

- 3.6 To address this aim, the DCMS Business Plan 2011 – 2015 has been produced. Key areas of relevance are:

Create a sporting legacy from the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Encourage competitive sport in schools by establishing an annual Olympic and Paralympic-style schools event, improve local sports facilities and establish a lasting community sports legacy.

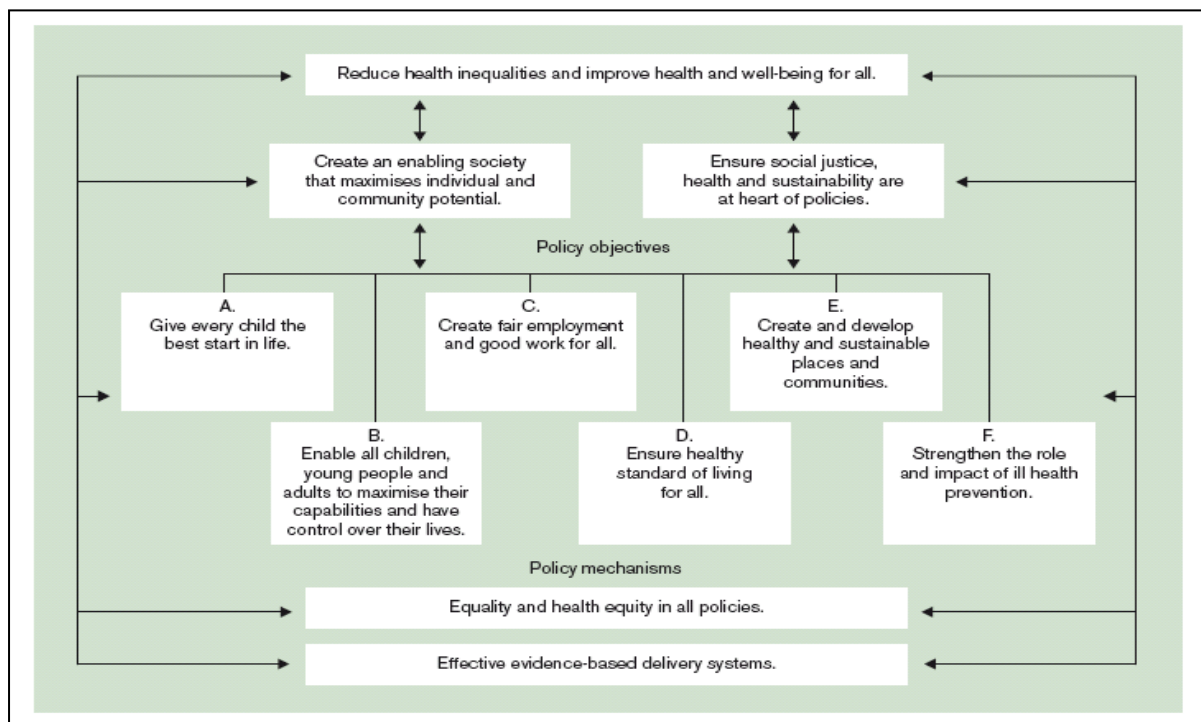
- 3.7 To deliver this, the focus is upon developing new school based sport competitions, re-aligning Lottery funding to sport, protecting and developing

playing fields, and delivering community sport legacy plans, along with the delivery of Olympics and Paralympics (2012). Impact focus is upon increasing participation in sport, however, a number of lead indicators are applicable, such as the number of school sport competitions organised etc. This policy (PPG17) is important in that it looks to secure and develop the infrastructure for sport in Leeds, supporting DCMS outcomes.

Fair Society, Healthy Lives, the Marmot Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010

3.8 Professor Sir Michael Marmot conducted a study on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health into health inequalities in England. It seeks to increase awareness of the importance of good access to quality green spaces, in improving people’s mental and physical health, social interaction, play and contact with nature through recommendations to improve access to, and the quality of green space and indoor sport facilities available. The policy is summarised below:

Figure 3.1 Marmot Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010



3.9 Specifically, the policy looks to ***‘create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities’***. This is to encourage a greater level of physical activity amongst children, young people and adults, it recommends that public open space and indoor sport facilities should be accessible by walking and cycling and that spaces are maintained to a high standard, safe, attractive and welcoming to everyone.

3.10 It goes on further to state that local communities should be involved during the development control process to ensure the potential for physical activity is maximised.

Department for Health Business Plan 2011 – 2015

- 3.11 The new business plan has been driven by the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' published on the 12th July 2010. In general terms, both are focused upon improving public health outcomes and developing the preventative health agenda. This means it is important to secure the right quantity, quality and accessibility of facilities in the area, including parks and indoor sport facilities to improve public health outcomes.

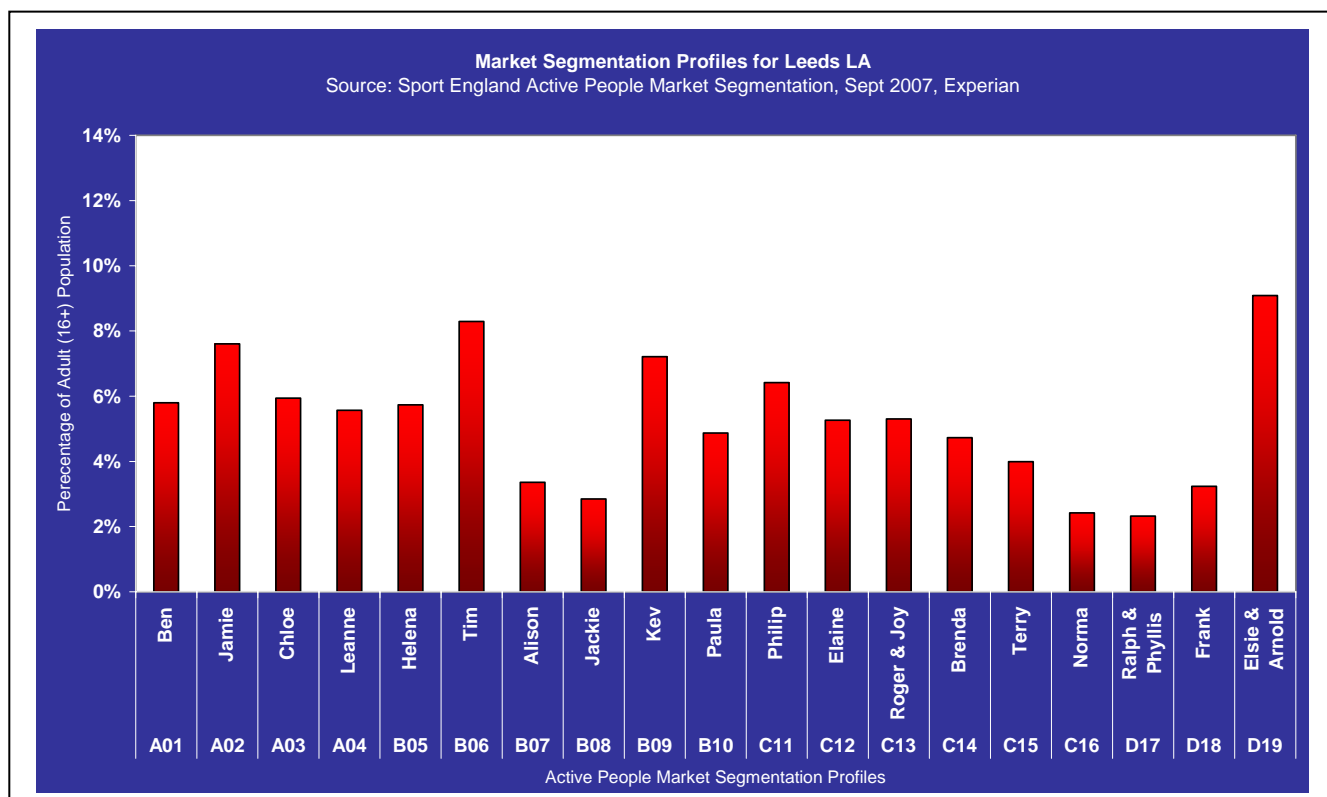
National – Sport England

- 3.12 Sport England will continue to play a key role in delivering the sporting elements of the DCMS's strategic intent. 'Grow, Excel and Sustain' is Sport England's strategy to deliver improved sporting outcomes. Key focus of the strategy is upon:

- **Grow**
One million people taking part in more sport. More children and young people taking part in five hours of PE and sport a week. These targets account for 15% of investment.
- **Sustain**
More people satisfied with their sporting experience. 25% fewer 16-18 year olds dropping out of at least nine sports – badminton, basketball, football, hockey, gymnastics, netball, rugby league, rugby union tennis. These targets account for 60% of investment.
- **Excel**
Improved talent development in at least 25 sports. This target accounts for 25% of our investment.

- 3.13 Sport England provides the key measure of adult participation through its 'Active People Survey'. They have also profiled the people within Leeds to give indicative sporting segments. These profile segments are illustrated in the following diagram.

Figure 3.2 Market Segmentation Profiles for Leeds Local Authority, Sport England



3.14 These profiles can be broken down to wards and super output areas and offer insight into the catchment areas of the facilities. It is important to ensure that facilities are appropriately designed to encourage participation by residents. It is clear that the quality and type of facilities are particularly important to the residents of Leeds. Access to facilities is also important and facilities must be appropriately priced and located.

Leeds – Local Strategic Partnership (Leeds Initiative)

3.15 Sport and active recreation has a key role in supporting community ‘quality of life’ outcomes. The Improvement and Development Agency has recently developed its Culture and Sport Outcomes Framework that looks at measuring the impact of sport across the community. In April 2011 a new structure for the Leeds Initiative was implemented. The new structure is headed by a main Leeds Initiative Board, which is supported by five theme boards:

- Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Children and Families Board;
- Safer and Stronger Communities Board;
- Sustainable Economy and Culture Board; and
- Housing and Regeneration Board.

3.16 The overarching long-term vision for the partnership has recently been updated in the 'Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030'. By 2030 the vision is:

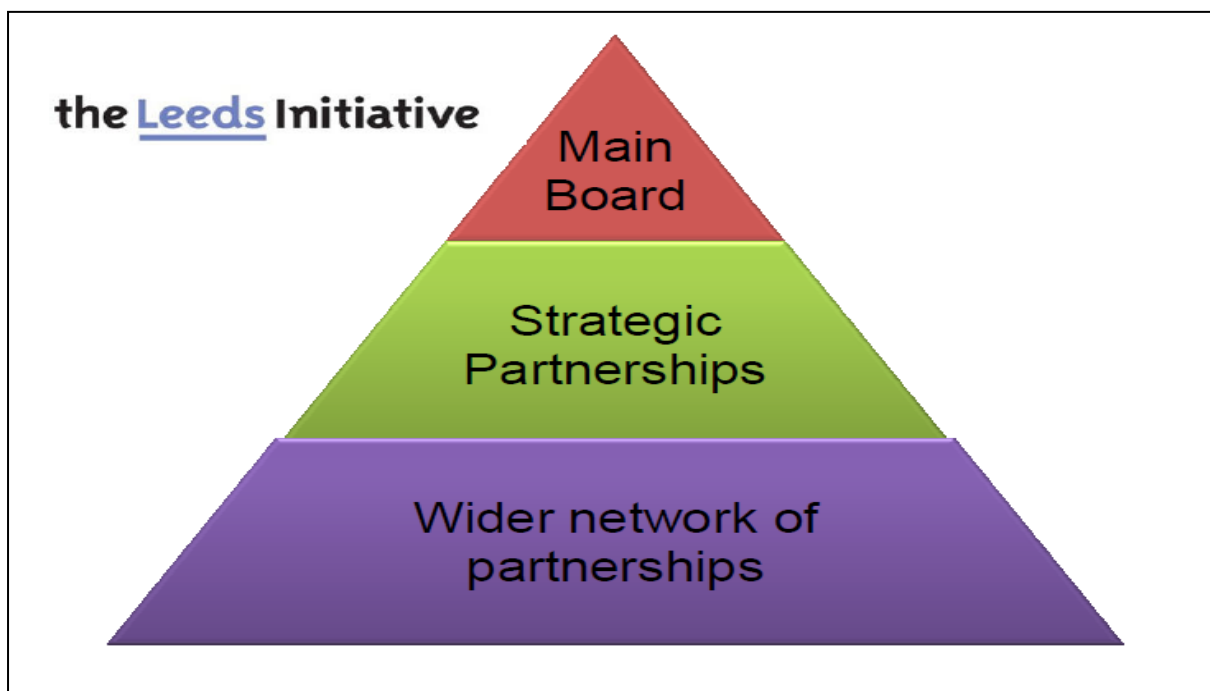
- ***'By 2030, Leeds will be locally and internationally recognised as the best city in the UK.'***

3.17 Key elements of the vision will support:

- A world-class cultural offer;
- world-class, cultural, digital and creative industries;
- high-quality, accessible, affordable and reliable public transport;
- successfully achieved a 40% reduction in carbon emissions (by 2020);
- healthy life choices are easier to make;
- community-led businesses meet local needs;
- local services, including shops and healthcare, are easy to access and meet our needs;
- local cultural and sporting activities are available to all;
- there are high quality buildings, places and green spaces, which are clean and looked after.

3.18 In order to deliver the above, a number of boards have been established that link to the wider Leeds Initiative network. Each of these five boards will have ownership of the new City Priority Plans, and will be responsible for implementing a partnership approach to delivery. This structure is supported by series of wider partnerships and networks, illustrated in Figure 3.1 overleaf:

Figure 3.3 – Hierarchy diagram of Leeds Initiative



- 3.19 Key areas relevant to this policy with regards to the City Priority Plans are:
- Best City... for Business – Sustainable Economy and Culture Board.
 - Leeds will be a great place for people and businesses, where:
 - Significant new job opportunities are created;
 - businesses are supported to start up, thrive and grow;
 - people enjoy a high quality and varied cultural offer;
 - people choose sustainable travel options; and
 - we all benefit from a low carbon economy.
 - Best City... for Health and Wellbeing – Health & Wellbeing Board.
 - Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for all ages where:
 - everyone lives longer, healthy lives;
 - everyone has the opportunity to improve their health;
 - people will live safe and fulfilling lives in their own homes; and
 - everyone has active and independent lives.

Leeds – Sport Leeds

- 3.20 In terms of the above hierarchy, Sport Leeds forms a wider ‘network and partnership’ that supports the delivery of priorities for the Sustainable Economy and Culture Board. ‘Taking the lead’ is the partnership’s strategy for sport and active recreation in the city. The vision is:
- 3.21 ‘By 2012, Leeds will be a leading city for sport and active recreation, recognised for the opportunities it provides from participation to excellence. Leeds will be a city where more people want to play sport, more people can play sport, and more people do play sport.’
- 3.22 Key priorities are:

Theme 1 – Increasing participation

Aim: to increase participation levels across all sections of the community.

Theme 2 – Widening access

Aim: To ensure equality of opportunity and to narrow the participation gap in sport and active recreation between different sectors and groups within the community.

Theme 3 – Fulfilling potential

Aim: To ensure effective talent identification and development structures are in place to enable people to achieve their full potential.

Theme 4 – Achieving excellence

Aim: To improve levels of performance and achieve and celebrate success in national and international competition.

Theme 5 – Raising awareness

Aim: to ensure increased awareness of the opportunities and benefits in sport and active recreation through improved marketing and communication.

Theme 6 – Linking to health

Aim: to ensure the health benefits of sport and active recreation are recognised and developed.

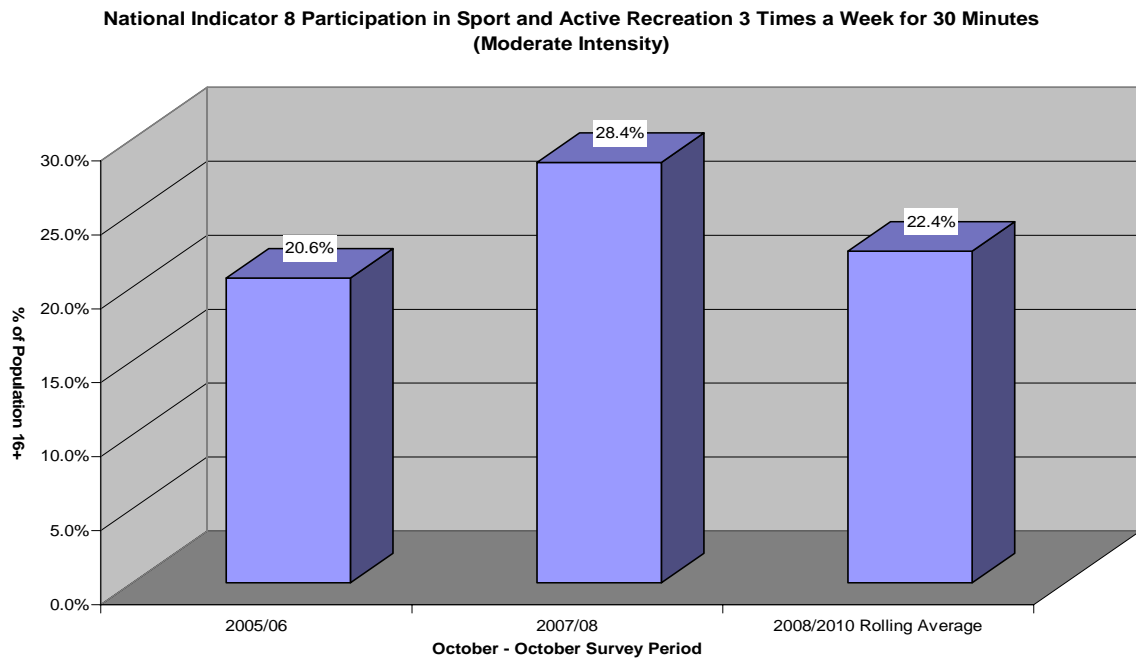
Theme 7 – Developing the infrastructure of sport

Aim a): Places – to ensure that: there is a network of appropriately located quality facilities, including built facilities, playing pitches and open spaces which are accessible to the community; and facilities are of appropriate specification to meet the training and development needs of high-performance athletes in selected sports.

Aim b): People – to ensure that: there is an effective network of voluntary sport clubs, organisations and volunteers which meets the needs of all sectors of the community; and there are sufficient appropriately qualified coaches and officials to meet the needs of sport in Leeds.

- 3.23 Critically this policy will support the development of better quality, more accessible and appropriate quantities of sport facilities in the city, helping deliver theme 7.
- 3.24 Participation in sport across the city is generated by many providers and understanding trends and change is complicated. Many factors influence participation, such as economic cycles, the demography of the population, cultural background and health. However, one critical factor most agree upon is that quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities are key drivers. In terms of the adult population (16+), the following participation trends have occurred (Source - 'Active People Survey'):

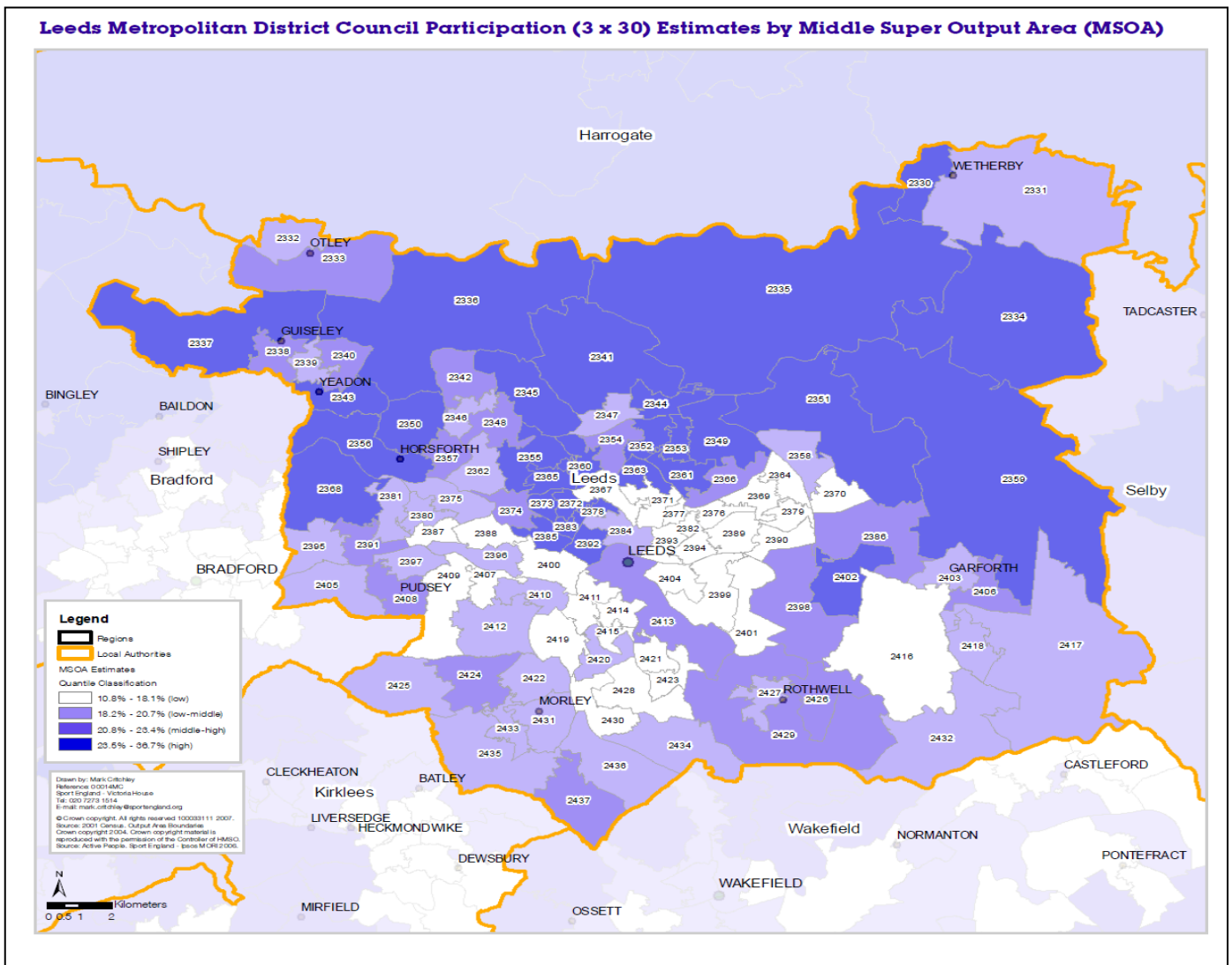
Figure 3.4 National Indicator 8 Participation in Sport and Active Recreation 3 times a week for 30 minutes (Moderate Intensity), Sport England



Source: Sport England

3.25 Across the city, inequalities in participation by different demographic groups persist, this is illustrated below on a geographic basis (facility distribution partly reflects these trends):

Figure 3.5 Leeds City Council Participation (3x30 minutes) Estimates by Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA)



3.26 Both the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) Business Plan and the Department for Health (through its 'Public Health Responsibility Deal') focus upon reducing 'rates of avoidable diseases that are the major causes of ill health and premature death' and make a commitment to increasing participation rates by children and young people. Previous performance is illustrated below. It is a general policy principle that this level needs to increase to improve health and sporting outcomes. It is worth noting health inequalities and deprivation in the city have clear synergies with the previous map:

Performance Indicator	Baseline	Current	Target
Participation of children in sport (percentage of 5 – 16 year olds in school sports partnerships engaged in two hours a week minimum on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum).	63% 2004 (academic year 2003 – 2004 Sept - July).	91% 2008 (academic year 2007 – 2008).	90% by 2012 Sport Leeds. 90% by July 2008 Leeds Local Area Agreement

3.27 Childhood obesity presents a key challenge to the city along with overweight/obese adults. This performance indicator has key role in promoting a healthy lifestyle and in helping to highlight sustainable health provision in the city.

Leeds Unitary Development Plan (Review 2006)

- 3.28 The plan provides a framework for development across Leeds, with key policies and goals of relevance to this study set out below:
- SA1 maintain and enhance the character of Leeds
 - SA6 encourage the provision of facilities for leisure activities
 - SP1 and SP2 key principles of the plan are to protect and enhance green space and the countryside
 - Policies N1 and N1a state that development of land identified on the proposals map as protected green space or currently used as allotment gardens will not be permitted, unless there is sufficient green space in the area, an alternative site in an area of deficiency or for the purpose of outdoor recreation
 - Policy N2 supports the development of a green space hierarchy in residential areas. The following minimum standards are:
 - Local amenity space (including informal amenity space and formal children’s play areas) – 0.2 hectares per 50 dwellings
 - Local recreational areas – 2.8 hectares within 400m
 - Neighbourhood/District Parks (including formal equipped playgrounds, playing pitches, courts and greens) – 12 hectares within 800m
 - Major City Parks – support for additional provision where possible
 - Policy N3 prioritises increasing the provision of green space in priority residential areas identified on the proposals map or in locations accessible on foot to those residing in the identified areas
 - Policy N4 states that new development proposals will be required to ensure appropriate access for residents to the hierarchy of open spaces identified in Policy N2
 - for local amenity space the minimum standards identified in Policy N2.1 should be achieved. Where the number of dwellings is not specified, 10% of the total site area. A lower proportion of green space may be

acceptable on developments unsuitable for under 18's. On larger developments, other levels within the hierarchy may be sought

- the council may seek planning obligations to secure additional or enhanced green space on site or within close proximity to the development. Obligations are likely to be sought where no green space protected under Policy N1 is accessible to the site within the thresholds identified in Policy N2 or where green space in the locality is of poor quality.
- Policy N5 indicates that the council will seek and work in partnership with other agencies to improve the quantity and quality of green space
- Policy N6 seeks to protect playing pitches unless there is a net gain to overall pitch quality and provision through redevelopment on site or suitable relocation or that there is no shortfall of pitches
- Policy N7A supports the provision and enhancement of playing pitches in areas of shortfalls. Provision may be sought through planning obligations
- Policy N7B indicates that the council will pursue opportunities to address playing pitch deficiencies

3.29 The key policies of relevance from the UDPR as detailed, must be considered in the development of the PPG17 study.

Leeds Parks and Green Space Strategy (2009)

3.30 In developing the Parks and Green space strategy, a large scale survey was conducted with 30,000 households, targeting mainly adults.

3.31 The survey found that:

- 54% of respondents in 2006 indicated that they visit a park or open space at least once per week
- when accessing a park or open space, 59% walk and 37% travel by car
- the majority of respondents (83%) travel less than 15 minutes to reach their chosen park or open space
- 67% of residents feel safe or very safe when accessing a park or open space, a further 21% did not consider it to be an issue
- from a satisfaction perspective the following results were identified:
 - country parks and city parks scored very highly when looking at design and appearance, cleanliness and maintenance and the quality of trees/flowers/ shrubs/grass areas
 - the range of visitor facilities at community parks, local green spaces and recreation grounds were only deemed fair
 - the average ratings across all parks and open spaces show that respondents were least satisfied with the sports facility provision within the sites

- when looking at parks specifically, results show that Roundhay was visited most frequently by residents, followed by Temple Newsam and Golden Acre.
- 3.32 Quality of selected open spaces in the city is assessed using the Green Flag appraisal process. Whilst a small number of the city's most popular parks exceed the target, the majority of sites fall below the standard. In general the major parks achieved the standard, whereas community parks are, on average, below the standard.
- 3.33 The strategy developed a number of strategic aims, as listed below, and details associated objectives and desired outcomes.
- to engage the community in promoting parks and green spaces as accessible places for everyone to experience and enjoy
 - to provide good quality parks and green spaces that are well managed and provide a range of attractive facilities
 - to plan for, develop new and protect existing parks and green spaces that will offer lasting social, cultural and environmental benefits for the people of Leeds
 - to promote parks and green spaces as places to improve health and well-being and prevent disease through physical activity, play, relaxation and contemplation
 - to promote liveability and the economic benefits of quality parks and green space provision as an integral part of major regeneration projects
 - to engage partners in supporting and delivering the Parks and Green Space Strategy.
- 3.34 The findings of the survey undertaken for the Parks and Green Space Strategy will be considered together with the survey findings from this study, to provide robust evidence of local views and needs.
- 3.35 The detailed information underlying the Parks and Green Space Strategy has been used to inform this study and subsequent setting of standards.

GreenSTAT – Residential Survey 2009 – Adults

- 3.36 GreenSTAT is a national system that gives local residents the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces and how well they feel they are being managed and maintained. The survey was sent out to 30,000 residents of which 3,738 responded, a response rate of 12.46%.
- 3.37 The survey found that:
- 96% of respondents use a park
 - Over 60% of park users walk to the park
 - There are 60.4 million visits a year to parks in Leeds

- Roundhay Park is the most popular park with over 8 million visits a year
- Pudsey Park, Woodhouse Moor Park and Horsforth Hall Park all receive over 2 million visits a year, with Temple Newsam Park and Golden Acre Park following closely behind with over 1.9m visits per year
- There has been a 12.6% increase in the number of visits to parks in Leeds since 2006
- The top two reasons for visiting a park are to get some fresh air and to go for a walk
- Visitor satisfaction to all green space nominated in the survey scores either very good or good
- 73% of respondents felt safe or very safe when visiting green space, with 8% feeling unsafe or very unsafe

Playing Pitch Strategy (2002)

3.38 Although now dated, this study was undertaken in parallel with a similar strategy for Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council. A major driving factor for the pitch assessment and strategy was the need to identify a hierarchy of investment priorities for pitch improvement and development. The study used the relevant Sport England methodology.

3.39 The study found that there are 818 playing pitches within the Leeds City Council boundary over 401 sites and the following issues emerged:

Quality

- in general the overall quality of playing pitches in the city is poor and there is a lack of quality ancillary facilities across the city
- it is the quality of sites, rather than the quantity of pitches that is the main issue for clubs
- in general the majority of schools with playing pitches graded their facilities as “average” or below
- the poor quality of ancillary facilities within clubs will have an impact on their ability to develop women’s and girl’s teams in future years.

Quantity

- Leeds City Council is the main provider of playing pitches within the city, (the city council owns and manages 111 playing pitch sites across the city). Within the 111 sites, there are 274 playing pitches - many are multi-pitch and multi-sport sites
- within Leeds, the private/voluntary sports club sector currently provides 117 playing pitch sites within Leeds (total of 207 pitches)
- the education sector currently provides 88 community accessible playing pitch sites within Leeds. These sites provide 226 playing pitches.

- Leeds City Council has a total of 433 teams playing fixtures on its pitches on a weekend. The above table identifies that the majority of pitches in the city are used for football and rugby league
- there is an insufficient supply of mini soccer pitches in the city
- city-wide, there is a sufficient supply of cricket pitches to accommodate current demand as well as any future increase in demand
- city-wide, there is a sufficient supply of rugby union and rugby league pitches to accommodate current demand
- there are currently 8 artificial turf pitches in Leeds to accommodate a minimum of 20 home fixtures on a Saturday
- there is a sufficient supply of pitches within the city to accommodate the current demand for hockey fixtures.

Accessibility

- there is currently little formal dual-use provision through education sites. Approximately 34% of schools have community use on their facilities. This equates to an untapped resource of 97 pitches throughout the authority.

3.40 Strategic recommendations were made; those of particular relevance to this study are detailed below.

- identify sports pitch provision and ancillary facilities as a priority for investment and seek to use the planning policy process to prioritise facility development and future provision in line with the identified priorities in this strategy.
- develop a consistent approach across the city to the designation of informal recreational land, and the relationship between these, and potential key pitch sites
- seek to develop the overall use of education pitches for community use, and in so doing, develop appropriate support to facilitate access and use especially for junior teams
- in line with Community Club developments, seek to reduce the overall number of non-significant single pitch sites managed directly by local authorities, and where appropriate, initiate and encourage the development of local networks of 'community clubs', which reflect local priorities for sports development across pitch sports, and provide for junior, and senior teams, training and competitive play
- seek to improve the overall quality of existing and new ancillary accommodation, with a particular emphasis on the need to provide adequately for juniors and women, girls and disabled users
- ensure playing pitch and public access requirements are addressed at the initial stages of any future developments.
- administer the quantity standards for sports pitches:

- Mini football - 1.6 pitches per 1,000 population
- Junior Football - 2.6 pitches per 1,000 population
- Senior Football - 0.32 pitches per 1,000 population
- Cricket - 0.21 pitches per 1,000 population
- Rugby Union - 0.07 pitches per 1,000 population
- Rugby League - 0.16 pitches per 1,000 population
- Hockey - 0.022 pitches per 1000 population.

3.41 The key issues from the playing pitch strategy provide additional evidence and information for the PPG17 study, in relation to the adequacy of outdoor sports facilities. The information collected as part of this assessment could also facilitate updates to the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Leeds Leisure Centres – Capital Investment Plan Including the initial 5 year action plan (2008-2013)

3.42 The Leeds leisure centres capital investment plan outlines a clear vision for the city’s leisure centre stock

“To provide high quality leisure centres, accessible to all, across the Leeds district.”

3.43 The plan developed an indicative action plan for the 5 years from 2008/09 until 2012/13. The action plan focused on addressing the findings of the condition surveys, while also considering the outcome of the prioritisation exercise and where and when major investment should take place. The action plan included best estimate costings based on the information available.

3.44 The action plan proposed that:

Centre	Proposal 1
Aireborough,	To undertake works required as detailed on table 3 (26 August 2009 Executive Board report that illustrated a lack of investment in these sites - which are strategically well located and therefore require investment) of this report, and to seek to include these schemes within the reserved capital programme, so that, should resources be identified, they can be considered alongside other projects within the reserved programme.
Pudsey, Bramley	
Scott Hall,	
Kirkstall, Otley	
Rothwell	
Wetherby	
Centre	Proposal 2
East Leeds	(i) To re-provide Fearnville and East Leeds Leisure Centres in the form of one new, purpose built, wellbeing centre, and to include this scheme within the reserved capital programme, so that should resources be identified, this scheme can be considered alongside other projects within the reserved programme.
Fearnville	
	(ii) Seek expressions of interest to transfer East Leeds and Fearnville

	Leisure centres to a community organisation. (iii) East Leeds Leisure Centre and Fearnville Leisure Centre to remain under council management until such time that a) a new wellbeing centre is confirmed / delivered and/or b) a suitable community organisation has been identified to whom to transfer the asset(s).
Richmond Hill Sports Hall	(iv) To seek to transfer the management of Richmond Hill Sports Hall to the English Table Tennis Association.
Centre	Proposal 3
Kippax	(i) To re-provide Kippax and Garforth Leisure Centres in the form of a new or refurbished swimming pool, fitness suite and other appropriate dry side sports facilities to serve the communities of Garforth and Kippax.
Garforth	
Centre	Proposal 4
South Leeds	(i) Seek expressions of interest to transfer South Leeds Sports Centre to a community organisation. (ii) To close South Leeds Sports Centre (if no suitable community group is identified) when the new Morley Leisure Centre opens in 2010, and concentrate leisure provision at the John Charles Centre for Sport and Morley.
Middleton	(iii) Seek to develop a new wellbeing facility for Middleton, at or in close proximity to the current St George's Centre. iv) Seek expressions of interest to transfer the existing Middleton Leisure Centre (asset) to a community organisation. (v) Middleton Leisure Centre to remain under council management until such time that a) a new well being- being is confirmed /delivered (at or in close proximity to St George's Centre) and/or b) a suitable community organisation has been identified to whom to transfer the existing Middleton Leisure Centre (asset).

3.45 The Comprehensive Spending Review (October 2010), outlined a reduction in local government funding of 7.1% each year, for the next four years. As a result, Leeds City Council must make savings of approximately £160 million over the next four years. Additionally, the availability of capital funding has reduced, with the council losing around £3 million in leisure investment it had previously secured for three sites during 2010. Therefore, delivering the above vision will be challenging.

Sports Capital Investment Strategy – Options Appraisal (2006)

3.46 Independent consultants were commissioned to produce an assessment of current indoor facilities covering the following key areas:

- Physical Condition
- Operational Effectiveness
- Financial Economy

- Contribution to Corporate Priorities
- Strategic Role

- 3.47 The consultants were asked to produce a report which clearly outlines future options for each site considering maintaining the status quo (2 facilities), refurbishing (8 facilities), demolishing (4 facilities, including 1 rebuild) or transferring (1 facility to education, 1 to a community group).
- 3.48 The document cautions that the options appraisal has resulted in a rationalisation and reduction in council sports and leisure centres. If the portfolio cannot be maintained and remain competitive in relation to the quality of provision, in what is already a competitive market, there may be a need to review this options appraisal and further rationalise.
- 3.49 The key issues and recommendations identified in the options appraisal and Facilities Planning Model (FPM) runs provide additional evidence and information to guide the PPG17 study, in relation to indoor sports facility provision. The recommendations identified should be considered at the audit and standard setting stages to test out 'what if' scenarios and the impact on provision per 1,000 population.

Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2014

- 3.50 The plan sets out the approach the council and its partners are taking to improving outcomes for children and young people in Leeds over the next five years.
- 3.51 The plan contains 10 action priorities:
- Improving outcomes**
- 1 Improving outcomes for looked after children
 - 2 Improving attendance and reducing persistent absence from school
 - 3 Improving early learning and primary outcomes in deprived areas
 - 4 Providing places to go and things to do
 - 5 Raising the proportion of young people in education or work
 - 6 Reducing child poverty
 - 7 Reducing teenage conception
 - 8 Reducing the need for children and young people to be in care
- Working together better**
- 9 Strengthening and safeguarding
 - 10 Enabling integrated working

Reducing obesity and raising activity

Areas for development

- Increase Weight Management Services and interventions.
- On-going implementation of the Leeds School Meals Strategy.
- Make sure that 95% of schools achieve the National Healthy Schools standard by December 2009.

- Increase community based obesity prevention interventions.

What we have learned

3.52 The vital roles that parenting, emotional well-being, physical activity, diet, school meals, play, parks, indoor sport facilities, green space and community safety strategies have in reducing childhood obesity.

Our vision for 2014

3.53 By 2014 we aim to achieve:

- Reduced barriers for children and young people to access activities and places, including ensuring affordable and accessible transport for every child and young person in Leeds.
- A lasting 2012 legacy for the city, with every young person active and regularly engaged in physical activity including sport.

3.54 Promote sport and the PE Curriculum through the Leeds PE and School Sport Strategy.

Staying healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle

3.55 We promise to:

- support and encourage you to enjoy a healthy life style, play sports, take part in leisure activities, avoid second-hand tobacco smoke, and enjoy a healthy diet.

3.56 Local age appropriate play, leisure and recreation opportunities that are selected freely.

Older Better - A strategy to promote a healthy and active life for older people in Leeds 2006–2011

3.57 Over the next twenty years, the growth of the older population in Yorkshire and Humber will be dominated by people in their sixties. By 2011 they will total 580,000, an increase of 111,000 over the previous decade.

3.58 The strategy sits under both Healthy Leeds Partnership, which is ultimately accountable to the Leeds Initiative Board, and the Older People's Modernisation Team which is accountable to the NHS Modernisation Executive.

3.59 The Vision for the strategy is for *“A life worth living for older people in Leeds is one where: they are respected and included; their contributions are acknowledged; and they are enabled to remain independent and enjoy as good mental and physical health as possible”*

3.60 The aim of the strategy is to promote a healthy and active life for older people in Leeds, by providing leadership to influence policy and practice, and supporting partners to deliver coordinated action to enable the strategy aspirations to be met.

- 3.61 The strategy involved extensive consultation and the needs relevant to this study, identified at events in Leeds are:
- Preventative services;
 - to feel safe and secure in a healthy environment;
 - to be able to keep healthy and active.
- 3.62 The provision of appropriate open space, sport and recreation facilities will contribute to the achievement of the goals of this strategy. In particular, the evaluation of provision for older people will contribute to the objectives set out in the vision.

Leeds Local Development Framework – Core Strategy (2009) Preferred Approach

- 3.63 The proposed vision is - “For Leeds to be a distinctive, competitive, inclusive and successful city, for the benefit of its communities, now and in the future.” To be achieved through:
- The continued regeneration & renaissance of the main urban area (including the city centre) and settlements;
 - meeting the need for homes and economic development;
 - protecting & enhancing the distinctiveness of the built and natural environment;
 - adapting to climate change;
 - the provision of physical & community infrastructure.
- 3.64 Policies proposed include those to:
- Create and enhance green infrastructure to ensure that Leeds increases the amount, distribution and accessibility of green space as it grows;
 - increase the woodland cover across the district;
 - secure developer contributions towards enhancement of green infrastructure associated with development;
 - protect and promote the Leeds Habitat Network;
 - create an additional wetland nature reserve in the Lower Aire Valley at St Aidan’s former open cast site;
 - protect playing pitches and green space pending the conclusion of the PPG17 study.
- 3.65 The core strategy will provide the spatial land use strategy for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Leeds.

Supplementary Planning Guidance 4. Green space relating to new housing development (1998)

- 3.66 Where new housing development is proposed, the provision of adequate green space must be provided by developers as a cost on the development, as much a part of the infrastructure as sewerage, land drainage or highways.

- 3.67 The general policy approach towards the provision of green space in residential developments is conditioned by the following major considerations:
- the council seeks to achieve provision and standards in accordance with the Unitary Development Plan
 - green space is to be freely accessible by the public, not reserved for the private use of residents of the new development. It is to be provided and maintained at the cost of the developer, in accordance with design and maintenance schemes agreed by the council
 - new green space should be accessible to all users including the least mobile
 - green space should provide for a range of both passive and active recreational
 - quality of green space provision, as well as quantity, is important
 - green space should be designed to be easy and economic to maintain
- 3.68 This guidance may require replacement to ensure it reflects up-to-date standards and policies resulting from this study.

Summary

- 3.69 The provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities should contribute to the achievement of objectives such as social and community cohesion, urban renaissance and promoting a healthy and enjoyable life. The effective provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities offers multiple benefits to local residents. As well as providing a visual amenity, open spaces can also be central to the local community and provide an opportunity to participate in physical activity. The provision of open spaces can, therefore, contribute towards the creation of additional opportunities to improve the health and well being of communities.
- 3.70 Any development of open spaces (ie. provision of either new or enhancement of existing spaces) should take into account bio-diversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness, as well as facilitating the objective for increasing participation in sport and active recreation.
- 3.71 Many organisations are willing to work in partnership together to manage and develop existing open spaces and share similar aims and objectives eg protecting, enhancing and maximising the use and nature conservation value of open spaces. The importance of enhancing biodiversity across the region as well as maintaining and improving the green network is a key feature of many regional strategies.