

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

OUTDOOR PLAY INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2016 – 2021

Prepared in September 2015 by

Ashley Godfrey Associates
2, Fanhams Hall Road
Ware
Hertfordshire
SG12 7NN

Tel: 01920 466601
E-mail ashley@ashleygodfrey.co.uk



CONTENTS	PAGE No
Executive Summary	3
1. Strategic Vision & Aims	4
2. Background	6
3. The Case for Play.	8
4. The Strategy in Context.	9
5. Cambridge City Population Profile.	11
6. Financial Considerations	24
7. Auditing the Play Provision of Cambridge	27
8. Quality of Outdoor Play Spaces.	32
9. Key Issues.	42
10. Recommendations.	43

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX B: LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

APPENDIX C: WARD LEVEL CHILD POPULATION PROJECTIONS

APPENDIX D: PLAYABLE SPACE QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

APPENDIX E: QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF CAMBRIDGE OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES

Executive Summary

This strategy provides a framework to steer future outdoor play provision and associated investment decisions.

The strategy has been informed by a detailed audit of outdoor play provision including an assessment of quantity, quality and accessibility against current and future population growth. The results of this assessment have been used to identify deficiencies in provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

The strategy has been developed in consultation with both internal and external stakeholders including senior officers of the Council whose responsibilities relate to children's and young people's play provision.

The strategy makes recommendations which aim to maximise the use of available resources and associated future investment opportunities to deliver high quality, high value, well used outdoor play provision for children and young people over the period 2016 to 2021.

1 Strategic Vision and Aims

1.1 Vision

Play is a fundamental right¹ and need for the health and well-being of children and young people, and is crucial in shaping their development and learning. Cambridge City Council will support and promote investment in the sustainable provision of good quality, high value outdoor play, which meets the needs of the city's children and young people through the implementation of this strategy over the period 2016-2021.

1.2 Aims

In pursuit of this vision, the Council will focus on the following strategic aims:

- a) To sustain the provision of good quality/ high value outdoor play across the city;
- b) To provide equitable access to good quality/ high value outdoor play provision for all sections of the community;
- c) To target investment in the provision of high quality/ high value/ low cost outdoor play provision to address current deficiencies, both in terms of quantity and quality;
- d) To fully engage local children, young people and their families in the review and decision making process surrounding the provision of outdoor play; and
- e) To ensure outdoor play provision, especially on new development sites, is good quality/ high value and meets the needs of the catchment community.

1.3 Play Statements

Underpinning these aims, the Council will continue to pursue and promote the following seven 'Play Statements' from the Cambridge Play Strategy².

- a) We are committed to making sure that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments that offer challenge and provide opportunities to take 'acceptable' risks
- b) We understand that children and young people need opportunities to play on their own but, also very importantly with others
- c) We believe that children and young people enjoy a range of play opportunities but that the built environment is not always conducive to safe or accessible play. We will work alongside partner organisations to ensure that good quality play provision in new communities is prioritised
- d) We are committed to ensuring that environments, services and provision for play

¹ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

² Cambridge City Neighbourhood Play Strategy For Children and Young People 2007 - 2012

- are fun, child friendly, welcoming and accessible to all children and young people
- e) We will provide good quality play opportunities that support and promote children and young people's health and well being
 - f) We will continue to actively involve children and young people when developing all of our play opportunities and play spaces and engage with them other issues of local interest and importance that relate to their lives
 - g) Play facilities for children and young people will comply with all legislative requirements and be 'safe enough'

2. Background

2.1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this strategy is to review the Council's outdoor play provision and inform and guide its future investment and development over the period 2016-21. The aim is to reduce maintenance costs whilst sustaining and where possible improving the quality of the 'play offer'. In pursuing this strategy, the Council will ensure there is no loss of existing public open space.

Guidance provided by Play England has been followed in the preparation of this strategy³.

The strategy has been developed in accordance with the brief in **Appendix A**.

2.2 Framework of the Strategy

The strategy starts by defining play and demonstrating its value and significance for children and young people and the contribution it makes to wider agendas.

It then goes on to outline the local and strategic context for the strategy provides the direction for the development of the strategy. At the local level the strategy needs to address a number of cross cutting issues such as health and wellbeing and anti-poverty. In addition, there is a need for an understanding of the wider policy context within which the play investment strategy will need to be implemented.

An audit of outdoor play spaces in Cambridge includes assessments of quality. The audit informs an analysis of provision relative to needs and the population.

Consideration is given to the extent to which the existing stock of play areas meet the needs of the catchment community and to any deficiencies in provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

A review of the financial considerations looks at the annual revenue budget for maintaining the play spaces and the capital resources required to undertake major repairs and renewal of existing play areas which are reaching the end of their lifecycle. Management issues are covered including the need for regular inspection, routine maintenance, equipment and surfacing repair and minor replacements.

In addition the planning of new provision as part of new housing development is considered along with the requirement for financial contributions to upgrade existing play areas close to new development sites.

The strategy has been developed in consultation with both internal and external stakeholders including senior officers of the Council whose responsibilities relate to play provision, and children and young people.

³ Planning for Play: Guidance on the development and implementation of a local play strategy, 2006 and Embedding the Play Strategy 2010.

2.3 Defining, What is Play?

'Play' has been defined⁴ as, freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child or young person (inc. age range covered). This definition is widely recognised and understood in the play sector; in lay terms children are playing when they are doing what they want to do, in the way they want to and for their own reasons.

The term 'play provision' is used to describe settings where the primary aim is for children to play. Play England's objective⁵ for good play provision has been summarised as the delivery of play provision that is accessible, welcoming and engaging for all children and young people including those who are disabled or have specific needs and wishes; it is acknowledged that children and young people of different ages have different play interests and needs.

This strategy is concerned principally with dedicated outdoor playable spaces which are mostly equipped, although children often play in spaces with no specific play equipment. In general, play provision is considered to be open access where children can come and go as they please. A study carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 1996⁶ found that just 12% of outdoor play by children occurs in equipped play areas; in contrast, nearly half of all play was at that time in the street or on the pavement and 18% in public open space including amenity space, showing that this type of provision offers significant potential for children's play.

Outdoor play spaces are predominantly located in parks, recreation grounds, playing fields and other public open spaces or in housing estates, where they have been designed as part of the development plan, or included when the area has been re-developed or renovated.

⁴ Children's Play Council (2002) Making the Case for Play

⁵ Tools for evaluating local play provision: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators. Ashley Godfrey Associates and INSPIRE. October 2009

⁶ Child's Play: facilitating play on housing estates; Rob Wheway and Alison Millward, JRF 1997

3. The Case for Play

Good play experiences enrich children's lives in a number of ways and have wider benefits for health, well-being and learning and development. Play can also bring benefits to other agendas including education, the environment and the community.

3.1 Health and Well-Being

Play fosters both physical and psychological health and well-being in children. Play gives children opportunities for physical play exercise and supports psychological well-being through increasing confidence levels, satisfaction, pride and sense of self-worth and as a result self-esteem.⁷ The Chief Medical Officer noted⁸ that "active play involving carrying, climbing, rough and tumble will help develop and maintain muscular fitness and flexibility"

3.2 Child Development

Play also helps children's social development through learning to cooperate with other children, sharing and taking turns. Children can also learn how to resolve conflicts with other children and to develop team work and leadership skills such as the control of impulses and aggressive behavior. They also learn to express themselves through play both verbally and non-verbally.⁹

⁷ Play and health: making the links, Policy Briefing 3, Play England, 2008.

⁸ Chief Medical Officer (2004) At Least Five a Week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health, Department of Health.

⁹ Casey, T. (2002) Play Inclusive Action Research Project, The Yard. Ludvigsen, A., Creegan, C. and Mills, H. (2005) Lets Play Together: Play and inclusion evaluation of better play round three, Barnardo's. Woolby, H., Armitage, M., Bishop, J., Curtis, M. and Ginsberg, J. (2006) Informing Change: Inclusion of disabled children in primary school playgrounds, Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

4. The Strategy in Context

This section examines relevant local and national policies and strategies.

4.1 Children's right to play

The right to play (and informal recreation), for all children and young people up to 18 years of age, is enshrined in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK Government in 1991. The Government and the Council has a duty under this convention to protect and promote play opportunities for all children and young people.

4.2 Strategic Context

In response to the growing demand for better play opportunities, in 2008 the Government recognised the importance of play to child development and produced a national play strategy¹⁰ which set out plans to improve and develop play facilities for children throughout the country. The strategy identified the importance of free play, particularly outdoors, as being fundamental to children's learning, healthy growth and development.

More recently the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on 'A Fit and Healthy Childhood' has produced a report, 'The Early Years'¹¹. The APPG contends that play is an integral component of child health and wellbeing and recommends that the government:

- revises the 2008 National Play Strategy¹²
- introduces statutory performance measures of children's play using EU indices of child health and wellbeing
- establishes a standard for the amount of time that children should play during their early years and at school
- fosters child-friendly communities through planning

Guidance produced by Play England, 'Better Places to Play Through Planning'¹³ aims to support local planning and transport authorities to develop and implement planning policy that ensures children and young people have access to high quality playable spaces close to where they live and spend their time.

4.3 Play England typology

Play England has developed a typology of play spaces.¹⁴ This defines play provision as spaces and facilities that are free of charge, where children are free to come and

¹⁰ The Play Strategy. DCFS and DCMS 2008.

¹¹ 'The Early Years', A report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on A Fit and Healthy Childhood, 2015.

¹² The APPG is currently preparing a report on a revised strategy, to be published in summer 2015

¹³ Better Places to Play Through Planning. Play England 2008.

¹⁴ Tools for evaluating local play provision: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators. Ashley Godfrey Associates 2009

go (other than where safety is an issue for children with particular needs), and where they are free to choose what they do – the so-called “three frees”. The typology of play spaces is shown in **Table 4.1**

Table 4.1: Play England Typology of Play Spaces

Type of Play Space	Description	Walking Distance (metres)
Type A: ‘Door-step’ spaces and facilities for play and informal recreation	<i>A small space, within sight of home, where children, especially young children can play within view of known adults.</i>	100
Type B: ‘Local’ spaces and facilities for play and informal recreation	<i>A larger space which can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends, without accompanying adults and for adults with young children to walk to with ease.</i>	400
Type C: ‘Neighbourhood’ spaces and facilities for play and informal recreation.	<i>A larger space or facility for informal recreation which children and young people, used, can get to safely and spend time in play and informal recreation with their peers and have a wider range of play experiences.</i>	1,000

NB The Play England typology is the accepted national approach to the classification of play spaces and has been applied to outdoor play spaces in Cambridge and used in the development of this strategy.

4.4 Local Context

This strategy takes account of and is informed by key Council strategies and these have been used in formulating the recommendations. The relevant documents include:

- The Council’s Vision for Cambridge and the seven themes for the achievement of the Vision;
- Cambridge Local Plan 2014 – Draft Submission Plan;
- Sports & Physical Activity Action Plan 2015 – 2017;
- Cambridge City Neighbourhood Play Strategy For Children and Young People 2007 – 2012;
- Cambridge Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-2017; and
- Cambridge Parks - Managing the City’s Asset 2010 to 2014.

A summary of these documents can be found in **Appendix B**.

5. Cambridge City Population Profile

5.1 Demographics

In the short term Cambridge is likely to experience significant population growth. The projections¹⁵ indicate that the population of 132,000 in 2014 will carry on rising for at least the next decade, adding about another 20,000 people in that time. However, in the longer term, the projections suggest that the city's population may start to fall slightly in about twelve years' time. It's also interesting to note that it's the younger age bands that are set to reduce the most. Details of the population projections broken down into age groups can be found in **Appendix C**.

It's clear from **Chart 5.1** below that the bulk of the population growth over the next few years is expected in Castle and Trumpington wards, which each contain major housing developments..

Chart 5.1: Population Growth in Cambridge Wards 2011 – 2031.

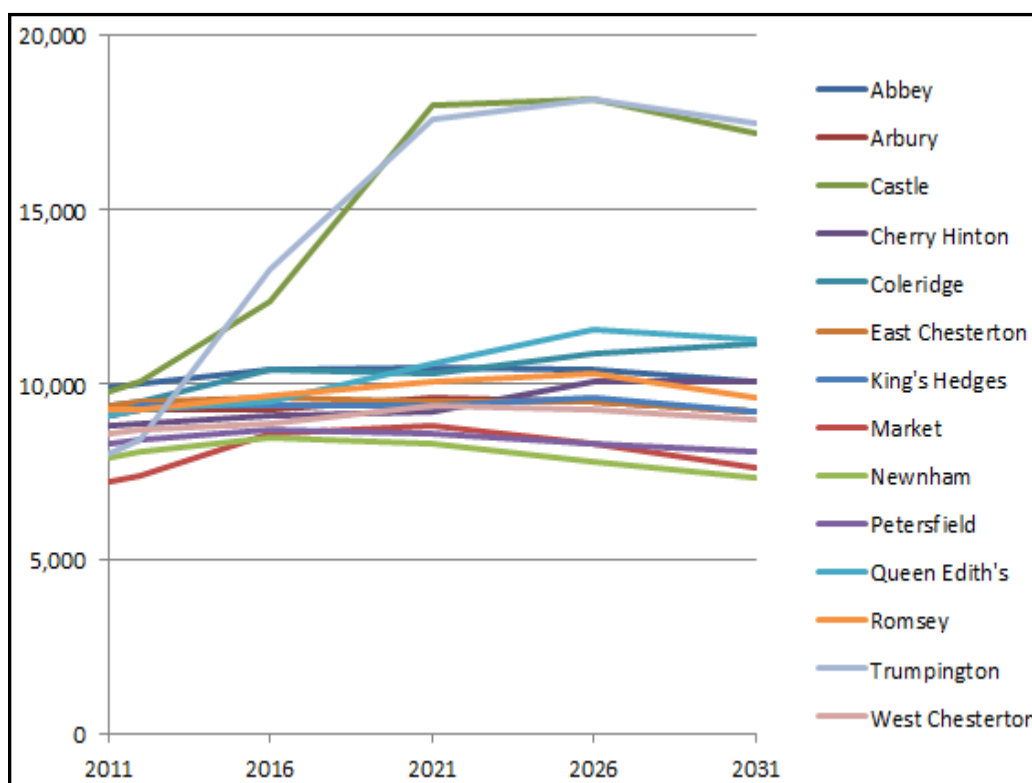


Chart 5.1 shows that the population is projected to increase steadily while the growth sites are being built out. Empirical evidence from other large housing development supports the view that during this phase the population will increase with the arrival of new households to take up the new housing. The age structure of those moving

¹⁵ Source: Population forecasts by ward and age, 2011 to 2036: Cambridge City, Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council 2015.

into the development is likely to be relatively young and the average household size will initially be high.

Once the housing development is complete, there will be some in- and out-migration however the concentration of initial occupiers that had young families when they first arrived will move into middle age. As a greater proportion of the population falls into older age bands, the average household size will decline and so the size of the population also declines. The population of the Growth Sites will become more like the population of the mature surrounding settlements.

Because the population is initially young, the number of children is relatively high. The child yield i.e. the number of children aged 0 to 15 years per household is initially much higher in new developments compared to more mature settlements but drops back in the longer term. This is shown in **Chart 5.2** below.

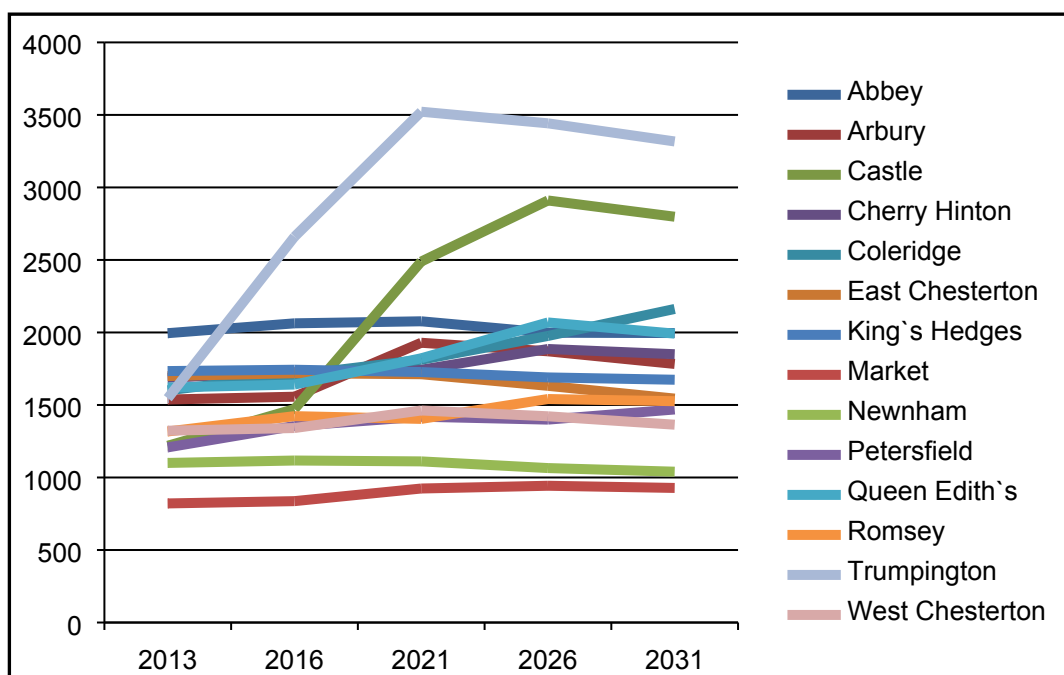
The long-term context for the population projections is one in which the UK population is aging and the number of childless households will increase, and so the Cambridge child yield numbers is likely to decline in the longer term. Gradually, over time, the age profile of the new developments will be similar to that in surrounding areas of the City.

The child population figures used for **Chart 5.2** are based on the population forecasts by ward and age for Cambridge City produced by the Research Group at Cambridgeshire County Council¹⁶. It was not considered appropriate to use the Office of National Statistics (ONS) projections because these are trend-based, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels. ONS population projections are not forecasts and, as such, do not attempt to predict the impact that development might have on demographic change. The Cambridgeshire County Council forecasts take account of the increase in population resulting from known development proposals including the Northern Fringe West Development and the Southern Fringe development.

The ward level changes in child population mirror those in **Chart 5.2** for the total ward population. The detailed child population projections for wards, broken down into three age groups, can be found in **Appendix C**.

¹⁶ Population forecasts by ward and age, 2011 to 2036: Cambridge City, Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council 2015.

Chart 5.2 Changes in Ward Child Population 2013-2031



Source: Based on population forecasts by ward and age, 2011 to 2036: Cambridge City, Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council 2015.

Table 5.2: Child Population by Ward (Ranked)

2013	0-5	6-10	11-15	Total
Abbey	896	530	569	1995
King's Hedges	755	475	509	1739
East Chesterton	716	480	509	1705
Cherry Hinton	753	465	475	1693
Queen Edith's	576	480	570	1626
Coleridge	600	450	556	1606
Trumpington ¹⁷	573	465	514	1552
Arbury	662	410	470	1542
West Chesterton	516	380	431	1327
Romsey	599	295	426	1320
Castle ¹⁸	330	200	690	1220
Petersfield	433	315	463	1211
Newnham	273	265	565	1103
Market	196	130	496	822
TOTAL	7870	5350	7250	20470

Source: Based on population forecasts by ward and age, 2011 to 2036: Cambridge City, Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council 2015.

¹⁷ Includes Southern Fringe Development

¹⁸ Includes Northern Fringe West Development

Table 5.2 shows the child population in all of Cambridge's wards in 2013, split into the three age bands. There are currently 20,470 children and young people under the age of 16 in Cambridge or 16% of the total population. In terms of absolute numbers of children and young people under the age of 16, **Table 5.3** shows that the ward with the largest number of children under 16 is Abbey with 1995 which represents 19.6% of the total population, the highest proportion of all wards. The second largest number of children is in King's Hedges with 1,739 children or 18.5% of the total ward population. The ward with the lowest number and proportion of children is Market with just 822 children or 11% of the total ward population.

The type of play provision provided will depend on the age and abilities of the children who are likely to use the play equipment provided. The Play England typology recommends that small spaces near housing (Type A spaces), specifically designed for play might have some small items of equipment for children up to five years old or alternatively the focus could be on the landscape setting, with an emphasis on natural features rather than on fixed equipment. A playground with a larger range of equipment, say, four to eight items possibly with space for ball games is likely to be aimed at 5–11s (Type B space). Finally, facilities for older children and teenagers (Type C spaces) are likely to have additional equipment which is challenging to older children and may have a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and/or wheeled sports facilities. These sites will serve a considerably wider area than that for the younger age groups.

Table 5.3: Numbers and proportion of children and young people under the age of 16 in each ward.

Ward	Population under 16 (2013)	Proportion of total children under 16 in population
Abbey	1995	19.6%
King`s Hedges	1739	18.5%
East Chesterton	1705	17.6%
Cherry Hinton	1693	18.8%
Queen Edith`s	1626	17.5%
Coleridge	1606	16.6%
Trumpington	1552	17.2%
Arbury	1542	16.6%
West Chesterton	1327	15.1%
Romsey	1320	14.2%
Castle	1220	11.8%
Petersfield	1211	14.2%
Newnham	1103	13.6%
Market	822	11.0%
Total	20470	16.0%

Source: Local Authority Population Forecasts by Age, 2011 to 2036, Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council, 2015

By 2031 it is projected that the City's child population will have increased to 26,890 or 18% of the total population. **Table 5.4** and **Chart 5.1** show how this group is projected to change over the next sixteen years. In the period 2016 to 2020, the child population is estimated to increase by 3,020 (12.8 %) to 26,320 by 2021 and then by 750 (2.8%) to 27,320 by 2026. The child population is then projected to decline by 430 (-1.6%) by 2031. Overall it is projected that the number of children aged 0-15 years will have increased by 5,350 (24.8%) in the period 2013 to 2031.

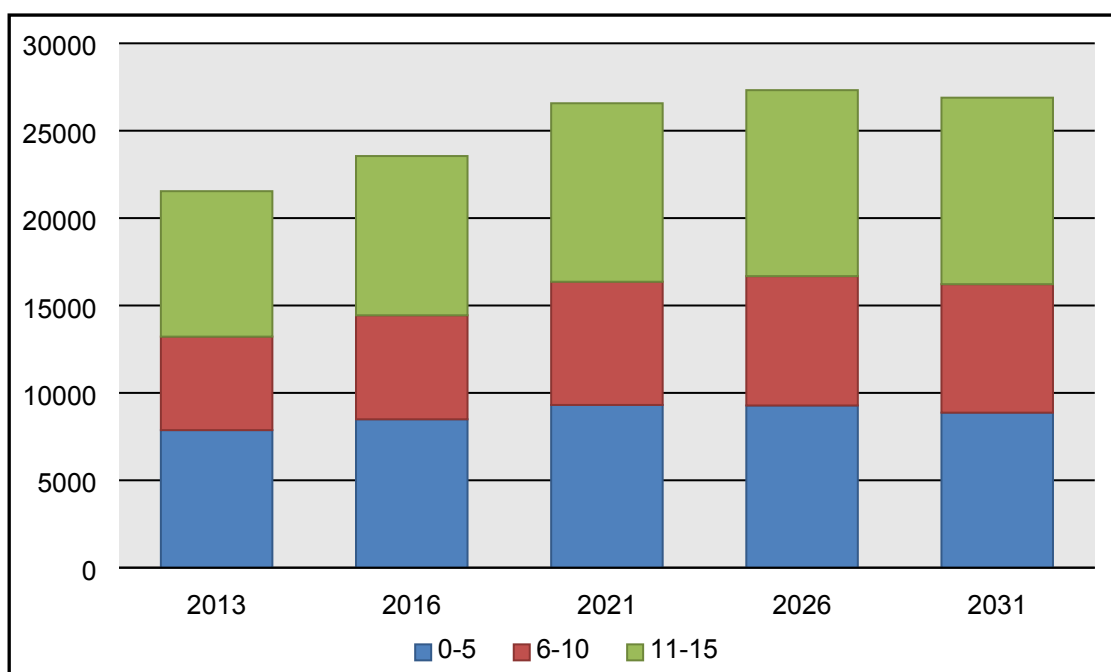
Table 5.4: Changes in Population of Children & Young People in Cambridge 2014-2031

Age Group	2013	2016	2021	2026	2031
Children 0-5	7,870	8,490	9,310	9,280	8,870
6-10 year olds	5,350	5,950	7,050	7,400	7,350
11-15 year olds	8,320	9,110	10,120	10,640	10,670
Total 0-15 Years	21,540	23,550	26,570	27,320	26,890

Source: Based on population forecasts by ward and age, 2011 to 2036: Cambridge City, Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council.

The growth in the numbers of children and young people in the period 2015 to 2020 will require additional play and informal recreation provision to meet the needs of the existing and future population.

Chart 5.1: Change in Numbers of Children 0-15 years 2013 to 2031



5.2 Health & Deprivation

The health of children in Cambridge is generally higher than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 14.9% (2,475) children live in poverty compared to the England average of 19.2%. In Year 6, 16.1% (124) of Cambridge's children are classified as obese which is better than the average for England of 19.1%.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 (IMD) is a single measure of deprivation which brings together seven different individual indices relating to income; employment; education, skills and training; housing; crime; and living environment. As **Map 5.1** shows, the IMD identifies there are two areas within Kings Hedges which fall within the 20% most deprived areas in the country. There are a further 18 areas in the city which are amongst the 40% most deprived areas nationally.

As **Table 5.5** and **Map 5.1** show, seven of Cambridge's 14 wards contain the district's most deprived LSOAs (Local Super Output Areas). Most of those wards and LSOAs are located in the north and east of the city. King's Hedges ward contains the largest number of Cambridge's 20% most deprived LSOAs, with four. It is made up of six LSOAs in total.¹⁹

¹⁹ Deprivation in Cambridgeshire Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 Brief report prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group, May 2011.

Table 5.5: 20% most deprived LSOAs in Cambridge

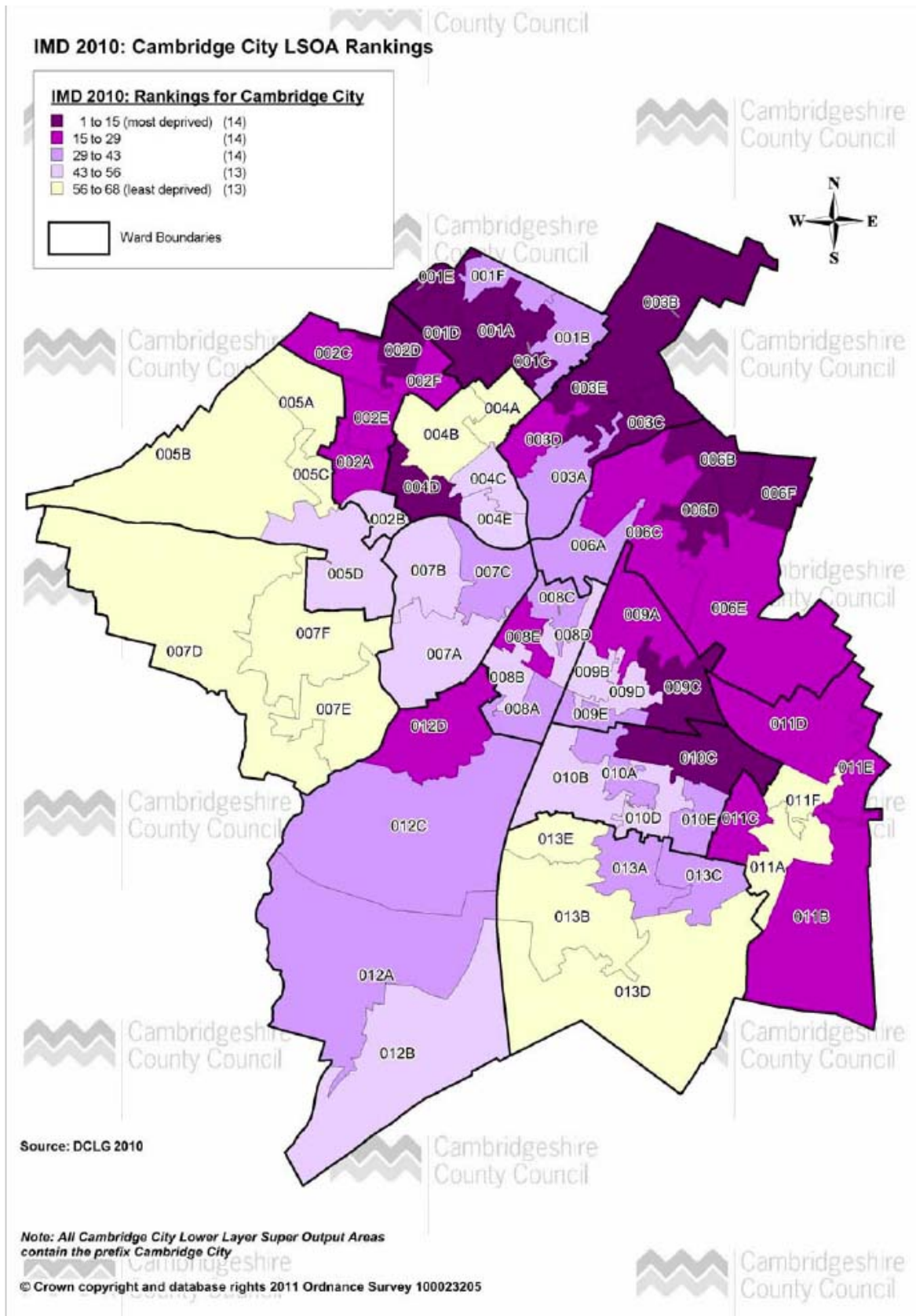
District Rank	LSOAName	Ward	IMD Score	National Rank 2010	% National Rank	National Rank 2007	Change
1	Cambridge 001E	King's Hedges	35.80	5942	18.3%	7353	-1411
2	Cambridge 001D	King's Hedges	35.19	6152	18.9%	7985	-1833
3	Cambridge 006F	Abbey	33.41	6769	20.8%	8223	-1454
4	Cambridge 006D	Abbey	33.03	6925	21.3%	9494	-2569
5	Cambridge 001A	King's Hedges	32.55	7111	21.9%	7377	-266
6	Cambridge 003B	East Chesterton	30.55	7949	24.5%	9242	-1293
7	Cambridge 002D	Arbury	30.50	7977	24.6%	10529	-2552
8	Cambridge 001C	King's Hedges	27.85	9208	28.3%	11166	-1958
9	Cambridge 003E	East Chesterton	27.26	9506	29.3%	13078	-3572
10	Cambridge 006B	Abbey	26.96	9636	29.7%	11265	-1629
11	Cambridge 010C	Coleridge	25.79	10246	31.5%	12997	-2751
12	Cambridge 004D	West Chesterton	25.31	10498	32.3%	10003	+495
13	Cambridge 003C	East Chesterton	24.48	10979	33.8%	12308	-1329
14	Cambridge 009C	Romsey	24.29	11108	34.2%	14154	-3046

Source: DCLG, IMD 2010

The most deprived 20% of Cambridge's LSOAs (14 in total) rank within the most deprived 40% nationally but outside of the most deprived 10%.

Map 5.1: Cambridge IMD

The LSOAs shaded darkest represent the most deprived 20% of LSOAs in Cambridge.



5.3 Child Poverty

The Cambridge Anti-Poverty Strategy points out that by focusing solely on income-based measures of poverty, there is the risk that some of the wider causes and effects of poverty on individuals and households in Cambridge is missed. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) provides the following broader definition of poverty:

“income and resources are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living considered acceptable in the society in which they live. Because of their poverty they may experience multiple disadvantage through unemployment, low income, poor housing, inadequate health care and barriers to lifelong learning, culture, sport and recreation. They are often excluded and marginalised from participating in activities (economic, social and cultural) that are the norm for other people.”

Evidence suggests that people living in poverty in Cambridge experience the multiple disadvantages identified by the JRF.

A significant proportion of children in Cambridge live either in poverty, or in low income households²⁰. Improved play provision can help to improve the quality of life of children in Cambridge and support the objectives of the Anti-Poverty Strategy. (see **Appendix B**).

Table 5.6 shows two measures of poverty, where income is measured before housing costs and after housing costs. The average of three years of data is used for greater accuracy. The proportion of people in low income is always lower on a 'before deducting housing costs' measure than on an 'after deducting housing costs' measure, although the two have followed similar trends over time.

The proportion of people in low income in Cambridge is much higher on an 'after deducting housing costs' measure than on a 'before deducting housing costs' measure. This is a reflection of the high costs of housing in the City.

²⁰ The most commonly used threshold of low income is a household income that is 60% or less of the average (median) British household income in that year.

Table 5.6: Percentage of children in poverty, October-December 2013

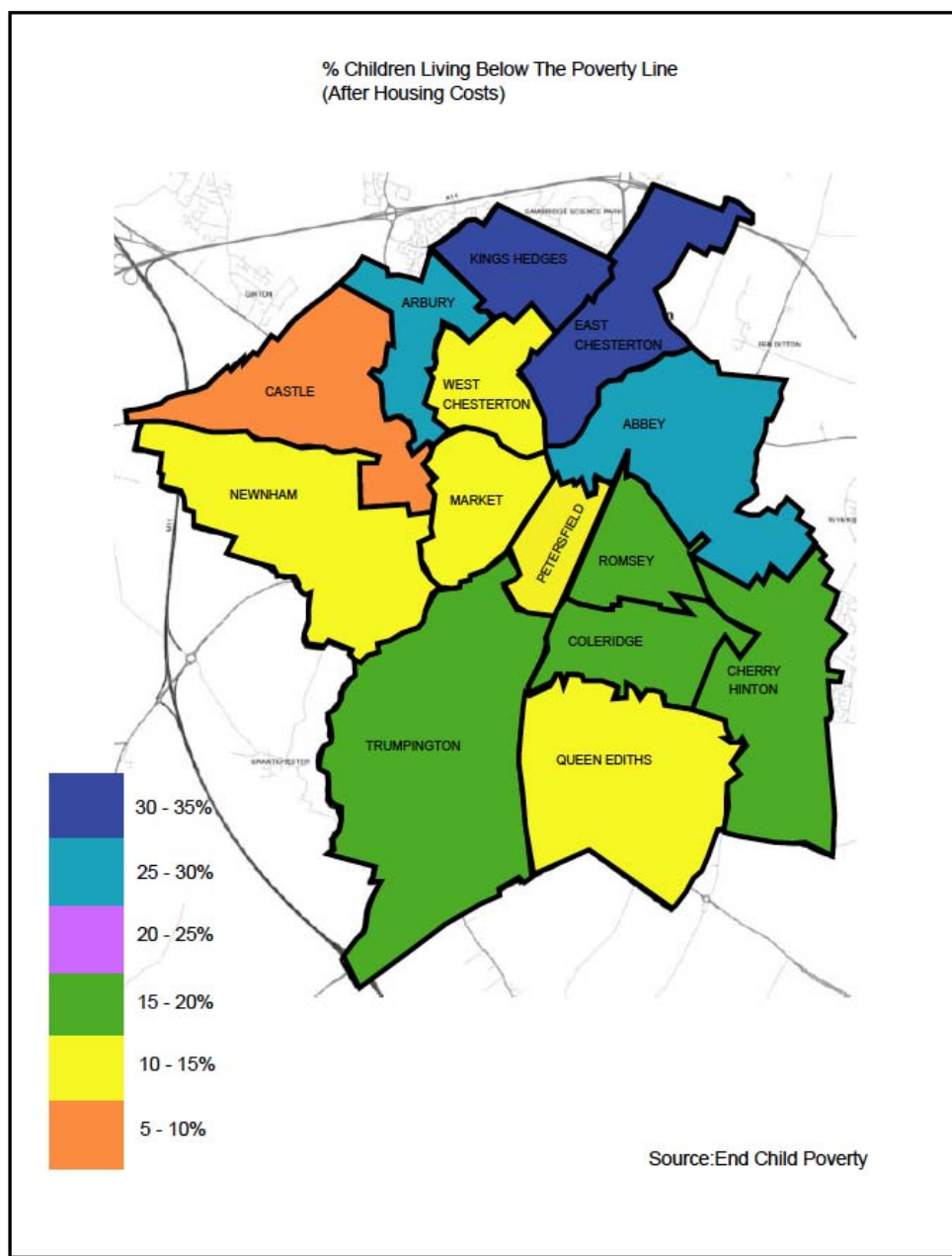
Local Authority & Wards	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
King's Hedges	22.05%	33.82%
East Chesterton	20.24%	31.31%
Abbey	16.89%	27.03%
Arbury	17.06%	26.75%
Cambridge	13.04%	20.81%
Romsey	11.50%	18.43%
Trumpington	11.31%	18.09%
Coleridge	10.36%	16.65%
Cherry Hinton	9.75%	15.87%
Market	9.32%	14.97%
Petersfield	9.28%	14.90%
Newnham	9.07%	14.46%
West Chesterton	7.40%	11.97%
Queen Edith's	6.83%	11.16%
Castle	4.61%	7.54%

Source: The Campaign to End Child Poverty

In January 2014, the Institute for Fiscal Studies published projections showing that poverty is projected to rise from 2.3m (2011-12) to 3.2m by 2020 on the statutory Before Housing Costs measure. On the After Housing Costs measure, the IFS projected child poverty would increase from 3.5m (2011-12) to 4.6m by 2020.

As might be expected, child poverty rates are higher in the more disadvantaged areas of Cambridge. The wards in Cambridge with the highest rates of child poverty are King's Hedges (33.82%), East Chesterton (31.31%) and Abbey (27.03%). There are two wards in Cambridge which fall within the top ten wards in Cambridgeshire with the highest percentage of households with dependent children where there are no adults in employment. These are Abbey where the figure is 18.5% and in Kings Hedges the figure is 16.7%.

Map 5.2: Child Poverty in Cambridge



Evidence suggests that particular types of household, such as lone parents, are more likely to be on low incomes and therefore may be more likely to struggle with the costs of bringing up children. Almost four out of five lone parent households in the City claim housing benefit. 41% of the 798 lone parents in the city with dependent children are not in employment. In Abbey, Castle and East Chesterton wards this figure rises to 51.4%, 48.6% and 46.2% respectively.²¹

²¹ Cambridge Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-2017

5.4 Access to Play Opportunities

Children have a right to play²² however; there is evidence that lower income families are likely to have difficulties of access to play provision. A two-year assessment of more than 200 communities found that those with higher poverty rates were significantly less likely to have access to parks and play areas.²³ In part this problem can be addressed by providing spaces that are 'close to home' where children can access safely and independently when they are able to. Consideration therefore needs to be given to where the larger Type C spaces are located in the wards with higher levels of child poverty.

²² UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31 (Leisure, play and culture): Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.

²³ Powell L, Slater S, Chaloupka F. "The Relationship between Community Physical Activity Settings and Race, Ethnicity and Socioeconomic Status." *Evidence-Based Preventive Medicine*, 1(2): 135–144, 2004.

6. Financial Considerations

6.1 Government Spending Plans

As with all local authorities, the City Council is continuing to face significant budgetary pressures due to a reduction in Government funding associated with the global economic downturn and public sector austerity agenda. Over the period 2010-15, the Council has already delivered £11 million in annual revenue savings. In October 2014, the Council published its Mid-year Financial Review which identified a further budget requirement of ~£6 million in net revenue savings across the Council up to 2020. This equates to a total net budget reduction across the Council of around 30%. At the same time as the Council is experiencing financial pressures, Cambridge is experiencing significant growth, with 33,000 new homes and 22,000 new jobs to be provided in and around the city by 2031. As a consequence of this growth, the Council is adopting and taking on the management of additional public realm assets whilst continuing to ensure it maintains the quality of its existing infrastructure, including the city's historic streets, parks and open spaces.

6.2 Capital Funding

The estimated average capital cost of refurbishment/replacement of play space, by type, is shown in **Table 6.1** below.

Table 6.1: Renewals/Replacement of Existing Equipment

Type of Play Space ²⁴	Cost	Current Provision	Total (£)
Type A	£10,000	36	£360,000
Type B	£30,000	41	£75,000
Type C	£120,000	11	£1.3 million

The Council has a Capital Plan and manages bids to it, via an officer led capital programme board.

6.3 Revenue Funding

Cambridge City Council currently manages 88 public play areas across 14 wards with an annual revenue budget of approximately £84,000. This budget covers routine maintenance, equipment and surfacing repair and minor replacements, painting and topping up loose fill surfaces (bark & sand). In addition to the annual revenue budget referred to above, a further £77,000 is allocated to undertake major repairs of existing play equipment which is reaching the end of its product lifecycle (typically 11 years). There is also additional operational staff salary costs associated with daily

²⁴ See Para 3.1 for definitions

inspections, litter collection and cleaning. Based on these costs, it is estimated the average annual maintenance cost for a play area is ~ c £1,800 not including overheads at 26%.

6.4 S106 Agreements

The council has used planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as s106 agreements to mitigate the impact of development and make it acceptable in planning terms. Contributions are used in line with the purposes set out in S106 agreements and in line with the three statutory tests set out in CIL Regulations.

Off-site generic S106 contributions for play provision, which were secured via S106 agreements completed before 6 April 2015, have been used to provide or improve play areas within the city. The same applies to the S106 informal open space contributions (which can be used for play area landscaping, skateparks and BMX tracks) and S106 outdoor sports contributions (which can be used for multi-use games areas).

- This funding will continue to be used in this way for as long as it remains available, but it is important to note that these contributions (agreed before 6 April 2015) are running down and the receipt of new contributions (triggered by the commencement of development) is tapering off.
- The council has devolved to area committees decisions over the use of devolved S106 contributions for play areas, informal open space and outdoor sports (amongst other contribution types). The funding available to each area varies significantly, depending on the level of development in that area and how much S106 funding has previously been invested in the area's play areas.
- Meanwhile, executive councillors continue to set priorities over the use of such contributions assigned to a strategic fund (eg, for play areas which serve play areas with catchment areas that straddle area committee boundaries).

Since new S106 pooling constraints came into force on 6 April 2015, the council's focus is now on securing off-site S106 contributions for specific projects. The updated audit of play area provision will help to identify where existing play area provision is likely to be over-stretched by the impact of new development and, hence, where S106 contributions for specific play areas is needed.

The council will be introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy once the draft Local Plan and CIL charging schedule have been examined and adopted. However, play area provision is not included on the draft R123 list (which sets out the types of facilities for which CIL funding will be collected) so the need for S106 contributions for specific play area projects is set to continue beyond the local implementation of CIL.

6.5 External Funding

External resources of funding for outdoor play are limited. There may be opportunities to apply for capital funding from Landfill Tax or Sport England

programme sources, however these sources are unlikely to provide for any associated ongoing revenue funding.

The Council will work with Friends Groups or other interested community groups who will to become involved in the provision of outdoor play spaces. The Council already supports a number of established and active Friends Groups who undertake a range of different green space management support functions including conservation work, organising community events and activities.

6.6 New Provision as part of Housing Developments

Where the play space is to be adopted by the City Council, the annual costs of maintenance will be funded for the first twelve years. There after these costs, together with any associated equipment/ facilities refurbishment and replacement costs will fall in fill to the City Council.

The Council will work with developers and communities to review alternative play space management arrangements, including management companies, and community asset transfer.

7. Auditing the Play Provision of Cambridge

The audit focused on categorising existing outdoor play spaces using the Play England:

Type A: Doorstep Play Space,

Type B: Local Play Space,

Type C: Neighbourhood Play Space and assessed against the relevant criteria for that type of space.

Adopting this approach does not mean that play is restricted to dedicated 'reservations'; children and young people do not limit where they play or hang out to dedicated equipped spaces, and will use a wide range of spaces including the street, civic spaces, parks, playing fields and amenity greenspace. There are therefore many other types of open space that will provide informal play opportunities.

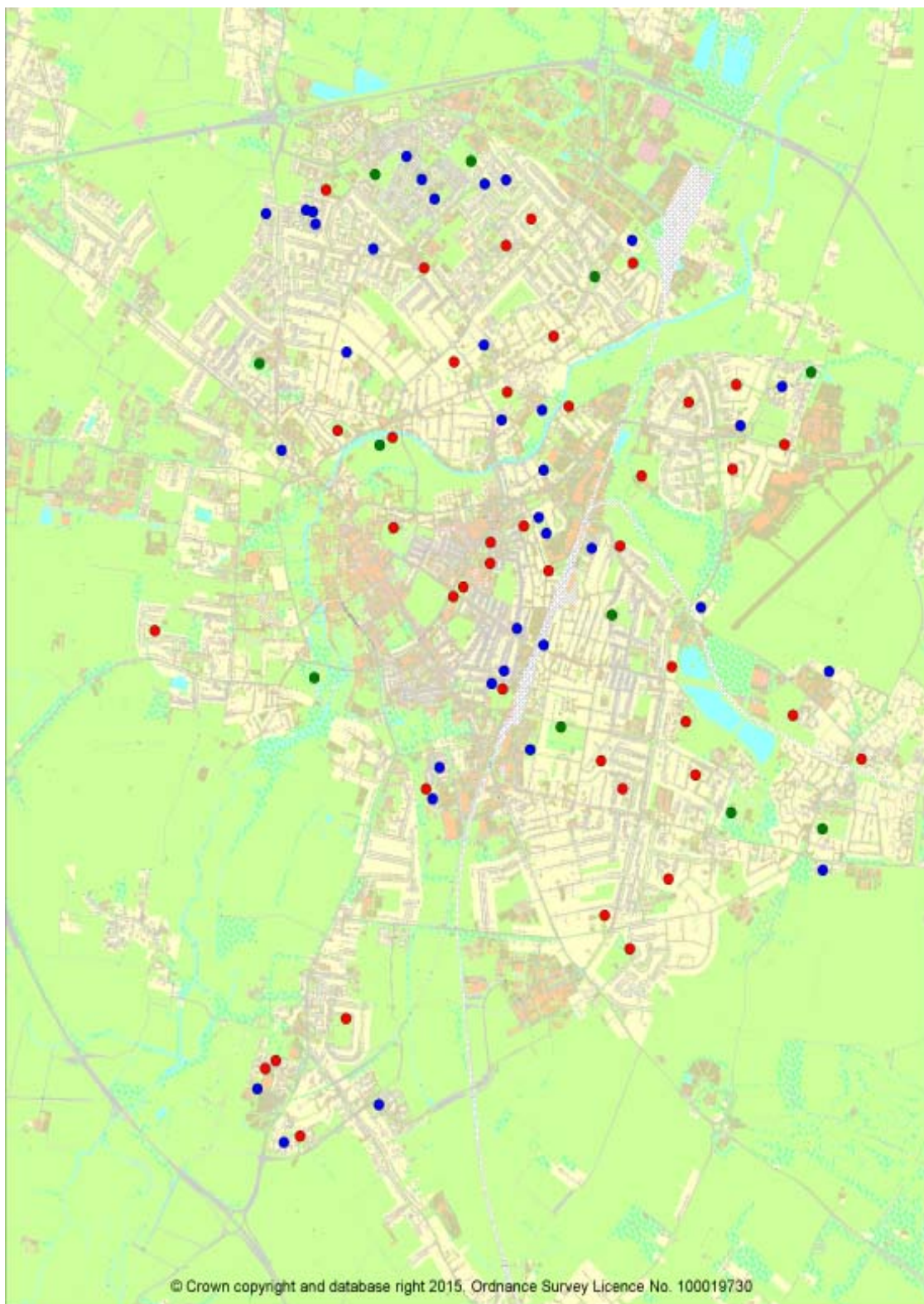
7.1 Quantity

The scope of the audit was confined to outdoor play spaces catering for the needs of children and young people.

Provision for older children (young people), included facilities such as skateboard parks, basketball courts and 'open access' Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). These facilities were included in the assessment of Type C spaces. Details of the play spaces audited can be found in **Appendix C**.

There are currently 88 outdoor play spaces in Cambridge. Some sites comprise an equipped play space and youth provision; others contain either an equipped playable space or youth provision only. These sites are identified on **Map 7.1**

Map 7.1: Location of Play Areas



- KEY**
- Type A
 - Type B
 - Type C

Table 7.1: Play space provision in each ward.

Ward	Type of play area	Number of play areas	Child Population 0-15 years	Children 0-15 years per play area.
Abbey	Type A	2	1,942	216
	Type B	6		
	Type C	1		
Arbury	Type A	5	1,527	218
	Type B	2		
	Type C	0		
Castle	Type A	1	711	356
	Type B	0		
	Type C	1		
Cherry Hinton	Type A	2	1,718	286
	Type B	2		
	Type C	2		
Coleridge	Type A	1	1,483	212
	Type B	5		
	Type C	1		
East Chesterton	Type A	4	1,677	186
	Type B	4		
	Type C	1		
King's Hedges	Type A	5	1,763	196
	Type B	2		
	Type C	2		
Market	Type A	0	450	150
	Type B	2		
	Type C	1		
Newnham	Type A	0	763	382
	Type B	1		
	Type C	1		
Petersfield	Type A	7	1,047	81
	Type B	6		
	Type C	0		
Queen Edith's	Type A	1	1,539	385
	Type B	3		
	Type C	0		
Romsey	Type A	3	1,278	213
	Type B	2		
	Type C	1		
Trumpington	Type A	4	1,435	159
	Type B	5		

Ward	Type of play area	Number of play areas	Child Population 0-15 years	Children 0-15 years per play area.
	Type C	0		
West Chesterton	Type A	1	1,275	638
	Type B	1		
	Type C	0		
Cambridge	Type A	36		
	Type B	41		
	Type C	11	20,470	233

The ward with the highest number of children aged 0-15 years (1,942) is the Abbey Ward. This ward has 9 play areas and the number of children aged 0-15 years per play area is 216. The wards with the lowest number of play areas are Castle, Newnham and West Chesterton all of which have just two play areas. The ward with the lowest number of children aged 0-15 years is Market Ward with 450 children aged 0-15 years which has 3 play areas.

Table 7.2 compares provision in Cambridge with the corresponding local authorities. The overall number of children per play area in Cambridge is 211 which is a better level of provision than Southampton, Oxford and Kingston-upon-Thames. Only Brighton & Hove has a better level of provision with 191 children per play area.

Table 7.2: Comparison of Play Provision with ONS Corresponding Local Authorities

Local Authority	No. of Play Areas	No of children 0-15 years	Children per play area
Brighton and Hove	45	16,650	191
Cambridge	88	18,581	211
Southampton	45	20940	241
Oxford	87	24,990	287
Kingston-upon-Thames	28	32276	371
Bristol	153	81,800	940

7.3 Provision for Young People

Multi-use games areas (MUGAs) are intended primarily for ball games. The most common dimension for a 'one court' facility for 5-a-side football, tennis, netball and outdoor basketball is 37 metres by 17.5 metres.

There are MUGAs at Coleridge Recreation Ground, Nightingale Recreation Ground, and Coldhams Common. In addition, there are skateboard/BMX facilities at Petersfield and at Jesus Green. Also, there is a 2 skate ramp facility and MUGA at Nuns Way.

Recent S106 Projects which have delivered teenage provision are:

- Panna Goal at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground;
- Skate Ramp at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground;
- Skateboard/BMX facility at Browns Fields;
- Scooter/Mini Wheels facility at Accordia;
- Skateboard/BMX facility at Nunns Way; and
- BMX Track in Browns Field

These spaces are all open access and available for play.

7.4 Provision for Children with Disabilities

Play equipment specifically designed to cater for the needs of children with disabilities has been provided at a number of play areas. One example where inclusive play facilities have been installed is at Jesus Green. All new and adapted play areas now have disabled equipment incorporated into the overall play offer.

8. Quality of Outdoor Play Spaces in Cambridge

Quality was assessed using the Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool advocated by Play England²⁵. The criteria used in this assessment can be found in **Appendix D**. The assessment focuses on three major aspects of children's outdoor play: the location of play areas, their play value, and the level of care and maintenance. Scores are obtained for the three aspects individually.

8.1 Location

Research²⁶ shows that location is the single most important factor in how well children use open spaces. In general, children like to play locally where they can be seen, see others and meet others. Young people are able to roam further and can therefore use neighbourhood play areas, although they too like to feel safe wherever they are "hanging out".

The scoring is designed to identify the suitability of the location of play areas and spaces where children may play.

8.2 Play value

The assessment deliberately does not focus exclusively on the fixed equipment in outdoor play spaces, but considers the different ways in which children can experience sensations such as rocking, swinging and sliding – this is particularly true for some disabled children whose impairments may mean they cannot, for example, sit on traditional swings. It seeks to capture the variety of different opportunities available to a child and the ways in which he or she can access different types of play. Quiet, contemplative play is as important as boisterous, physical play and although children will play in their own way in any given area, their play can be enriched through creating appropriate and stimulating play environments.

Children need to take risks to learn about and understand their own capabilities. Risk does not mean creating hazardous environments, but it does mean ensuring opportunities for challenge are available through design.

8.3 Care and maintenance

All play areas should enable children to play free from hazards. This section aims to assess the quality of care and maintenance.

The ranking of each dedicated children's play area is determined by whether the score achieved is above or below the median.²⁷

²⁵ <http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/211694/quality-assessment-tool.pdf>

²⁶ Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool, Inspire for Play England, 2009; Child's Play: facilitating play on housing estates; Rob Wheway and Alison Millward, JRF 1997; Can Play Will Play, John A and Wheway R, Fields in Trust, 2004.

²⁷ The median of a population is the point that divides the distribution of scores in half. Numerically, half of the scores in a population will have values that are equal to or larger than the median and half will have values that

8.4 Quality Assessments

Table 8.1 below shows the rankings in terms of location, play value, care and maintenance and overall for each ward. Those spaces that scored above the median are ranked as high and those below are ranked as low.

Table 8.1: Ranking of quality scores in each sub-area

Committee Areas	Ranking to median	Location	Play Value	Care & Maintenance	Total Quality Score
North	Above	13	12	14	16
	Below	14	15	13	11
South	Above	12	11	11	10
	Below	7	8	8	9
East	Above	17	16	16	15
	Below	18	19	19	20
West/Central	Above	4	5	4	6
	Below	3	2	3	1
Cambridge Total	Above	46	44	45	47
	Below	42	44	43	41

Table 8.1 indicates that there are some geographic differences in the quality of play areas. The South ward has more spaces scoring on or above the median for all three criteria in the quality assessment. A similar pattern can be seen for the West/Central Area although the number of play spaces in this ward is much smaller. The East sub area shows the opposite in that there are more spaces scoring below the median than above for all three criteria although the differences are not great. The North sub area has more spaces scoring below the median for Location and Play Value.

The median score for location is 80%. Two examples of sites scoring at the median level are the play areas PL001 Ainsdale and PL049 Nightingale Avenue. One play area that achieved the best score (94%) for location is PL096 Rustat Road and the worst scoring site for location is PL033 Great Eastern St (34%). Overall, more spaces scored at the level of the median or above (46) than below (42).

The median score for play value is 48%. There are no play areas with this score although PL074 Whytford Close scored 49% and PL059 Scotland Rd Recreation Ground scored 47% as did PL062 Sleaford St and PL0104 Anstey Place, Trumpington Meadows. The best scoring site for Play Value is PL043 Jesus Green which scored 98% and the lowest scoring sites for Play Value are PL033 Great

are equal to or smaller than the median. To work out the median:

a) Put the numbers in order. 3 6 6 6 7 9 11 11 13

b) The number in the middle of the list is the median 7 is in the middle. So the median value is 7.

If there are two middle values, the median is halfway between them. For example, if the set of numbers were 3 6 6 6 7 8 9 11 11 13 There are two middle values, 7 and 8. The median is halfway between 7 and 8. The median is 7.5.

Eastern St, PL045 Molewood Close and PL038 Hazelwood Close 1 which all scored 20%.

The median score for care and maintenance is 73%. Several play areas scored 72% including PL009 Beales Way, PL013 Cameron Way, PL039 Hazelwood Close 2 and PL045 Molewood Close. The site with the highest score is PL070 Trumpington Recreation Ground with 97% and the site with the lowest score of 37% was given to PL005 Arbury Close.

The median for the total quality score is 66%. Four sites achieved this score and these were PL007 Bateson Road, PL076 Neptune Close, PL042 Humphries Road and PL053 Uphall Road/Nuttings Road. The play area with the highest overall quality score of 92% is PL058 Romsey Recreation Ground. The lowest score overall was 35% for PL033 Great Eastern Street.

No play area had scores that were close to all three median figures. The closest example is the Type A play space, PL074 Whytford Close, had scores of 80% for Location, 49% for Play Value, 88% for Care and Maintenance and 71% overall.

The full results of the audit and quality assessments can be found at **Appendix E**.

8.5 Accessibility

The distances and classifications of playable spaces are specified in 'Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play'²⁸ which provides 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Children's Playing Space'. This guidance sets out the maximum actual walking and straight line distances²⁹ from home (taking into account barriers to movement) for different age groups. These are shown in **Table 8.4** below.

The guidance explains that age ranges stated in the hierarchy are indicative. They are inclusive and set out the broad age range of the main intended user group(s). It should not be interpreted that users of other ages should be excluded.

²⁸ Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play, Fields in Trust 2008.

²⁹ The distances specified are identical to those in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Submission document p358 Table I.2: Playspace typology.

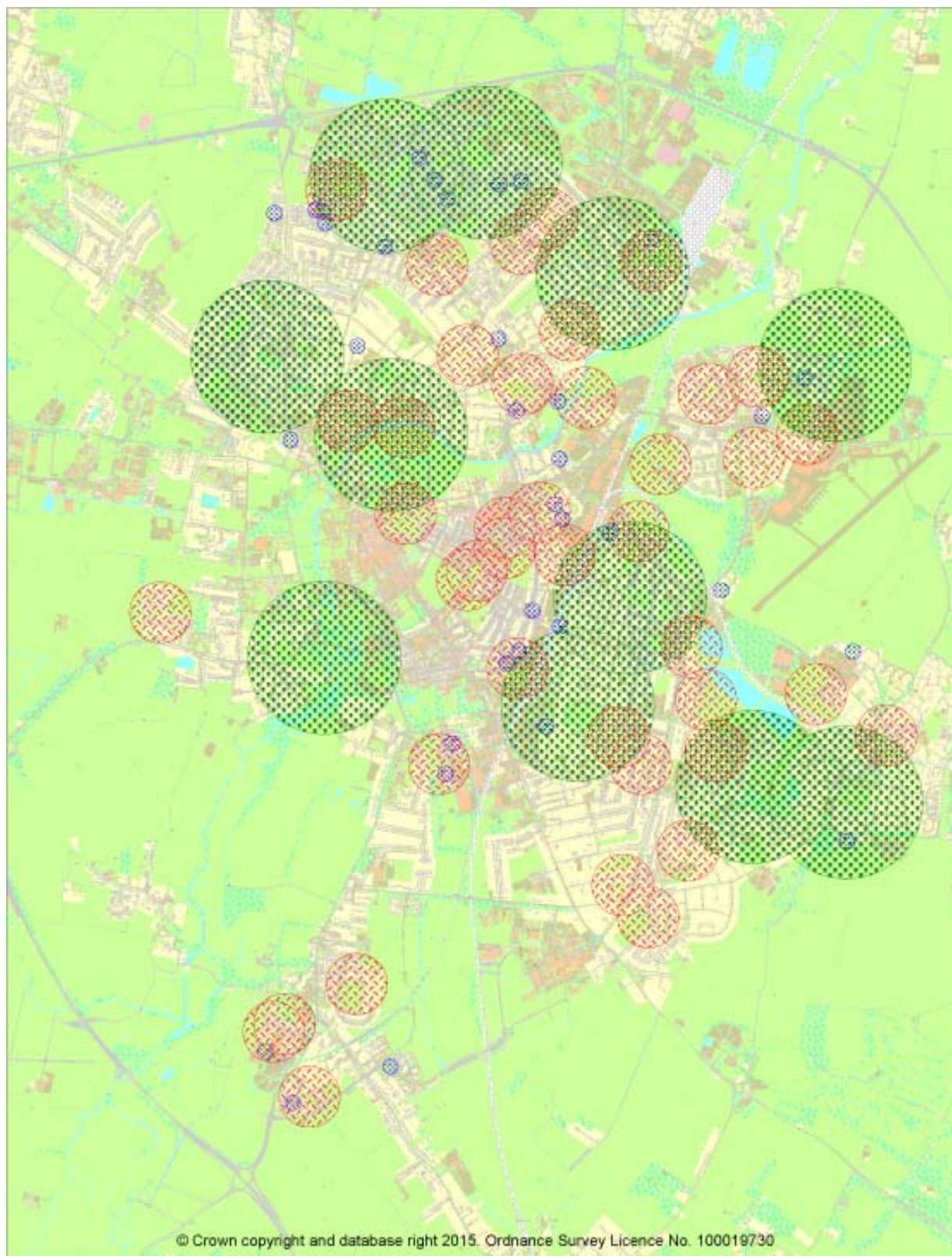
Table 8.4: Children's Playing Space Accessibility Benchmark Standard

Type	Distance Criteria (metres)	
	Walking Distance	Straight Line Distance
Local areas for play or 'door-step' spaces – for play and informal recreation (Type A)	100	60
Local equipped, or local landscaped, areas for play – for play and informal recreation (Type B)	400	240
Neighbourhood equipped areas for play – for play and informal recreation, and provision for young people; this also covers youth space (Type C)	1000	600

The distance criteria are applied to Cambridge playgrounds in **Map 8.1**. This shows that there is a good distribution of play spaces across the city with only a few areas of deficiency notably in parts of the Castle and Arbury wards in the north and Queen Ediths and Trumpington wards in the south.

The map identifies areas where there is overlapping provision. This has probably resulted mainly as a result of play space needs being considered purely in relation to individual development applications, without a strategic view being taken of other facilities within the catchment area.

Map 8.1: Distance Criteria applied to Cambridge Playgrounds.



9. Key Issues

Through the audit, the following key strategic issues were identified as priorities for attention through this strategy:

- Financial constraints and the requirement to maintain equipped play spaces;
- Type A play spaces with a very limited number and range of equipment;
- Poor location of some outdoor play spaces;
- Low play value of some outdoor play spaces;
- Overlapping catchment areas of existing play provision;
- Poor quality of some existing play provision in new housing developments; and
- Council standards focused on quantitative rather than qualitative provision.

10. Key Actions

The review has highlighted a number of key strategic issues that need to be addressed through this investment strategy.

In support of the implementation of the vision and aims and to address the key strategic issues identified from the audit, the strategy recommends the following key actions:

- a) Prepare ward based profiles to inform the planning and decision making around the allocation of Section 106 and other such investment opportunities on outdoor play provision;
- b) Use the ward profiles, to inform reviews of outdoor play spaces considered to be low value/ low use, involving key stakeholders, including children, young people and their families and local Ward councillors;
- c) Prepare an investment plan for both local and strategic play provision, informed by the strategy and ward profiles;
- d) Use the investment plan to determine allocation of S106 funds project bids to the Council's capital plan and other external investment opportunities for both local and strategic outdoor play provision; and
- e) Develop a design guide to aid future planning and delivery of good quality/ high value children's and young people's outdoor play provision.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX B: LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

APPENDIX C: WARD LEVEL CHILD POPULATION PROJECTIONS

APPENDIX D: PLAYABLE SPACE QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

APPENDIX E: QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF CAMBRIDGE OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES

APPENDIX A: PROJECT BRIEF

1. THE REQUIREMENT

Cambridge City Council is seeking a review of play space provision in the City. In part, the strategy should seek to progress the actions outlined in the Parks Strategy document 'Cambridge Parks - Managing the City's Asset 2010 to 2014'.

The objectives for the study are:

- to examine current levels of provision of outdoor play against the current and future population data;
- to review and update the quantity and quality assessment carried out in 2010 for the Parks Strategy³⁰;
- to review whether the 'play offer' should continue to develop and re-instate fixed outdoor play facilities or whether there are alternative approaches to outdoor play provision that can offer better value play opportunities;
- to examine whether priority should be given to enhancing the quality of existing children's play areas or to addressing issues of deficiencies in overall provision;
- to develop and apply a hierarchy of play provision in the City;
- to consider whether existing play spaces are 'well located' and 'well used'.
- to consider whether existing play provision is fit for purpose, in terms of design, accessibility and meeting community play needs
- to examine whether priority should be given to existing outdoor play areas that achieve a higher score for value;
- to provide guidelines on the use of new European Standards (EN 1176 and EN 1177) which indicate changes in the overall height of equipment, equipment separation and surfacing areas;
- to identify future savings and investment priorities in the context of significant ongoing budgetary pressures;
- to establish clear criteria for future investments in play assets, including s106 and Council capital programmes;
- to examine opportunities for external funding for existing and proposed play spaces;
- to identify the key strategic play infrastructure for inclusion in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- to use a systematic approach to preparing an investment strategy for children's play provision that will deliver high quality, high value, well used attractive play opportunities;
- to consider how children's play can contribute to the Council's wider environmental, economic and social objectives.

³⁰ Cambridge Parks - Managing the City's Asset 2010 to 2014.

APPENDIX B: LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Council's Vision for Cambridge and the seven themes for the achievement of the Vision.

The Council's Vision for Cambridge seeks to combine economic dynamism and prosperity with social justice and equality.

'One Cambridge – Fair for All'

- A city which believes that the clearest measure of progress is the dignity and well-being of its least well-off residents, which prioritises tackling poverty and social exclusion, recognising that greater social and economic equality are the most important pre-conditions for the city's success.
- An international city which celebrates its diversity and actively tackles discrimination on gender, race, nationality, ethnic background, religion, age, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- A city in which all citizens feel that they are listened to and have the opportunity to influence public decision making, and which values, supports and responds to individual and community initiatives.
- A city where all citizens and organisations appreciate their duties as well as their rights, where people are free to enjoy themselves but also show consideration for others, and where the community works together to reduce harm and nuisance including by education and, where needed, robust enforcement of the law.
- A city where 'town' and 'gown' combine, and where mutual understanding and partnerships are developed through joint working, community initiatives and volunteering.

Cambridge - a great place to live, learn and work

- A city which strives to ensure that all local households can secure a suitable, affordable local home, close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities.
- A city which draws inspiration from its unique qualities and environment and its iconic historic centre, and retains its sense of place across the city through positive planning, generous urban open spaces and well-designed buildings, and by providing quality council services.
- An entrepreneurial city with a thriving local economy, in which businesses are assisted to build on their global and national pre-eminence in learning, discovery and production, and develop a full range of local employment and skills development, while also recognising and delivering on their social responsibilities.
- A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot.

Cambridge - caring for the planet

A city that takes robust action to tackle the local and global threat of Climate Change, both internally and in partnership with local organisations and residents, and to minimise its environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

The Council's annual statement outlines seven themes for the achievement of this Vision.

- Delivering sustainable prosperity for Cambridge and fair shares for all.
- Tackling the city's housing crisis.
- Making Cambridge safer and more equal.
- Investing in improving transport.
- Protecting our city's unique quality of life.
- Tackling climate change, and making Cambridge cleaner and greener.
- Protecting essential services and transforming council.

This strategy contributes to the achievement of the Council's Vision by seeking to improve the quality of life for local communities and for children in particular.

Sports & Physical Activity Action Plan 2015 - 2017

The plan focuses on five key themes

- Adult & young people's obesity levels.
- Tackling low levels of activity.
- The growing demand for informal sport and recreation opportunities.
- Promotion of swimming lessons.
- Supporting the City's community groups and sports organisations in providing opportunity for local people to live more active lives.
- Other areas highlighted as key issues to be considered in all work action planning are;

Children's participation in outdoor play will increase their activity levels and help to address the issue of child obesity.

Cambridge City Neighbourhood Play Strategy For Children and Young People 2007 – 2012

The Cambridge Play Strategy³¹ is now out of date but still provides a useful indication of the Council's approach to play provision. The strategy is underpinned by a set of seven 'Play Statements' which recognise the importance and value of play for children and young people and the communities they live in, in Cambridge. The statements are:

- A. We are committed to making sure that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments that offer challenge and provide opportunities to take 'acceptable' risks
- B. We understand that children and young people need opportunities to play on their own but, also very importantly with others
- C. We believe that children and young people enjoy a range of play opportunities but that the built environment is not always conducive to safe or accessible play. We will

³¹ Cambridge City Neighbourhood Play Strategy For Children and Young People 2007 - 2012

work alongside partner organisations to ensure that good quality play provision in new communities is prioritised

- D. We are committed to ensuring that environments, services and provision for play are fun, child friendly, welcoming and accessible to all children and young people
- E. We will provide good quality play opportunities that support and promote children and young people's health and well being
- F. We will continue to actively involve children and young people when developing all of our play opportunities and play spaces and engage with them other issues of local interest and importance that relate to their lives
- G. Play facilities for children and young people will comply with all legislative requirements and be 'safe enough'

The set of seven 'Play Statements' underpin the aims and objectives of this Outdoor Play Investment Strategy.

3.7 Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Proposed Submission

The Cambridge Local Plan details the location and quantum of new development in the city up to 2031. While it is anticipated that there will be significant growth in the city, much of the new residential development will occur in major urban extensions which will provide on-site areas of public open space in order to mitigate the effect of additional people living in these areas. There will still be a need for residential developments in existing urban areas to provide and contribute towards public open space. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Proposed Submission (as amended) contains policies that will guide the provision of children's play facilities on new residential sites.

Policy 67 seeks to protect open space precluding development proposals which would harm the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of environmental and/or recreational importance unless the open space use can be satisfactorily replaced or is located within a short walk of the original site.

Policy 68 sets out the requirements for children's play provision through new development. These are to be calculated using the Open Space and Recreations Standards set out in Appendix I: Open Space and Recreation Standards of the draft Proposed Submission Local Plan. Current residential developments should still have regard to the Council's adopted Open Space and Recreation Strategy (as amended).

The standards of provision in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Proposed Submission document sets out the Council's planning requirement for new housing development. The current Public Open Space standards can be found in the saved policies of the 2006 Local Plan.

The revised standards in the Open Space and Recreation Study (2011) evidence and support the related Open Space policies and standards in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Proposed Submission which includes changes to the Open Space standards.

It should be noted that Policy 68: Open space and recreation provision through new development was drafted with acute awareness of a number of central wards experiencing significant development growth without commensurate open space provision.

The policies should ensure that the delivery of public open space is considered at the outset of the planning process. This means that even small housing sites should attempt to deliver onsite provision. It is therefore important that the Outdoor Play Investment Strategy supports with the emerging Local Plan.

Appendix I: Open Space and Recreation Standards of the Proposed Submission document outlines and explains:

- The proposed new open space and recreation standards (Table I.1, p355). For children & teenagers – Equipped children’s play areas and outdoor youth provision - this is 0.3Ha / 1,000 people;
- A playspace topology (Table I.2, p358-359)
- How the open space standards should be applied (paragraph I.11-I15, p360-361)
- How areas of deficiency can be assessed (paragraph I.16-I.17 & Table I.4, p361-362)
- Paragraph I.18 outlines how maintenance of these sites will be financed by the development. This is normally for 12 years but is worded to allow for a different period which would need to be justified.

Cambridge Parks - Managing the City’s Asset 2010 to 2014

This Strategy demonstrates the value and role of green space, in contributing to the City Council’s Vision and provides the approach to managing the Council’s green space assets.

The strategy provides a detailed analysis of usage. This clarifies, how people use green space, the things that are important to ensure the assets are used, and it guides policy on how to set service delivery priority to improve satisfaction, and ensure services are most effective. The strategy clearly outlines how the Council will engage with and encourage people to be actively involved with their neighbourhood green space

Many of Cambridge’s play spaces are located in the City’s parks and it is important for the management and maintenance of these assets to be co-ordinated and complementary.

Cambridge Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-2017

This strategy provides evidence that suggests that a significant proportion of people living in the City are living on low incomes.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 (IMD), which brings together a range of indices to provide a single measure of deprivation, identifies two areas within Kings Hedges which fall within the 20% most deprived areas in the country. There are also a further 18 areas in the city which are amongst the 40% most deprived areas nationally.

There is evidence of higher than average rates of child poverty in some areas of the city, including Abbey and King's Hedges wards where more than a quarter of children are living in poverty.

The aim of the strategy is to improve the standard of living and daily lives of those residents in Cambridge who are currently experiencing poverty, but also to alleviate issues that can lead households on low incomes to experience financial pressures.

The strategy identifies some key objectives for City Council activity to address poverty, which include:

- Helping people on low incomes to maximise their income and minimise their costs
- Reducing the impact of poverty on children and helping low income families with the cost of raising a child
- Supporting events which increase community pride, such as the Big Weekend, Chesterton Festival, Arbury Carnival and Cherry Hinton Festival

It is important for this strategy to contribute to the relevant aims and objectives of the Anti Poverty Strategy through providing good quality, welcoming and accessible play spaces for children who are subject to the problems of poverty and deprivation.

APPENDIX C: WARD LEVEL CHILD POPULATION PROJECTIONS**Cambridge City Child Population 2013**

Ward	0-5	6-10	11-15	Total
Abbey	851	503	641	1995
Arbury	627	388	523	1538
Castle	319	193	706	1219
Cherry Hinton	712	439	537	1688
Coleridge	566	425	610	1601
East Chesterton	676	453	571	1700
King`s Hedges	714	449	571	1734
Market	190	126	505	821
Newnham	260	252	588	1100
Petersfield	410	299	499	1208
Queen Edith`s	542	452	627	1620
Romsey	572	282	463	1317
Trumpington	539	437	571	1546
West Chesterton	486	358	478	1323
Total	7870	5350	8320	21540

Cambridge City Child Population 2016

Ward	0-5	6-10	11-15	Total
Abbey	864	527	672	2063
Arbury	629	394	534	1557
Castle	400	265	807	1472
Cherry Hinton	716	455	556	1727
Coleridge	602	454	649	1706
East Chesterton	679	459	581	1719
King`s Hedges	707	455	581	1743
Market	190	126	521	837
Newnham	261	253	603	1117
Petersfield	458	342	555	1355
Queen Edith`s	545	458	638	1641
Romsey	598	315	509	1423
Trumpington	936	768	956	2660
West Chesterton	489	364	488	1341
Total	8490	5950	9110	23550

Cambridge City Child Population 2021

Wards	0-5	6-10	11-15	Total
Abbey	848	545	684	2077
Arbury	738	520	671	1929
Castle	756	586	1147	2489
Cherry Hinton	700	473	570	1743
Coleridge	620	501	692	1812
East Chesterton	652	472	588	1712
King`s Hedges	679	464	584	1727
Market	216	164	544	924
Newnham	253	262	596	1111
Petersfield	463	374	582	1419
Queen Edith`s	586	528	708	1822
Romsey	579	320	505	1404
Trumpington	1207	1049	1267	3522
West Chesterton	516	411	535	1462
Total	9310	7050	10210	26570

Cambridge City Child Population 2026

Wards	0-5	6-10	11-15	Total
Abbey	788	535	675	1998
Arbury	698	511	662	1870
Castle	886	722	1302	2910
Cherry Hinton	728	524	634	1886
Coleridge	659	557	761	1976
East Chesterton	601	458	573	1632
King`s Hedges	641	463	586	1690
Market	218	173	552	943
Newnham	231	252	581	1065
Petersfield	444	374	581	1399
Queen Edith`s	658	607	804	2069
Romsey	607	371	563	1541
Trumpington	1138	1038	1266	3442
West Chesterton	487	405	530	1422
Total	9280	7400	10640	27320

Cambridge City Child Population 2031

Wards	0-5	6-10	11-15	Total
Abbey	761	544	691	1996
Arbury	646	491	645	1783
Castle	823	694	1281	2798
Cherry Hinton	690	524	637	1850
Coleridge	708	618	836	2162
East Chesterton	550	439	556	1544
King`s Hedges	622	463	589	1674
Market	207	169	552	928
Newnham	220	243	577	1040
Petersfield	458	397	614	1469
Queen Edith`s	616	588	788	1992
Romsey	579	376	571	1526
Trumpington	1066	1010	1242	3317
West Chesterton	455	391	518	1364
Total	8870	7350	10670	26890

Source: Based on population forecasts by ward and age, 2011 to 2036: Cambridge City, Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council 2015.

APPENDIX D: PLAYABLE SPACE QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

Score between one and five with one as the lowest score and five as the highest score 0 if absent.

TYPE A: Doorstep space or facility					
For Type A assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
INVOLVMENT OF CHILDREN					
Were children involved in the development of the site? (This score is for your own use only. It will not be counted in the final score).	Children were not consulted on any aspect of the development of the site.		Children were consulted about the development of the site once.		Children were consulted continuously and participated actively in the design and development process throughout.
LOCATION					
Well used by children	Site is used by few or no children at whom it is aimed. There is no evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass and marks left by children		Site has a reasonable level of use by those children at whom it is aimed		Site is well used by children. There is evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass and marks left by children
Informal oversight by passers by	Site has obstructed lines of sight, few passers by at any time		Site has some informal oversight by adults but passers by are few, or only at certain times		Site has a good level of informal oversight by adults, for example views are unobstructed, site is in an area with people frequently passing by or through it
Buildings oversight	Site is located in an isolated		Site is located reasonably		Site within close proximity to housing

TYPE A: Doorstep space or facility					
For Type A assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
	area, far from housing or community buildings		close to housing or community buildings		or community buildings
Getting there	Site is on opposite side of a major access barrier for the majority of children who would hope to use it		Children can get to the site from home or school but need to take a circuitous route or cross a busy road to get there and the site has limited access by footpath or cycle route		Children can get to the site easily, safely and independently from their homes or school for example: Footpaths or cycle routes pass the site. No need to cross major barriers (e.g. busy roads) to access site.
Personal safety, security and lighting	Site and access routes feel unsafe even in day light		Site and access routes feel safe in daylight but not after dark		Site and access routes feel safe at all times and have good exit routes. Both are well lit after dark if open.
Physical /mobility access to the site	One or more groups of children are excluded by poor access; site is not readily accessible to buggies. Poor pathways to the site, uneven ground, steps, sudden changes to surfacing are not highlighted.		Site can be accessed by some e.g. those pushing buggies and children with some mobility, but presents difficulties for others e.g. those with severe impairments, so that they cannot take full advantage of the facility.		Space is accessible for children with different abilities, behaviours, and sensory capabilities. Site is accessible to buggies. Good pathways to the site, even ground and no steps. Entrances and sudden changes in surfaces are highlighted.
Meeting other children	Site located where no other children likely to pass by e.g. away from homes, hidden away.		Site located where there may some opportunity for other children to pass by e.g. a quieter road.		Site located where there is a very high likelihood of other children passing by and joining in play e.g. on the way to and from school or local shops
PLAY VALUE					

TYPE A: Doorstep space or facility					
For Type A assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
Enticing to children to play	Signs prohibiting children from playing e.g. no ball games, no children; unappealing, tired, lacking in warmth		Children have restricted access, or are limited in what they can do by regulation or by-law. Site locked when children may wish to play.		Visible welcome to children, colourful, child-friendly and appealing. Children and adults feel relaxed (if observed) and at ease.
Play features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) – quantity and range	Very few play features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offers none of the following possible experiences or sensations for children: Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking		A limited number of features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offering at least one of the following possible experiences or sensations for children Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking		A sufficient number of features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offering at least three of the following experiences or sensations for children Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking
Movement (see definition of “site” above)	Site offers few features that enable running, tumbling, rolling or moving around		Site offers a limited opportunity for movement		Children can run, tumble, roll, and freely move around.
Ball games	No space for ball games or ball games prohibited		Small space or too close to equipment to allow free play with balls		Ball games area sufficient to kick a ball around, not too close to other play features
Seating for children	No places for children to sit		Limited places for children to		Children can sit and play together,

TYPE A: Doorstep space or facility					
For Type A assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
			sit, not suitable for playing together or for table games		places for children to sit are incorporated into the play space, and near to tables or other seated play surfaces
Play opportunities for disabled children.	Site offers little or nothing for children with sensory or physical impairments.		Limited play offer to children with physical or sensory impairments. Disabled children do not play with non-disabled children.		All features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) for play are fully accessible to children with different abilities, behaviour, sensory or physical impairments. Disabled and non-disabled children are able to play together.
Added play value: Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) that offer more than just a basic experience of sensation. They offer possibilities for children to take risks without hazards, to intensify the experience or broaden it.	Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are at basic level only and adds little to play value. E.g. basic swings, climbing frame springer, roundabout.		Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are more than basic and adds to play value, but does not do so significantly e.g., tyre swings, some water features, some limited challenge.		Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are advanced in nature and add significantly to play value e.g. loose parts, places to hide/for reverie, good integration and use of natural environment, a range of textures, planting, use of contours, challenging, risk, cooperation needed, and attention paid to all the senses.
CARE AND MAINTENANCE					

TYPE A: Doorstep space or facility					
For Type A assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
Well maintained	Extensive litter or hazardous debris, planting in poor condition, graffiti present		Partly meets criteria for excellence but fails on two or more items		No evidence of litter or hazardous items, well drained, planting is kept in good order and trimmed regularly, no graffiti
Health and safety (May require desk research)	No programme of regular maintenance and safety checks		Appropriate adherence to health and safety standards but maintenance and safety checks on an ad hoc basis		Regular inspection for unexpected hazards; regular cleaning and general maintenance programmes; dog-free areas; traffic calming; meet agreed safety standards, regular risk assessment, regular inspection regimes, regular maintenance programmes, as appropriate.
Seating for adults	No seating for adults		Limited seating or seating is not well sited for observing play		Adults can sit and observe children playing
Litter bins	No litter bins/ bins in poor condition, or bins are full		One bin, not full and in adequate condition.		One or more bins in good condition and not full
Dog free zones	Dogs have unrestricted access to the whole site/ evidence of dog fouling		Measures taken to exclude dogs but evidence that dogs are entering site.		Management of dog fouling in place through bins, area is protected preventing dog access, dogs excluded, signs discouraging dogs from the site, no evidence of fouling

Score between one and five with one as the lowest score and five as the highest score 0 if absent.

TYPE B: Neighbourhood space or facility					
For Type B assessment, <i>Site</i> is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
INVOLVMENT OF CHILDREN					
Were children involved in the development of the site? (This score is for your own use only. It will not be counted in the final score).	Children were not consulted on any aspect of the development of the site.		Children were consulted about the development of the site once.		Children were consulted continuously and participated actively in the design and development process throughout.
LOCATION					
Well used by children	Site is used by few or no children at whom it is aimed. There is no evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass and marks left by children		Site has a reasonable level of use by those children at whom it is aimed		Site is well used by children. There is evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass and marks left by children
Informal oversight	Site has obstructed lines of sight, few passers by at any time		Site has some informal oversight by adults but passers by are few, or only at certain times		Site has a good level of informal oversight by adults, for example views are unobstructed, site is in an area with people frequently passing by or through it
Buildings oversight	Site is located in an isolated area, far from housing or community buildings		Site is located reasonably close to housing or community buildings		Site within close proximity to housing or community buildings
Getting there	Site is on opposite side of a		Children can get to the site		Children can get to the site easily,

TYPE B: Neighbourhood space or facility					
For Type B assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
	major access barrier for the majority of children who would hope to use it		from home or school but need to take a circuitous route or cross a busy road to get there and the site has limited access by footpath or cycle route		safely and independently from their homes or school for example: Footpaths or cycle routes pass the site. No need to cross major barriers (e.g. busy roads) to access site.
Personal safety, security and lighting	Site and access routes feel unsafe even in day light		Site and access routes feel safe in daylight but not after dark		Site and access routes feel safe at all times and have good exit routes. Both are well lit after dark if open.
Physical /mobility access to the site	One or more groups of children are excluded by poor access; site is not readily accessible to buggies. Poor pathways to the site, uneven ground, steps, sudden changes to surfacing are not highlighted.		Site can be accessed by some e.g. those pushing buggies and children with some mobility, but presents difficulties for others e.g. those with severe impairments, so that they cannot take full advantage of the facility.		Space is accessible for children with different abilities, behaviours, and sensory capabilities. Site is accessible to buggies. Good pathways to the site, even ground and no steps. Entrances and sudden changes in surfaces are highlighted.
Meeting other children	Site located where no other children likely <u>to pass by</u> e.g. away from homes, hidden away.		Site located where there may some opportunity for other children <u>to pass by</u> e.g. a quieter road.		Site located where there is a very high likelihood of other children <u>passing by</u> and joining in play e.g. on the way to and from school or local shops
PLAY VALUE					
Enticing to children to play	Signs prohibiting children from playing e.g. no ball games, no children;		Children have restricted access, or are limited in what they can do by regulation or		Visible welcome to children, colourful, child-friendly and appealing. Children and adults feel relaxed (if observed)

TYPE B: Neighbourhood space or facility					
For Type B assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
	unappealing, tired, lacking in warmth		by-law. Site locked when children may wish to play.		and at ease.
Play features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) – quantity and range	<p>Very few play features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offers four or less of the following possible experiences or sensations for children:</p> <p>Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking Overhead Balance Imaginative Play Wheeled areas Ball games</p>		<p>A limited number of features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offering at least six of the following possible experiences or sensations for children</p> <p>Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking Overhead Balance Imaginative Play Wheeled areas Ball games</p>		<p>A sufficient number of features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offering at least eight of the following possible experiences or sensations for children</p> <p>Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking Overhead Balance Imaginative Play Wheeled areas Ball games</p>
Movement (see definition of “site” above)	Site offers few features that enable running, tumbling, rolling or moving around		Site offers a limited opportunity for movement		Children can run, tumble, roll, and freely move around.
Ball games	No space for ball games or ball games prohibited		Ball games area but no markings, limited equipment, or too small a space for more		Ball games area marked out and equipped for a range of ball games, for more than one group of children at one

TYPE B: Neighbourhood space or facility					
For Type B assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
			than one group of children		time, not too close to other play equipment
Access to natural environment	Planting is minimal; features do not encourage encounters (e.g. rose bushes); no variety of environment, or level, few or no stimuli to senses		Limited provision for encounters with natural environment; space does not promote use of natural environment in play		Site provides encounters with trees, bushes, plants, shrubs, wild flowers and long grass; natural features such as sand, water or rocks, and a variety of levels; and a range of visual and sensory stimuli. There is opportunity to use the natural environment in play.
Seating for children	No places for children to sit		Limited places for children to sit, not suitable for playing together or for table games		Children can sit and play together, places for children to sit are incorporated into the play space, and near to tables or other seated play surfaces
Play opportunities for disabled children.	Site offers little or nothing for children with sensory or physical impairments.		Limited play offer to children with physical or sensory impairments. Disabled children do not play with non-disabled children.		All features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) for play are fully accessible to children with different abilities, behaviour, sensory or physical impairments. Disabled and non-disabled children are able to play together.
Added play value: Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) that offer	Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are at basic level only and adds little to play value. E.g. basic		Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are more than basic and adds to play value, but does not do so		Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are advanced in nature and add significantly to play value e.g. basket Dutch disc/cantilever, wooden

TYPE B: Neighbourhood space or facility					
For Type B assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
more than just a basic experience of sensation. They offer possibilities for children to take risks without hazards, to intensify the experience or broaden it.	swings, climbing frame springer, roundabout.		significantly e.g., tyre swings, some water features, some limited challenge.		sculptures, integration and use of the natural environment, risk, challenge and sometimes require cooperation, streams/or water play features, extensive sand play area, music and sound and loose parts, places to hide/for reverie, a range of textures, planting, use of contours, cooperation needed.
CARE AND MAINTENANCE					
Well maintained	Extensive litter or hazardous debris, planting in poor condition, graffiti present		Partly meets criteria for excellence but fails on two or more items		No evidence of litter or hazardous items, well drained, planting is kept in good order and trimmed regularly, no graffiti
Health and safety (May require desk research)	No programme of regular maintenance and safety checks		Appropriate adherence to health and safety standards but maintenance and safety checks on an ad hoc basis		Regular inspection for unexpected hazards; regular cleaning and general maintenance programmes; dog-free areas; traffic calming; meet agreed safety standards, regular risk assessment, regular inspection regimes, regular maintenance programmes, as appropriate.
Seating for adults	No seating for adults		Limited seating or seating is not well sited for observing play		Adults can sit and observe children playing

TYPE B: Neighbourhood space or facility					
For Type B assessment, Site is defined the area within and outside any fenced dedicated play areas.					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
Litter bins	No litter bins/ bins in poor condition, or bins are full		One bin, not full and in adequate condition.		Two or more bins in good condition and not full
Dog free zones	Dogs have unrestricted access to the whole site/ evidence of dog fouling		Measures taken to exclude dogs but evidence that dogs are entering site.		Management of dog fouling in place through bins, area is protected preventing dog access, dogs excluded, signs discouraging dogs from the site, no evidence of fouling
Presence of trusted adults (e.g. park keepers, street wardens, play rangers, community support officers etc)	No supervisory or other trusted e.g. parents or carers adults in the vicinity when children likely to be playing		Supervisory or other trusted adults e.g. parents or carers in the vicinity at some times children might want to be playing		Supervisory or other trusted e.g. parents or carers adults always likely to be in the vicinity present at times children might want to be playing.
Toilets	Restricted use of toilets. Toilet poorly maintained. No accessible toilets.		Toilets available and adequately maintained, but not easily accessible, e.g. too far away or locked when children wish to use them		Fully accessible, well maintained toilets available for children and adults whilst at the site.

Score between one and five with one as the lowest score and five as the highest score 0 if absent.

TYPE C: Local space of facility					
For Type C assessment, Site is defined the area dedicated for play, inside and outside of any fenced area					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
INVOLVMENT OF CHILDREN					
Were children involved in the development of the site? (This score is for your own use only. It will not be counted in the final score).	Children were not consulted on any aspect of the development of the site.		Children were consulted about the development of the site once.		Children were consulted continuously and participated actively in the design and development process throughout.
LOCATION					
Well used by children	Site is used by few or no children at whom it is aimed. There is no evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass and marks left by children		Site has a reasonable level of use by those children at whom it is aimed		Site is well used by children. There is evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass and marks left by children
Informal oversight	Site has obstructed lines of sight, few passers by at any time		Site has some informal oversight by adults but passers by are few, or only at certain times		Site has a good level of informal oversight by adults, for example views are unobstructed, site is in an area with people frequently passing by or through it
Buildings oversight	Site is located in an isolated area, far from housing or community buildings		Site is located reasonably close to housing or community buildings		Site within close proximity to housing or community buildings
Getting there	Site is on opposite side of a		Children can get to the site		Children can get to the site easily,

TYPE C: Local space of facility					
For Type C assessment, Site is defined the area dedicated for play, inside and outside of any fenced area					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
	major access barrier for the majority of children who would hope to use it		from home or school but need to take a circuitous route or cross a busy road to get there and the site has limited access by footpath or cycle route		safely and independently from their homes or school for example: Footpaths or cycle routes pass the site. No need to cross major barriers (e.g. busy roads) to access site.
Personal safety, security and lighting	Site and access routes feel unsafe even in day light		Site and access routes feel safe in daylight but not after dark		Site and access routes feel safe at all times and have good exit routes. Both are well lit after dark if open.
Physical /mobility access to the site	One or more groups of children are excluded by poor access; site is not readily accessible to buggies. Poor pathways to the site, uneven ground, steps, sudden changes to surfacing are not highlighted.		Site can be accessed by some e.g. those pushing buggies and children with some mobility, but presents difficulties for others e.g. those with severe impairments, so that they cannot take full advantage of the facility.		Space is accessible for children with different abilities, behaviours, and sensory capabilities. Site is accessible to buggies. Good pathways to the site, even ground and no steps. Entrances and sudden changes in surfaces are highlighted.
Meeting other children	Site located where no other children likely to pass by e.g. away from homes, hidden away.		Site located where there may some opportunity for other children to pass by e.g. a quieter road.		Site located where there is a very high likelihood of other children passing by and joining in play e.g. on the way to and from school or local shops
PLAY VALUE					
Enticing to children to play	Signs prohibiting children from playing e.g. no ball games, no children;		Children have restricted access, or are limited in what they can do by regulation or		Visible welcome to children, colourful, child-friendly and appealing. Children and adults feel relaxed (if observed)

TYPE C: Local space of facility					
For Type C assessment, Site is defined the area dedicated for play, inside and outside of any fenced area					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
	unappealing, tired, lacking in warmth		by-law. Site locked when children may wish to play.		and at ease.
Play features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) – quantity and range	<p>Very few play features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offers four or less of the following possible experiences or sensations for children:</p> <p>Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking Overhead Balance Imaginative Play Wheeled areas Ball games</p>		<p>A limited number of features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offering at least seven of the following possible experiences or sensations for children</p> <p>Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking Overhead Balance Imaginative Play Wheeled areas Ball games</p>		<p>A sufficient number of features that allow for different sensations (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) offering at all of the following possible experiences or sensations for children</p> <p>Swinging Sliding Climbing Rotating Rocking Overhead Balance Imaginative Play Wheeled areas Ball games</p>
Movement (see definition of “site” above)	Site offers few features that enable running, tumbling, wheeled activity, rolling or moving around		Site offers a limited opportunity for movement		Children can run, tumble roll, and freely move around using their whole bodies or on wheels.
Ball games	No space for ball games or ball games prohibited		Ball games area but no markings, limited equipment,		Ball games area marked out and equipped for a range of ball games, for

TYPE C: Local space of facility					
For Type C assessment, Site is defined the area dedicated for play, inside and outside of any fenced area					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
			or too small a space for more than one group of children		more than one group of children at one time, not too close to other play equipment
Access to natural environment	Planting is minimal; features do not encourage encounters (e.g. rose bushes); no variety of environment, or level, few or no stimuli to senses		Limited provision for encounters with natural environment; space does not promote use of natural environment in play		Site provides encounters with trees, bushes, plants, shrubs, wild flowers and long grass; natural features such as sand, water or rocks, and a variety of levels; and a range of visual and sensory stimuli. There is opportunity to use the natural environment in play.
Seating for children	No places for children to sit		Limited places for children to sit, not suitable for playing together or for table games		Children can sit and play together, places for children to sit are incorporated into the play space, and near to tables or other seated play surfaces
Play opportunities for disabled children.	Site offers little or nothing for children with sensory or physical impairments.		Limited play offer to children with physical or sensory impairments. Disabled children do not play with non-disabled children.		All features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) for play are fully accessible to children with different abilities, behaviour, sensory or physical impairments. Disabled and non-disabled children are able to play together.
Added play value: Features (including equipment, natural features and	Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are at basic level only and adds		Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are more than basic and adds to play		Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are advanced in nature and add significantly to play value e.g. basket

TYPE C: Local space of facility					
For Type C assessment, Site is defined the area dedicated for play, inside and outside of any fenced area					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
landscaping) that offer more than just a basic experience of sensation. They offer possibilities for children to take risks without hazards, to intensify the experience or broaden it.	little to play value. E.g. basic swings, climbing frame springer, roundabout.		value, but does not do so significantly e.g., tyre swings, some water features, some limited challenge.		Dutch disc/cantilever, wooden sculptures, integration and use of the natural environment, risk, challenge and sometimes require cooperation, streams/or water play features, extensive sand play area, music and sound and loose parts, places to hide/for reverie, a range of textures, planting, use of contours, cooperation needed.
CARE AND MAINTENANCE					
Well maintained	Extensive litter or hazardous debris, planting in poor condition, graffiti present		Partly meets criteria for excellence but fails on two or more items		No evidence of litter or hazardous items, well drained, planting is kept in good order and trimmed regularly, no graffiti
Health and safety (May require desk research)	No programme of regular maintenance and safety checks		Appropriate adherence to health and safety standards but maintenance and safety checks on an ad hoc basis		Regular inspection for unexpected hazards; regular cleaning and general maintenance programmes; dog-free areas; traffic calming; meet agreed safety standards, regular risk assessment, regular inspection regimes, regular maintenance programmes, as appropriate.
Seating for adults	No seating for adults		Limited seating or seating is not well sited for observing		Adults can sit and observe children playing

TYPE C: Local space of facility					
For Type C assessment, Site is defined the area dedicated for play, inside and outside of any fenced area					
	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
			play		
Litter bins	No litter bins/ bins in poor condition, or bins are full		One bin, not full and in adequate condition.		Two or more bins in good condition and not full
Dog free zones	Dogs have unrestricted access to the whole site/ evidence of dog fouling		Measures taken to exclude dogs but evidence that dogs are entering site.		Management of dog fouling in place through bins, area is protected preventing dog access, dogs excluded, signs discouraging dogs from the site, no evidence of fouling
Presence of trusted adults (e.g. park keepers, street wardens, play rangers, community support officers etc)	No supervisory or other trusted e.g. parents or carers adults in the vicinity when children likely to be playing		Supervisory or other trusted adults e.g. parents or carers in the vicinity at some times children might want to be playing		Supervisory or other trusted e.g. parents or carers adults always likely to be in the vicinity present at times children might want to be playing.
Toilets	Restricted use of toilets. Toilet poorly maintained. No accessible toilets.		Toilets available, but inaccessible and adequately maintained.		Fully accessible, well maintained toilets available for children and adults whilst at the site.

APPENDIX E: AUDIT OF CAMBRIDGE OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES

URN	Name	Address	Ward	Type
PL022	Abbey Pool	Rear of Abbey Swimming Pool-off Whitehill Rd	Abbey	Type B
PL026	Ditton Fields	Rear of No's 24/26 Ditton Fields-off Newmarket Rd	Abbey	Type B
PL027	Dudley Rd	Dudley Rd-off Wadloes Rd	Abbey	Type B
PL030	Ekin Road	Rear flats 25/301 Ekin Rd-off Keynes Rd-no access	Abbey	Type A
PL031	Fison Rd	Junction of Fison Rd & Dennis Rd	Abbey	Type C
PL094	Jack Warren Green	Off Newmarket Road	Abbey	Type B
PL055	Peverel Rd	Peverel Rd-off Barnwell Rd	Abbey	Type B
PL068	Stourbridge Common	End of Riverside-off Stanley Rd	Abbey	Type B
PL071	Velos Walk Play Area	Rear of No 27 Annes Rd-off Fison Rd	Abbey	Type A
PL002	Alexandra Gardens	Access from Carlyle Rd-off Chesterton Rd	Arbury	Type B
PL010	Blandford Walk	Rear of No 101 Blandford Walk-off Brownlow Rd	Arbury	Type A
PL038	Hazelwood Close 1	By No 60 Hazelwood Close-off Histon Rd	Arbury	Type A
PL039	Hazelwood Close 2	By No 70 Hazelwood Close-off Histon Rd	Arbury	Type A
PL042	Humphries Rd	Rear of No's 23 & 25 Humphries Rd-off Mere Way	Arbury	Type A
PL048	Molewood Close	Rear of No 26 Molewood Close-off Hazelwood Close	Arbury	Type A
PL064	St Albans Rec	Junction of Arbury Rd & Kings Hedges Rd	Arbury	Type B
PL040	Histon Rd Rec	End of Canterbury St-off Histon Rd	Castle	Type C
PL060	Shelley Row	By No 26 Shelley Row-off Castle Row	Castle	Type A
PL001	Ainsdale	By No 019 Ainsdale-off Fulbourn Rd	Cherry Hinton	Type A
PL015	Cherry Hinton Hall	Access Opp No 472 Cherry Hinton Rd	Cherry Hinton	Type C
PL016	Cherry Hinton Rec	Opp No 72 High St - Cherry Hinton	Cherry Hinton	Type C

PL083	Kathleen Elliot Way	Off Coldhams Lane	Cherry Hinton	Type B
PL088	Reilly Way	Off Church End, Cherry Hinton	Cherry Hinton	Type A
PL069	Tenby Close	By No 13 Tenby Close-off Fulbourn Old Drift	Cherry Hinton	Type B
PL005	Ashbury Close	By No 301 Ashbury Close-off Coleridge Rd	Coleridge	Type B
PL024	Coleridge Rec	Access from Davy Rd-off Coleridge Rd	Coleridge	Type C
PL065	Lichfield Rd	Entrance off Lichfield Road to green space at rear of houses.	Coleridge	Type B
PL/067	St Thomas's Square	Rear of No 8 St. Thomas's Square-off Birdwood Rd	Coleridge	PL/067
PL057	Robert May Close	Adj to No 22 Robert May Close-off Tiverton Way	Coleridge	Type B
PL096	Rustat Avenue	Off Rustat Road	Coleridge	Type A
PL066	St Matthews Piece	Opp side to No 38 Petworth St-off St. Matthews St	Coleridge	Type B
PL011	Bramblefields	By No 46 Laxton Way-off Cam Causeway	East Chesterton	Type B
PL017	Chesterton Rec	By No 0101a Church St-off Chesterton Rd	East Chesterton	Type B
PL073	Discovery Way	Discovery Way Off Nuffield Road	East Chesterton	Type A
PL034	Green End Rd Rec	Junction of Green End Rd & Cam Causeway	East Chesterton	Type C
PL077	Pearl Close	Old Chesterton Hospital off Union Lane	East Chesterton	Type A
PL059	Scotland Rd Rec	By No 132 Scotland Rd-off Union Lane	East Chesterton	Type B
PL087	The Vie, Fitzgerald Place	Off St Andrews Road	East Chesterton	Type A
PL072	Whytford Close	Off St Andrew's Road	East Chesterton	Type A
PL074	Woodhead Drive	By No 1 College Fields-Woodhead Drive-off Milton Rd	East Chesterton	Type B
PL004	Arbury Court	By No 54 Leys Avenue-off Arbury Rd	Kings Hedges	Type B
PL009	Beales Way	Rear of No's 7 & 9 Beales Way-off St. Kilda Ave	Kings Hedges	Type A
PL013	Cameron Way	Cameron Rd-off Northfields Avenue	Kings Hedges	Type A
PL029	Edgecombe Flats	Opp No 24 Crowland Way-off Northfields Ave	Kings Hedges	Type A

PL044	Kings Hedges Rec	End of Buchan St-Opp pool-off Kings Hedges Rd	Kings Hedges	Type C
PL046	Lawrence Rd	Opp No 37 Lawrence Way-off Campkin Rd	Kings Hedges	Type A
PL076	Neptune Close	End of Neptune Close, off Nothfields Ave	Kings Hedges	Type A
PL051	Nuns Way	Nuns Way Recreation Ground	Kings Hedges	Type C
PL056	Ramsden Square	Rear of No's 1 & 89 Ramsden Square-off Milton Rd	Kings Hedges	Type B
PL019	Christ's Pieces	Rear of No 70 Kings St	Market	Type B
PL043	Jesus Green	Off Victoria Avenue-parking on Chesterton Rd	Market	Type C
PL047	Jesus Green	Off Victoria Avenue-parking on Chesterton Rd	Market	Type B
PL045	Lammas Land	Off The Fen Causeway-parking Newnham Rd/Drift Way	Newnham	Type C
PL053	Penarth Place, Gough Way	Opp No 6 Penarth Place-off Gough Way	Newnham	Type B
PL008	Bath House Play Area	Behind Bath House-01001 Mill Rd	Petersfield	Type A
PL075	Donkey Common Skate Park	Outside Parkside Pools	Petersfield	Type B
PL032	Flower St	Rear of No 15 Blossom St-off Norfolk St	Petersfield	Type B
PL054	Petersfield	Junction of East Rd & Mill Rd	Petersfield	Type B
PL079	Ravensworth Rd	Ravensworth Gardens, off Tenison Road	Petersfield	Type A
PL078	Ravensworth Rd (Older Kids)	Ravensworth Gardens, off Tenison Road	Petersfield	Type B
PL080	River Lane	By No 50 River Lane-off Newmarket Rd	Petersfield	Type A
PL081	Saint Barnabas Court	Off Tenison Road	Petersfield	Type A
PL089	Shenstone	Off Ashley Court	Petersfield	Type B
PL062	Sleaford St	By No 2 Ainsworth St-off Sleaford St	Petersfield	Type B
PL098a	St Matthews Gardens (a)	South of New Street, East of York Street	Petersfield	Type A
PL098b	St Matthews Gardens (b)	South of New Street, East of York Street	Petersfield	Type A

PL067	St Thomas Rd	Rear of No 8 St. Thomas's Square-off Birdwood Rd	Queen Edith'	Type A
PL102	Austin Drive	Clay Farm	Queen Edith's	Type A
PL035	Gunhild Close	Rear of No 34 Gunhild Close-off Gunhild Way	Queen Ediths	Type B
PL041	Holbrook Rd	Rear of No's 20 & 22 Holbrook Rd-off Mowbray Rd	Queen Ediths	Type B
PL049	Nightingale Avenue	By No 8 Nightingale Avenue-off Queen Ediths Rd	Queen Ediths	Type B
PL012	Brooks Rd	By No 117 Brooks Rd	Romsey	Type B
PL023	Coldhams Lane	By No 115 Coldhams Lane-off Newmarket Rd	Romsey	Type B
PL033	Great Eastern St	By No 3 Great Eastern St-off Mill Rd	Romsey	Type A
PL092	Hampden Gardens	Off Cromwell Road	Romsey	Type A
PL058	Romsey Rec	By No 93 Vinery Rd-off Mill Rd	Romsey	Type C
PL052	Uphall Rd/Nuttings Rd	Nuttings Rd-off Coldhams Lane	Romsey	Type A
PL082	Aberdeen Avenue	Accordia development	Trumpington	Type A
PL104	Anstey Place	Trumpington Meadows	Trumpington	Type B
PL101	Beech Drive	Glebe Farm	Trumpington	Type A
PL105	Central Park	Glebe Farm	Trumpington	Type B
PL085	Gilpin Place	Accordia development	Trumpington	Type A
PL106	Huntsman Road	Trumpington Meadows	Trumpington	Type B
PL103	Kestrel Rise	Trumpington Meadows	Trumpington	Type A
PL084	Kingfisher Way	Accordia development	Trumpington	Type B
PL070	Trumpington Rec	Byrons Square-off Anstey Way	Trumpington	Type B
PL007	Bateson Rd	By No 17 Bateson Rd-off Stretton Avenue	West Chesterton	Type A
PL018	Chestnut Grove	Rear of No's 26/49 Chestnut Grove-off Hawthorn Way	West Chesterton	Type B

APPENDIX E: QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF CAMBRIDGE OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES

Site Reference	Site Name	Location % Quality Score	Play Value % Quality Score	Care & Maintenance % Quality Score	Total Quality Score	Type
PL001	Ainsdale	80%	37%	68%	61%	Type A
PL002	Alexandra Gardens	80%	62%	87%	75%	Type B
PL004	Arbury Court	89%	82%	90%	86%	Type B
PL005	Arbury Close	60%	31%	37%	42%	Type B
PL006	Neptune Close	86%	31%	88%	66%	Type A
PL007	Bateson Rd	89%	26%	92%	66%	Type A
PL009	Beales Way	71%	46%	72%	62%	Type A
PL010	Blandford Walk	43%	29%	40%	37%	Type A
PL0103	Kestrel Rise, Trumpington Meadows	80%	42%	53%	57%	Type B
PL0104	Anstey Place, Trumpington Meadows	71%	47%	70%	61%	Type B
PL011	Bramblefields	43%	44%	73%	42%	Type B
PL012	Brooks Rd	57%	51%	50%	53%	Type B
PL013	Cameron Way	94%	51%	72%	73%	Type A
PL015	Cherry Hinton Hall	77%	91%	91%	87%	Type C
PL016	Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground	89%	78%	94%	86%	Type C
PL017	Chesterton Recreation Ground	74%	69%	77%	73%	Type B
PL018	Chestnut Grove	51%	33%	57%	45%	Type B
PL019	Christ's Pieces	77%	60%	90%	74%	Type B
PL022	Abbey Pool	73%	83%	50%	56%	Type B
PL023	Coldhams Lane	46%	60%	57%	55%	Type B
PL024	Coleridge Recreation Ground	86%	93%	94%	91%	Type C

PL026	Ditton Fields	71%	73%	60%	69%	Type B
PL027	Dudley Rd	83%	44%	73%	65%	Type B
PL029	Edgecombe Flats	86%	60%	92%	78%	Type A
PL030	Ekin Rd	77%	46%	64%	62%	Type A
PL031	Fison Rd	89%	91%	83%	84%	Type C
PL032	Flower St	89%	56%	70%	70%	Type B
PL033	Great Eastern St	34%	20%	56%	35%	Type A
PL034	Green End Rd Recreation Ground	89%	73%	77%	79%	Type C
PL035	Gunhild Close	63%	36%	70%	54%	Type B
PL038	Hazelwood Close 1	63%	20%	52%	44%	Type A
PL039	Hazelwood Close 2	80%	29%	72%	59%	Type A
PL040	Histon Rd Recreation Ground	71%	91%	77%	81%	Type C
PL041	Holbrook Rd	71%	51%	77%	65%	Type B
PL042	Humphries Rd	69%	54%	80%	66%	Type A
PL043	Jesus Green	86%	96%	83%	89%	Type C
PL044	Kings Hedges Recreation Ground	60%	78%	51%	64%	Type C
PL045	Molewood Close	66%	20%	72%	51%	Type A
PL045	Jesus Green	89%	80%	83%	84%	Type B
PL045	Lammas Land	94%	89%	77%	87%	Type C
PL046	Lawrence Rd	94%	43%	56%	65%	Type A
PL049	Nightingale Avenue	80%	73%	70%	75%	Type B
PL051	Nuns Way	77%	84%	74%	79%	Type C
PL053	Uphall Rd/Nuttings Rd	91%	46%	60%	66%	Type A
PL053	Gough Way	89%	91%	77%	86%	Type B
PL054	Petersfield	89%	46%	77%	64%	Type B
PL056	Ramsden	63%	78%	73%	72%	Type B

	Square					
PL056	Peverel Rd	91%	60%	67%	72%	Type B
PL057	Robert May Close	51%	38%	50%	45%	Type B
PL058	Romsey Recreation Ground	91%	91%	94%	92%	Type C
PL059	Scotland Rd Recreation Ground	69%	47%	80%	63%	Type B
PL060	Shelley Row	74%	37%	72%	60%	Type A
PL062	Sleaford St	91%	47%	87%	72%	Type B
PL064	St Albans Recreation Ground	89%	73%	53%	73%	Type B
PL066	St Matthews Piece	74%	51%	73%	65%	Type B
PL067	St Thomas Rd	57%	43%	84%	59%	Type A
PL067	Lichfield Rd	71%	40%	43%	51%	Type B
PL068	Stourbridge Common	77%	71%	77%	75%	Type B
PL069	Tenby Close	91%	58%	60%	69%	Type B
PL070	Trumpington Recreation Ground	86%	76%	97%	85%	Type B
PL071	Velos Walk, St Ann's St	71%	27%	44%	44%	Type B
PL073	Discovery Way	94%	43%	72%	69%	Type A
PL072	WhytfoRoad Close	80%	49%	88%	71%	Type A
PL074	Woodhead Drive	83%	62%	83%	75%	Type B
PL075	Donkey Common Skate Park	83%	58%	80%	72%	Type B
PL076	Neptune Close	86%	31%	88%	66%	Type A
PL077	Pearl Close	63%	26%	80%	54%	Type A
PL078	Ravensworth Road (Older Kids)	46%	27%	57%	41%	Type B
PL079	Ravensworth	86%	34%	88%	67%	Type A

	Road					
PL080	River Lane	74%	26%	60%	53%	Type A
PL082	St Barnabas Court	80%	29%	80%	61%	Type A
PL083	Aberdeen Avenue	74%	34%	56%	55%	Type A
PL084	Kingfisher Way	91%	78%	77%	82%	Type B
PL085	Gilpin Place	71%	26%	48%	48%	Type A
PL086	Kathleen Elliot Way	63%	38%	87%	59%	Type B
PL087	The Vie, Fitzgerald Place	77%	23%	56%	52%	Type A
PL088	Reilly Way	69%	29%	56%	51%	Type A
PL089	Shenstone	91%	60%	73%	74%	Type B
PL092	Hampden Gardens	74%	29%	92%	62%	Type A
PL094	Jack Warren Gardens	69%	53%	53%	58%	Type B
PL096	Leica site, Rustat Road	94%	34%	92%	72%	Type A
PL098a	St Matthews Gardens (a)	80%	29%	92%	64%	Type A
PL098b	St Matthews Gardens (b)	80%	29%	92%	64%	Type A
PL101	Beech Drive, Glebe Farm	91%	71%	84%	82%	Type A
PL102	Austin Drive, Clay Farm	84%	31%	52%	47%	Type A
PL105	Central Park, Glebe Farm	89%	60%	80%	71%	Type B
PL106	Huntsman Rd, Trumpington Meadows	89%	60%	80%	71%	Type B