



Development Management Plan (Regulation 19)

Reigate & Banstead Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment

Appendix 2: Policy Context

September 2017

- 1.1 This appendix provides an overview of the strategic (local and national) policy in order to help understand local needs.

National Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

- 1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)¹ defines open spaces as ‘all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity’.
- 1.3 The NPPF recognises that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.
- 1.4 Paragraph 73 of the framework sets an expectation that planning policies should be based on robust assessments of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities. These assessments should identify specific needs and qualitative and quantitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreation facilities in the local area. Information gained from these assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreation provision is required.
- 1.5 Paragraph 74 of the framework says that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss

National Planning Practice Guidance (2014)

- 1.6 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (2014)² defines open spaces as all open spaces of public value and notes that these can take many forms from formal sports pitches to open areas within a housing development. The NPPG recognises that these areas can provide health and recreational benefits to people living and working nearby have an ecological value and

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

contribute to the green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of a built development and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.

- 1.7 The guidance does not outline a methodology for assessing open space, sport and recreational need rather it refers to Sport England's Guidance 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities: How to undertake and apply needs assessments for sports facilities'.

Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities: How to undertake and apply needs assessments for sports facilities (2014)

- 1.8 The 2014 report³ recognises that sport and recreation play a fundamental part in people's lives – the provision of the right facilities in the right place is central to enabling people to play sport and maintain and grow participation.

- 1.9 The guidance has been designed in part to replace the 'Assessing Needs & Opportunities: A Companion Guide to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17', however, it focuses only on sport facilities rather than wider open space and recreation provision.

- 1.10 It presents a three stage approach to undertaking an assessment:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
 - Establish a clear understanding of the purpose, scope and scale of assessment
 - Take into account the strategic context purpose of undertaking the assessment and the geographical scope
- Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand
 - Supply: understanding the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of current supply
 - Demand: taking into account the local population profile national and local sports participation and unmet, latent, depressed and future demand.
- Stage C: Assessment
 - Bringing the information together to build a picture in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and availability.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)

- 1.11 Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) (2002)⁴ recognises that sport, open space and recreation contribute to people's quality of life and can play an important role in delivering a range of other government objectives including:
- Supporting an urban renaissance:
 - Local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe.
 - Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as 'green lungs' can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality.
 - Supporting a rural renewal:
 - The countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas.
 - Open spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sports and recreational facilities contribute to the quality of life and well being of people who live in rural areas.
 - Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion:
 - Well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can bring together members of deprived communities and provide opportunities for people for social interaction.
 - Health and wellbeing:
 - Open spaces, sports and recreational facilities have a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness, and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others.
 - Promoting more sustainable development:
 - By ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities (particularly in urban areas) are easily accessible by walking and cycling that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport.

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<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120920042539/http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/ppg17.pdf>

- 1.12 The report states that local planning authorities should undertake robust assessments of current and future needs for open space, sport and recreation in their areas as well as audits of existing provision. These local assessments of needs and opportunities should be used as a basis for setting local standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities and form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies in open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 1.13 PPG17 emphasises the importance of maintaining an adequate supply of open space, sport and recreation facilities and states that existing open space, sport and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to requirements. The report notes that where recreational land and facilities are of a poor quality or under-utilised, that this should not be taken as indicating an absence of need in that area, instead the guidance says that local planning authorities should seek opportunities to improve the value of existing facilities through:
- Improving the compatibility of the uses with adjoining land uses
 - Encourage better accessibility and
 - Promote better use through good design to reduce crime
- 1.14 PPG17 says that in identifying where to locate new areas of open space, sport and recreation provision, local planning authorities should:
- Ensure that facilities are accessible by foot, public transport and cycling
 - Ensure that facilities are accessible for people with disabilities
 - Locate more intensive recreational uses in sites where they can contribute to town centre vitality and viability
 - Avoid any significant loss of amenity to residents, neighbouring uses or biodiversity
 - Improve the quality of the public realm through good design
 - Look to provide areas of open space in commercial and industrial areas
 - Add to and enhance the range and quality of existing facilities
 - Carefully consider security and personal safety, especially for children
 - Meet the regeneration needs of areas, using brownfield in preference to greenfield sites
 - Consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses
 - Consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Companion Guide (2001)

- 1.15 The 2001 guidance note⁵ sets out how local planning authorities can use the planning system to help deliver accessible, high quality and sustainable open spaces and sport and recreation facilities which meet local needs and are valued by local communities.
- 1.16 It outlines a methodology for undertaking assessments:
- Step 1: Identifying local needs
 - Taking into account local, regional and national policies and strategies
 - Reviewing existing planning policies and provision standards
 - Undertaking community consultation in order to understand people's attitudes to existing provision and their expectations and needs which aren't currently met
 - Step 2: Auditing local provision
 - Taking into account the 'effective catchment area'⁶ of the different types of open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - Step 3: Setting provision standards
 - Quantitative component: how much new provision may be needed
 - Qualitative component: against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities
 - Accessibility component: including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using the facilities
 - Step 4: Applying provision standards
 - Recognising the future socio-demographic characteristics of the population
 - Taking into account factors which prevent usage such as opening hours cost of using the facility public transport accessibility and barriers such as rivers/ railways/ motorways which limit accessibility by foot
 - Taking into account trends such as increased promotion of walking and cycling and artificial pitch provision
 - Step 5: Drafting policies
- 1.17 The guidance note recommends undertaking audits in spring and early summer in order to understand the degree of wear of the pitches after the winter season and the condition of plants and other vegetation.

⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7660/156780.pdf

⁶ Given that the catchment area of the facilities will vary for different people, day-to-day and due to public transport accessibility hour-to-hour, the guidance recommends using an 'effective catchment area' which is defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users.

The Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (2011)

- 1.18 The White Paper⁷ recognises that a healthy natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing.
- 1.19 It gives the ‘natural environment’ a broad meaning covering living things in all their diversity: wildlife, rivers and streams, lakes and seas, urban green space and open countryside, forests and farmed land. It includes the fundamentals of human survival: our food, fuel, air and water, together with the natural systems that cycle our water, clean out pollutants, produce healthy soil, protect us from floods and regulate our climate. And it embraces our landscapes and our natural heritage, the many types of contact we have with nature in both town and country. It is the result of thousands of years of interaction between people and nature and it continues to be shaped through the care and attention invested by the individuals and organisations who actively manage it.
- 1.20 The white paper sets out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across society by:
- Facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature
 - Creating a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, businesses and Government better reflect the value of nature
 - Strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit for both
 - Showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally

Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England’s Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (2014)

- 1.21 The strategy⁸ builds on the White Paper. It sets out the strategic direction for national biodiversity policy to implement international and European Union commitments.
- 1.22 The vision for England is that ‘by 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone’.

⁷ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf

⁸ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

- 1.23 The mission of the strategy is to ‘halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people’.
- 1.24 The strategy contains four outcomes to be achieved by 2020:
- Habitats and ecosystems on land (including freshwater environments): by 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained and enhanced, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway, helping deliver more resilient and coherent ecological networks, healthy and well-functioning ecosystems, which deliver multiple benefits for wildlife and people
 - Marine habitats, ecosystems and fisheries: by 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway, helping deliver good environmental status and our vision of clean, healthy, safe productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas
 - Species: by 2020 we will see an overall improvement in the status of our wildlife and will have prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species
 - People: by 2020 significantly more people will be engaged in biodiversity issues, aware of its value and taking positive action.

House of Commons Public Parks Inquiry (2017)

- 1.25 The House of Commons Public Parks Inquiry (2017)⁹ asked three questions:
- Why do parks matter/
 - What challenges face the parks sector/
 - How can we secure a sustainable future for parks?
- 1.26 The report recognised that whilst the benefits of parks and greenspaces have long been realised, in the context of budget reductions and tightening financial circumstances, it is increasingly important to find ways to quantify the wider value of parks in order to access new sources of funding and target investment in areas of greatest impact.

Heritage Lottery Fund’s State of UK Public Parks Report (2016)

- 1.27 Heritage Lottery Fund’s State of UK Public Parks Report (2016)¹⁰ found that:
- 70% of people between the ages of 25 and 34 use their park at least once a month
 - 90% of households with children under the age of 5 use their park at least once a month

⁹ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmcomloc/45/45.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.hlf.org.uk/state-uk-public-parks-2016>

- 71% of people identifying as Black and Minority Ethnic use their park at least once a month compared to 56% of people identifying themselves as White
- 61% of people living in urban areas visit parks at least once a month, compared to 51% of people in rural areas

Heritage Lottery Fund's State of UK Public Parks: Renaissance to Risk Report (2014)

- 1.28 Heritage Lottery Fund's 2014 report¹¹ found that most parks are owned and maintained by local authorities. The report noted that whilst park usage has increased, there is also increased competition for Council funding, resulting in many parks facing an uncertain future.
- 1.29 The report recognised the importance of establishing new partnerships getting more communities involved developing new finance models and rethinking the delivery of service.

The Core Cities Parks & Green Space Group (2016)

- 1.30 The Core Cities Parks and Green Space Group (2016)¹² noted that since the recession, with increased budget cuts that the delivery of park services has changed. There is a focus on more entrepreneurial income generating activities and more reliance on voluntary groups.

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide (2006)

- 1.31 The 2006 guide¹³ recognises that green space is a vital part of the public realm: attractive, safe and accessible spaces contribute positive social, economic and environmental benefits, improve public health, well-being and quality of life.

Natural England's Green Space Access, Green Space Use, Physical Activity and Overweight Report (2011)

- 1.32 Natural England's Green Space Access, Green Space Use, Physical Activity and Overweight Report 2011¹⁴ found that people who perceive easy access to safe green spaces report higher green space use, more regular physical activity and have a lower risk of obesity.

¹¹ <https://www.hlf.org.uk/state-uk-public-parks-2014>

¹² <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/communities-and-local-government-committee/public-parks/written/38429.html>

¹³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118142343/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/green-space-strategies.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40017?category=127020>

Natural England's Investigating the Potential Increase in Health Costs due to a Decline in Access to Greenspace: An exploratory study (2016)

- 1.33 The 2016 report¹⁵ recognises the importance of greenspace in providing space for physical activity.
- 1.34 The report notes that there are approximately 4.7 million people regularly exercising within greenspace and that approximately 700,000 of these will be unlikely to substitute their current level of greenspace exercise for exercise elsewhere.

Natural England's Green Exercise Programme (2016)

- 1.35 Natural England's Green Exercise Programme (2016)¹⁶ identified barriers preventing access to greenspaces:
- Lack of information and publicity about local greenspaces including uncertainty about where is publicly accessible and where private
 - Anti-social behaviour and safety concerns
 - Accessibility: public transport accessibility and accessibility for those with restricted movement/ disabilities
 - Lack of confidence to visit a greenspace on their own
 - Lack of time
 - Poor health
 - Bad weather
 - 'Not cool to be seen doing outdoorsy stuff'

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

- 1.36 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)¹⁷ provides for public access on foot to certain types of open land comprising mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land.
- 1.37 The Act places a duty of Government Departments to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 1.38 It also provides increased powers for the protection and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and strengthens the legal protection for threatened species.

¹⁵ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6213889835401216?category=127020>

¹⁶ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35026?category=127020>

¹⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

1.39 The Act also clarifies the procedures and purpose of designing Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – local planning authorities are required to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs when performing their function.

Sport England’s Getting Active Outdoors: A Study of Demography, Motivation, Participation and Provision in Outdoor Sport and Recreation in England (2015)

1.40 Sport England’s report (2015)¹⁸ identified a number of factors preventing use for under-represented groups:

- Language
- Awareness
- Perception (i.e. middle class stigma)
- Safety
- Confidence
- Cost
- Distance
- Physical access

1.41 The report also identified a number of factors preventing family use:

- Transportation
- Costs for example, parking, entrance fees, food and drink etc.
- Balancing different wants and needs of a family
- Lack of time to plan
- Lack of knowledge of where to get information from

Natural England’s Green Infrastructure and the Urban Fringe: Learning lessons from the countryside in and around towns programme (2011)

1.42 Natural England’s 2011 report¹⁹ recognises that the countryside around towns inspires urban living that is connected to nature.

A Vision for the Countryside In and Around Towns (2005)

1.43 The Countryside Agency and Groundwork report (2005)²⁰ identified ten potential functions of the countryside in the urban fringe

- A bridge to the country
- A gateway to the town
- A health centre
- A classroom
- A recycling and renewable energy centre

¹⁸ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3275/outdoors-participation-report-v2-lr-spreads.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/36009>

²⁰ <https://www.thenbs.com/PublicationIndex/documents/details?Pub=CA&DocID=274493>

- A productive landscape
- A cultural legacy
- A place for sustainable living
- An engine for regeneration
- A nature reserve

Green Infrastructure Strategies: An Introduction for Local Authorities and their Partners (2011)

1.44 The Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)²¹ notes the importance of green corridors in providing access to the wider green infrastructure and countryside through for example, providing a transport corridor for walkers and cyclists.

Natural England's 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (2006)

1.45 Natural England's 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (ANGSt) (2006) report²² recommends that everyone, wherever they live, has access to natural greenspace:

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

Sport England Strategy 2012-2017 (Creating a Sporting Habit for Life)

1.46 The Sport England Strategy 2012-2017²³ describes Sport England's ambition to see sport becoming a habit for life for more people and make it a choice for the majority of people.

1.47 The report describes how Sport England will invest over £1 billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding over five years into four areas of work:

- National governing body funding (2013-2017)
- Facilities
- Local investments
- The 'Schools Games'

²¹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/36010>

²²

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605111422/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessible_natural_greenspace_standard_angst.aspx

²³ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3828/sporting-habit-for-life-full-report.pdf>

Sport England's Towards an Active Nation Strategy (2016-2021)

1.48 Sport England's Towards an Active Nation Strategy (2016-2021)²⁴ is based on the vision that 'everyone, regardless of their age, background or level of ability, feels able to engage in sport and physical activity'.

1.49 The strategy:

- Focuses money and resources on tackling inactivity
- Invests in children and young people so that sport becomes part of their daily life
- Aims to help those who are active now carry on being active but at a lower cost to the public purse
- Encourages stronger local collaboration for a more joined-up experience of sport and activity
- Notes that Sport England will work with a range of partners including the private sector to help align resources and encourages innovation and best practice working within the sports sector
- Aims to be more welcoming and inclusive to groups currently under-represented in sport
- Helps sport to keep pace with the digital expectations of customers

Sport England's Planning for Sport Guide (2014)

1.50 Sport England Planning for Sport Guide (2014)²⁵ aims to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right places.

1.51 The report outlines a number of objectives which seek to protect sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment enhance existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management and provide new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Statement (2014)

1.52 Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Statement (2014)²⁶ recognises that with increased development pressures there are increasing pressures to develop school playing fields. Sport England opposes such development in all but exceptional circumstances.

1.53 Exceptional circumstances include:

²⁴ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/10629/sport-england-towards-an-active-nation.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3179/planning-for-sport-development-management-guide-july-2014.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>

- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs which has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.
- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ ancillary facilities on the site.
- The playing field or playing fields, which would be lost as a result of the proposed development, would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development.
- The proposed development is for an outdoor sports facility (or indoor), the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

Sport England's Equivalent Quality Assessment of Natural Turf Playing Fields Briefing Note (2015)

- 1.54 Sport England's 2015 briefing note²⁷ says that assessments to determine whether the proposed playing field is of an equivalent quality should take into consideration:
- The performance of the existing playing field(s) (based on detailed site analysis)
 - The proposed performance of the replacement playing field(s) including the impact of any improvement works and
 - Whether the proposed replacement playing field(s) performance will be at least equivalent to or better than the existing playing field(s) in the short, medium and long term.

Sport England's Community Rights for Sports Guidance (2011)

- 1.55 Sport England's Community Rights for Sport Guidance²⁸ advises communities on how they can use the Localism Act (2011)²⁹ to protect/ buy/ run their local sports facilities.

²⁷ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4599/equivalent-quality-assessment-of-playing-fields-briefing-note.pdf>

Sport England's Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union Report (2010)

- 1.56 Sport England's 2010 report³⁰ was prepared in consultation with the Football Association, England Hockey, England and Wales Cricket Board, Rugby Union and Rugby Football League.
- 1.57 The report recognises that it is not possible to provide a pitch surface which meets the needs of all sports and therefore establishes a methodology for choosing the right type of artificial pitch. This includes identifying the supply and demand issues strategic considerations and level/ type of use proposed.

Performance Quality Standards

- 1.58 The Football Association, Football Foundation, England and Wales Cricket Board and Rugby Football Union have developed Performance Quality Standards³¹ which provide a recommended minimum quality standard for the maintenance and construction of pitches for each of the different levels of the game (for example, local, regional or national). For a basic pitch, the grass pitch must have adequate grass cover low level of weed coverage be flat and have the ability to drain water.
- 1.59 Both the Football Association and Rugby Football Union have approved long pile (third generation/ 3G) pitches as suitable for play. England Hockey's 2009-2016 Strategy said that 'long pile (3G) surfaces that are certified by the FIH would be permitted for local and regional league completion (except regional premiership divisions)'. England Hockey Facilities Strategy (2017)³² however no longer recommends these pitches as players felt that their hockey experience is negatively affected by the surface and this affects the quality of the participation experience. The 2016 guidance³³ says that clubs using 3G pitches will be given an appropriate period of time to transition to an appropriate surface.

England Hockey Business and Brand Strategy (2013-2017)

- 1.60 England Hockey's Business and Brand Strategy 2013-2017³⁴ vision is to be 'a nation where hockey matters where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses'.
- 1.61 The strategy identifies five core objectives:

²⁸ <https://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/club-planning/planning/facilities/community-assets-guidance/>

²⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

³⁰ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4275/selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-rev2-2010.pdf>

³¹ <http://totalturfsolutions.co.uk/services/performance-standards/#>

³² <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>

³³ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2082§ionTitle=Types+of+Surfaces>

³⁴ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1154§ionTitle=Vision+and+Strategy>

- Grow participation: Provide formal and informal playing opportunities for adults and young people to increase participation and ensure a vibrant future for hockey.
- Deliver international success: Raise the bar of athlete and coach development to systematically create world class performers, international success and positive role models for hockey.
- Increase visibility: Deliver high profile, high quality domestic and international events that increase spectator numbers, broadcast coverage and event sponsorship.
- Enhance infrastructure: Improve the playing experience by enhancing facilities, coaching, officiating and the support England Hockey offers to their clubs, volunteers and stakeholders.
- Be a strong and respected Governing Body: Continue to maintain the highest standards and diversify sources of revenue to reduce reliance on grant income.

The Football Association Strategy (2016-2020)

1.62 The Football Association Strategy 2016-2020³⁵ aims to achieve:

- England Teams: England men's and women's senior teams ready to win in 2022 and 2023
- Education: a world-leading education programme for a diverse football workforce
- Female football: a doubling of the player base and fan following of female football
- Participation: flexible, inclusive and accessible playing opportunities for everyone
- Digital engagement: direct engagement with every fan, player and participant
- Regulation and administration: trusted regulation, efficient administration and world class competitions
- Venues: Webley Stadium and St George's Park as world leading inspirational venues

The England and Wales Cricket Board Strategy (2016-2020)

1.63 England and Wales Cricket Board Strategy 2016-2020³⁶ aims to 'get a bat and ball into more hands, introduce more people to the power of cricket and show a new generation how to get involved'.

1.64 The strategy outlines a number of focuses including:

- Clubs and leagues: create clubs and leagues that provide the experience that players want

³⁵ <http://www.thefa.com/about-football-association/what-we-do/strategy>

³⁶ http://cricketunleashed.com/downloadable/Detailed_Plan.pdf

- Kids: inspire the next generation by putting the bat and ball in more hands
- Communities: make it easier for people from all groups to engage with the game and
- Casual: create opportunities for everybody, everywhere to define their own game

Rugby Union's Strategic Plan (2012/13-2016/17)

- 1.65 Rugby Union's Strategic Plan 2012/13-2016/17³⁷ vision is for 'rugby to be amongst England's strongest sports with our clubs thriving and participation at an all time high'.
- 1.66 The strategic plan identifies a number of priorities including:
- Modern brand fine reputation strong relationships
 - Increased revenue for the game
 - Rugby for everyone
 - Securing success
 - Creating the most inspiring Rugby World Cup event.

Bowls England Strategic Plan (2014-2017)

- 1.67 Bowls England Strategic Plan (2014-2017)³⁸ mission is to 'provide strong leadership and work with stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations'.
- 1.68 The plan aims to promote the sport recruit new participants and retain current and future participants.
- 1.69 It outlines a number of core values including:
- Be progressive:
 - Seek opportunities to adapt the sport to meet the needs of clubs and participants and embrace change when required
 - Support clubs and county associations to make any adjustments required to meet these needs
 - Offer opportunities for players to participate at national and international level:
 - Organise National Championships and National Competitions for players of all abilities
 - Offer opportunities for selected players to participate in international events
 - Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention:

³⁷ <http://www.englandrugby.com/about-the-rfu/rfu-strategic-plan-2012-13-2016-17/>

³⁸ https://www.bowlsengland.com/uploads/BE_POL_STRATEGIC_PLAN_REVISED_MAY_2015.pdf

- Work with Affiliated Clubs and County Associations, and support the Bowls Development Alliance, to increase participation in the sport
- Aim to maximise coverage of the sport with local, regional and national media
- Lead the sport:
 - Drive the sport forward towards our vision
 - Work in partnership with key stakeholders on behalf of Members
- Support clubs and county associations:
 - Support clubs and counties with regard to development planning and training of volunteers
 - Be advocates for the sport of bowls and ensure clubs can access specialist advice as required
 - Offer advice to and support clubs and counties with regard to Government legislation impacting upon the sporting environment

The Lawn Tennis Association British Tennis Strategy (2015-2018)

1.70 The Lawn Tennis Association British Tennis Strategy (2015-2018)³⁹ mission is to ‘get more people playing tennis more often’.

1.71 It outlines a number of foci including

- Deliver great service to Clubs:
 - Provide great support for clubs of all sizes by sharing best practice learning
 - Apply greater focus on clubs seeking to grow the game in their club and community
 - Help clubs achieve management excellence
- Build partnerships in the Community:
 - Develop strong local park and other community tennis venue partnerships to deliver inclusive tennis provision for all
 - Invest in great people delivering great experiences in parks
 - Targeted investment in ‘welcoming’ park facilities for people to socialise and play
- Grow participation among Children and Young People:
 - Further strengthen schools offer, while introducing new secondary school programme
 - Clarify and strengthen the tennis pathway from 5-21 so that more children stay in the game

³⁹ https://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision/? t_id=1B2M2Y8AsgTpgAmY7PhCfg%3d%3d& t_q=vision& t_tags=language%3aen%2csiteid%3af3862a05-6b76-4b3c-9179-c99ae142b858& t_ip=195.194.180.66& t_hit.id=Lta_Models_Pages_HubPage/ 34ccc904-e673-40e2-8b3f-7c531af6c67d_en-GB& t_hit.pos=1#?open=Our Strategy

- Focus on how we attract children into the club environment, and then retain them in tennis through fun experiences, a sense of progression and appropriate competition

England Athletics Strategic Plan: 2017 and Beyond

1.72 England Athletics Strategic Plan: 2017 and beyond⁴⁰ vision is that ‘athletics and running will be the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body’.

1.73 The strategic plan identifies three strategic priorities:

- To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce
- To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in athletics and
- To influence participation in the wider athletics market

England Golf Strategy (2017-2021)

1.74 English Golf Strategy (2017-2021)⁴¹ identifies a number of strategic objectives including:

- Being customer focused: putting everyone who has an interest in gold at the heart of England Golf does
- Stronger counties and clubs: help counties and clubs strengthen their business models and internal operations and become more resilient and responsive to customer needs
- Excellent governance: become a model of best practice by working within the golf community to ensure that structures, policies and procedures promote the highest standards resulting in stronger management and supporting sustainable growth
- Improved image and promoting the benefits of sport: promote the positive health, wellbeing, social and economic benefits of the sport and raise the profile of the England Golf brand through making the best use of all media
- More members and players: inspire more people to take up golf, to play more often and to join a golf club.
- Outstanding champions, competitions and events: target all levels of player with a wide range of well organised and professionally promoted competitions and events (from top-level to regional competitions and other events)
- Winning golfers: support and develop elite golfers manage a performance pathway which aims to produce the best amateur golfers in the world and support the transition of individuals into the professional game.

⁴⁰ www.EnglandAthletics.org/strategicplan

⁴¹ www.EnglandGolf.org

Fields in Trust: Six Acre Standards (2015)

- 1.75 The Six Acre Standard (2015) guidance⁴² recommends that equipped/ designated play spaces be promoted in the form of:
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs) aimed at the very young children
 - Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently and
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children
These spaces can be complemented by other facilities including Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks.
- 1.76 The report sets out recommended benchmark guidelines for the provision of equipped/ designated play space.

⁴² <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/toolkit/pdfs/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-Oct-2015.pdf>

Table 1 Recommended Benchmark Guidelines for the Provision of Equipped/ Designated Play Space

Scale of Development	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	MUGA
5-10 dwellings	Yes	No	No	No
10-200 dwellings	Yes	Yes	No	Contribution
201-500 dwellings	Yes	Yes	Contribution	Yes
501+ dwellings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- 1.77 The report establishes recommended benchmark guidelines for formal and informal outdoor space and says that when applying these figures, consideration should be given to local features and obstacles to pedestrian and cycle movement.

Table 2 Fields in Trust Recommended Standards for Informal Outdoor Space

Open Space Typology	Quantity Guideline (ha/1,000 population)	Walking distance (metres from dwelling)	Quality Guideline
Parks & Gardens	0.80	710m Approx. 10 mins walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks to be of Green Flag status • Appropriately landscaped • Positive management • Provision of footpaths • Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime
Amenity Greenspace	0.60	480m Approx. 6 mins walking	
Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	1.80	720m Approx. 10 mins walking	

Table 3 Fields in Trust Recommended Standards for Formal Outdoor Space

Open space typology	Quantity Guideline (ha/1,000 population)	Walking distance (distance from dwellings)	Quality guidelines
Playing pitches	1.20	1,200m (20 mins walking)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards • Located where they are of most value to the community to be served • Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community • Appropriately landscaped • Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance • Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary • Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment • Provision of footpaths • Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime • Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for playing pitches, taking into account the level of play, topography, necessary safety margins and optimal orientation⁴³ • Local authorities should set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using the Children's Play Councils Quality Assessment Tool
All outdoor sports	1.60	1,200 (20 mins walking)	
Equipped/ designated play areas	0.25	<u>LAPs</u> : 100m (1-2 mins walking) <u>LEAPs</u> : 400m (5 mins waling) <u>NEAPs</u> : 1,000m (10-15 mins walking)	
Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks)	0.30	700m (approx. 10 mins walking)	

⁴³ Quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as either a maximum or minimum level of provision rather they are benchmark standards that can be adjusted to take account of local circumstances

1.78 The Fields in Trust Report also outlines recommended minimum sizes for formal outdoor space.

Table 4 Recommended Minimum Sizes - Formal Outdoor Space

Open space typology	Minimum sizes		Minimum Dimensions	Buffer Zones
Playing pitches	<u>Association football</u>			
	Adult soccer	0.74ha	106x70m	N/A
	Mini Soccer U7/U8 pitch	0.14ha	43x33m	N/A
	Mini soccer U9/ U10 pitch	0.25ha	60x42m	N/A
	<u>Rugby Union</u>	0.70ha	100x70m	N/A
	<u>Hockey</u>			
	Mini Hockey	0.31ha	65x48m	N/A
	<u>Lacrosse</u>	0.66ha	100x60m	N/A
	<u>Cricket</u>			
	Senior recreational 12 pitch	1.43ha	111.56x128.04m	N/A
Other Outdoor (non-pitch) Sports	<u>Athletics</u>			
	6 lane track	1.51ha	172.03x87.64m	N/A
	<u>Tennis Courts</u>			
	1 recreational court	0.06ha	34.75x17.07m	N/A
	2 recreational courts	0.11ha	4.75x31.70m	N/A
	For each adjacent court	0.05ha	34.75x14.63m	N/A
	<u>Bowling Greens</u>			
	Flat green	0.12ha	34.4x34.4m	N/A
	Crown green	0.08ha	27.4x27.4m	N/A
Equipped/ designated play areas	<u>LAP</u>	0.01ha	10x10m (min activity zone of 100sqm)	5m min separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings.
	<u>LEAP</u>	0.04ha	20x20m (min activity zone of 400sqm)	20m min separation between activity zone and the habitable room façade of dwellings
	<u>NEAP</u>	0.1ha	31.6x31.6m (min activity zone of 1,000sqm comprising an area for play equipment and structures and a hard surfaced area of at least 465sqm (the min needed to play	30m min separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings

			five-a-side football))	
	<u>MUGA</u>	0.1ha	40x20m	30m min separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings

Sport England’s Sports Halls Design and Layouts: Updated and Combined Guidance (2012)

- 1.79 Sport England’s Sports Halls Design and Layouts: Updated and Combined Guidance (2012)⁴⁴ recognises that good facilities are fundamental to developing sporting opportunities for everyone. The buildings whether large or small can encourage civic pride and assist the process of revitalising deprived neighbourhoods. Facilities that are well designed, built to last and well maintained are a pleasure to use and give an ample return on the time and money invested in their construction and day to day use.
- 1.80 The report recommends that good design is based on an understanding of issues such as the current trends and practices within individual sports, the wider leisure industry and lessons learnt from previously built schemes.

Sport England’s Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches & Courts (Indoor) (2015)

- 1.81 Sport England’s Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches & Courts report (2015)⁴⁵ builds upon the Sports Halls Design and Layout report and reflects the most up-to-date national governing body facility requirements.
- 1.82 The report provides an overview of the space requirements for a range of indoor sports including badminton, basketball and bowls. For basketball, for example, the report recommends a principal playing area of 13.4 x 6.1 x 6.7m.

Sport England’s Swimming Pool Guidance (2013)

- 1.83 Sport England’s Swimming Pool Guidance (2013)⁴⁶ recognises the need for continual investment in swimming pools as they are operational almost 24 hours a day 365 days a week and need to operate to stringent health and safety requirements.

⁴⁴ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4330/sports-halls-design-and-layouts-2012.pdf>

⁴⁵ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4381/comparative-sizes-indoor.pdf>

⁴⁶ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4187/swimming-pools-dgn-2013.pdf>

1.84 The report notes that there has been a general underfunding in public swimming pools and encourages schools, local education authorities, health agencies and local government to work together to consider the needs of the entire community.

1.85 The report also stresses the importance of accessibility in terms of both location and access as swimming is ideally suited for people with disabilities and the elderly and infirm who may have difficulties with other forms of exercise.

ASA From Policy to Pool

1.86 The report⁴⁷ provides a framework for all publicly accessible pools. It says that:

- Major competition pools should be 50m
- Community pools should be 25m
- School pools should be 20m

1.87 It says that all pools should meet a range of community needs irrespective of its primary use.

Sport England's Affordable Sports Centres with Community 50m Pool Options (2014)

1.88 The report⁴⁸ recognises that the development of a sports centre with a 50m pool will require a significant capital investment and therefore outlines three options for developing affordable sports centres with community 50m pools.

Sport England's Affordable Sports Centres with Community 25m Pool Options (2015)

1.89 The report⁴⁹ recognises that the development of a sports centre with a 25m pool will require significant capital investment and therefore outlines four options for developing affordable sports centres with community 25m pools.

Sport England's Affordable Sports Halls (2015)

1.90 The report⁵⁰ outlines a number of approaches to developing the 'right sports hall' for the local community. It emphasises the need to gather information on the type of sports hall that is required, for example the type of sport activity (competition/ community/ education/ training), the level of performance (community/ club/ regional/ international) and the amount of activity (the number of hours it will be operational for a week).

⁴⁷ <https://www.hniconsultants.co.uk/from-policy-to-pool.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4006/affordable-sports-centre-with-50m-pool-brochure.pdf>

⁴⁹ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4025/asc25-brochure-march-2015.pdf>

⁵⁰ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4647/affordable-sports-halls-main-document-2015.pdf>

Sport England's Accessible Sports Facilities (2010)

- 1.91 The report⁵¹ says that consideration needs to be given to the needs of parents with young children, older people and disabled people.
- 1.92 Consideration should also be given to:
- How people will find facilities
 - How people will reach facilities
 - How they will use the facilities
 - How they will leave the facilities

Sport England's Wayfinding and Signage for Sports Facilities (2013)

- 1.93 The report⁵² says that buildings should have a logical and efficient layout that will make wayfinding and general use of the building as intuitive as possible.
- 1.94 It says that signage should:
- Inform
 - Provide reassurance
 - Be clear, simple and intuitive
 - Be consistent, using prescribed typefaces, colour and contrast
 - Not be excessive to avoid information being ignored or creating confusion and possible danger

Sport England's Active Design: Planning for Health and Wellbeing through Sport and Physical Activity (2012)

- 1.95 The report⁵³ outlines ten principles of active design:
- Activity for all
 - Walkable communities
 - Connected walking and cycling routes
 - Co-location of community facilities
 - Network of multifunctional open space
 - High quality streets and spaces
 - Appropriate infrastructure
 - Active buildings
 - Management, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation
 - Activity promotion and local champions

⁵¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4508/accessible-sports-facilities-2010.pdf>

⁵² <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3964/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf>

⁵³ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4330/sports-halls-design-and-layouts-2012.pdf>

Sport England's Fitness and Exercise Spaces (2008)

- 1.96 The report⁵⁴ says that a well designed facility should take into account:
- Site accessibility including proximity to roads and links to public transport
 - Accessibility for all
 - Vehicular circulation and parking provision for cars, bicycles, motorcycles and staff parking
 - Clearly defined, welcoming and attractive entrance
 - Need for overspill parking
 - Consideration of building access
 - Consideration of external factors such as security and environmental issues that may impact upon the location and orientation of the building and the overall design
- 1.97 It says that fitness suites should have a bright open design and circulation should be clear and simple.
- 1.98 The report says that consideration should be given to new trends such as pilates, spinning, kickboxing and youth gyms

Sport England's Indoor Bowls (2005)

- 1.99 The report⁵⁵ says that facilities should be built with good quality and easily maintained materials and finishes.
- 1.100 The report says that key requirements of indoor bowling centres include:
- Good accessibility
 - Space for car parking and possible expansion
 - Clear visibility from main access routes
 - Space for clear on and off-site signage
 - Coach parking for visiting teams
 - Access for emergency services
 - Internal storage
 - Club/ function room/ committee room/ refreshments area
 - Ideally, the site should be level, free from major sub-surface problems and within easy reach of mains services

Sport England's Village and Community Halls (2001)

- 1.101 The report⁵⁶ says that village and community halls should be located in a central location with sufficient parking, close to shops and other well-used facilities and to public transport

⁵⁴ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4203/fitness-and-exercise-spaces.pdf>

⁵⁵ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4235/indoor-bowls.pdf>

⁵⁶ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4336/village-and-community-halls.pdf>

1.102 Sport's requirements are best served where there is sufficient space for an outdoor multi-use games area to supplement activities taking place in the hall, where this is the case, village and community halls can operate as club houses, changing facilities, pavilions and provide space for refreshments.

1.103 A hall should include as a minimum:

- Main activity and assembly space
- Entrance foyer
- Equipment and furniture store
- Kitchen
- Toilets
- Changing provision
- Cleaner's store
- Boiler/ plant room

1.104 Halls should be a minimum of 140sqm. The main activity should conform to recognised sports dimensions (if the hall is to be primarily used for badminton then the main activity space should be an appropriate size for badminton).

English Indoor Bowling Association Strategy (2017-2021)

1.105 The English Indoor Bowling Association Strategy (2017-2021)⁵⁷ outlines a number of objectives including:

- To strengthen resilience in the bowls core market
- To continue to introduce new people into the sport so as to develop a habit of regular physical activity
- To ensure all projects are fully inclusive
- To contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of participants
- To develop accurate data collection and insight methods alongside key partners
- To upskill the volunteer workforce to ensure participants receive the best possible experience
- To ensure clubs have support in the maintenance and development of their facilities and so strengthen resilience.

Department of Education's Children and Young People's Strategy (2017-2027)

1.106 The Department of Education's Children and Young People's Strategy (2017-2027)⁵⁸ recognises that play provides many benefits including physical and

⁵⁷ <http://www.eiba.co.uk/about/vision2017-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/education/Children%20and%20young%20people%27s%20strategy%20%284%29.pdf>

mental health, education, skills development, social confidence and wider community cohesion. The report stresses the importance of providing play facilities for children of all ages, disabilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

Play England’s Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces (2008)

- 1.107 The report⁵⁹ recognises that play space needs to be of a high quality and good design to attract children and families and to become a valued part of the local environment. Poor quality, unimaginative space will not be attractive to children, will not be valued by the local community and will fall in to disuse and disrepair.
- 1.108 The report notes that play areas should be accessible to all children and young people, including those who are disabled or have specific needs, as play is essential to the healthy development of children and young people (not just their physical development, but their social and cognitive development).

Play England’s Quality in Play: Standards, Assessment Indicators and Evidence – A Manual Report (2016)

- 1.109 Play England’s 2016 report⁶⁰ recognises that for play providers the challenge is to demonstrate quality and value for money whilst designing and maintaining excellent staffed play environments.
- 1.110 The report outlines a quality management tool which places the needs of the children at the centre of the play strategy. The model recognises that with new children arriving and others leaving the needs of the children may change and that this may affect the type of play environment needed.

Play Day Opinion Poll (2013)

- 1.111 The 2013 Play Day Opinion Poll⁶¹ summarises the views from 3,000 children, parents and adults. It found that whilst children and young people want to play outside and adults recognise the wide benefits to the community such as allowing families to get to know each other, children’s freedom to play outside is substantially reduced compared to that of previous generations.
- 1.112 The report found that the main barriers to play include:
- Danger from traffic
 - “Stranger danger”
 - Negative and intolerant attitudes from other adults disapproving of children playing outside

⁵⁹ <http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/70684/design-for-play.pdf>

⁶⁰ <http://www.playengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/QualityInPlay2017web.pdf>

⁶¹ <http://www.playday.org.uk/resources/research/>

Play Safety Forum's Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide (2012)

- 1.113 Play Safety Forum's Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide (2012)⁶² recognises that for many children today, playgrounds are some of the few spaces that have the potential to offer opportunities to play.
- 1.114 The guide recognises that the fear of litigation and blame culture can lead to play providers feeling exposed, but also recognises that children need and want to take risks when they play. The report promotes the use of a risk-benefit assessment process.

Play England's Charter for Children's Play (2009)

- 1.115 Play England's Charter for Children's Play (2009) states that:
- Children have the right to play
 - Every child needs time and space to play
 - Adults should let children play
 - Children should be able to play freely in their local areas
 - Children value and benefit from staffed play provision
 - Children's play is enriched by skilled play workers
 - Children need time and space to play at school and
 - Children sometimes need extra support to enjoy their right to play

National Play Strategy (2008)

- 1.116 In 2008, the then government produced a play strategy⁶³ which aimed to ensure that by 2020 in every residential area there are a variety of places for play, free of charge, supervised and unsupervised with children and young people having a clear, respected 'stake in public space'.
- 1.117 This report has not been replaced by subsequent governments.

The Social Value of Public Spaces (2007)

- 1.118 The 2007 Joseph Rowntree Foundation report⁶⁴ evaluates the role of public space noting:
- The uses within public space varies according to the time of day and day of the week and is affected by what is on offer in a particular place and at a particular time

⁶² <http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/172644/managing-risk-in-play-provision.pdf>

⁶³

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110220063554/http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/The_Play_Strategy.pdf

⁶⁴ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/2050-public-space-community.pdf>

- Public space can offer many benefits including the ‘feel-good’ buzz from being part of a busy street scene
- Public space allows space for people of different communities and cultures to mix
- They are places where people can display their culture and identifies and learn awareness of diversity and difference
- Groups can be discouraged from frequenting the areas, older people for example can be discouraged by a lack of seating and groups of younger people can be discouraged by being continuously ‘moved on’
- Importance of areas such as markets as social hubs providing opportunities for meeting friends and enjoying the banter with familiar street traders.

Social Interactions in Urban Public Places (2007)

- 1.119 The 2007 Joseph Rowntree report⁶⁵ highlights the importance of public space in allowing people from different cultures to interact with people in planned and unplanned ways.
- 1.120 The report recognises that people are drawn to, and tend to stay longer in, places that offer interest, stimulation and a degree of comfort and therefore highlights the importance of street entertainment, events and seating.

Local Government Association and Communities and Local Government Association’s Report: Growing in the Community Report (2009)

- 1.121 The 2009 Growing in the Community Report⁶⁶ recognises that within recent years there has been a widespread renaissance in allotment gardening because of increased popularity of healthy eating, organic food and exercise. This has resulted in an increased demand for new sites in some areas and growing waiting lists in others.
- 1.122 The guide says that development should only happen on development sites where there is evidence of long-term insufficient demand for continued use of land as allotments and suitable land is made available, either by retention or relocation, for allotments that are in use.

⁶⁵ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/2017-interactions-public-places.pdf>

⁶⁶ <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/growing-community-second--8f5.pdf>

Department for Communities and Local Government Allotment Disposal Guidance: Safeguards and Alternatives Report (2014)

1.123 The Department for Communities and Local Government Allotment Disposal Guidance: Safeguards and Alternatives Report (2014)⁶⁷ outlines the process for seeking consent to dispose/ reallocate allotment land.

1.124 The process includes:

- Demonstration that provision is not necessary for example, there are no existing plot holders on the site and there is no one waiting for a plot on that site
- Demonstration of why adequate alternative provision is not reasonably practical (noting that reasons will differ according to local circumstances)
- Taking into account the views of existing plot holders
- Comparison of the size of new/ alternative provision including plot size in relation to the size of the existing site
- Taking into account the distance and accessibility of new/ alternative site from the existing site taking into account the needs of potential allotment holders such as the elderly and disabled.

The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977

1.125 The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977⁶⁸ requires local authority cemeteries to be kept in good order and repair. Church in England and other religious burial grounds are subject to ecclesiastical law and private cemeteries are potentially subject to old private acts (depending on circumstances) or no regulations.

1.126 Responsibility for the maintenance of churchyards closed to further burials can be transferred to the parochial church council under section 215 of the Local Government Act of 1972⁶⁹ or to local authorities as open spaces under the Open Spaces Act of 1906⁷⁰.

The Design Council's Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds Report (2007)

1.127 The Design Council's Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds 2007 Report⁷¹ recognises that cemeteries, churchyards and burial spaces are often

⁶⁷

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/276081/Allotment_disposal_guidance - Safeguards and alternatives.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/276081/Allotment_disposal_guidance_-_Safeguards_and_alternatives.pdf)

⁶⁸ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1977/204/made>

⁶⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/section/215>

⁷⁰ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Edw7/6/25/contents>

⁷¹ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118111022/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/cemeteries-churchyards-and-burial-grounds.pdf>

highly valued by communities for their 'spiritual' as well as their place-making and place-marking qualities.

- 1.128 The report notes that urban burial grounds were originally envisaged as public open spaces, and were professionally designed to be attractive places to visit in their own right but notes that today, many cemeteries are neglected with little to attract anyone apart from those visiting specific burial plots.
- 1.129 The report warns that the lack of design, planning and ambition means that the potential health and environmental benefits of cemeteries is not being realised.

The Ministry of Justice's Guide for Burial Ground Managers (2005)

- 1.130 The Ministry of Justice's Guide for Burial Ground Managers (2005)⁷² outlines a number of objectives, one of which is 'to promote appreciation of, and commitment to, the wider role of burial grounds in the environmental, historical and cultural life of the community'.

Natural England's Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)

- 1.131 The report⁷³ defines green infrastructure as 'a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the community it serves and needed to underpin sustainability'.
- 1.132 It says that green infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Green infrastructure needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodate both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and offer much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.
- 1.133 The report says that its design and management should respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

RTPI Briefing on Green Infrastructure in the UK (2013)

- 1.134 The report⁷⁴ says that green infrastructure includes 'all green and blue spaces in and around out towns and cities'. It says that green infrastructure includes

⁷² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/burial-grounds-guidance-for-managers>

⁷³ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033>

⁷⁴ http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/499964/rtpi_gi_task_group_briefing_final.pdf

parks, private gardens, agricultural fields, hedges, trees, woodland, green roofs, green walls, rivers and ponds regardless of ownership, condition or size.

Local Policy

The Borough Local Plan (2005)

- 1.135 The Borough Local Plan (2005)⁷⁵ incorporates a number of policies which seek to preserve the protection of areas of open space including:
- Pc1 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of Great Landscape Value
 - Pc2A Special Areas of Conservation
 - Pc2B Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - Pc2C Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
 - Pc2E Local Nature Reserves
 - Pc2G Local Nature Conservation Interest
 - Pc3 Woodlands
 - Pc5 Countryside Management
 - Pc6 Urban Open Land
- 1.136 Policy Re1 Retention of Existing Recreational Uses seeks to resist the loss of land, water and buildings used or proposed to be used for recreation and leisure encourages the maintenance and enhancement of existing recreation and leisure facilities especially where there are identified shortfalls and notes that where a loss of a facility is proposed alternative facilities should be provided nearby.
- 1.137 Policy Re2 outlines the design and layout requirements for recreational development, for example, requiring a high standard of design that complements the character of the area.
- 1.138 Policy Re3 outlines a number of allocations for public open space including:
- Nork Park, Banstead
 - Merstham Meadows, Malmstone Avenue, Merstham
 - Chapel Road, Redhill
 - New Pond Farm/ Felland Copse, Woodhatch Road, Reigate
 - Y.C. Field, Balcombe Road, Horley
 - Fisher's Farm/ Bayhorne Farm, Balcombe Road, Horley
 - River Mole Park, Lee Street, Horley
- 1.139 Policy Re4 encourages the dual use of private, institutional and educational facilities for outdoor playing space. In particular, it identifies a need to create a dual use on the following areas of outdoor playing space:
- Warren Mead CMS, Partridge Mead, Basntead
 - Basing Road/ Bolters Road, Banstead

⁷⁵ http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20271/borough_local_plan_and_proposals_map

- Warwick School, Noke Drive, Redhill
- Detached School Playing Field, St. Albans Road, Reigate
- Oakwood CSS, Balcombe Road, Horley

1.140 Policy Re5 encourages the provision of new and enhanced safe play areas and small local open spaces where there is an acknowledged deficiency.

1.141 Policy Re6 requires all new residential development to make provision for or contribute towards outdoor playing space, stipulating that the National Playing Fields Association six acre standard (2001) will be used as a minimum level of provision. Developments of less than 15 family dwellings are instead required to provide a commuted payment developments which do not create family dwellings are not required to contribute towards outdoor playing space and developments creating sheltered housing are required to provide a reduced amount of open space to reflect the needs created by the residents.

1.142 Policy Re7 resists the loss of allotment land, noting that on sites which experience prolonged vacancies the Council may promote other recreational uses providing that there are sufficient alternative allotment plots available in the locality to meet demand.

1.143 Policy Re8 notes that in exceptional circumstances it may be appropriate to permit indoor recreational facilities in the countryside as a way of re-using redundant institutional or agricultural buildings, as long as this does not increase the intensity of use so as to adversely affect the character and amenities of the surrounding area.

1.144 Policy Re9 recognises that there is good golf course provision in the north of the borough but limited provision in the south. The policy therefore encourages the provision of an eighteen-hole golf course in an appropriate location to serve the southern part of the Borough and encourages greater public use of existing and proposed courses.

1.145 Policies Re10, Re11 and Re12 support improvements and enhancements to the Councils existing leisure centres (Donyngs, Banstead Sports Centre and Horley Anderson Centre) encourage the dual use of private, institutional and educational facilities and encourage proposals for new provision/ rebuilding/ extensions to sporting, leisure and cultural facilities.

1.146 Policies Cf1, Cf2 and Cf3 encourage the provision of well designed new community facilities where there is a demand which cannot be met from the use of existing facilities and resist the loss of community buildings unless there is no longer a need for them alternative provision is to be made available elsewhere in the locality and no other community facility/ service can make use of the premises or site.

1.147 The Borough local Plan also incorporates the Horley Masterplan (HMP) a comprehensive long term strategy to deliver high quality new development within Horley (North East and North West Sectors) and wider benefits to Horley. Objective 7 ensures that a diverse range of recreation and leisure facilities are accommodated within the town.

1.148 Policy Hr33 outlines a number of site allocations for public open space:

- Land south side of Smallfield Road – combined park and outdoor playing space
- Land north of Langshott Kennels – kickabout area
- Land to the west of Great Lake Farm – kickabout area and formal play provision
- Land to the north of Landens Farm – kickabout area and formal play provision
- Part Fishers Farm/ Bayhorne Farm – amenity open space/ outdoor playing space

1.149 Policy Hr34 allocates the site at the former Court Lodge County Secondary School for a leisure centre.

1.150 Policy Hr35 allocates a number of site allocations for allotments:

- Land north of Ladbroke Road
- Land west of Meath Green Lane
- Land west of Cheswick Cottage, Meath Green Lane

1.151 Policy Hr36 outlines the area of the rural surrounds of Horley and states that development will not be permitted unless it is for a use related to the essential needs of agriculture, forestry, outdoor sports and recreation.

1.152 Policy Hr38 outlines the area and states the appropriate uses of the Riverside Green Chain:

- Informal recreation
- Formal outdoor recreation, allotments, agriculture and woodland
- Local nature reserves
- Enhancements to the riverine environment, including establishment of buffer zones
- Safe access to appropriate sections of the riverine environment while protecting other areas as wildlife refuges
- Interpretation of archaeological sites
- Creation of ponds, swales and stormwater wetlands
- Construction of a combined orbital cycle and pedestrian path with connections to new and existing housing areas
- Provision for horse riders

1.153 Policy Hr41 allocates areas for multi-function community halls within both the North East and North West sectors.

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment (2011)

1.154 The Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment (2011)⁷⁶ was undertaken in line with the methodology set out in the PPG17 Companion Guide. The aims of the report were to:

- Identity areas of open space and recreation provision within the borough
- Determine the standards to be applied in the borough for the quantity, accessibility and quality of these spaces
- Determine current and likely future deficiencies across the borough, in relation to these standards
- Identify the priorities for open space, sport and recreation planning, to support decision making and the developing Local Development Framework (LDF)
- Inform the Green Infrastructure Strategy which aims to develop a network of multi-functional green spaces across the borough

1.155 To inform the report a number of consultations were undertaken:

- Residents Associations
- Annual Parks & Countryside Survey
- Residents Survey
- Sports Club Survey
- Allotment Survey
- Facilities in Schools, Village Halls and Community Halls Survey
- Priory Park Survey

1.156 Site audits of the existing provision were undertaken and population estimates for the borough's population (2027) were made. Future priorities, policy recommendations and local quality, quantity and accessibility standards were made for each of the typologies of open space, sport and recreation provision identified in the PPG17 Report. These are detailed in Appendix 1.

Core Strategy (2014)

1.157 The Core Strategy⁷⁷ forms the principal spatial planning document for the Council covering a wide range of planning issues. Underpinning the Core Strategy is a commitment to sustainable future development. Policy CS5 ensures that people will have the access to services, information and facilities

⁷⁶ http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/download/106/ppg17_open_space_sport_and_recreation_assessment

⁷⁷ http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20380/current_planning_policy/24/core_strategy

which allow them to make healthy lifestyle choices and provide for healthier communities.

1.158 Policy CS12 recognises the importance of providing sufficient open space to serve residents of the borough. The policy seeks to resist the loss of open space unless surplus requirements can be demonstrated or better provision provided and seeks to secure new, additional open space from new developments.

1.159 Policy CS8 outlines infrastructure priorities for the borough. This includes:

- A new leisure centre and community hub in Preston
- A comprehensive playing space to provide sports and playing facilities for the residents of the Horley North East and North West Sectors (noting that this may be in an alternative location to the 2005 Borough Local Plan allocated town park)
- Play space and play facilities within the Horley North East and North West sectors
- A new leisure centre within Horley
- The development of the Riverside Green Chain in Horley

Development Management Plan: Horley Open Space Needs Assessment (2016)

1.160 The Development Management Plan: Horley Open Space Needs Assessment⁷⁸ was prepared to inform the Regulation 18 Development Management Plan consultation. It sought to revise the requirements for open space, sport and recreational provision for Horley taking into account the most recent population figures and the standards introduced in the 2011 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment.

1.161 The report reviewed the current supply and future planned provision of open space in Horley and assessed the open space needs arising in two scenarios:

- The open space needed to serve the additional population arising from the 'new' development/ housing growth over the combined Horley Master Plan/ Core Strategy Period (2005-2027)
- The open space needed to serve the forecast total population in Horley⁷⁹

1.162 The report concludes that, overall, no additional open space is required to meet the needs arising from the new development in Horley between 2005 and 2027 providing that all open space, sport and recreation secured through the North East and North West Sectors S106s is delivered. It however, recognises that there is a mismatch between the types of open space, sport and recreation – there would be a surplus of natural and semi-natural green space

⁷⁸ http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/2749/horley_open_space

⁷⁹ Recognising that this is not the approach undertaken elsewhere in the borough

and amenity green space and a deficit of outdoor sports facilities (particularly pitches) and parks and gardens – and therefore recommends repurposing some of the existing areas of natural and semi-natural green space and amenity green space in order to meet these deficiencies:

- Horley Recreation Ground: upgrade to create a more formal park through the introduction of new facilities (e.g. a café/ pavilion)
- North East and North West Riverside Green Chain: convert part of the Riverside Green Chain to provide outdoor sports pitches

1.163 The report recommends that at least 5ha of the Borough Local Plan 2005 allocation at Fishers Farm be used for a combination of parkland and outdoor sports facilities.

1.164 The report also identifies other potential sources of open space, sport and recreation provision:

- Provide an additional 8ha of open space through securing an extension to the Riverside Green Chain through the development of Sustainable Urban Extensions NWH1 and NWH2
- Secure open space and play areas on specific housing site allocations in the DMP and on other windfall sites through a policy requirement.

1.165 The report concludes that in the event that these alternative options are determined to be deliverable, that it would not be necessary to carry forward the other existing allocations (including the allocation for a town park) within the Borough Local Plan (2005).

Development Management Plan: Cemetery & Crematorium Needs (2016)

1.166 The report⁸⁰ provides an overview of existing facilities both within the borough and beyond that are currently used by borough residents and analyses whether there is a need for new cemetery and crematoria need over the plan period.

1.167 It found that there was no need for a site to be allocated for either a cemetery or crematorium.

Development Management Plan: Urban Open Space Review (2016)

1.168 The report⁸¹ presents technical work undertaken by the Council to determine the criteria that should be used to assess the value of urban greenspaces and assess whether individual land and sites in the borough play a valuable role as Urban Open Space and should be designated as Urban Open Space.

⁸⁰ http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/2625/cemetery_and_crematorium_needs

⁸¹ http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/2631/urban_open_space_review

1.169 The report identifies 153 sites as high priority for protection for Urban Open Space designation and 2 medium priority sites.

Development Management Plan: Urban Open Space Review (2017)

1.170 The report⁸² updates the 2016 review by reassessing recommendations that were objected to in the Regulation 18 Development Management Consultation Process and reviews a number of additional sites that were recommended through the consultation process.

1.171 Of the 10 sites that were re-assessed:

- 6 of the sites were recommended with designation with changed boundaries
- 2 sites were recommended for designation with no changes to boundaries
- 2 sites were recommended not to be designated

1.172 Of the 49 sites that were recommended for the first time:

- 32 were recommended for designation
- 17 were not recommended for designation

Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017)

1.173 The Green Infrastructure Strategy details how the Council will use its own resources, and work closely with partners, to make the most of the green infrastructure network that runs through the borough and beyond.

1.174 The report says that green infrastructure should:

- Be varied: made up of elements of different types and sizes and including green and blue features
- Be multifunctional: including elements that can be used for a range of different activities or habitats
- Deliver ecosystem services and quality of life benefits: fulfilling both environmental and social aspects of sustainability
- Form a coherent network which maximises the benefits provided by each individual element of green infrastructure
- In addition, green infrastructure can provide economic benefits in a number of areas

1.175 The report identifies 5 priorities:

- Protecting and enhancing the Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment Special Area of Conservation
- Enhancing our priority biodiversity habitats and unique landscapes
- Getting best value from our strategic open spaces

⁸² http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/20088/planning_policy

- Integrating green infrastructure into new developments
- Enhancing and linking communities and neighbourhoods through green infrastructure

1.176 It also outlines an action plan in order to deliver these priorities.