



# **STOCKPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

### **MARCH 2026**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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| Quality assurance | Name     | Date       |
|-------------------|----------|------------|
| Agreed sign off   | KKP/SMBC | March 2026 |

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### Glossary

|       |                                                                                          |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DPD   | Development Plan Document                                                                |
| FIT   | Fields in Trust                                                                          |
| FOG   | Friends of Group                                                                         |
| GIS   | Geographical Information Systems                                                         |
| GMEU  | Greater Manchester Ecology Unit                                                          |
| GMSF  | Greater Manchester Spatial Framework                                                     |
| KKP   | Knight, Kavanagh and Page                                                                |
| LAP   | Local Area for Play                                                                      |
| LEAP  | Local Equipped Area for Play                                                             |
| LDF   | Local Development Framework                                                              |
| LNR   | Local Nature Reserve                                                                     |
| LTA   | Lawn Tennis Association                                                                  |
| DLUHC | Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities                                     |
| MUGA  | Multi-Use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play) |
| NEAP  | Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play                                                     |
| NPPF  | National Planning Policy Framework (Dec 2024)                                            |
| NSALG | National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners                                      |
| ONS   | Office of National Statistics                                                            |
| OSNA  | Open Space Needs Assessment                                                              |
| PPG   | Planning Practice Guidance                                                               |
| PPS   | Playing Pitch Strategy                                                                   |
| SLP   | Stockport Local Plan                                                                     |
| SMBC  | Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council                                                   |
| SOA   | Super Output Areas                                                                       |
| SPD   | Supplementary Planning Document                                                          |
| SSSI  | Sites of Special Scientific Interest                                                     |

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Update Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). It provides detail with regard to what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It uses the 2017 Open Space Assessment, updated to reflect any known changes in provision and population, to set out the quantity, quality, and accessibility to open space.

In accordance with best practice recommendations\*, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not included unless identified as being significant.

#### ***Open space typologies and thresholds:***

##### Parks and gardens

- Primary purpose: Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
- Size threshold: n/a

##### Natural and semi-natural greenspaces

- Primary purpose: Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
- Size threshold: 0.2 hectares

##### Amenity greenspace

- Primary purpose: Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
- Size threshold: 0.2 hectares

##### Provision for children and young people

- Primary purpose: Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
- Size threshold: n/a

##### Allotments

- Primary purpose: Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
- Size threshold: n/a

##### Cemeteries and churchyards

- Primary purpose: Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
- Size threshold: n/a

##### Green corridors

- Primary purpose: Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
- Size threshold: n/a

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\* A Companion Guide to PPG17

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### Civic space

- Primary purpose: Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.
- Size threshold: n/a

### Outdoor sports facilities

- Primary purpose: Participation in formal outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, golf and athletics
- Size threshold: n/a

For planning policies to be 'sound', local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities* published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 103 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

## 1.1 Report structure

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space facilities in Stockport. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report is structured in a similar way to the 2017 study:

|                                              |                          |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Part 3: General open space summary           | Part 10: Civic space     |
| Part 4: Parks and gardens                    | Part 11: Green corridors |
| Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace     | Part 12: Tennis*         |
| Part 6: Amenity greenspace                   | Part 13: Bowls           |
| Part 7: Provision for children/ young people | Part 14: Golf            |
| Part 8: Allotments                           | Part 15: Athletics       |
| Part 9: Cemeteries/ churchyards              | Part 16: Playing pitch   |

## 1.2 National context

The NPPF sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption

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\* Including Padel

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in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 103 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 104 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

### 1.3 Local context

The council is preparing a new local plan for the borough - the Stockport Local Plan (SLP). Whilst this has been delayed to allow changes to the NPPF to be taken into account, it is the council's current intention that it be submitted for Examination in Public by the end of 2026.

The Stockport Local Plan (SLP) will set out the council's policies for the use and development of land in the Borough. It is part of the wider suite of documents that comprise the Stockport Development Plan which is made up of several statutory documents including Stockport's Proposals Map and the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plans. The SLP will play a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Through recognising open space provision in plan form, it can be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, whilst strengthening its presence in planning policy for the future as well as maximising potential opportunities for investment.

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### PART 2: METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Stockport is divided into seven analysis areas (reflecting the political boundaries of the area).

These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space surpluses and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The area is therefore, broken down as follows:

#### ***Population by analysis area (2022)\****

- ◀ Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South: 41,477
- ◀ Central Stockport: 57,905
- ◀ Cheadle: 45,125
- ◀ Heaton & Reddish: 59,150
- ◀ Marple: 26,772
- ◀ Stepping Hill: 39,633
- ◀ Werneth: 27,045
- ◀ **STOCKPORT: 297,107**

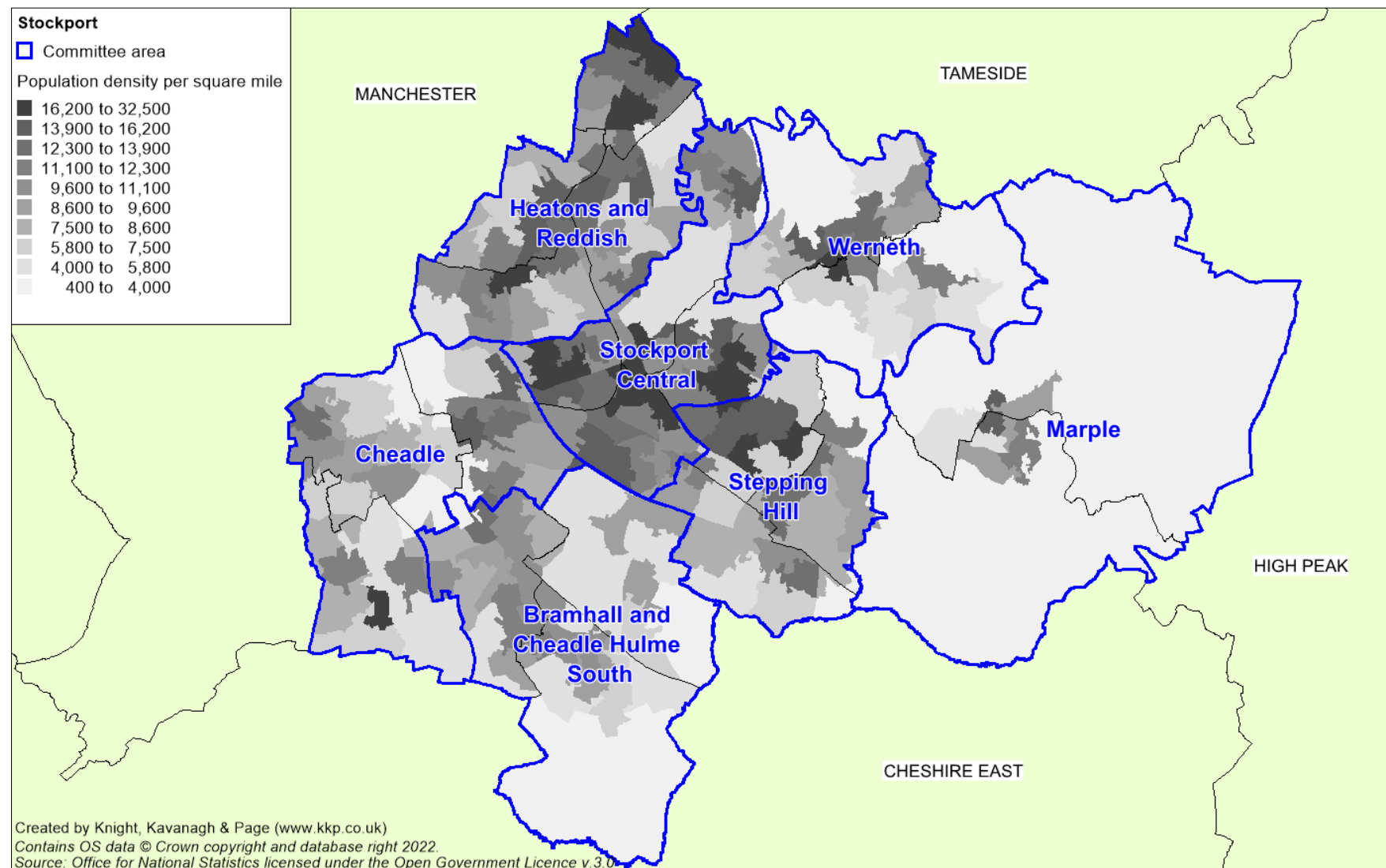
Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

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\* Source: ONS 2022 Mid-Year Estimates

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Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in Stockport



**2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)**

Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped, and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only publicly accessible sites are included (i.e., private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). The KKP Field Research Team originally undertook the site audit for the previous study in 2017. This has been reviewed (in autumn 2024) via a desk-based exercise to reflect any obvious changes in provision including adding any new sites (identified via checking against OS Greenspace data). Any newly added site has been assessed in order to be allocated a score. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies:

- 1. Parks and gardens
- 2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- 3. Amenity greenspace
- 4. Provision for children and young people
- 5. Allotments
- 6. Cemeteries/churchyards
- 7. Civic space
- 8. Green corridors

In addition, a number of outdoor sports are also included within the scope of the study. These include:

- 9. Tennis
- 10. Bowls
- 11. Golf
- 12. Athletics

These types of sports facilities are typically contained within a Playing Pitch Strategy or Built Facilities Strategy. However, as they were featured in the previous 2017 study they are retained for the purpose of this report in order to provide a high level overview of provision.

The Stockport Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) was undertaken in 2024. This sets out the current and future supply and demand requirements for all playing pitch provision including football, cricket, rugby and hockey. This should be sought with regard to any supply and demand queries.

***Database development***

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded on it. The database details for each site are as follows:

| Data held on open spaces database (summary) |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ◀                                           | KKP reference number (used for mapping) |
| ◀                                           | Site name                               |
| ◀                                           | Ownership (if known)                    |
| ◀                                           | Management (if known)                   |
| ◀                                           | Typology                                |
| ◀                                           | Size (hectares)                         |

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Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

### 2.3 Quality and value

Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a site of high quality may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a poor quality space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

#### ***Analysis of quality***

Data collated is initially based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for most sites. Scores are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments for the relevant typologies are summarised in the following table.

##### **Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)**

- ◆ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts
- ◆ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ◆ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ◆ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking
- ◆ Information signage, e.g., presence of site information, notice boards
- ◆ Equipment and facilities, e.g., adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ◆ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ◆ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site
- ◆ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape & features
- ◆ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people

#### ***Analysis of value***

Site visit data plus desk based research is calculated to provide value scores where relevant. Value is defined in best practice guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- ◆ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◆ Level and type of use.
- ◆ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

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The value criteria used for scoring is derived as:

### **Value criteria for open space site visits (score)**

- ▶ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility
- ▶ Context of site in relation to other open spaces
- ▶ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/area
- ▶ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- ▶ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- ▶ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being
- ▶ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area
- ▶ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- ▶ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

### **Weighting of scores**

Using all the criteria to allocate a score is not relevant for certain types of open space. Consequently, criteria are weighted differently for some types of open space to reflect the importance of that criterion for that open space type. In some instances, criteria may be omitted so it is not taken into account when calculating a quality/value score (i.e. if a specific feature is not relevant to a particular type of open space).

It is important that different criteria and weightings are set for different typologies as each typology serves a different purpose. For example, seating has greater emphasis for parks than say allotments or natural and semi natural sites. Consequently, the weighting given to such criteria is amended to reflect such circumstances.

The quality and value criteria used to score each type of open space type, and the weighting placed on certain criteria is set out in Appendix Three. In summary, the greater the relevance/importance of a criterion to a type of open space the higher the weighting value.

Assessed sites have an actual total score, this can be compared to the potential maximum score it could, in theory, receive based on the open space type. This is shown as a percentage figure. A simplified example is if the maximum a site could achieve is 100 for quality (i.e. the total points that could potential be awarded), and its actual assessed mark is 50, it will have a quality score of 50%.

## **2.4 Quality and value thresholds**

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

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The baseline threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds are, thus, worked out so as to reflect mean scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. The 20% threshold for value is a relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). It is considered that if a site meets more than once aspect of the criteria it should be viewed as higher value.

*Table 2.1: Quality and value thresholds by typology*

| Typology                                | Quality threshold | Value threshold |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Parks and gardens                       | 55%               | 20%             |
| Natural and semi-natural greenspace     | 40%               | 20%             |
| Amenity greenspace                      | 40%               | 20%             |
| Provision for children and young people | -                 | -               |
| Allotments                              | 45%               | 20%             |
| Cemeteries/churchyards                  | 50%               | 20%             |
| Civic space                             | 55%               | 20%             |

No quality and value threshold are set for provision for children and young people. The 2017 study did not undertake site visits. It instead referred to the Stockport Play Review.

### 2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision was originally carried out in 2017 via a combination of face-to-face meetings, surveys and telephone interviews. It was also conducted with key local authority officers (in respect of each typology). An online community survey was created and used to gather the wider views of local people. A total of 679 responses were returned. Information on the reliability and confidence of this number of returns is set out in Appendix Five. The findings of the consultation and survey carried out are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the report findings. A summary of the survey findings is set out in Part 3.

### 2.6 Accessibility standards

Accessibility standards for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users.

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Guidance on appropriate walking distance and times is published by Fields In Trust (FIT) in its document Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015). These guidelines have been converted into an equivalent time period in the table below.

*Table 2.2: FIT walking guidelines*

| Open space type                   | Walking guideline | Approximate time equivalent |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Parks & Gardens                   | 710m              | 9 minute                    |
| Amenity Greenspace                | 480m              | 6 minute                    |
| Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace | 720m              | 9 minute                    |

No standard is set for the typologies of allotments, cemeteries, civic spaces or green corridors. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space. Similarly, demand for allotment provision should be determined by waiting lists.

### PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in Stockport. It also includes a summary of the 679 responses from the online survey (further details on the demographic of respondents is set out in Appendix Two). Information on the reliability and confidence of this number of returns is set out in Appendix Five. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in the report.

The typologies of open space (cited on p3) were given a slightly different name for the purposes of the community survey and respondents. This was to ensure the questions were clear about what types of open space were being covered. Most are similar. The main differences and additions are:

- ✦ Outdoor networks (e.g. cycle paths, footpaths, bridleways): Routes/land providing links to different sites and areas. Covered as part of green corridor and natural/semi-natural greenspace.
- ✦ General amenity greenspace: Equivalent of amenity greenspace.
- ✦ Nature reserve, common, woodland: Covered as part of natural/semi-natural greenspace.
- ✦ Country parks: Covered as part of natural/semi-natural greenspace.

#### 3.1 Frequency of visits

Survey participants were asked how often they visit each type of open space. A high proportion of respondents identify visiting typologies such as parks more than once a week (52%) which is an indication of the popularity of this type of provision. Other popular open spaces also visited on a regular basis (i.e. more than once a week) include outdoor networks (40%), general amenity greenspace (33%) and allotments (31%).

Provision such as cemeteries and churchyards are visited on a less frequent basis with more respondents (40%) stating they visit this type of site less than once a month. This is relatively typical of this type of provision.

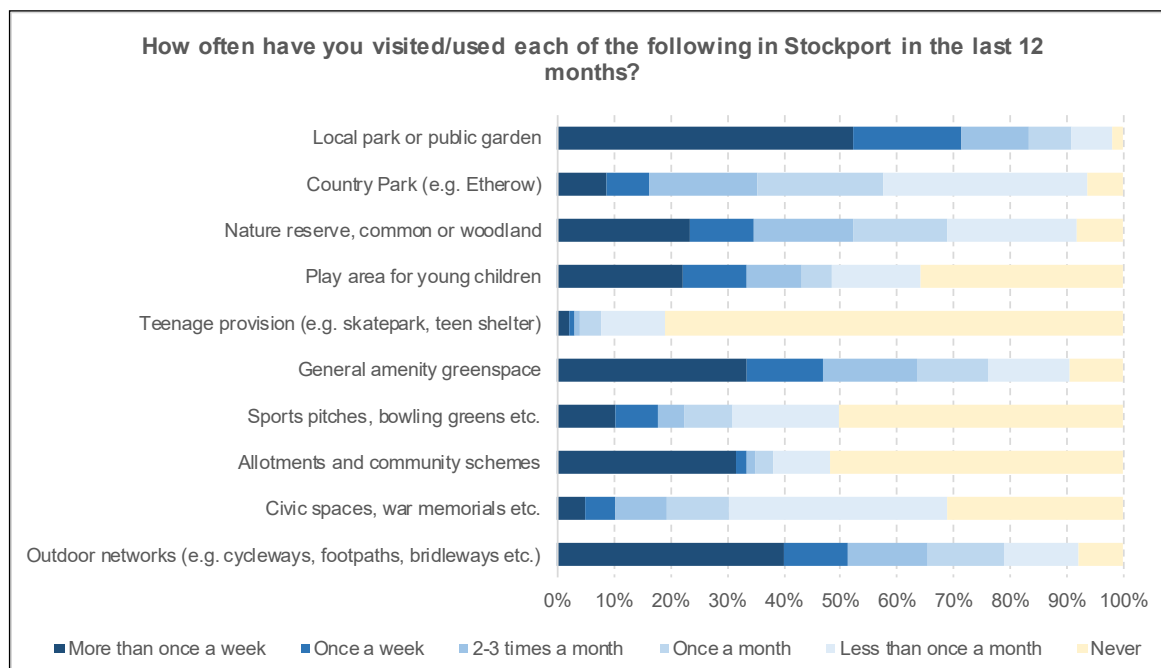
Other typologies have a slightly more mixed rate of usage. For provision such as country parks and nature reserves respondents identify still visiting but on a less frequent basis. For country parks respondents highlight visiting less than once a month (36%), once a month (22%) or 2-3 times a month (19%). Similarly, for nature reserves visits seem to be fairly evenly split between less than once a month (23%), once a month (17%) and 2-3 times a month (18%). However, this type of provision also receives a proportion of respondents that state they visit more than once a week (23%).

The majority of respondents indicate they do not access teenage provision (81%). Not surprising given the age range of the majority of respondents (75%) being between 25-64.

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Figure 3.1; Types of open space visited in the previous 12 months



A total of 80% of respondents identify visiting open space provision outside of Stockport within the last 12 months on a regular basis (i.e. four or more times). Very few respondents cite any specific sites.

Table 3.1: Visiting provision outside of Stockport

| Have you regularly visited an open space provision outside Stockport in last 12 months? |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Yes                                                                                     | 80% |
| No                                                                                      | 20% |

### 3.2 Accessibility

Findings from the Open Spaces Communities Survey show that the majority of individuals travel on foot in order to access different types of open space provision.

Walking to access provision particularly for local parks and public gardens is evident. The majority of respondents (79%) indicate a willingness to walk to provision of this type, with a 15-minute walk time (31%) most common.

For some typologies, there is a willingness, if not a majority, to travel a greater distance by transport. For instance, respondents indicate more of a preference to travel by transport (private car) to access country parks (81%) and nature areas (44%).

A higher proportion of non-responses are received for teenage provision. Again, this is not unusual as such provision has a niche user attraction. Therefore, it can be expected, to some extent, for the general public to not have a strong opinion.

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Figure 3.2.1: Method of travel to open space sites (%)

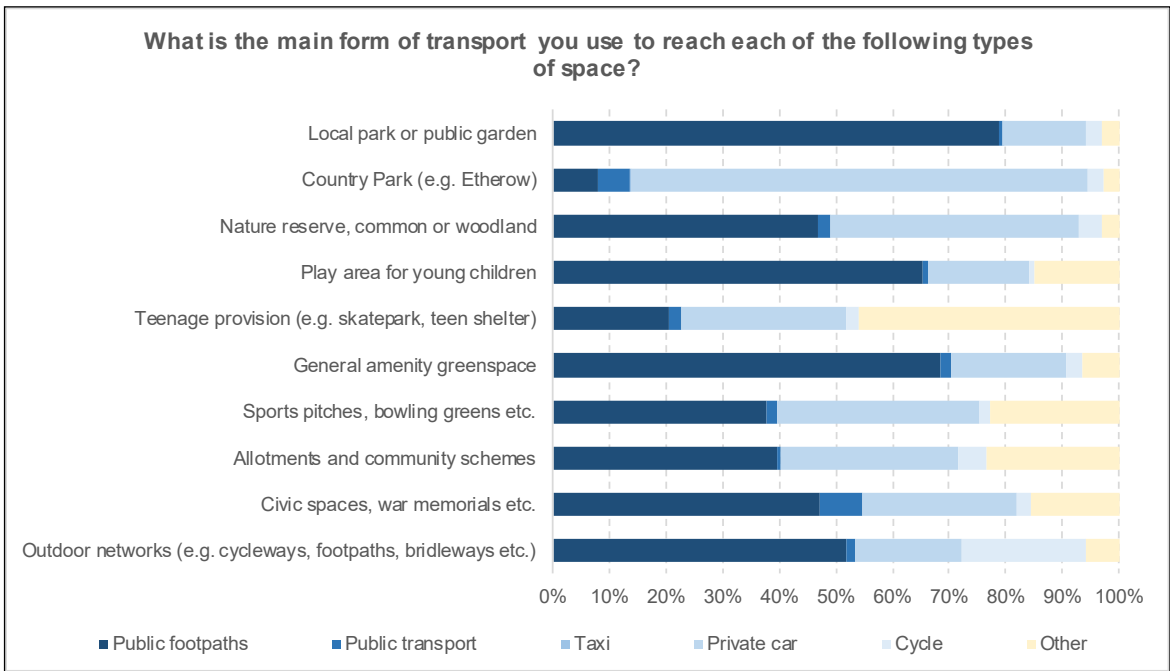
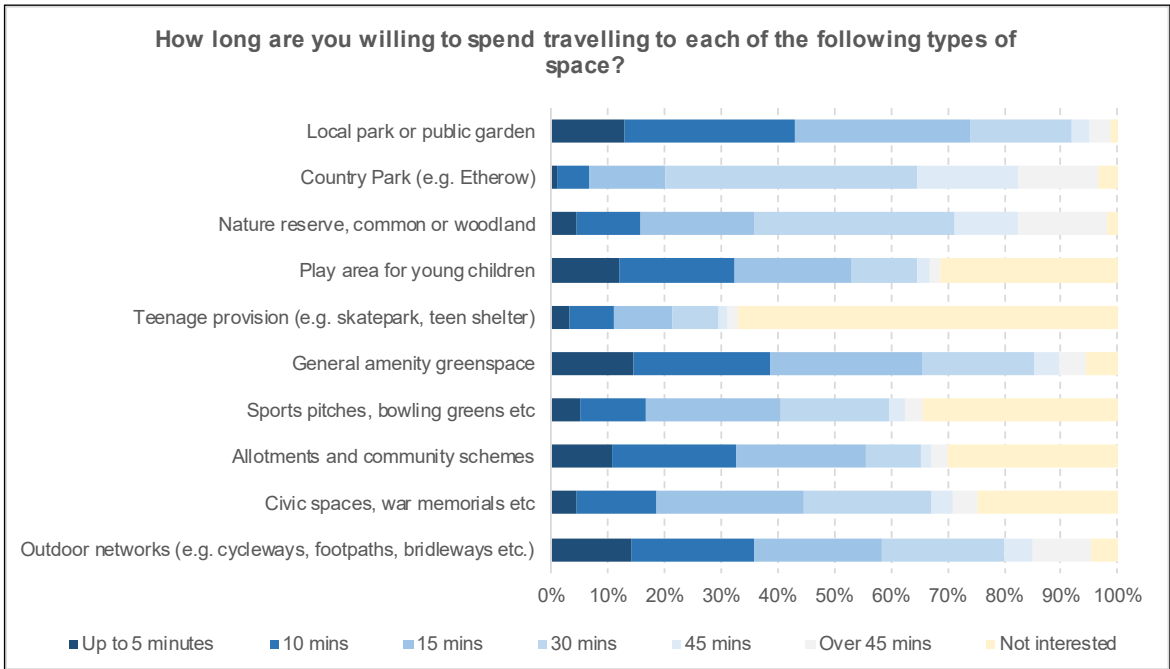


Figure 3.2.2: Time willing to travel to open space sites (%)



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### 3.3 Availability

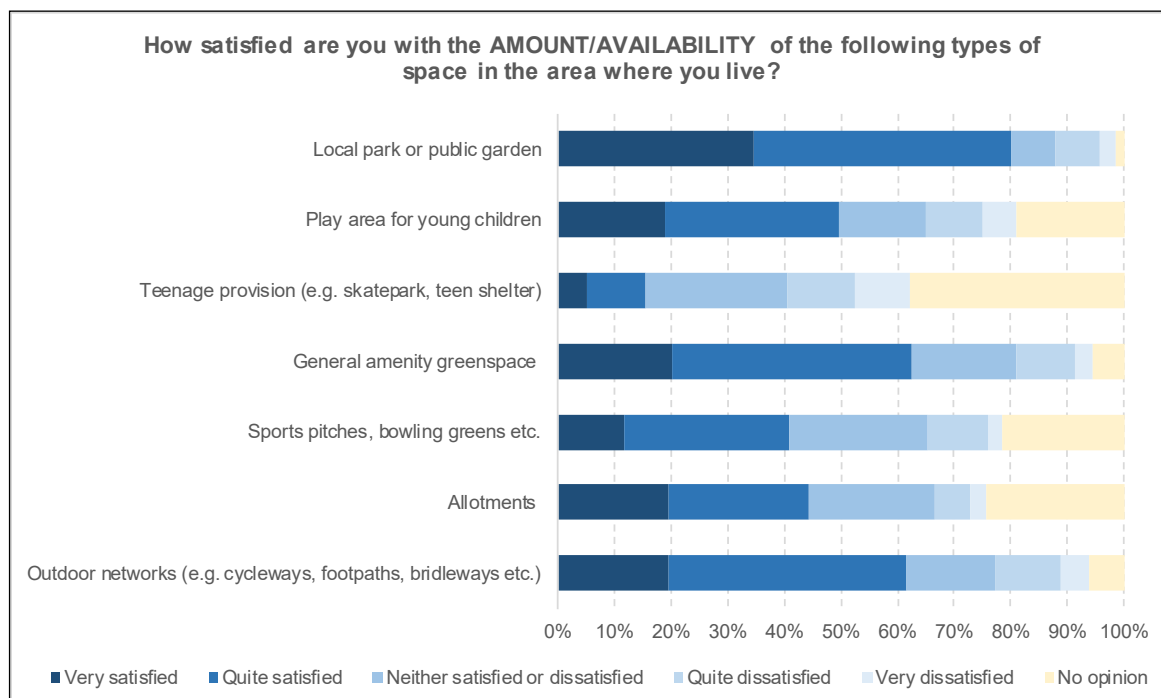
For most typologies respondents generally consider the availability i.e. the amount of provision, to be either quite or very satisfactory.

Typologies such as parks, amenity greenspace and outdoor networks are viewed as predominantly being to a satisfactory level in terms of availability. All three receive the highest proportion of responses for being quite satisfactory; parks (45%), amenity greenspace (42%) and outdoor networks (42%).

Play areas for younger children also receive a reasonable proportion of respondents that rate availability as either very satisfactory (19%) or quite satisfactory (31%); a total of 50% of respondents.

A high proportion of respondents have no opinion on the availability of teenage provision. As noted earlier this is a niche form of provision and tends to not stimulate much consideration in the wider public eye other than for its specific users.

*Figure 3.3: Satisfaction with availability of open spaces (%)*



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### 3.4 Quality

Quality of provision in this section is undertaken in two ways; through the site visit audit assessments and via the returns to the Open Spaces Communities Survey.

#### 3.4.1 Site audit assessment

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. Table 3.2 summarises the results of all the quality assessments for open spaces across Stockport.

A total of 305 sites identified in Stockport are allocated a quality score from the audit assessment\*. Most sites (198 out of 305) rate above the thresholds for quality. However, this does not necessarily mean that the other 107 sites are poor or have quality issues. Sites can score below the threshold due to a lack of ancillary facilities such as toilets, signage etc., which may not be present at all sites.

Allotments (21 out of 28) and cemeteries (10 out of 14) proportionally have a higher number of sites scoring above the quality thresholds. However, nearly all typologies score well for quality, suggesting a generally high standard of open space provision in Stockport.

Forms of provision scoring below the threshold tend to be as a result of sites having a generally poorer appearance. Such sites can often be lacking in a diverse range of features and facilities in comparison to similar sites of the same typology. For example, amenity sites scoring lower for quality are often observed as being overgrown or difficult to access. Similar reasons (i.e. poorer standard of general appearance and maintenance) are often observed for sites of other typologies.

*Table 3.2: Quality of all assessed sites by typology*

| Typology                          | Low        | High       |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                                   |            |            |
| Allotments                        | 7          | 21         |
| Amenity greenspace                | 58         | 104        |
| Churchyards and cemeteries        | 4          | 10         |
| Civic spaces                      | 3          | 5          |
| Green corridors                   | 10         | 6          |
| Natural & semi-natural greenspace | 13         | 16         |
| Park and gardens                  | 12         | 36         |
| Total                             | <b>107</b> | <b>198</b> |

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\* Play sites do not receive a quality and value rating as the Stockport Play Review was used to determine the current situation for play. A handful of other typology sites could be assessed due to either not being accessible or viewable at time of visit.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

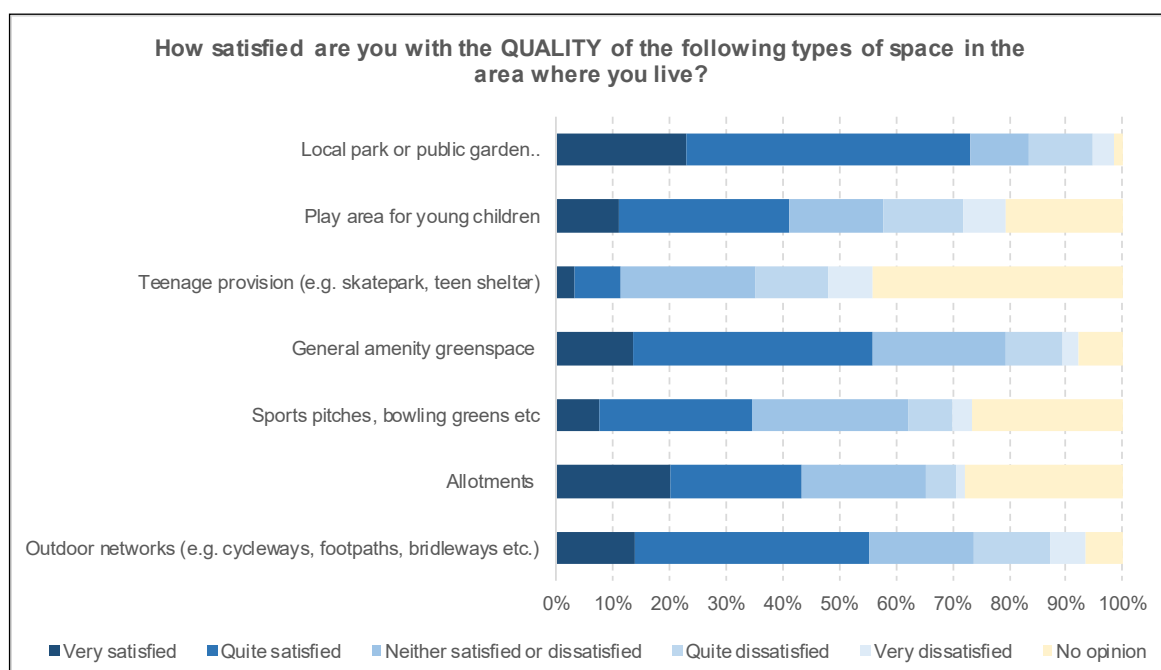
### 3.4.2 Community survey returns

Proportionally there are a higher percentage of respondents that rate the quality of parks and gardens (23%) and allotments (20%) in the very satisfied category. This is a reflection to their general good appearance and high standard.

Nearly all typologies are viewed by respondents as being quite satisfactory in terms of quality; with the exception of teenage provision. The typology receives a higher percentage of respondents with no opinion (28%).

Open space types viewed as being very and quite satisfactory includes parks and gardens, outdoor networks and amenity greenspace; a reflection to their popularity and frequency of use as highlighted above.

Figure 3.4: Quality scores for all open space typologies



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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### 3.5 Value

Value of provision in this section is undertaken in two ways; through the site visit audit assessments and via the returns to the Open Spaces Communities Survey.

#### 3.5.1 Site audit assessment

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces across Stockport.

A total of 305 sites identified in Stockport are allocated a value score\*. A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation) and provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example, play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and that are thought of as bland and unattractive.

The majority of sites (286 out of 305) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. The fact that all typologies have a high number of sites scoring high for value reflects their role in and importance to local communities and environments.

Sites rating lower for value are often also observed as rating below the threshold for quality. This is often a result of a poor appearance or issues regarding access. However, the value these sites may provide in biodiversity and/or as a visual amenity, can still be important.

*Table 3.3: Value for all assessed sites by typology*

| Typology                          | Low | High |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|
|                                   |     |      |
| Allotments                        | 0   | 28   |
| Amenity greenspace                | 14  | 148  |
| Churchyards and cemeteries        | 1   | 13   |
| Civic spaces                      | 0   | 8    |
| Green corridors                   | 2   | 14   |
| Natural & semi-natural greenspace | 1   | 28   |
| Park and gardens                  | 1   | 47   |
| Total                             | 19  | 286  |

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\* Play sites do not receive a quality and value rating as the Stockport Play Review is used to determine the current situation for play. A handful of other typology sites could be assessed due to either not being accessible or viewable at time of visit.

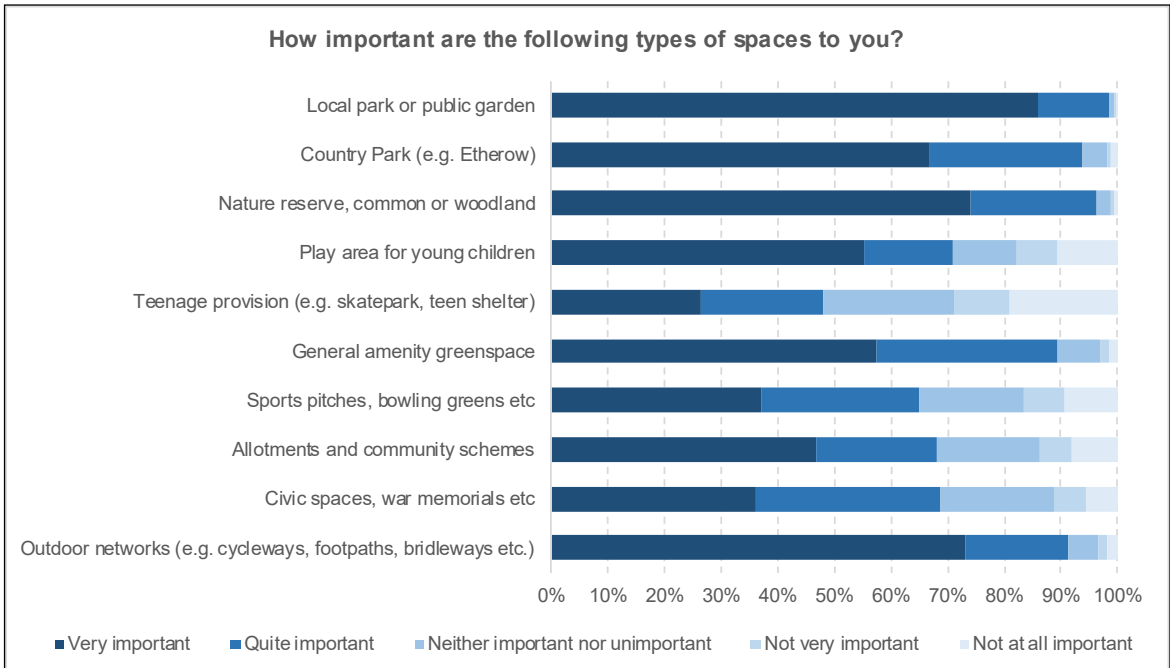
# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### 3.5.2 Community survey returns

The survey also asked respondents, how important each different type of open space is to them. Overall, all forms of open space are identified as important. However, provision such as local parks and gardens (86%), nature reserves (74%), outdoor networks (73%) and country parks (67%) are considered very important in general.

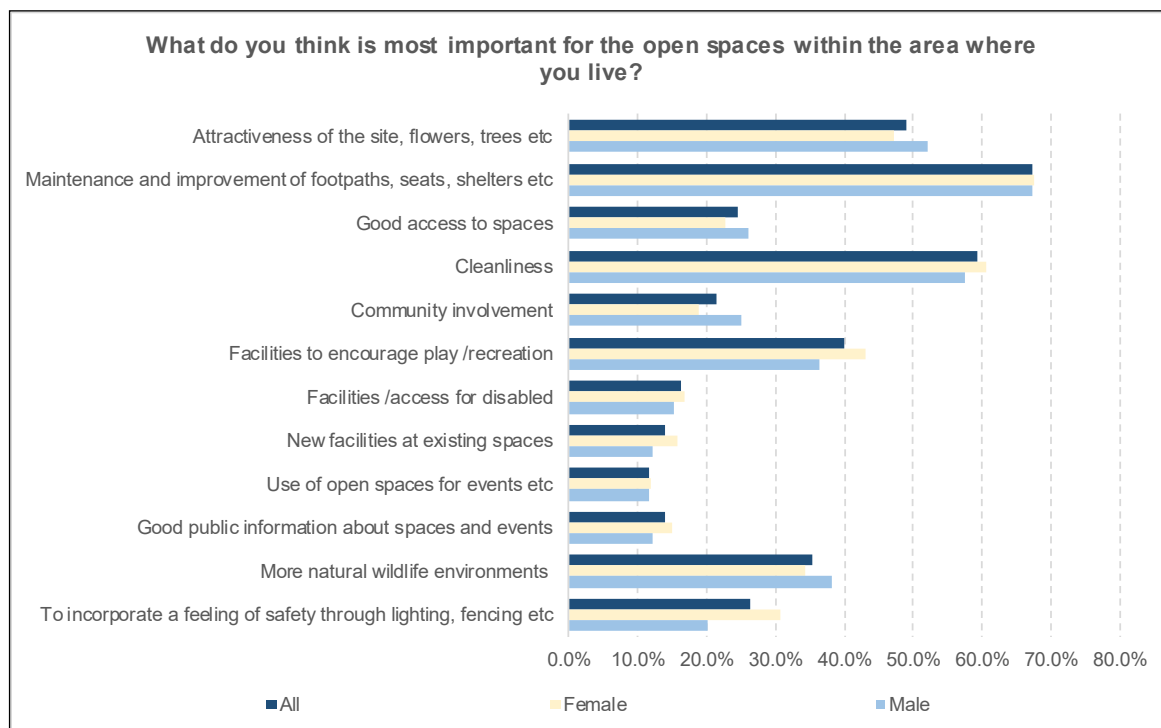
Figure 3.5.1: Importance of open spaces (%)



Respondents were asked what they thought was most important for open spaces within the areas where they live. The most common answer was maintenance and improvement of features on sites such as footpaths, seating etc (67%). This is followed by cleanliness (59%) and general attractiveness of the site (49%).

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.5.2: Important for open spaces in your area (%)



## 3.6 Summary

### General summary

- ◆ In total 497 sites in Stockport are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to over 1,170 hectares. A total of 305 out of the 497 sites receive a quality and value score. No ratings are attributed to any play areas; instead, findings from the 2015 Stockport Play Review are used.
- ◆ In addition, outdoor sports provision including tennis, bowls, golf and athletics are also set out within the report. This is a total of 177 sites.
- ◆ FIT and ANGSt accessibility catchment standards have been used to inform potential areas deficient in terms of access. No accessibility standard is set for allotments, churchyards and cemeteries, civic spaces or green corridors.
- ◆ Most open spaces (186 out of 305) rate above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more allotments and cemeteries score above the thresholds for quality. However, the fact that all typologies have a high number of sites scoring high for value reflects their role in and importance to local communities and environments.
- ◆ The majority of all open spaces (286 out of 305) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

#### 4.2 Current provision

There are 48 sites classified as parks and gardens across the Stockport Area, an equivalent to 285 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

*Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area*

| Analysis area                     | Number    | Size (ha)     | Current standard<br>(ha per 1,000<br>population) | Sufficiency/<br>deficiency against<br>0.80 FIT standard |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle<br>Hulme South | 6         | 31.78         | 0.77                                             | -0.03                                                   |
| Central                           | 13        | 91.37         | 1.58                                             | 0.78                                                    |
| Cheadle                           | 7         | 72.51         | 1.61                                             | 0.81                                                    |
| Heatons & Reddish                 | 12        | 21.58         | 0.36                                             | -0.44                                                   |
| Marple                            | 3         | 45.70         | 1.71                                             | 0.91                                                    |
| Stepping Hill                     | 6         | 20.93         | 0.53                                             | -0.27                                                   |
| Werneth                           | 1         | 1.13          | 0.04                                             | -0.76                                                   |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>                  | <b>48</b> | <b>284.99</b> | <b>0.96</b>                                      | <b>0.16</b>                                             |

The greatest amount of provision (91 hectares) is found in the Central Analysis Area. This is predominantly due to the location of the Woodbank Park site in the analysis area. At over 67 hectares Woodbank Park is the single largest park site in Stockport. In addition, the Cheadle Analysis Area has the next largest park site with Bruntwood Park at 41 hectares. Subsequently the Central Analysis area (1.58) and the Cheadle Analysis Area (1.61) have a significantly greater proportion of provision per 1,000 head of population compared to other analysis areas. The Marple Analysis Area with 1.71 has the greatest amount of provision per 1,000 population.

Other significant sized sites include Brabyns Park (38 hectares), Bramhall Park (21 hectares), and Torkington Park (13 hectares) in the Marple, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South and Stepping Hill analysis areas.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall Stockport is sufficient on this basis. However, a number of analysis areas are deficient against the FIT standard. Most noticeably the Werneth Analysis Area due to it having one form of park provision. Heatons and Reddish, Stepping Hill and Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South are also below the FIT standard.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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Noticeably changes in provision levels and numbers as part of the update are due to:

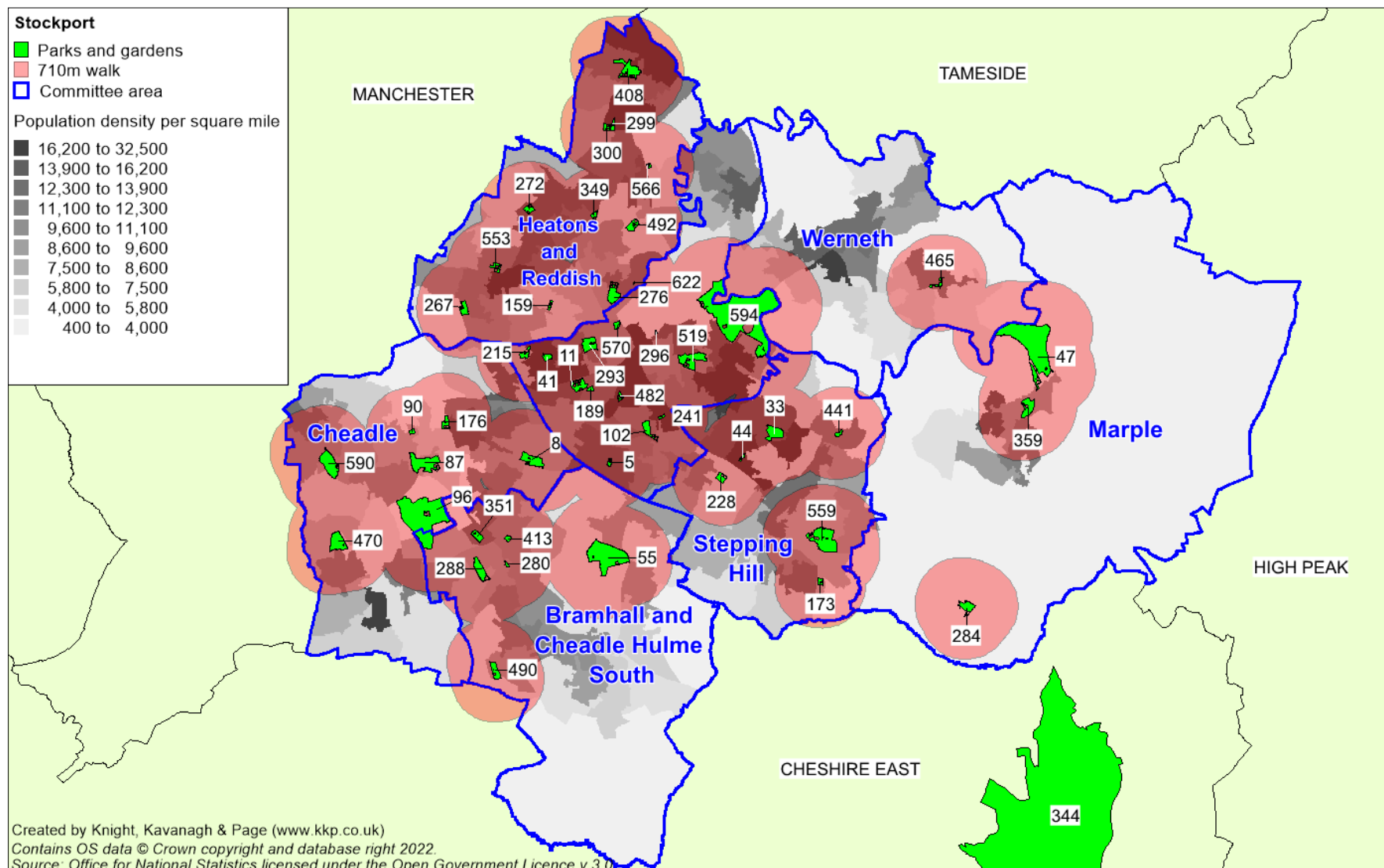
- ◀ Reclassification of Brinnington Park as natural and semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Woodbank Park also featuring Vernon Park and Woodland Park
- ◀ Addition of three small pocket/memorial parks to the central analysis area

### **4.3 Accessibility**

For the purpose of mapping the FIT standard of a 710m walk time has been applied. Figure 4.1 shows the standard applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped against FIT catchment



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

| Site ID | Site name                 | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 5       | Adder Park                | Central                  | 44.9%         | 62.5%       |
| 8       | Adswold Park              | Cheadle                  | 71.6%         | 79.5%       |
| 11      | Alexandra Park            | Central                  | 72.9%         | 73.2%       |
| 33      | Blackstone Road Park      | Stepping Hill            | 15.1%         | 10.7%       |
| 41      | Bonar Park                | Central                  | 45.3%         | 61.6%       |
| 44      | Boothby Street Park       | Stepping Hill            | 53.6%         | 34.8%       |
| 47      | Brabyns Park              | Marple                   | 63.9%         | 72.3%       |
| 55      | Bramhall Park             | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 89.8%         | 76.8%       |
| 87      | Brookfield Park           | Cheadle                  | 57.9%         | 65.2%       |
| 90      | Brooklyn Park             | Cheadle                  | 64.8%         | 65.2%       |
| 96      | Bruntwood Park            | Cheadle                  | 82.6%         | 69.6%       |
| 102     | Cale Green Park           | Central                  | 63.7%         | 79.5%       |
| 159     | Crescent Park             | Heatons & Reddish        | 55.0%         | 58.0%       |
| 173     | Devonshire Park           | Stepping Hill            | 35.1%         | 32.1%       |
| 176     | Diamond Jubilee Park      | Cheadle                  | 65.8%         | 63.0%       |
| 189     | Edgeley Park              | Central                  | 54.6%         | 79.5%       |
| 215     | Gorsey Bank Park          | Central                  | 55.3%         | 55.4%       |
| 228     | Great Moor Park           | Stepping Hill            | 58.1%         | 65.2%       |
| 241     | Hallam Coronation Gardens | Central                  | 57.3%         | 79.5%       |
| 267     | Heaton Mersey Park        | Heatons & Reddish        | 58.7%         | 64.3%       |
| 272     | Heaton Moor Park          | Heatons & Reddish        | 59.1%         | 72.3%       |
| 276     | Heaton Norris Park        | Heatons & Reddish        | 55.3%         | 67.0%       |
| 280     | Hesketh Park              | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 50.8%         | 35.7%       |
| 284     | High Lane Park            | Marple                   | 62.3%         | 42.0%       |
| 288     | Highfield Road Park       | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 51.5%         | 33.0%       |
| 293     | Hollywood Park            | Central                  | 62.1%         | 75.0%       |
| 296     | Hopes Carr Pocket Park    | Central                  | 55.3%         | 41.1%       |
| 299     | Houldsworth Old Park      | Heatons & Reddish        | 43.2%         | 79.5%       |
| 300     | Houldsworth Park          | Heatons & Reddish        | 48.0%         | 59.8%       |
| 349     | Manchester Road Park      | Heatons & Reddish        | 55.9%         | 64.3%       |
| 351     | Maple Avenue Park         | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 55.3%         | 45.5%       |
| 359     | Marple Memorial Park      | Marple                   | 77.5%         | 78.6%       |
| 408     | North Reddish Park        | Heatons & Reddish        | 71.9%         | 75.9%       |
| 413     | Oak Meadow Park           | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 61.5%         | 46.4%       |
| 441     | Poise Brook Park          | Stepping Hill            | 43.3%         | 41.1%       |
| 465     | Romiley Recreation Ground | Werneth                  | 65.0%         | 72.3%       |
| 470     | Rosevale Park             | Cheadle                  | 79.5%         | 55.4%       |
| 482     | Shaw Heath Park           | Central                  | 55.8%         | 66.1%       |
| 490     | South Park                | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 58.1%         | 63.4%       |
| 492     | South Reddish Park        | Heatons & Reddish        | 62.1%         | 62.5%       |
| 519     | St Thomas's Park          | Central                  | 70.4%         | 62.5%       |
| 553     | Thornfield Park           | Heatons & Reddish        | 65.6%         | 67.9%       |
| 559     | Torkington Park           | Stepping Hill            | 75.7%         | 82.1%       |
| 566     | Unity Park                | Heatons & Reddish        | 61.2%         | 66.1%       |
| 570     | Viaduct Park              | Central                  | 60.1%         | 44.6%       |

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| Site ID | Site name                 | Analysis area     | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 590     | William Scholes Park      | Cheadle           | 64.6%         | 55.4%       |
| 594     | Woodbank Park             | Central           | 60.2%         | 45.5%       |
| 622     | Hannover Memorial Gardens | Heatons & Reddish | 32.1%         | 23.2%       |

Application of the FIT 9-minute walk time standard highlights gaps in provision. An area of greater population density in the Werneth Analysis Area is not covered. In addition, more densely populated parts of other analysis areas are not covered by the walk time catchment. Most noticeably, Cheadle, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South and Stepping Hill. There is also a gap noted to the north of the Central Analysis Area.

No issue with regard to a deficiency in parks and gardens was highlighted either through consultations or via the Communities Survey results. The majority of respondents rate the availability of parks and gardens as either very satisfactory (34%) or quite satisfactory (45%). Very few rate availability as being negative i.e. quite (7%) or very (2%) dissatisfactory.

### 4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in Stockport. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 4.3: Quality for parks by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 2                               | 4                               |
| Central                        | 3                               | 10                              |
| Cheadle                        | 0                               | 7                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 3                               | 9                               |
| Marple                         | 0                               | 3                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 4                               | 2                               |
| Werneth                        | 0                               | 1                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>12</b>                       | <b>36</b>                       |

Of the 48 park and garden sites in Stockport, 36 score above the threshold whilst 12 score below it. The Stepping Hill Analysis Areas is the only area to have a greater number of sites rating below the threshold than above.

Most analysis areas are noted as containing sites to rate below the quality threshold. The exception is in the Cheadle, Marple, and Werneth analysis areas. No specific quality issues are highlighted from the site audit. However, sites tend to score lower for controls to prevent illegal use and signage/information in comparison to other sites.

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Sites assessed as being of high quality and rated well above the 55% threshold include:

- ▶ Bramhall Park (89%)
- ▶ Bruntwood Park (82%)
- ▶ Rosevale Park (79%)

Bramhall Park is the highest scoring site in Stockport for quality with 89%. It is noted as having a range of facilities such as equipped play provision for children, a cafe as well as provision for wildlife. Consultation highlights these features as key attractions and reasons for visiting the site.

The second highest scoring site for quality is Bruntwood Park (82%). Again, it is an aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained site with plenty of appeal to a variety of users; especially for families given the play and sporting opportunities it offers.

Results from the Communities Survey found 73.1% of respondents rate the quality of parks as either very (23%) or quite (50%) satisfactory; a further 28% rate provision as neither satisfactory or dissatisfactory. Less than one quarter of survey respondents (15%) views the quality of parks as quite (11%) or very (4%) dissatisfactory.

Parks are at the top of the list as the most commonly visited type of open space. The most popular site to visit was Bruntwood Park closely followed by Woodbank Park.

### 4.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the site scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks in Stockport. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how value is derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 4.4: Value for parks by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 0                               | 6                               |
| Central                        | 0                               | 13                              |
| Cheadle                        | 0                               | 7                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 0                               | 12                              |
| Marple                         | 0                               | 3                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 1                               | 5                               |
| Werneth                        | 0                               | 1                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>1</b>                        | <b>47</b>                       |

Only one-park site scores below the threshold for value; Blackstone Road Park. This park is identified as having a lack of features, level of use and attention.

The fact that nearly all sites score above the threshold demonstrates the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place that Stockport's park and garden sites offer.

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is that they can provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as physical activity, dog walking or taking children to the play area are often recognised.

There are a number of Friends of Groups for Parks and Garden sites. The roles of these Friends of Groups are varied in the management and additional benefit they provide. Some are limited and may do a small amount of litter picking; whilst others run events and apply for funding. Often groups help apply for funding to provide new or additional play equipment at sites.

### 4.6 Summary

#### **Parks and gardens**

- ◆ 48 Council managed sites classified as parks and gardens, a total of over 285 hectares.
- ◆ Gaps in catchment mapping are noted in the Werneth Analysis Area, which is identified as containing only one form of park provision.
- ◆ Against the FIT accessibility standard, further gaps in provision are noted to the Cheadle, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South, Stepping Hill and Central analysis areas.
- ◆ Park sites generally rate above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring site is Bramhall Park. Blackstone Road Park is the lowest scoring park in terms of quality due to lack of features and perceived lower usage.
- ◆ Other high scoring sites for quality, such as Bruntwood Park, do so due to the wide range of provision they contain and the reportedly excellent standards of maintenance.
- ◆ The majority of parks are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged.

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### PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

#### 5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

There is growing evidence to the benefits of natural greenspaces both in terms of physical and mental wellbeing\*. Access to greenspace is associated with better health outcomes such as longevity in older people, lower body mass index (BMI) scores and obesity levels, as well as improvements in stress, depression and dementia. It is therefore essential to protect, increase and improve green spaces.

#### 5.2 Current provision

In total 29 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 452 hectares of provision. These totals may not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents.

*Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

| Analysis area                     | Number    | Size (ha)     | Current standard<br>(ha per 1,000<br>population) | Sufficiency/<br>deficiency against<br>1.80 FIT standard |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle<br>Hulme South | 1         | 27.51         | 0.66                                             | -1.14                                                   |
| Central                           | 4         | 44.18         | 0.76                                             | -1.04                                                   |
| Cheadle                           | 4         | 31.46         | 0.70                                             | -1.10                                                   |
| Heatons & Reddish                 | 4         | 137.01        | 2.32                                             | 0.52                                                    |
| Marple                            | 5         | 126.66        | 4.73                                             | 2.93                                                    |
| Stepping Hill                     | 2         | 27.12         | 0.68                                             | -1.12                                                   |
| Werneth                           | 9         | 58.88         | 2.18                                             | 0.38                                                    |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>                  | <b>29</b> | <b>452.82</b> | <b>1.52</b>                                      | <b>-0.28</b>                                            |

Stockport has a variety of natural and semi-natural sites including woodlands, country parks and open grassland.

Most provision is located in the Marple Analysis Area (127 hectares) and the Heatons and Reddish Analysis Area (137 hectares). Nearly half of the total provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace in Stockport can be attributed to two large sites; Reddish Vale Country Park (99 hectares) and Etherow Country Park (101 hectares). Etherow Country Park is also designated as a Local Nature Reserve and contains Compstall Nature Reserve Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and two Sites of Biological Interest: Etherow Country Park and Roach Wood (South) and Emocroft Wood.

\* Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green space, Public Health England;

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Similarly, Reddish Vale Country Park contains Reddish Vale Local Nature Reserve and four Sites of Biological Interest: Reddish Wood, Reddish Vale Mill Ponds, Reddish Vale and Disused Railway at Brinnington.

Other large sites are Chadkirk Country Park at 29 hectares (Werneth), Adswold at 27 hectares (in Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South), Abney Hall Park at 27 hectares (Cheadle), Mirlees Field at 26 hectares (Stepping Hill) and Mersey Vale Nature Park at 23 hectares (Heatons and Reddish).

The Marple Analysis Area has the largest level of provision per 1,000 population with 4.73 hectares. This is a greater than Heatons and Reddish (2.32) and Werneth (2.18). It is also significantly higher when compared to the analysis areas of Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South (0.66), Central (0.76), Cheadle (0.70) and Stepping Hill (0.68) on a hectare per 1000 population basis.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 5.1 shows that overall Stockport is deficient on this basis. However, a few analysis areas are sufficient against the FIT standard. Most noticeably the analysis areas of Marple, Heatons and Reddish and Werneth meet the FIT standard.

It is important to recognise that some provision such as parks, amenity greenspace and green corridors also provide opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural types of open space. Such sites are not included here as their primary typology is the basis upon which sites are recorded.

Noticeably changes in provision levels and numbers as part of the update are due to:

- ◀ Reclassification of Brinnington Park as natural and semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Reddish Vale Country Park allocated from Heaton & Reddish Analysis Area to Central Analysis Area
- ◀ Figures also omit Reddish Vale Golf Club

### **Designations\***

In terms of national designations, there are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);

- ◀ Compstall Nature Reserve
- ◀ Ludworth Intake

In terms of local designations, there are 13 publicly accessible local nature reserves (LNRs) identified in Stockport:

| LNR name             | Year declared | Size (Ha) |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Abney Hall           | 2005          | 16.43     |
| Chadkirk             | 2005          | 29.33     |
| Crookilley Woods     | 2011          | 4.49      |
| Etherow              | 1999          | 84.10     |
| Gatley Carrs         | 2005          | 8.45      |
| Happy Valley         | 1999          | 16.84     |
| Heaton Mersey Common | 2008          | 8.21      |

\* Sites/land with conservation designations may not be classified within the category of natural and semi/natural greenspace. For example, Poise Brook is identified as a Green Corridor.

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| LNR name                | Year declared | Size (Ha) |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Mersey Vale Nature Park | 2008          | 19.24     |
| Poise Brook             | 2006          | 13.46     |
| Reddish Vale            | 1999          | 79.99     |
| Tangshutts              | 2011          | 3.07      |
| Woodbank Park           | 2008          | 19.08     |
| Wright's Wood           | 2009          | 1.48      |

Local Authorities are empowered to set up and manage Local Nature Reserves under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Such sites offer great opportunities for local people to see, learn about and enjoy wildlife in their natural surroundings.

There are 66 Sites of Biological Importance, many of which are accessible to the public. SBIs are non-statutory sites of importance for nature conservation. The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) operates the SBI Register for and on behalf of the Local Authorities that comprise Greater Manchester.

The primary reason for selecting a SBI is that they must support wildlife of substantive nature conservation value. Many of the SBI cover parts of open space sites identified within this report. However, not all SBI form part of an open space. This is due to many SBI taking the form of land not accessible for public use as their primary role is for nature conservation. Regular survey work is undertaken by the GMEU to ensure the site list, boundaries and any other changes are kept up to date. These should be sought if further information is required.

### 5.3 Accessibility

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. They recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

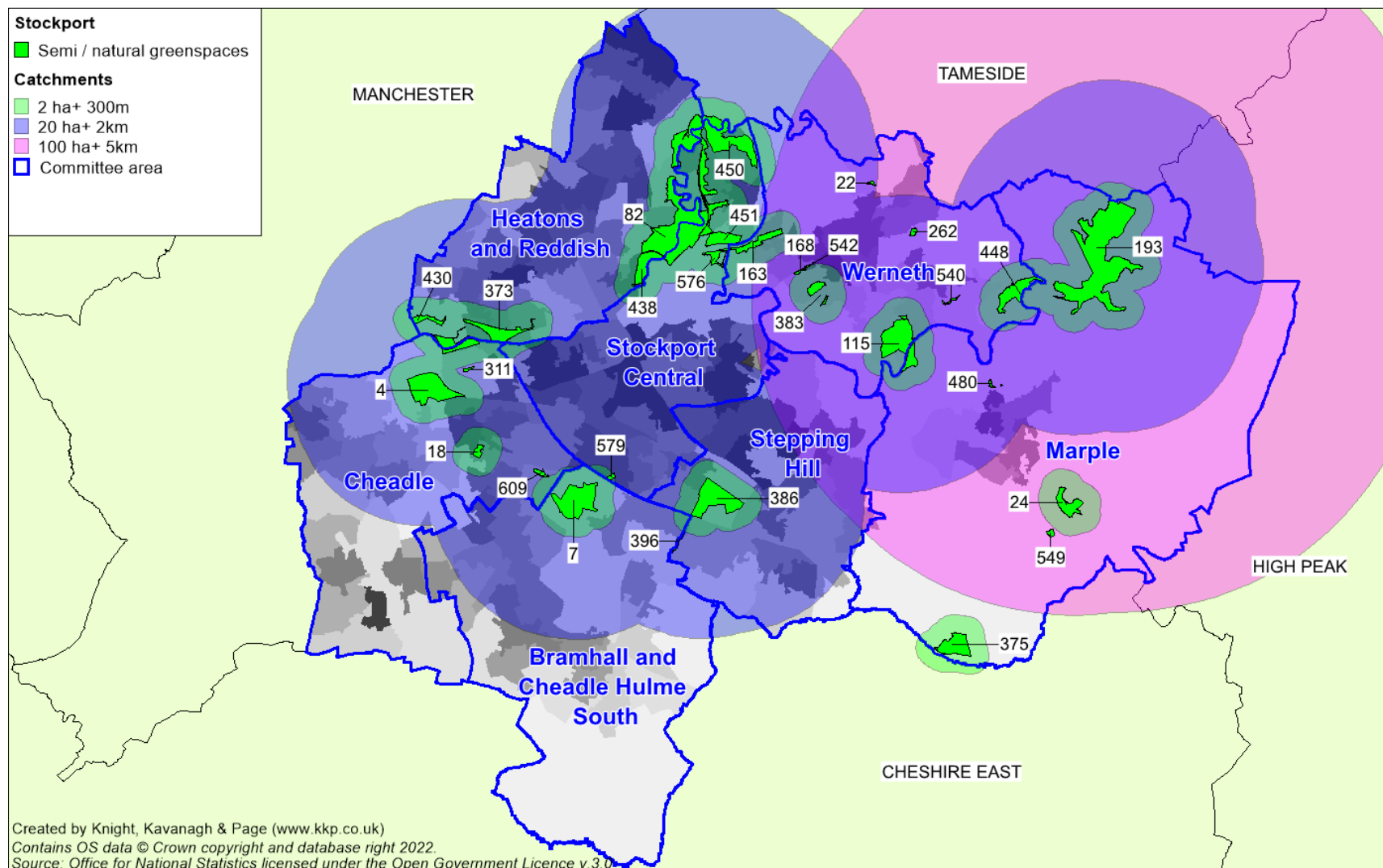
- ◆ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home.
- ◆ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home.
- ◆ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home.
- ◆ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.
- ◆ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The ANGSt Standard is used as part of the catchment mapping to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located. Figure 5.1 shows the ANGSt catchments across Stockport.

The relative close proximity of the Peak District National Park and the National Trust estate at Lyme Park, to the south east, also helps offer some access to natural and semi-natural forms of provision.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against ANGSt



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

*Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped*

Threshold to determine higher/lower quality scores is 40%. For value scores, it is 20%.

| Site ID | Site name                    | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 4       | Abney Hall Park              | Cheadle                  | 79.5%         | 75.5%       |
| 7       | Adswood                      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 24.5%         | 22.7%       |
| 18      | Argyll Road Open Space       | Cheadle                  | 15.4%         | 23.6%       |
| 29      | Bankfield Road Open Space    | Werneth                  | 12.8%         | 31.8%       |
| 24      | Barlow Woods                 | Marple                   | 12.8%         | 20.0%       |
| 82      | Brinnington Park             | Heatons & Reddish        | 70.1%         | 63.6%       |
| 115     | Chadkirk Country Estate      | Werneth                  | 43.3%         | 46.4%       |
| 163     | Crookilly Wood               | Werneth                  | 47.6%         | 73.6%       |
| 168     | Dark Lane Woods              | Werneth                  | 22.2%         | 34.5%       |
| 193     | Etherow Country Park         | Marple                   | 90.0%         | 79.1%       |
| 262     | Healdwood Rd. O/Space        | Werneth                  | 14.5%         | 20.0%       |
| 311     | Kenilworth Wood              | Cheadle                  | 13.7%         | 16.4%       |
| 373     | Mersey Vale Nature Park      | Heatons & Reddish        | 53.8%         | 60.0%       |
| 375     | Middle Wood / Norbury Hollow | Marple                   | 13.7%         | 26.4%       |
| 383     | Millenium Wood               | Werneth                  | 21.7%         | 48.2%       |
| 386     | Mirlees Field, Woodsmoor     | Stepping Hill            | 47.9%         | 40.9%       |
| 396     | New House Farm Estate        | Stepping Hill            | 51.9%         | 50.9%       |
| 430     | Parrs Wood                   | Heatons & Reddish        | 40.2%         | 27.3%       |
| 438     | Penny Lane Open Space        | Heatons & Reddish        | 44.2%         | 49.1%       |
| 448     | Redbrow Wood                 | Werneth                  | 40.2%         | 60.0%       |
| 450/451 | Reddish Vale Country Park    | Central                  | 80.6%         | 80.9%       |
| 480     | Seven Stiles Wood            | Marple                   | 28.2%         | 35.5%       |
| 540     | Tangshutt Lane Woods         | Werneth                  | 19.4%         | 36.4%       |
| 542     | The Broadway Open Space      | Werneth                  | 16.8%         | 21.8%       |
| 549     | The Quarry                   | Marple                   | 44.7%         | 40.9%       |
| 576     | Warth Meadow Playing Fields  | Central                  | 42.5%         | 51.8%       |
| 579     | Weldon Crescent              | Central                  | 27.4%         | 30.0%       |
| 609     | Wrights Wood                 | Cheadle                  | 49.6%         | 52.7%       |

Application of the ANGSt 5-minute walk time demonstrates that there are large parts of the Stockport area deficient in terms of accessibility to natural greenspace.

Against the two-kilometre catchment, gaps in provision are noted to the south of the analysis areas of Cheadle, Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South as well as Marple are deficient in terms of accessibility to natural greenspace provision.

Similarly, against the five-kilometre catchment, the same analysis areas are still deficient in terms of accessibility. In Marple the gap in catchment mapping is less prominent. However, the gap against the five-kilometre catchment in Cheadle and Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South is greater.

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The relative close proximity of the Peak District National Park, to the south east, is also likely to help offer some access to natural and semi-natural forms of provision in the area.

The management and maintenance at most identified natural and semi-natural sites is the responsibility of the Council. There are also Friends of Groups that help provide added benefit to the management and maintenance of sites. Many groups help to improve the general appearance of sites through organising litter picking and conservation tasks. In addition, such groups also arrange and help to host local events and activities.

#### 5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Stockport. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 5.3: Quality for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 1                               | 0                               |
| Central                        | 1                               | 3                               |
| Cheadle                        | 2                               | 2                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 0                               | 4                               |
| Marple                         | 3                               | 2                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 2                               |
| Werneth                        | 6                               | 3                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>13</b>                       | <b>16</b>                       |

A total of 16 natural and semi-natural sites (55%) in Stockport rate above the threshold set for quality. However, there are 13 sites scoring below the quality threshold applied.

Some of the lowest scoring sites include:

- ✦ Bankfield Road Open Space (13%)
- ✦ Barlow Woods (13%)
- ✦ Middle Wood / Norbury Hollow (14%)
- ✦ Kenilworth Woods (14%)

Such sites are observed in the site assessment to have poor entrances with limited access due to paths being non-existent. In addition, regular maintenance is considered to be lacking.

All these are factors which are considered to restrict the use (and attractiveness) of such sites. However, they are recognised as being places that provide opportunities to support wildlife habitats.

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Sites scoring above the threshold are generally observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering plenty of good quality ancillary features such as bins, benches, parking and pathways. They are considered to be well used by people whilst also offering opportunities for wildlife. Sites scoring particularly high include:

- ✦ Etherow Country Park (90%)
- ✦ Reddish Vale Country Park (81%)

These two sites are observed as having excellent features and facilities. They have the added benefit of containing car parking whilst the features on site are viewed as being to a good standard. Both Etherow Country Park and Reddish Vale Country Park are recognised Local Nature Reserves.

It is noted that 55% of natural greenspace sites rate above the threshold. These mixed results overall screen the higher quality and more regularly visited sites such as Reddish Vale and Etherow Country Park.

### 5.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Stockport. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how value is derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 5.4: Value for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 0                               | 1                               |
| Central                        | 0                               | 4                               |
| Cheadle                        | 1                               | 3                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 0                               | 4                               |
| Marple                         | 0                               | 5                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 2                               |
| Werneth                        | 0                               | 9                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>1</b>                        | <b>28</b>                       |

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspaces (96%) score high for value with only one site scoring below the threshold. This site is Kenilworth Wood.

Kenilworth Wood scores below the threshold for both value and quality. This site does not appear to be particularly well used, although the habitat opportunities it provides are recognised. The site also rates below the threshold for quality; showing it to be lacking in aspects such as appropriate entrances and ancillary facilities. For example, the site was observed as having no visible paths and entrance was difficult to locate.

The highest scoring sites for value are Etherow Country Park (79%) and Reddish Country Park (81%). Both are extensive and attractive sites offering various opportunities to a range of activities (e.g. nature enthusiasts, tourists, families).

### 5.6 Summary

#### **Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary**

- ◆ Stockport has 29 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering 453 hectares.
- ◆ There are 13 designated LNRs across Stockport.
- ◆ Application of the ANGSt walk times shows noticeable deficiencies particularly to parts of the Cheadle, Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South and Marple areas
- ◆ Natural greenspace sites are of mixed quality: 55% score above the threshold.
- ◆ A proportion of sites score below the threshold due to factors such as lack of features and paths as well as general appearance.
- ◆ Most sites (96%) are rated as above the threshold for value. Although the site at Kenilworth Wood is below the threshold, however its primary use appears to be habitat provision.
- ◆ Higher scoring sites for value, such as Etherow Country Park and Reddish Vale Country Park, provide a range of opportunities and uses for visitors.

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### PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

#### 6.1 Introduction

This is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

As with other greenspaces, amenity greenspace can provide a pivotal role in providing in an environment to facilitate physical activity (including walking and cycling) and act as “green lungs”. Amenity greenspace can also contribute positively towards the “identity” of an area. In built up areas, amenity greenspace can also provide space for worker or visitors (e.g. to eat lunch or go for a walk). Amenity greenspace can also help reduce noise and generally provide a natural break in the urban street scene.

#### 6.2 Current provision

There are 164 amenity greenspace sites in Stockport; equating to 244 hectares of provision. They are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways that provide a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds are also classified as amenity greenspace.

*Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area*

| Analysis area                     | Number     | Size (ha)     | Current standard<br>(ha per 1,000<br>population) | Sufficiency/<br>deficiency<br>against 0.6 FIT<br>standard |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle<br>Hulme South | 20         | 26.88         | 0.65                                             | 0.05                                                      |
| Central                           | 29         | 46.66         | 0.81                                             | 0.21                                                      |
| Cheadle                           | 27         | 54.76         | 1.21                                             | 0.61                                                      |
| Heatons & Reddish                 | 25         | 50.64         | 0.86                                             | 0.26                                                      |
| Marple                            | 18         | 14.11         | 0.53                                             | -0.07                                                     |
| Stepping Hill                     | 23         | 19.41         | 0.49                                             | -0.11                                                     |
| Werneth                           | 22         | 32.20         | 1.19                                             | 0.59                                                      |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>                  | <b>164</b> | <b>244.67</b> | <b>0.82</b>                                      | <b>0.22</b>                                               |

Of the 164 sites, two are identified as potentially having restricted access; Dooley Lane / Mill Lane and Yew Tree Road. Both appear overgrown and unmaintained. Actual access to both sites is also unclear.

Site sizes vary from the smallest amenity site, such as Rose Lane Recreation Ground at 0.09 hectares, to the largest, Bridgehall Playing Fields, at over 11 hectares. It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being smaller grassed areas or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example, the 33 sites identified as recreation grounds serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges. Such sites often provide an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities due to their size and facilities.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Fields In trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall Stockport is sufficient on this basis. However, there are two analysis areas that are deficient against the FIT standard; Stepping Hill and Marple. All other analysis areas are sufficient.

Noticeably changes in provision levels and numbers as part of the update are due to:

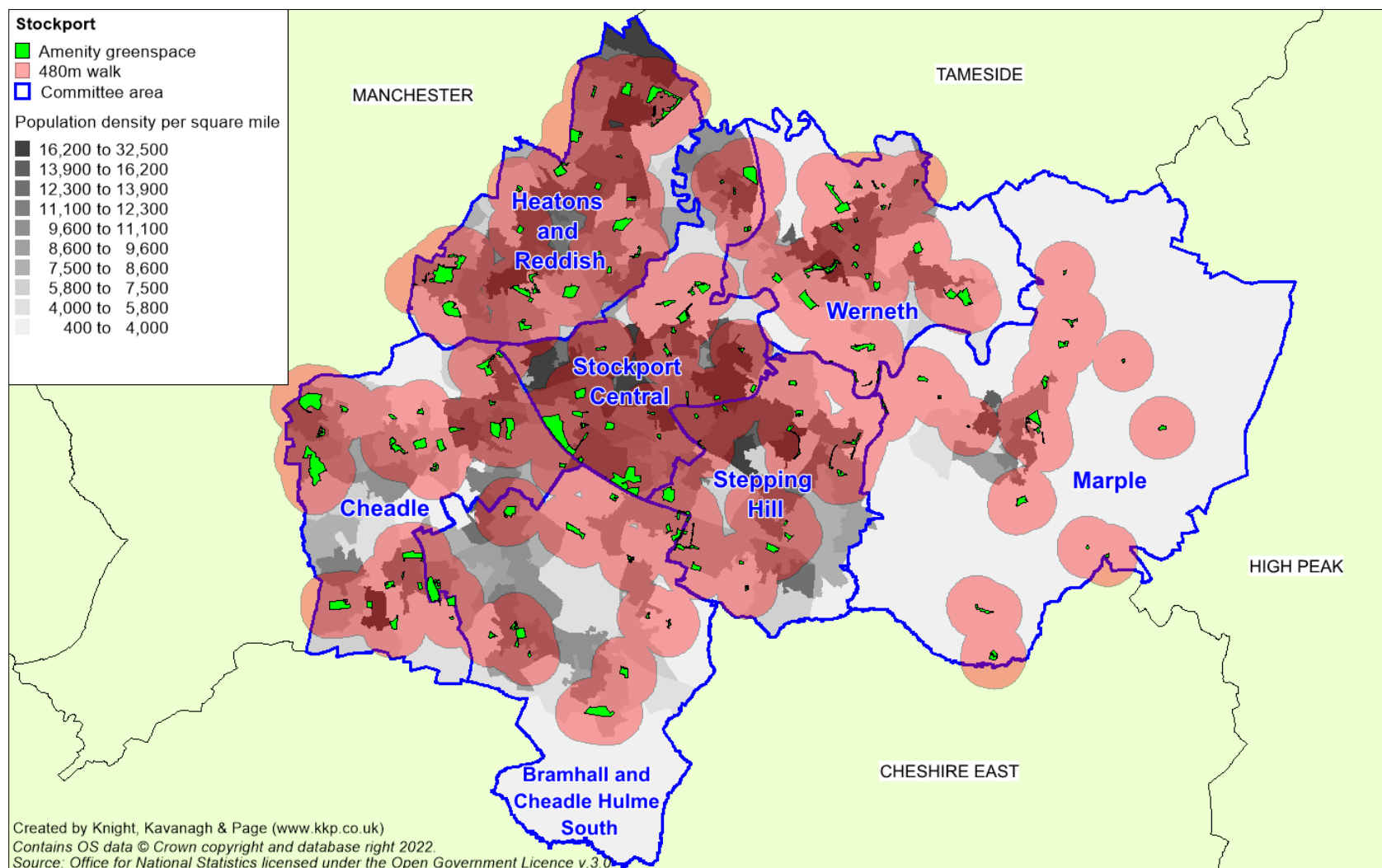
- ◀ Addition of Bradshaw Hall, Eden Park and Parkside as well as reclassification of Heathbank Road Playing Field to a park in Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area.
- ◀ Addition of Bridgehall and reclassification of Hallam Coronation Gardens to a park in Central Analysis Area.
- ◀ Addition of Carrs Road Park and reclassification of Maple Avenue Park as a park within the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area and Diamond Jubilee Recreation Ground as parks in Cheadle Analysis Area.
- ◀ Reclassification of Mount Drive Open Space to play in Marple Analysis Area.
- ◀ Addition of Cheviot Road and Peregrine Road in Stepping Hill Analysis Area.
- ◀ Addition of Goyt Vall Road Recreation Ground and Shakespeare Road Recreation Ground in Werneth Analysis Area.

### 6.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping the FIT standard of a 480m walk time has been applied. Figure 4.1 shows the standard applied to amenity greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace mapped against FIT standard of 480m



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Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Threshold to determine higher/lower quality scores is 40%. For value scores, it is 20%.

| Site ID | Site name                        | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 3       | Aberdeen Grove                   | Central                  | 46.6%         | 28.0%       |
| 14      | Alfreton Road Open Spaces        | Stepping Hill            | 50.6%         | 45.0%       |
| 16      | Appleby Close Banking            | Central                  | 34.2%         | 23.0%       |
| 20      | Bakery Bridge Playing Field      | Central                  | 45.1%         | 58.0%       |
| 28      | Bells Paddock                    | Central                  | 25.7%         | 20.0%       |
| 29      | Berwick Avenue Estate Open Space | Heatons & Reddish        | 35.7%         | 40.0%       |
| 32      | Bird Hall Avenue Open Space      | Cheadle                  | 9.7%          | 10.0%       |
| 35      | Blair Close Recreation Ground    | Stepping Hill            | 60.0%         | 50.0%       |
| 40      | Bolton Avenue Open Space & Pas   | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 41.6%         | 46.0%       |
| 45      | Bowerfold Lane Open Space        | Heatons & Reddish        | 42.9%         | 53.0%       |
| 46      | Brabyns Brow Picnic Area         | Marple                   | 40.7%         | 48.0%       |
| 51      | Bradshaw Hall                    | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 55.8%         | 52.0%       |
| 52      | Bradshaw Hall New Playing Field  | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 55.8%         | 52.0%       |
| 53      | Bradshaw Hall Old Playing Field  | Cheadle                  | 40.7%         | 28.0%       |
| 58      | Bramhall Green Bus Terminus      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 49.1%         | 22.0%       |
| 59      | Bramhall Lane Corner             | Stockport Central        | 50.2%         | 32.0%       |
| 68      | Bredbury Recreation Ground       | Werneth                  | 36.3%         | 31.0%       |
| 76      | Bridge Lane                      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 49.0%         | 17.0%       |
| 77      | Bridgehall Playing Fields        | Central                  | 42.0%         | 28.0%       |
| 78      | Bridgehall                       | Central                  | 70.4%         | 39.0%       |
| 80      | Brindale Road Open Space         | Central                  | 41.9%         | 65.0%       |
| 88      | Brookfield Recreation Ground     | Cheadle                  | 47.6%         | 54.0%       |
| 89      | Brookfold Road Playing Field     | Heatons & Reddish        | 54.3%         | 51.0%       |
| 91      | Brookside Lane Recreation Ground | Marple                   | 50.0%         | 40.0%       |
| 97      | Bude Close                       | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 41.6%         | 23.0%       |
| 100     | Buttercup Drive Open Space       | Central                  | 31.3%         | 28.0%       |
| 106     | Canada St/Maple Close Open Spa   | Stepping Hill            | 28.3%         | 36.0%       |
| 107     | Canal Side Open Space            | Werneth                  | 26.6%         | 46.0%       |
| 109     | Carrs Road Park                  | Cheadle                  | 60.6%         | 34.0%       |
| 114     | Cemetery Open Space              | Werneth                  | 21.2%         | 23.0%       |
| 119     | Cheadle Baths                    | Cheadle                  | 30.1%         | 21.0%       |
| 123     | Cheadle Green                    | Cheadle                  | 79.4%         | 83.0%       |
| 139     | Chester Road Playing Field       | Stepping Hill            | 55.8%         | 59.0%       |
| 140     | Chevin Gardens Open Space        | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 49.3%         | 40.0%       |
| 141     | Cheviot Road                     | Stepping Hill            | 45.4%         | 23.0%       |
| 143     | Chudleigh Close Open Space       | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 31.0%         | 24.0%       |

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| Site ID | Site name                                | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 145     | Cliston Walk Open Space                  | Stepping Hill            | 38.3%         | 46.0%       |
| 146     | Clovelley Road Open Space                | Central                  | 19.0%         | 8.0%        |
| 148     | Compstall Recreation Ground              | Marple                   | 46.3%         | 56.0%       |
| 153     | Cote Green Lane Recreation Ground        | Marple                   | 48.4%         | 56.0%       |
| 158     | Craig Road Playing Field                 | Heatons & Reddish        | 65.5%         | 64.0%       |
| 162     | Cromwell Road Recreation Ground          | Marple                   | 42.2%         | 39.0%       |
| 166     | Cuddington Crescent Open Space           | Central                  | 31.3%         | 53.0%       |
| 167     | Daisyfield Playing Field                 | Werneth                  | 45.4%         | 42.0%       |
| 170     | Davenport Playing Fields                 | Central                  | 40.7%         | 65.0%       |
| 172     | Dawson Road Playing Field                | Cheadle                  | 33.6%         | 24.0%       |
| 181     | Dooley Lane / Mill Lane                  | Werneth                  |               |             |
| 186     | East Avenue Recreation Ground            | Cheadle                  | 68.7%         | 51.0%       |
| 187     | Eden Park                                | Cheadle                  | 60.6%         | 34.0%       |
| 192     | Etchells Road Open Space                 | Cheadle                  | 7.0%          | 14.0%       |
| 197     | Footpath To Dean Moor Road               | Stepping Hill            | 45.4%         | 61.0%       |
| 203     | Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields | Heatons & Reddish        | 53.1%         | 44.0%       |
| 205     | Gatley Carrs                             | Cheadle                  | 58.7%         | 72.0%       |
| 207     | Gatley Hill & Library                    | Cheadle                  | 42.0%         | 26.0%       |
| 210     | Gatley Recreation Ground                 | Cheadle                  | 58.1%         | 27.0%       |
| 218     | Gorsey Mount Street Open Space           | Central                  | 48.2%         | 59.0%       |
| 220     | Gotherage Lane Playing Field             | Werneth                  | 74.3%         | 69.0%       |
| 221     | Goyt Valley Open Space & Rec.            | Werneth                  | 55.8%         | 60.0%       |
| 222     | Goyt Valley Rd Recreation Ground         | Werneth                  | 55.8%         | 60.0%       |
| 226     | Grange Park Road Playing Field           | Cheadle                  | 51.3%         | 64.0%       |
| 233     | Green Lane Recreation Ground             | Stepping Hill            | 54.4%         | 47.0%       |
| 236     | Guildford Avenue Recreation Ground       | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 31.4%         | 22.0%       |
| 239     | Half Moon Lane Recreation Ground         | Stepping Hill            | 65.2%         | 58.0%       |
| 240     | Hall Street                              | Cheadle                  | 61.1%         | 33.0%       |
| 243     | Handley Close Open Space                 | Central                  | 32.7%         | 33.0%       |
| 245     | Harcourt St.Open Space & Play            | Heatons & Reddish        | 32.4%         | 57.0%       |
| 248     | Havergate Walks Passages                 | Stepping Hill            | 27.4%         | 35.0%       |
| 251     | Hawk Green Recreation Ground             | Marple                   | 48.5%         | 46.0%       |
| 252     | Hayfield Road                            | Werneth                  | 38.1%         | 23.0%       |
| 253     | Hazel Grove Baths                        | Stepping Hill            | 75.8%         | 51.0%       |
| 259     | Hazel Grove War Memorial                 | Stepping Hill            | 72.1%         | 59.0%       |
| 260     | Heald Green Recreation Ground            | Cheadle                  | 58.7%         | 36.0%       |
| 261     | Heald Green War Memorial & Ver           | Cheadle                  | 40.1%         | 34.0%       |
| 265     | Heaton Mersey Bowl                       | Heatons & Reddish        | 36.3%         | 55.0%       |

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| Site ID | Site name                      | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 266     | Heaton Mersey Common           | Heatons & Reddish        | 54.6%         | 67.0%       |
| 286     | Higher Mill Open Space         | Cheadle                  | 34.2%         | 31.0%       |
| 292     | Hollow Vale Estate Open Spaces | Heatons & Reddish        | 8.0%          | 23.0%       |
| 295     | Holset Walk/Denbury Green Open | Stepping Hill            | 45.7%         | 46.0%       |
| 297     | Hornsea Rd Open Spaces         | Stepping Hill            | 38.5%         | 39.0%       |
| 306     | Hurst Street Open Space        | Heatons & Reddish        | 38.1%         | 27.0%       |
| 308     | Hyde Rd Corner                 | Werneth                  | 54.4%         | 69.0%       |
| 313     | Kinross Avenue Open Spaces     | Stepping Hill            | 36.3%         | 44.0%       |
| 315     | Ladybridge Sports Ground       | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 61.4%         | 56.0%       |
| 321     | Lapwing Recreation Centre      | Central                  | 50.2%         | 43.0%       |
| 328     | Lavington Avenue Sports Ground | Cheadle                  | 45.1%         | 56.0%       |
| 329     | Leyland Avenue Open Space      | Cheadle                  | 51.5%         | 21.0%       |
| 332     | Lime Kilns Open Space          | Marple                   | 32.7%         | 34.0%       |
| 333     | Lincoln Green                  | Central                  | 54.6%         | 23.0%       |
| 334     | Linney Road Playing Field      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 31.9%         | 23.0%       |
| 335     | Lloyd Street Recreation Ground | Heatons & Reddish        | 51.2%         | 54.0%       |
| 336     | Lower Strines Road Verges      | Marple                   | 37.6%         | 29.0%       |
| 337     | Lowndes Close Open Space       | Central                  | 41.3%         | 36.0%       |
| 340     | Ludworth Recreation Ground     | Marple                   | 48.1%         | 44.0%       |
| 343     | Lumb Lane Recreation Ground    | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 59.3%         | 61.0%       |
| 345     | Lyncombe Close Open Space      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 36.3%         | 45.0%       |
| 346     | Lyndhurst Avenue Open Space    | Stepping Hill            | 35.4%         | 39.0%       |
| 347     | Mallard Close Open Space       | Stepping Hill            | 38.5%         | 39.0%       |
| 354     | Marbury Road Playing Field     | Heatons & Reddish        | 57.2%         | 58.0%       |
| 358     | Marple Hall Site               | Marple                   | 40.4%         | 51.0%       |
| 361     | Marple Recreation Ground       | Marple                   | 48.5%         | 81.0%       |
| 364     | Meadow Bank Open Space         | Heatons & Reddish        | 34.8%         | 47.0%       |
| 365     | Meadows Road Playing Field     | Heatons & Reddish        | 57.2%         | 51.0%       |
| 369     | Mellor Recreation Ground       | Marple                   | 52.2%         | 54.0%       |
| 377     | Mile End Corner                | Stepping Hill            | 43.4%         | 25.0%       |
| 378     | Mile End Meadow                | Stepping Hill            | 17.7%         | 19.0%       |
| 379     | Mill Brow Recreation Ground    | Marple                   | 41.0%         | 50.0%       |
| 381     | Mill Lane Recreation Ground    | Werneth                  | 49.0%         | 54.0%       |
| 385     | Milton Crescent Open Space     | Cheadle                  | 34.5%         | 43.0%       |
| 387     | Moadlock Field & Entrance      | Werneth                  | 28.8%         | 39.0%       |
| 389     | Moreton Lane Sports Ground     | Central                  | 37.6%         | 19.0%       |
| 393     | Naseby Road                    | Heatons & Reddish        | 48.5%         | 59.0%       |
| 397     | New Zealand Road Open Spaces   | Central                  | 28.3%         | 28.0%       |
| 398     | New Zealand Road Playing Field | Central                  | 41.9%         | 37.0%       |

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

| Site ID | Site name                          | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 399     | Newark Road Open Space             | Heatons & Reddish        | 41.9%         | 37.0%       |
| 401     | Newbridge House                    | Central                  | 51.6%         | 29.0%       |
| 402     | No.1 Baker Street                  | Heatons and Reddish      | 63.0%         | 21.0%       |
| 407     | Norris Bank Open Space             | Heatons & Reddish        | 62.7%         | 53.0%       |
| 412     | Nottingham Avenue                  | Central                  | 52.8%         | 24.0%       |
| 415     | Oakhurst Drive Playing Field &     | Cheadle                  | 54.0%         | 50.0%       |
| 420     | Old Norbury School Fields Site     | Stepping Hill            | 50.1%         | 49.0%       |
| 421     | Oldknow Rd.- Gardens & Water B     | Marple                   | 63.4%         | 66.0%       |
| 422     | Open Space Side Of No.57           | Central                  | 38.3%         | 37.0%       |
| 423     | Outwood Road Open Space            | Cheadle                  | 26.6%         | 12.0%       |
| 425     | Overdale Road Recreation Ground    | Werneth                  | 58.3%         | 31.0%       |
| 428     | Park Road Stadium                  | Cheadle                  | 53.1%         | 58.0%       |
| 429     | Parkside                           | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 65.0%         | 34.0%       |
| 432     | Passage To Winchester Drive        | Heatons & Reddish        | 37.5%         | 30.0%       |
| 433     | Peak Bank Open Space               | Werneth                  | 30.4%         | 23.0%       |
| 437     | Penny Lane Banking                 | Heatons and Reddish      | 19.8%         | 23.0%       |
| 439     | Peregrine Road                     | Stepping Hill            | 54.4%         | 33.0%       |
| 443     | Priestnall Hey Open Spaces         | Heatons & Reddish        | 45.1%         | 61.0%       |
| 447     | Rectory Fields                     | Central                  | 34.5%         | 38.0%       |
| 456     | Ringmore Road Open Space           | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 40.7%         | 44.0%       |
| 458     | Riversdale View Open Space & P     | Werneth                  | 49.0%         | 52.0%       |
| 459     | Riverside Open Spaces              | Central                  | 47.2%         | 58.0%       |
| 463     | Romiley Marina Pool                | Werneth                  | 33.2%         | 46.0%       |
| 468     | Rose Lane Recreation Ground        | Marple                   | 39.4%         | 18.0%       |
| 471     | Roundhey Open Space                | Cheadle                  | 18.6%         | 10.0%       |
| 472     | Ruskin Close                       | Werneth                  | 50.2%         | 29.0%       |
| 473     | Russell Avenue                     | Marple                   | 17.6%         | 13.0%       |
| 481     | Shakespeare Road Recreation Ground | Werneth                  | 38.5%         | 18.0%       |
| 484     | Shawcross Street Banking           | Central                  | 15.9%         | 16.0%       |
| 485     | Simon Freeman Close Open Space     | Heatons & Reddish        | 43.7%         | 50.0%       |
| 488     | Smithy Green Rec Ground & Open     | Werneth                  | 36.3%         | 57.0%       |
| 495     | Spring Bank Recreation Ground      | Werneth                  | 55.8%         | 59.0%       |
| 498     | St Andrews Road Playing Field      | Heatons & Reddish        | 46.5%         | 50.0%       |
| 509     | St Johns Wood Fields               | Stepping Hill            | 49.9%         | 26.0%       |
| 537     | Strines Road Recreation Ground     | Marple                   | 24.8%         | 31.0%       |
| 538     | Swythamley Road Open Space         | Cheadle                  | 36.0%         | 42.0%       |
| 539     | Sykes Reservoirs                   | Central                  | 68.3%         | 67.0%       |
| 541     | Tangshutts Playing Field           | Werneth                  | 65.5%         | 64.0%       |

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

| Site ID | Site name                     | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 552     | Thorn Grove Recreation Ground | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 46.3%         | 25.0%       |
| 558     | Thurlestone Drive Walkway     | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 30.1%         | 9.0%        |
| 563     | Totnes Avenue Open Space      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 44.2%         | 46.0%       |
| 572     | Wainwright Close Open Space   | Central                  | 23.0%         | 17.0%       |
| 574     | Walnut Tree Playing Field     | Cheadle                  | 66.7%         | 58.0%       |
| 582     | Werneth Hollow Corner         | Werneth                  | 41.3%         | 46.0%       |
| 597     | Woodford Recreation Ground    | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 68.1%         | 61.0%       |
| 605     | Woods Lane Sports Ground      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 53.5%         | 40.0%       |
| 607     | Woodsmoor Playing Field       | Stepping Hill            | 42.8%         | 59.0%       |
| 608     | Wordsworth Road Open Space    | Heatons & Reddish        | 16.8%         | 26.0%       |
| 611     | Yew Tree Road                 | Central                  |               |             |
| 615     | Peel Moat                     | Heatons & Reddish        | 42.9%         | 34.0%       |
| 618     | Strine Village Green          | Marple                   | 56.6%         | 33.0%       |

Application of the FIT 6-minute walk time standard highlights gaps in provision. Noticeable gaps are identified in areas of greater population density such as in the Heatons & Reddish, Central, Cheadle, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South and Stepping Hill analysis areas. Minor gaps are only observed to the Werneth and Marple analysis areas.

No issues with regard to a deficiency in amenity greenspace are highlighted by the survey results\*. More respondents rate the availability of general amenity greenspace as either quite satisfactory (42%) or very satisfactory (20%). A proportion of respondents also rate availability as neither satisfactory or dissatisfactory (19%).

\* The survey should not be viewed as representing all age groups as only 1.2% of survey returns were from participants aged 16-24.

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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#### 6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); site scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in Stockport. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 6.3: Quality for amenity greenspaces by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 5                               | 15                              |
| Central                        | 12                              | 16                              |
| Cheadle                        | 9                               | 18                              |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 10                              | 15                              |
| Marple                         | 5                               | 13                              |
| Stepping Hill                  | 8                               | 15                              |
| Werneth                        | 9                               | 12                              |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>58</b>                       | <b>104</b>                      |

Please note the Dooley Lane/Mill Lane site in the Werneth Analysis Area and Yew Tree Road Street site in the Central Stockport Analysis Area are not assessed for quality or value due to access issues. It is possible that both may offer some form of visual or habitat value.

Most amenity greenspace in Stockport (64%) rates above the threshold for quality. In particular, sites in the Bramhall & Cheadle (75%), Marple (72%), Cheadle (66%), Stepping Hill (65%) analysis areas score well with most sites rating above the threshold.

There are however a proportion of sites which rate below the threshold (36%). The Central Stockport Analysis Area has a greater proportion of sites below the threshold (43%) compared to other areas. It contains a number of sites that are observed as being perceived to be untidy and overgrown from the site visit observations. There are also considered to be a number of sites lacking in ancillary facilities and features. Subsequently sites can be small and unattractive offering limited incentive for people to visit.

However, it is important to recognise that despite scoring below the threshold for quality, they may still have the potential to be important to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may be of higher value given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide an aesthetically pleasing function or habitat opportunities.

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Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites across Stockport are:

- ✦ Etchells Road Open Space (7%)
- ✦ Hollow Vale Estate OS (8%)
- ✦ Bird Hall Avenue OS (10%)
- ✦ Shawcross Street Banking (16%)
- ✦ Wordsworth Road OS (17%)
- ✦ Mile End Meadow (18%)

Most sites that rate low for quality are observed as being fairly basic pockets of green space. These tend to lack ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use. The example sites listed above are all identified as being overgrown and poorly maintained. Evidence of misuse is also observed at Etchells Road Open Space. Such issues result in the site scoring negatively for quality.

The highest scoring sites for quality in Stockport are:

- ✦ Cheadle Green (79%)
- ✦ Hazel Grove Baths (76%)
- ✦ Gotherage Lane Playing Field (74%)
- ✦ Hazel Grove War Memorial (72%)
- ✦ East Avenue Recreation Ground (69%)

High scoring sites, such as the ones above, reflect the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the good standard of appearance and maintenance found at such sites. They also have plenty of ancillary facilities such as bins, benches, picnic tables and in some cases parking. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access.

Cheadle Green is one of two open space sites identified as having village green status. The other site is Old Norbury School Fields in Stepping Hill. Both sites rate high for quality (and value); a likely reflection of their role and use to local communities.

Similar to results for availability, survey respondents view the quality of amenity greenspace as quite satisfactory (42%). This is followed by 24% of respondents that view quality as neither satisfactory or dissatisfactory. Only a small proportion rate quality as quite (7%) or very (2%) dissatisfactory.

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### 6.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how value is derived thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 6.4: Value for amenity greenspace by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 2                               | 18                              |
| Central                        | 4                               | 24                              |
| Cheadle                        | 4                               | 23                              |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 0                               | 25                              |
| Marple                         | 2                               | 16                              |
| Stepping Hill                  | 1                               | 22                              |
| Werneth                        | 1                               | 20                              |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>14</b>                       | <b>148</b>                      |

Please note the Dooley Lane/Mill Lane site in the Werneth Analysis Area and Yew Tree Road Street site in the Central Stockport Analysis Area are not assessed for quality or value due to access issues. It is possible that both may offer some form of visual or habitat value.

The majority of amenity greenspaces (90%) rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value in Stockport are:

- ◀ Cheadle Green (83%)
- ◀ Marple Recreation Ground (81%)
- ◀ Gatley Carrs (72%)

These are recognised for the accessible recreational opportunity they offer at an excellent level of quality and for a wide range of users. The sites are identified as containing additional features such as play areas and/or sports provision which helps contribute to their use and role to local communities.

There are only 14 sites to rate below the threshold for value. Sites scoring below the value threshold tend to be grassed areas with no noticeable features. Of the 14 sites rating below the threshold for value, 13 also rate below the threshold for quality. Most are noted as appearing to be untidy and overgrown. This is likely to impact on the use and therefore value of the sites.

It is important that amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. They can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites in Stockport offer multiple functions and are important amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

### 6.6 Summary

#### **Amenity greenspace summary**

- ◀ There are 164 amenity greenspace sites in Stockport; equating to 245 hectares.
- ◀ The Cheadle Analysis Area is identified as having the most amount of provision (54.76 hectares). It also has the highest amount per 1,000 population (1.21); followed by Werneth (1.19).
- ◀ Against the FIT 6-minute walk time standard, gaps are noted to all analysis areas; with the exception of minor gaps in Werneth and Marple.
- ◀ Overall amenity greenspaces quality is positive. Most sites (64%) rate above the threshold and only a handful face any specific issues; some due to size, lack of features or appearance.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspaces make a valuable contribution to the visual amenity for communities – hence the majority of sites (90%) rate above the threshold for value.
- ◀ There are 12 sites rating below the threshold for quality and value. This is often as a result of poor appearances and lack of apparent use.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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### PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### 7.1 Introduction

This includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters and MUGAs.

#### 7.2 Current provision

There are 183 sites in Stockport identified as provision for children and young people. This equates to a total of nearly 17 hectares. The 2017 study utilised and signposted to the findings of the 2015 Stockport Play Review (SPR) to inform provision levels, quality and use.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people by analysis area*

| Analysis area                     | Number     | Size (ha)    | Current standard<br>(ha per 1,000<br>population) | Sufficiency/<br>deficiency against<br>0.25 FIT standard |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle<br>Hulme South | 14         | 1.23         | 0.03                                             | -0.22                                                   |
| Central                           | 38         | 2.72         | 0.05                                             | -0.20                                                   |
| Cheadle                           | 32         | 2.50         | 0.06                                             | -0.19                                                   |
| Heatons & Reddish                 | 36         | 1.85         | 0.03                                             | -0.22                                                   |
| Marple                            | 20         | 5.30         | 0.20                                             | -0.05                                                   |
| Stepping Hill                     | 32         | 2.10         | 0.05                                             | -0.20                                                   |
| Werneth                           | 11         | 0.83         | 0.03                                             | -0.22                                                   |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>                  | <b>183</b> | <b>16.51</b> | <b>0.06</b>                                      | <b>-0.19</b>                                            |

The Central Stockport Analysis Area has greatest number of sites with 38. This is followed by Heatons and Reddish (36), Stepping Hill and Cheadle (32), and Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South (14) analysis areas. However, based on a per 1000 population it is the Marple (0.20) and Cheadle (0.06) analysis area with the greatest level of designated equipped provision.

Werneth has the lowest number of sites (11). Yet based on a per 1000 population basis it is the Heatons and Reddish Analysis Area with the lowest proportion of provision (0.03); this is despite the analysis area having the second highest number of sites (36).

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population of equipped/ designated playing space as a guideline quantity standard. Table 7.1 shows that overall Stockport is deficient on this basis with all analysis areas being deficient against the FIT standard.

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However, the Stockport Play Review also recognises that children and young people can and do use the space outside equipped play areas for playing. Table 7.2 uses the entire site where a play area is located within to compare against the FIT standard as set out in the SPR\*.

*Table 7.2: Provision for children and young people (using entire size of 'parent' site) by analysis area*

| Analysis area                     | Size (ha)     | Current standard<br>(ha per 1,000 population) | Sufficiency/ deficiency<br>against 0.80 FIT standard |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle<br>Hulme South | 35.78         | 0.86                                          | 0.06                                                 |
| Central                           | 94.47         | 1.63                                          | 0.83                                                 |
| Cheadle                           | 71.08         | 1.58                                          | 0.78                                                 |
| Heatons & Reddish                 | 33.25         | 0.56                                          | -0.24                                                |
| Marple                            | 56.37         | 2.11                                          | 1.31                                                 |
| Stepping Hill                     | 27.71         | 0.70                                          | -0.10                                                |
| Werneth                           | 13.21         | 0.49                                          | -0.31                                                |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>                  | <b>331.88</b> | <b>1.12</b>                                   | <b>0.32</b>                                          |

The SPR cites use of the six-acre standard set out in the FIT 2008 guidance; which utilises a standard 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population (Table 7.2). It is important to recognise that this has since been superseded by revised guidance published in 2015; Beyond the Six Acre Standard (which advocates use of the 0.25 hectares per 1000 population, consequently weight should be given to Table 7.1.

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields in Trust (FIT) guidance. FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ✦ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ✦ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ✦ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.

Play provision in Stockport is summarised using the Fields in Trust (FIT) classifications in table 7.3.

\* Figures use hectares from 2024 audit and populations from Section 2.1

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Table 7.3: Distribution of provision for children and young people by FIT category

| Analysis area                    | LAP       | LEAP      | NEAP      | Destination | TOTAL      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South | 4         | 6         | 3         | 1           | 14         |
| Central Stockport                | 10        | 10        | 14        | 4           | 38         |
| Cheadle                          | 15        | 6         | 10        | 1           | 32         |
| Heatons and Reddish              | 8         | 8         | 18        | 2           | 36         |
| Marple                           | 2         | 11        | 5         | 2           | 20         |
| Stepping Hill                    | 13        | 12        | 5         | 2           | 32         |
| Werneth                          | 1         | 5         | 5         | -           | 11         |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>                 | <b>53</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>12</b>   | <b>183</b> |

The table above highlights that play provision, based on the FIT categories, is evenly spread across the different categories; LAP (29%), LEAP (32%), NEAP (33%).

In the Cheadle Analysis Area, nearly half of play sites (47%) are classified as LAPs. This is much greater in comparison to other analysis areas. The Stepping Hill Analysis Area has the second highest proportion of sites (41%) classified as LAPs.

### 7.3 Accessibility

The SPR and the 2017 study applied the FIT accessibility benchmark standards for children's play space. Table 7.4 sets out these distances.

Table 7.4: FIT accessibility standards

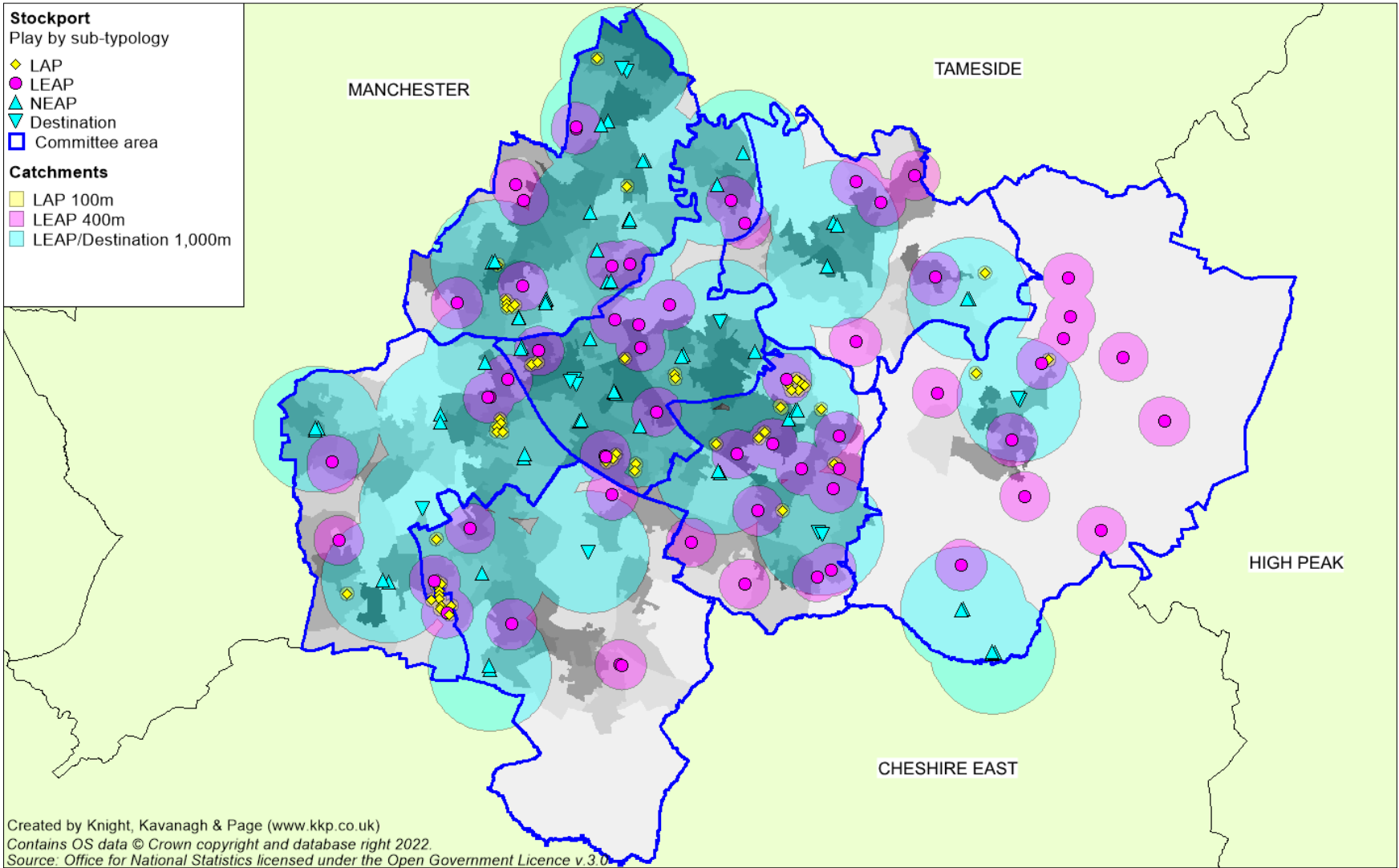
| Type of space | Walking distance (m) | Straight line distance (m) |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| LAP           | 100                  | 60                         |
| LEAP          | 400                  | 240                        |
| NEAP          | 1000                 | 600                        |

Figure 7.1 shows play provision mapped against the analysis areas using the FIT catchments of 100m, 400m and 1000m for different types of play provision.

Availability of play provision is generally rated as being quite satisfactory (31%) or very satisfactory (19%) by most respondents to the Communities Survey; a further 15% rates availability as neither satisfactory or dissatisfactory. Provision for teenagers/youths is viewed more mixed with 25% of respondents rating availability as neither satisfactory or dissatisfactory; with a broadly balanced view on whether availability is very/quite satisfactory (5% and 11% respectively) or very/quite dissatisfactory (10% and 12% respectively).

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Figure 7.1: Play provision mapped against FIT standards



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Application of the FIT catchments highlights a overall good level of coverage. However, noticeable gaps in catchments are observed to Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South. Minor gaps are also noted in Heatons & Reddish, Cheadle, Werneth, Stepping Hill and Marple analysis areas.

#### 7.4 Contribution

The SPR allocated each site a score for contribution. This combined each site's quality and value scores alongside a range of other data sources including accessibility, proximity to other forms of provision and the areas ranking against the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). This allowed for a better understanding to the contribution each site makes to its community. A brief summary of key findings is provided below.

North Reddish Park is highlighted as the site making the most significant contribution to its local community. This is followed closely by Moat Walk and Brinnington Park.

The average contribution score across all sites was 62. There were 62 sites which received a score lower than 62 (and 73 sites which received a score higher than the average of 62).

Of the sites below the average score, most were identified as LAPs (61%). Followed by 34% classified as LEAPs and 5% as NEAPs. The SPR suggested that LAPs provide less of a contribution to local areas in comparison to LEAPs and NEAPs. LAPs often contain small amounts of basic equipment usually of a limited range and appeal.

This is further demonstrated by the 73 sites above the average score, mostly being identified as either LEAP (42%) or NEAP (36%). All Destination sites are also within the sites scoring above the average. However, there are also some LAPs (14%) which score above the average.

Although the quality assessment provides a robust method for assessing overall quality, it should be noted that smaller sites, specifically LAPs are by their nature likely to score lower as they do not have the available space, and to an extent the need for some features, for example a LAP may not require two pedestrian gates. LAPs by their nature, design and role are likely to score lower in a quality-based assessment than larger play areas with a range of equipment and features. As a result, they suffer in a direct comparison of the quality of play areas by type.

The Play Space Audit found that while the majority of play spaces can be accessed by children and young people with disabilities, there is limited provision, in terms of play equipment for them to engage with. Play England's vision is supported by an objective to "imagine a play space where disabled and nondisabled children play together", a focus on fewer sites could enable improvements to improve play and opportunities for play for children and young people with disabilities.

Quality of play areas for younger children are generally viewed positively from respondents to the Communities Survey. A greater proportion of respondents' rate quality as quite satisfactory (30%) or very satisfactory (11%). In comparison, a smaller proportion of respondents' rate quality as quite dissatisfactory (14%) or very dissatisfactory (8%).

### 7.5 Summary

#### **Provision for children and young people summary**

- ◀ There are 183 play provision sites in Stockport; a total of nearly 17 hectares.
- ◀ Marple (0.20) and Cheadle (0.06) analysis areas have the greatest levels of provision per 1000 population. The Heaton and Reddish, Werneth and Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South analysis areas have the lowest with 0.03 hectares per 1000 population.
- ◀ Application of the FIT quantity standard used in the SPR (0.25 ha per 1,000 population) identifies that Stockport is deficient in every analysis area in play provision. This suggests that additional forms of provision are required.
- ◀ Application of the FIT walk time catchments demonstrates that there is generally a good level of coverage across the area. In some instances, new play provision/ contributions could look to form part of enhancements to existing sites; in order to increase their size and quality and value.
- ◀ Sites are evenly distributed across the different FIT categories; LAP (29%), LEAP (32%) and NEAP (33%).
- ◀ The Play Space Audit found that while the majority of play spaces can be accessed by children and young people with disabilities, there is limited provision, in terms of play equipment for them to engage with. This is an issue that needs addressing in design guidance.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

#### 8.1 Introduction

Allotments is a typology which covers open spaces that provide opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction. This includes provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

#### 8.2 Current provision

There are 32 sites classified as allotments in Stockport, equating to over 38 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit. Four sites have no scores attached due to being inaccessible during the site visits.

*Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area*

| Analysis area                     | Number    | Size (ha)    | Current standard<br>(ha per 1,000<br>population) | Sufficiency/<br>deficiency against<br>NSALG |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle<br>Hulme South | 1         | 1.21         | 0.03                                             | -0.22                                       |
| Central                           | 5         | 6.38         | 0.11                                             | -0.14                                       |
| Cheadle                           | 4         | 6.70         | 0.15                                             | -0.10                                       |
| Heatons & Reddish                 | 8         | 11.85        | 0.20                                             | -0.05                                       |
| Marple                            | 5         | 2.77         | 0.10                                             | -0.15                                       |
| Stepping Hill                     | 6         | 6.42         | 0.16                                             | -0.09                                       |
| Werneth                           | 3         | 3.15         | 0.12                                             | -0.13                                       |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>                  | <b>32</b> | <b>38.47</b> | <b>0.13</b>                                      | <b>-0.12</b>                                |

Heatons & Reddish Analysis Area has the largest number of sites (eight). Unsurprisingly, the most hectareage (12 hectares) is also found in the area.

There is a combined total of 1,019 plots, including half plots, identified across sites in Stockport. The number of plots offered at each site varies. The larger sites are Priestnall (87 plots) and Green Lane (68 plots) in the Heatons and Reddish Analysis Area and Offerton (64 plots) in the Stepping Hill Analysis Area. The smallest is Craig Road in the Heatons and Reddish Analysis Area with (13 plots).

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 200 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

Stockport, as a whole, based on its current population (297,107) does not meet the NSALG standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population. Table 8.1 shows that all analysis areas are also deficient against the NSALG standard.

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Using the suggested NSALG standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Stockport would be 74 hectares. It is concluded that to meet the suggested requirement there would need to be an extra 36 hectares of allotment provision.

Over 200 people have been identified as being on a waiting list for a plot in Stockport. All allotments have waiting lists.

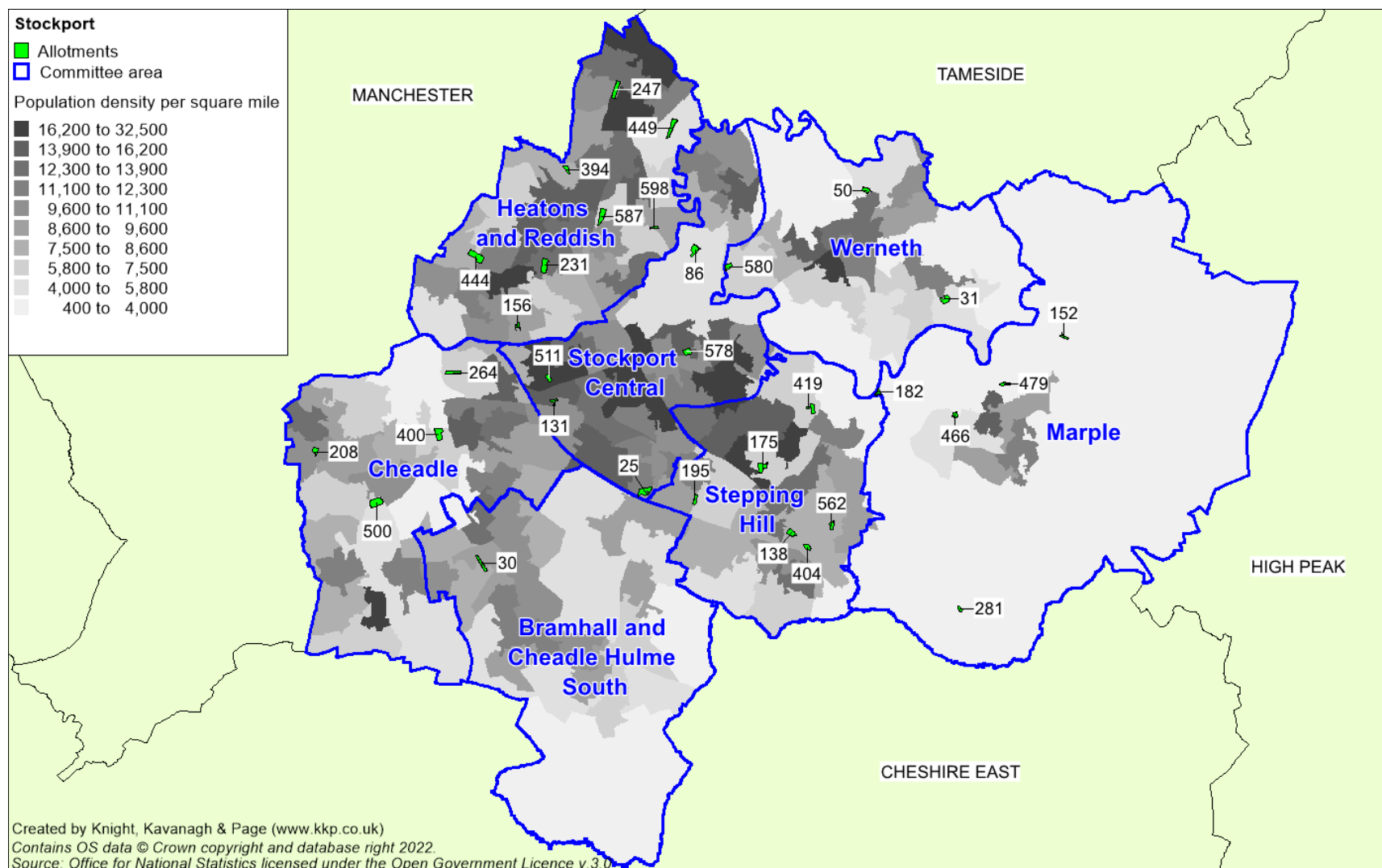
### **8.3 Accessibility**

No accessibility standard is set for this typology as no national guidance is recommended. Provision should be based on demand such as waiting lists.

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped against analysis areas.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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*Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped*

Threshold to determine higher/lower quality scores is 45%. For value scores, it is 20%.

| Site ID | Site name                      | Analysis area            | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 25      | Barnfield Road East Allotments | Central                  | 49.1%         | 56.0%       |
| 30      | Billys Lane Allotments         | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme | 60.0%         | 61.3%       |
| 31      | Birch Avenue Allotments        | Werneth                  | 56.4%         | 58.7%       |
| 50      | Braddon Road Allotments        | Werneth                  | 28.2%         | 57.3%       |
| 86      | Brinnington Rise Allotments    | Central                  | 38.2%         | 50.7%       |
| 131     | Cheadle Old Road Allotments    | Central                  | 31.8%         | 54.7%       |
| 138     | Chester Road Allotments        | Stepping Hill            | 65.5%         | 72.0%       |
| 152     | Cote Green Allotments          | Marple                   | 27.3%         | 56.0%       |
| 156     | Craig Road Allotments          | Heatons & Reddish        | 48.2%         | 58.7%       |
| 175     | Dial Park Road Allotments      | Stepping Hill            | 51.8%         | 36.0%       |
| 182     | Dooley Lane Allotments         | Marple                   | 47.3%         | 45.3%       |
| 195     | Flowery Field Allotments       | Stepping Hill            | 61.8%         | 61.3%       |
| 208     | Gatley Hill Allotments         | Cheadle                  | 52.7%         | 61.3%       |
| 231     | Green Lane Allotments          | Heatons & Reddish        | 61.8%         | 61.3%       |
| 247     | Harrogate Road Allotments      | Heatons & Reddish        |               |             |
| 264     | Heathside Park Road Allotments | Cheadle                  |               |             |
| 281     | High Lane Allotments           | Marple                   | 49.1%         | 56.0%       |
| 394     | Nelstrop Road Allotments       | Heatons & Reddish        | 30.9%         | 62.7%       |
| 400     | Newbould Road Allotments       | Cheadle                  | 54.5%         | 73.3%       |
| 404     | Norbury Church Allotments      | Stepping Hill            |               |             |
| 419     | Offerton Hall Allotments       | Stepping Hill            | 47.3%         | 57.3%       |
| 444     | Priestnall Road Allotments     | Heatons & Reddish        | 50.0%         | 81.3%       |
| 449     | Reddish Vale Allotments        | Heatons & Reddish        | 22.7%         | 37.3%       |
| 466     | Rose Hill Allotments           | Marple                   | 37.3%         | 58.7%       |
| 479     | Seven Stiles Allotments        | Marple                   | 46.4%         | 61.3%       |
| 500     | St Anns Road North Allotments  | Cheadle                  |               |             |
| 511     | St Lesmo Road Allotments       | Central                  | 45.5%         | 65.3%       |
| 562     | Torkington Road Allotments     | Stepping Hill            | 49.1%         | 56.0%       |
| 578     | Webb Lane Allotments           | Central                  | 52.7%         | 65.3%       |
| 580     | Welkin Road Allotments         | Werneth                  | 53.6%         | 57.3%       |
| 587     | Whitehill Allotments           | Heatons & Reddish        | 55.5%         | 60.0%       |
| 598     | Woodhall Road Allotments       | Heatons & Reddish        | 49.1%         | 58.7%       |

The Harrogate Road, Heathside Park Road, Norbury Church and St Annes Road North allotments sites could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and therefore inaccessible at the time of the site visits.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Of the respondents that provided an answer to this question in the Communities Survey, most rate their satisfaction with the availability of provision as quite satisfactory (24%). This is closely followed by those rating availability as very satisfactory (19%). However, the waiting lists present at certain sites suggests the need for more provision where possible.

### ***Ownership/management***

All allotment sites are owned by Stockport Council and leased to allotment associations to manage and maintain. The lease agreements are all of varying lengths. The associations also undertake the financial management and upkeep of the sites. Consultation with the allotment associations highlight they would appreciate more help from the Council to help repair boundary fencing, and gates etc.

Consultation highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the area. Demand currently outweighs supply; demonstrated by the waiting lists in place at most sites. Most allotments in Stockport are operating at 100% capacity; only a few have vacant plots identified.

To help meet demand and reduce the waiting time for plots, some allotment associations split any newly vacated plots in two. Some associations also create smaller plots for beginners.

### **8.4 Quality**

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Stockport. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 8.4: Quality for allotments by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 0                               | 1                               |
| Central                        | 2                               | 3                               |
| Cheadle                        | 0                               | 2                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 2                               | 5                               |
| Marple                         | 2                               | 3                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 5                               |
| Werneth                        | 1                               | 2                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>7</b>                        | <b>21</b>                       |

The Harrogate Road, Heathside Park Road, Norbury Church and St Annes Road North allotments sites could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and therefore inaccessible at the time of the site visits.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

The highest scoring sites are Chester Road (65%) and Flowery Field (61%) allotment sites in the Stepping Hill Analysis Area. The sites score well due to good general appearance and maintenance (e.g. good paths, clean and tidy).

Some of the lower scoring sites are Reddish Vale (23%), Cote Green Allotments (27%) and Cheadle Old Road (32%). Cheadle Old Road is noted as having an issue with flooding and drainage especially in the winter, which can limit the number of plots available. Subsequently it scores below the threshold. In addition, the Reddish Vale site is noted as having no boundary fencing, which leads to lack of security and an increased risk of vandalism and, as a result, the site also scores below the threshold.

In general, there are no significant problems with regard to overall quality of provision. Most sites have access to running water and are fenced. It should be noted that the allotment associations previously raised the issue of poor communication and a lack of support from the Council. However, they realise that budget cuts have affected the level of maintenance allotted to them. It is worth highlighting that as leased sites the maintenance of the sites is the responsibility of the tenants.

The quality of provision is generally positive with most respondents of the Communities Survey rating their satisfaction levels with allotments as quite satisfactory (22%); a further 20% rate provision as very satisfied. Over a quarter of respondents (27%) state, they do not know how they would rate the quality of allotments. This is not uncommon as it reflects the niche use of this type of open space.

### 8.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how value is derived thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 8.5: Value for allotments by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 0                               | 1                               |
| Central                        | 0                               | 5                               |
| Cheadle                        | 0                               | 2                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 0                               | 7                               |
| Marple                         | 0                               | 5                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 5                               |
| Werneth                        | 0                               | 3                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>0</b>                        | <b>28</b>                       |

The Harrogate Road, Heathside Park Road, Norbury Church and St Annes Road North allotments sites could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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All allotments in Stockport are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified at sites signalling greater demand for provision.

The highest scoring sites for value are those identified as being well used (often because of being of a high quality). The highest scoring sites for value are the Priestnall Road and Newbould Road, receiving scores of 81% and 73% respectively.

### 8.6 Summary

#### Allotments summary

- There are 32 allotments sites in Stockport; equating to more than 38 hectares.
- All allotments are owned by Stockport Council and managed by allotment associations.
- Current provision in Stockport falls below the national standard provided by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. To meet this provision an extra 36 hectares of allotment space is needed.
- There are waiting lists for all allotment sites across Stockport suggesting that demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- Despite a number of allotments falling below the quality threshold, for the majority of allotments quality is deemed sufficient. Some incidences of flooding and vandalism have been reported.
- All allotments are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- Waiting list numbers coupled with not meeting the national standard suggest that continuing measures should be made to provide additional plots in the future.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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### PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

#### 9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

#### 9.2 Current provision

There are 16 sites are classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 42 hectares of provision in Stockport. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all known Stockport Council managed provision is identified and included within the audit.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number    | Size (ha)    |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | -         | -            |
| Central                        | 6         | 14.58        |
| Cheadle                        | 2         | 11.97        |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 2         | 6.43         |
| Marple                         | 2         | 1.19         |
| Stepping Hill                  | 1         | 1.81         |
| Werneth                        | 3         | 6.08         |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>16</b> | <b>42.06</b> |

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Stockport Cemetery in the Central Analysis Area (13 hectares). This is followed by Mill Lane Cemetery (7 hectares) in the Cheadle Analysis Area. Both are managed and maintained by Stockport Council. The five largest sites in Stockport are identified as cemeteries with the other 11 smaller sites being churchyards.

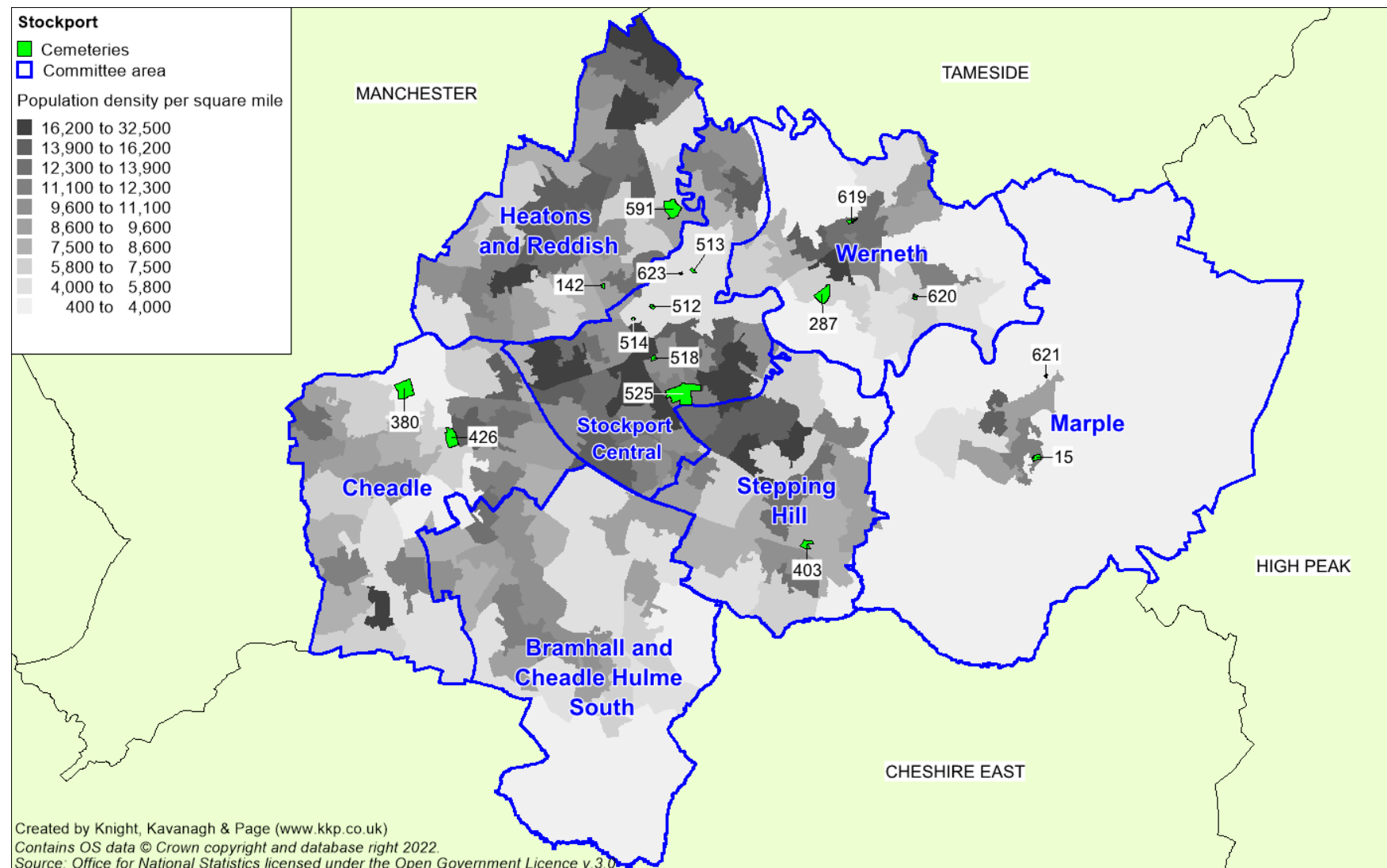
#### 9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand.

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area



## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

*Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped*

Threshold to determine higher/lower quality scores is 50%. For value scores, it is 20%.

| Site ID | Site name                           | Analysis area     | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 15      | All Saints Church                   | Marple            | 41.1%         | 53.3%       |
| 142     | Christ Church                       | Heatons & Reddish | 13.2%         | 17.8%       |
| 287     | Highfield Cemetery                  | Werneth           | 34.7%         | 54.4%       |
| 380     | Mill Lane Cemetery                  | Cheadle           | 78.1%         | 58.9%       |
| 403     | Norbury Church                      | Stepping Hill     | 73.1%         | 68.9%       |
| 426     | Park Road Cemetery                  | Cheadle           | 61.8%         | 66.7%       |
| 512     | St Mary's Churchyard, Church        | Central           | 62.8%         | 58.9%       |
| 513     | Brinnington Road (St Paul's Church) | Central           | 44.5%         | 57.8%       |
| 514     | St Peter's Church                   | Central           | 56.9%         | 53.3%       |
| 518     | St Thomas's Church                  | Central           | 62.7%         | 63.3%       |
| 525     | Stockport Cemetery                  | Central           |               |             |
| 591     | Willow Grove Cemetery               | Heatons & Reddish | 51.6%         | 64.4%       |
| 619     | St Marks Church                     | Werneth           | 70.5%         | 63.3%       |
| 620     | St Chads Church                     | Werneth           | 61.0%         | 68.9%       |
| 621     | St Martins                          | Marple            | 61.9%         | 55.6%       |
| 623     | Brunswick Chapel                    | Central           |               |             |

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

There are five open council owned and managed burial sites at Highfields, Mill Lane, Park Road Cemetery, Stockport Cemetery and Willow Grove. All of the other cemeteries are closed church yards.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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### 9.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Stockport. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 9.4: Quality for cemeteries by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | -                               | -                               |
| Central                        | 1                               | 3                               |
| Cheadle                        | 0                               | 2                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 1                               | 1                               |
| Marple                         | 1                               | 1                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 1                               |
| Werneth                        | 1                               | 2                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>4</b>                        | <b>10</b>                       |

Most assessed cemeteries and churchyards in Stockport (71%) rate above the threshold set for quality.

The highest scoring site for quality is the Mill Lane Cemetery, in the Cheadle Analysis Area, with a score of 78%. Most other sites that rate above the threshold score similarly to each other; suggesting a generally high provision standard. The high scores are predominantly due to them being maintained to an excellent level.

Observations from the site visits and from the consultation highlight the generally high quality level of provision overall. A large proportion of the sites are noted as being well cared for and therefore score well for quality of appearance.

The sites which fall below the threshold are all smaller churchyard sites. The sites rate below the threshold due to poor maintenance and poorer quality paths within the site; meaning access for certain users may be more difficult. This is thought to reflect the role of the less visited closed churchyard site, which have less frequent use and are therefore less frequent maintenance compared to the four open burial sites.

### 9.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Stockport. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.5: Value for cemeteries by analysis area

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | -                               | -                               |
| Central                        | 0                               | 4                               |
| Cheadle                        | 0                               | 2                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 1                               | 1                               |
| Marple                         | 0                               | 2                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 1                               |
| Werneth                        | 0                               | 3                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>1</b>                        | <b>13</b>                       |

The majority of identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting the role in community lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to and for the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also often receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

Most of the sites which score below the threshold for quality rate above the threshold for value. However, Christ Church in the Central Analysis Area rates below the quality and value thresholds. It appears to suffer from a lack of regular maintenance given its poor general appearance.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching).

### 9.6 Summary

#### Cemeteries summary

- Stockport has 16 cemeteries and churchyards identified equating to over 42 hectares.
- Most cemeteries and churchyards rate above the threshold for quality. However, four rate below the threshold. These are viewed as having fewer features such as seating, car parking and a lower quality of pathways compared to other sites.
- The majority of cemeteries are assessed as high value in Stockport, reflecting that generally provision has a cultural/heritage role and provides a sense of place to the local community.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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### PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

#### 10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians. Civic/Market squares often provide a setting for civic buildings such as town halls and opportunities for open-air markets, demonstrations and community events. They can also provide meeting points and in some areas a relaxation area or somewhere to take a break from work or shopping.

#### 10.2 Current provision

There are eight civic space sites, equating to nearly three hectares of provision, identified in Stockport. In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which may be viewed as providing similar roles and functions as civic spaces.

*Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number   | Size (ha)   |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | -        | -           |
| Central                        | 8        | 2.64        |
| Cheadle                        | -        | -           |
| Heatons & Reddish              | -        | -           |
| Marple                         | -        | -           |
| Stepping Hill                  | -        | -           |
| Werneth                        | -        | -           |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>8</b> | <b>2.64</b> |

All identified forms of civic space provision are in the Central Analysis Area. This is not unexpected as the Central Analysis Area contains the main urban centre of Stockport.

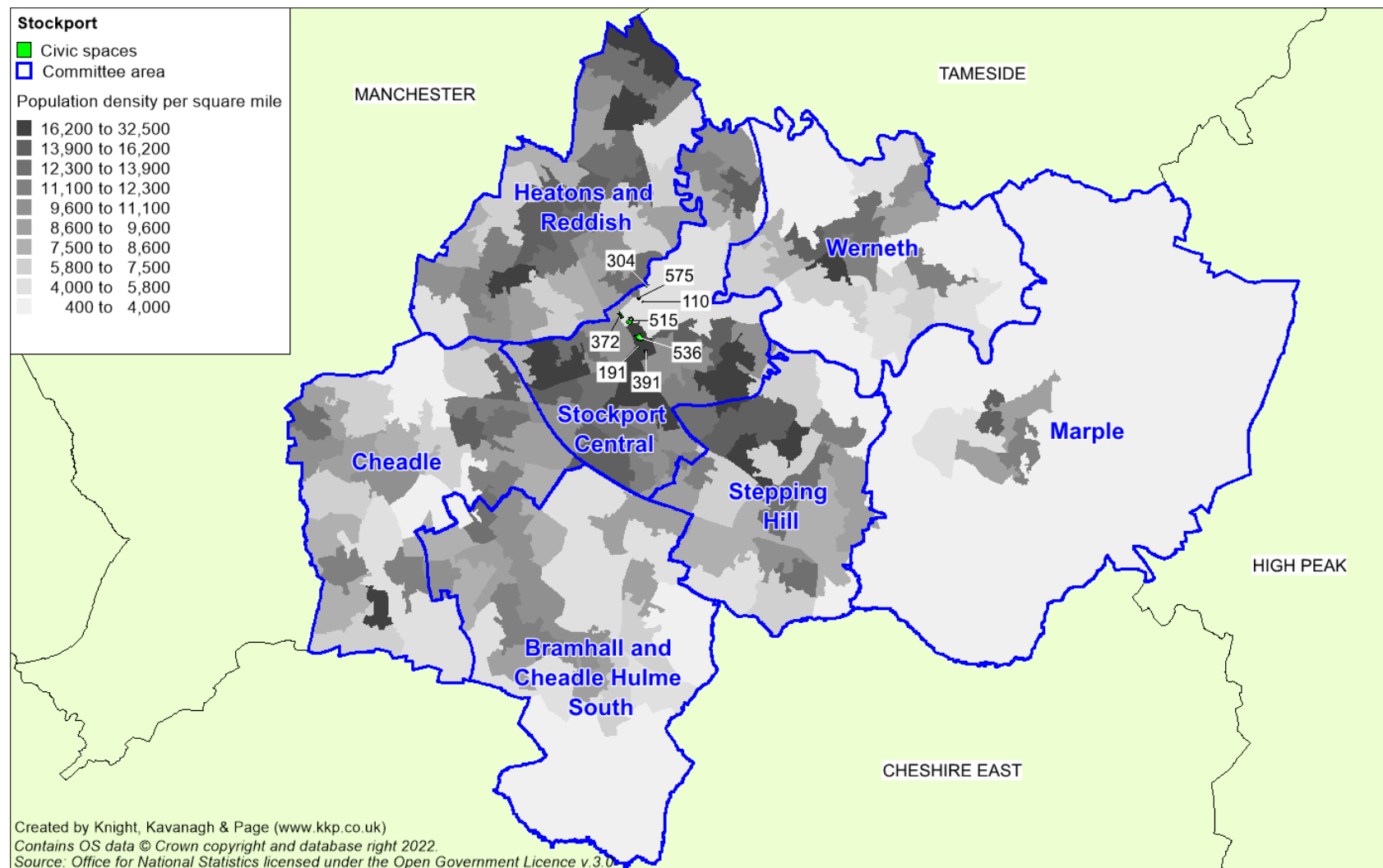
Other sites and areas function in a secondary role as civic space provision. For example, park sites such as Woodbank Park and many others provide uses associated with civic spaces - including local community events – as do other spaces such as pedestrianised areas and streets. For the purposes of this report sites such as these have not been classified as civic space provision due to their more prominent primary function and use.

#### 10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 10.1 shows civic spaces mapped against analysis areas.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

*Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped*

Threshold to determine higher/lower quality scores is 55%. For value scores, it is 20%.

| Site ID | Site name                  | Analysis area     | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 110     | Castle yard                | Central Stockport | 62.2%         | 59.0%       |
| 191     | Edward Street              | Central Stockport | 46.9%         | 28.0%       |
| 304     | Howard Street              | Central Stockport | 51.1%         | 28.0%       |
| 372     | Mersey Square              | Central Stockport | 71.7%         | 65.0%       |
| 391     | Mottram Towers             | Central Stockport | 50.8%         | 49.0%       |
| 515     | St Peters Square           | Central Stockport | 55.6%         | 75.0%       |
| 536     | The Piazza, Stopford House | Central Stockport | 58.7%         | 30.0%       |
| 575     | Warren Street              | Central Stockport | 67.8%         | 70.0%       |

Central Stockport is the only analysis area with civic space. Given the nature of provision, it is reasonable to accept that formal civic space will be prevalent in the urban centre of Stockport.

### 10.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic space in Stockport. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 10.3: Quality for civic spaces by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | -                               | -                               |
| Central                        | 3                               | 5                               |
| Cheadle                        | -                               | -                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | -                               | -                               |
| Marple                         | -                               | -                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | -                               | -                               |
| Werneth                        | -                               | -                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>3</b>                        | <b>5</b>                        |

Most sites (63%) rate above the threshold for quality. The sites are identified as having good access and ancillary features such as seating, bins and signage.

The three sites to rate below the quality threshold are Edward Street (47%), Mottram Towers (51%) and Howard Street (51%). Whilst no specific quality issues are identified at the three sites they are observed as not containing as many ancillary facilities and/or having the same overall appearance in comparison to other civic space sites.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### 10.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for civic space in Stockport. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 10.4: Value for civic spaces by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | -                               | -                               |
| Central                        | 0                               | 8                               |
| Cheadle                        | -                               | -                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | -                               | -                               |
| Marple                         | -                               | -                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | -                               | -                               |
| Werneth                        | -                               | -                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>0</b>                        | <b>8</b>                        |

All sites are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their social and cultural role whilst also providing a sense of place to the local community and area.

This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the social and cultural value of the sites through their use as recreational space and as areas to sit, socialise and relax outside.

### 10.6 Summary

#### Civic space summary

- There are eight sites classified as civic spaces in Stockport, all located in Central Stockport, equating to nearly three hectares of provision.
- Other forms of provision in the area (e.g. parks and gardens) provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- The quality and value of the sites is deemed to be good overall with a generally acceptable maintenance and appearance. Provision has a unique social and cultural value whilst providing a sense of place to the local community.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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### PART 11: GREEN CORRIDORS

#### 11.1 Introduction

The green corridors typology can include sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. Such sites can also provide opportunities for wildlife migration. This may include river and canal banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, rights of way and permissive paths.

#### 11.2 Current provision

There are 16 sites, which have been categorised as green corridors, equating to over 88 hectares of provision in Stockport. For consistency purposes, this is the same 16 sites identified as green corridors in the previous study. In addition, there are likely to be other forms of provision, which may be viewed as providing similar roles and functions as green corridors.

*Table 11.1: Distribution of green corridors by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number    | Size (ha)    |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 4         | 31.49        |
| Central                        | 4         | 3.86         |
| Cheadle                        | 1         | 8.82         |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 3         | 4.08         |
| Marple                         | 1         | 9.63         |
| Stepping Hill                  | 1         | 23.44        |
| Werneth                        | 2         | 6.92         |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>16</b> | <b>88.25</b> |

All analysis areas are identified as containing a form of green corridor provision.

However, it is recognised that there is a variety of forms of provision (e.g. pathways, PROW, pedestrian areas, streets) which residents may view as providing roles and functions similar to green corridors.

There are likely to be a number of sites across Stockport with primary and secondary functions similar to green corridors. For instance, many parks provide access and opportunities to walkers, cyclist and horse riders. Significant contributors include Etherow Country Park, Bruntwood Park and Reddish Vale Country Park to name just a few. However, most parks offer opportunities associated with green corridors.

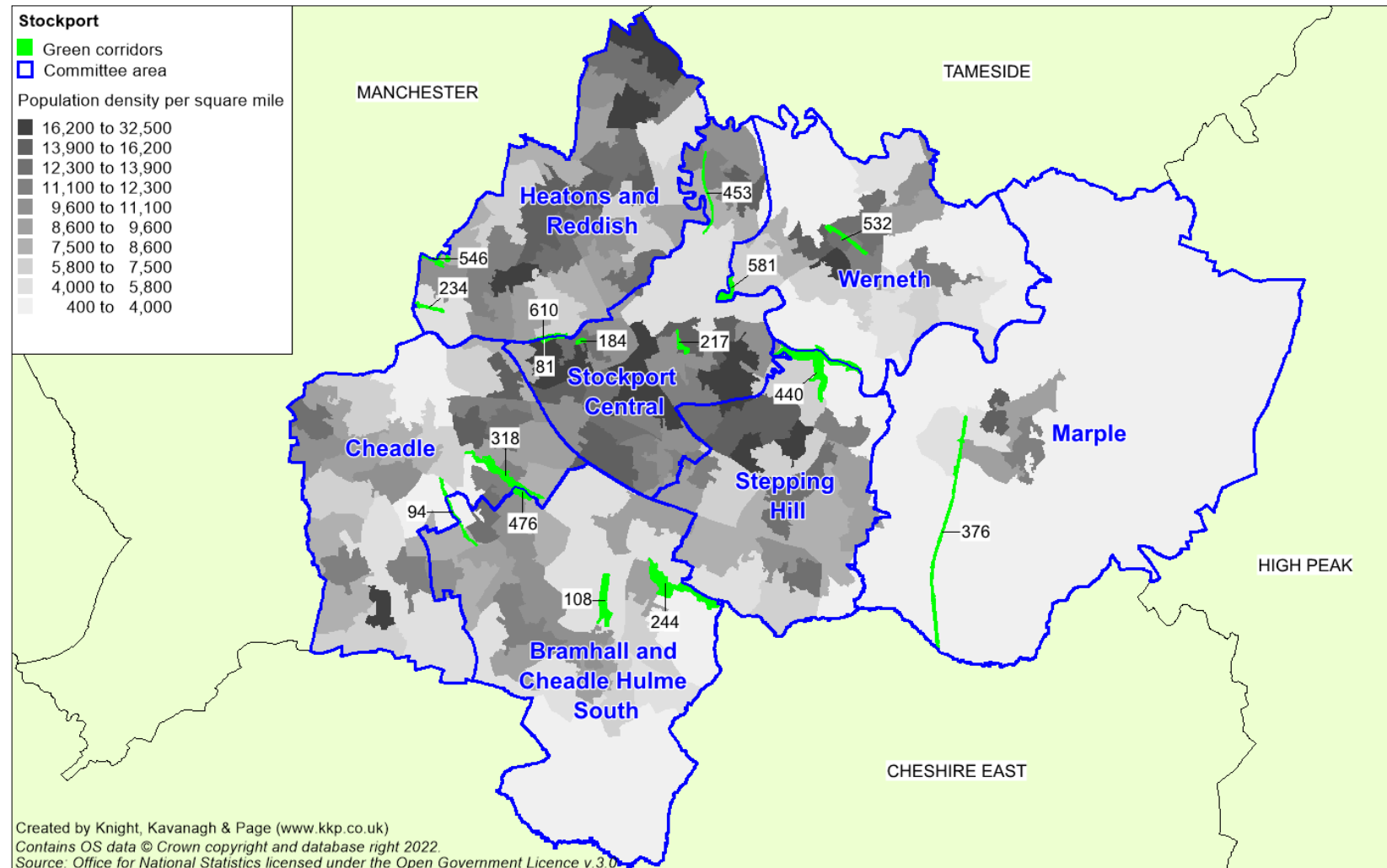
It is important that the role green corridors provide in linking sites and places together is recognised. Such forms of provision can encourage people to adopt healthy active lifestyles by walking or cycling between places rather than using a car or public transport.

### 11.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for green corridors. It is difficult to utilise catchment mapping due to the usually linear shape of such provision. Green corridors are often a practical design feature of a local area intended to provide routes in order to navigate from one place to another. Figure 11.1 shows green corridors mapped against analysis areas.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 11.1: Green corridors mapped against analysis areas



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

The threshold to determine higher/lower quality scores is 50%. For value scores, it is 20%.

*Table 11.2: Key to sites mapped*

| Site ID | Site name                      | Analysis area                  | Quality score | Value score |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 81      | Brinksway Green Corridor       | Central                        | 48.2%         | 20.0%       |
| 94      | Bruntwood Green Corridor       | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 39.3%         | 33.0%       |
| 108     | Carr Wood                      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 61.3%         | 71.0%       |
| 184     | Ealing Road Green Corridor     | Central                        | 39.3%         | 29.0%       |
| 217     | Gorsey Mount Green Corridor    | Central                        | 30.4%         | 19.0%       |
| 234     | Green Pastures Open Spaces     | Heatons & Reddish              | 59.5%         | 52.0%       |
| 244     | Happy Valley                   | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 60.7%         | 76.0%       |
| 318     | Ladybrook Valley / Mickerbrook | Cheadle                        | 46.4%         | 35.0%       |
| 376     | Middlewood Way                 | Marple                         | 41.1%         | 36.0%       |
| 440     | Poise Brook                    | Stepping Hill                  | 55.4%         | 72.0%       |
| 453     | Reddish Vale Green Corridor    | Central                        | 50.0%         | 45.0%       |
| 476     | Sandringham Road Playing Field | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 45.8%         | 51.0%       |
| 322     | Stockport Road West-Egerton    | Werneth                        | 30.4%         | 30.0%       |
| 190     | The Links                      | Heatons & Reddish              | 46.4%         | 46.0%       |
| 581     | Werneth Green Corridor         | Werneth                        | 35.7%         | 17.0%       |
| 610     | Yew Street Green Corridor      | Heatons & Reddish              | 50.0%         | 29.0%       |

Respondents to the Communities Survey rate the availability of provision as either quite satisfactory (42%) or very satisfactory (19%). There is only a small proportion of respondents that rate availability as either quite (12%) or very (5%) dissatisfactory.

### ***Public Rights of Way (PROW) / Strategic Routes***

The 2018 Stockport Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) sets out an assessment to the extent of local rights of way; including current provision levels, future needs and opportunities.

The Definitive Map, as part of the ROWIP, identifies a total of 268 kilometres of PROW. A summary of the categories of PROW is set out in Table 11.3.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Table 11.3: Category of PROW

| Path type                 | Users                                                                 | Length (km) | Number of paths | % of network by length |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Footpath                  | Walkers                                                               | 233         | 587             | 86.9                   |
| Bridleway                 | Walkers, horse riders and cyclists                                    | 27          | 65              | 10.1                   |
| Restricted byways         | Walkers, cyclists, horse drawn carts                                  | 1           | 2               | 0.4                    |
| Byway open to all traffic | Walkers, horse riders, cyclists, horse drawn carts and motor vehicles | 7           | 10              | 2.6                    |
| <b>Total</b>              |                                                                       | <b>268</b>  | <b>664</b>      | <b>100</b>             |

The majority of the PROW network is identified as footpaths (87%); followed by bridleways (10%). Only a small proportion of the network is identified as another form of path type. A map of the Strategic Routes is provided in Figure 11.2.

### Cycle network

Within Stockport there are two routes that form part of the National Cycle Network.

Part of the National Route 62 of the National Cycle Network runs through the area. The long distance route (210 miles) connects Fleetwood on the west coast of England to Selby in North Yorkshire. It forms the west and central sections of the Trans Pennine Trail. Within Stockport the route runs through Mersey Vale Nature Park and Reddish Vale Country Park.

There are also a number of other national and local routes in the area. The most noticeable being National Route 55. This is also part of the National Cycle Network which when complete will connect Ironbridge to Preston via Stafford, Macclesfield, Stockport and Wigan. Within Stockport the route also runs through Mersey Vale Nature Park as well as Heaton Norris Park.

In addition, Route 558 (this also shows on the NCN map) is a local route connecting communities south of Manchester together. Within Stockport the route runs from the centre of Stockport through Hollywood Park and Alexandra Park. Linking ultimately with the Manchester Airport Cycle Route to give access to the Airport City.

### 11.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for green corridors space in Stockport. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Table 11.4: Quality for green corridors by analysis area

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 2                               | 2                               |
| Central                        | 3                               | 1                               |
| Cheadle                        | 1                               | 0                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 1                               | 2                               |
| Marple                         | 1                               | 0                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 1                               |
| Werneth                        | 2                               | 0                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>10</b>                       | <b>6</b>                        |

Most sites (63%) rate below the threshold for quality. This is observed as being due to most sites lacking any noticeable ancillary facilities and/or having a lower standard of overall appearance.

Sites such as Stockport Road West-Egerton (30%), Gorsey Mount Green Corridor (30%) and Werneth Green Corridor (36%) are noted as appearing to be highway verges or inaccessible areas of trees. Consequently, such sites receive the lowest scores.

The highest scoring sites identified as having good access and ancillary features such as seating, bins and signage. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Carr Wood (61%)
- ✦ Happy Valley (61%)
- ✦ Green Pastures (60%)
- ✦ Poise Brook (55%)

Three of these sites are recognised as local nature reserves; Carr Wood, Happy Valley and Poise Brook. The sites are also fairly large in size and are associated with natural and semi-natural greenspace provision. Subsequently, they have a strong secondary role and use as well as containing better ancillary features such as signage, seating and opportunities for learning.

Quality is viewed positively from respondents to the Communities Survey. Most rate quality of the outdoor network as either quite satisfactory (41%) or very satisfactory (14%). Like availability, there is only a small proportion of respondents that rate quality as either quite (13%) or very (6%) dissatisfactory.

### 11.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for green corridors in Stockport. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 11.5: Value for green corridors by analysis area

| Analysis area                  | Number of sites below threshold | Number of sites above threshold |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 0                               | 4                               |
| Central                        | 1                               | 3                               |
| Cheadle                        | 0                               | 1                               |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 0                               | 3                               |
| Marple                         | 0                               | 1                               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0                               | 1                               |
| Werneth                        | 1                               | 1                               |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>2</b>                        | <b>14</b>                       |

Only two sites rate below the threshold for value; Werneth Green Corridor and Gorsey Mount Green Corridor. Both sites also rate below the threshold set for quality.

Nearly all sites (88%) are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their social and well-being role whilst also providing a sense of place to the local community and area. This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the opportunities many sites offer for informal recreational and physical activities such as walking, cycling and socialising.

### 11.6 Summary

#### Green corridor summary

- There are 16 sites classified as green corridors in Stockport, equating to over 88 hectares.
- There are also other forms of provision (e.g. parks, natural and semi-natural sites) that provide additional opportunities associated with green corridors.
- Quality is mixed as evidenced in assessment scores; this is a reflection to the variety in provision.
- The value of nearly all identified sites is rated above the threshold representing the social and health benefits provision offers.

### PART 12: TENNIS

#### 12.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally in Stockport. There are 14 tennis clubs in Stockport.

##### *Padel tennis*

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA (LTA are the governing body for Padel). It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In terms of future supply, the LTA states that a variety of tennis environments can be considered, with padel courts often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities. Furthermore, they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient.

#### 12.2: Supply

##### *Quantity*

There is a total of 105 tennis courts identified in Stockport located across 26 sites including sports clubs, parks and leisure centres. All of these courts are full size with the exceptions of two courts at Woodside Tennis Club and one court at Woodlands Park, which are mini courts.

Please note that for the purposes of this report, being available for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs.

Tennis courts at educational sites (e.g. schools, colleges) are not included within the study as it is not considered any are use outside of school activities. Furthermore, tennis courts at educational sites are often not dedicated for tennis use i.e. they are usually hard surface areas used for a range of sports and for break periods. Consequently, their quality (as forms of tennis provision) are often poor. Availability for use is also limited as they are not available for public use during the week and often at weekends.

As indicated in Table 12.1, the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme Analysis Area contains the most community available courts (27%), although the Marple (18%) and Cheadle (18%) analysis areas are well catered for. The areas with the least amount of tennis provision are the Central (4%) and Werneth (7%) analysis areas.

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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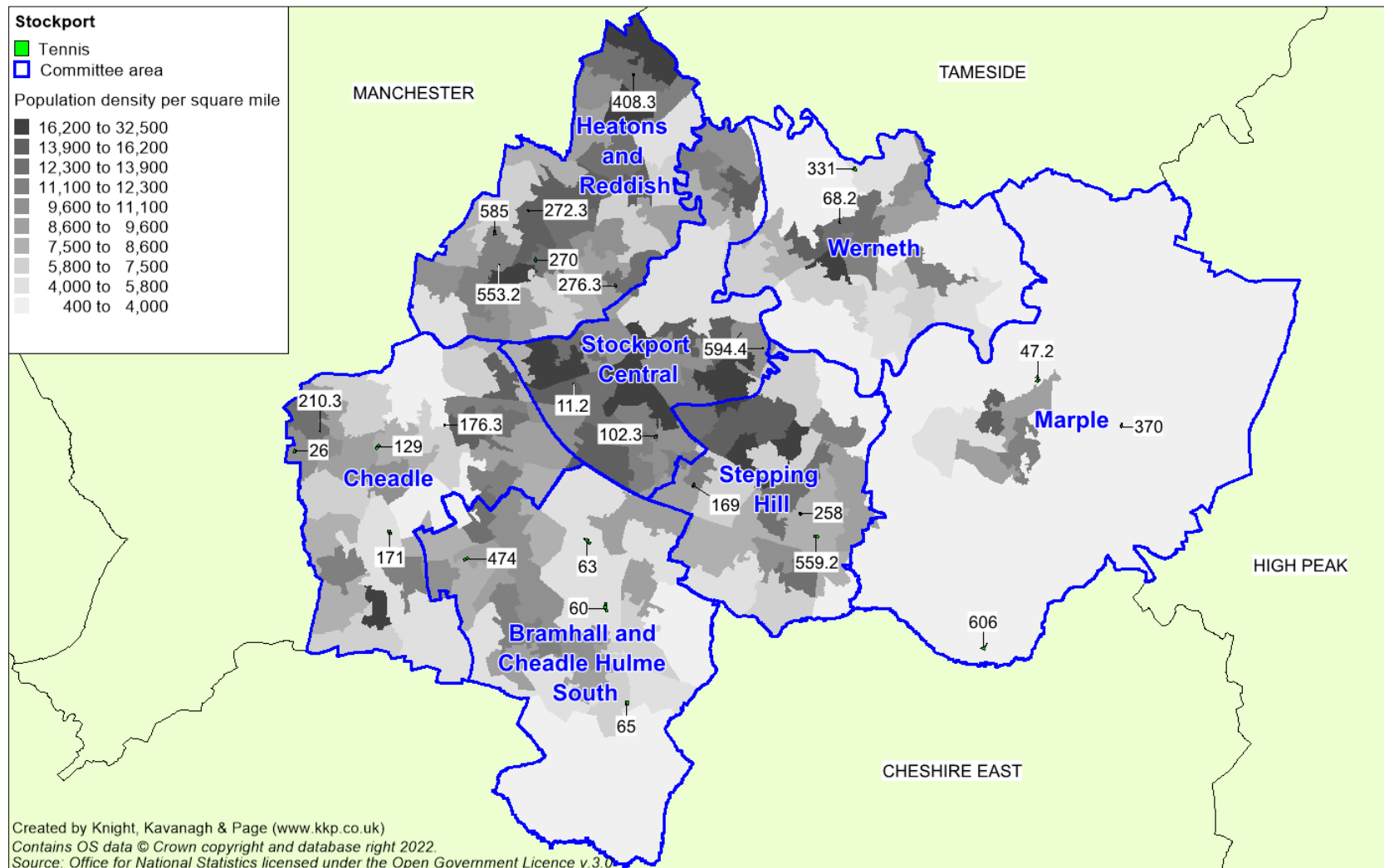
*Table 12.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of courts |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 29               |
| Central                        | 4                |
| Cheadle                        | 19               |
| Heatons and Reddish            | 15               |
| Marple                         | 19               |
| Stepping Hill                  | 12               |
| Werneth                        | 7                |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>105</b>       |

Figure 12.1 shows the location of tennis courts across Stockport. This is followed by Table 12.2 which sets out further detail for each site.

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Figure 12.1: Distribution of tennis sites in Stockport



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Table 12.2: Tennis courts in Stockport

| Site ID | Site name                             | Ownership | Analysis area                  | Availability for community use? | No. of courts | Floodlit? | Court type      | Court quality <sup>10</sup> |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 63      | Bramhall Park Lawn Tennis Club        | Club      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | Yes                             | 7             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
|         |                                       |           |                                |                                 | 1             | Yes       | Macadam         | Good                        |
| 65      | Bramhall Queensgate Tennis Club       | Club      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | Yes                             | 3             | Yes       | Clay            | Good                        |
|         |                                       |           |                                |                                 | 3             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 60      | Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club        | Club      | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | Yes                             | 10            | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 474     | Ryecroft Park Sports                  | Private   | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | Yes                             | 5             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 11.2    | Alexandra Park                        | Council   | Central                        | Yes                             | 1             | No        | Macadam         | Good                        |
| 102.3   | Cale Green Park                       | Council   | Central                        | Yes                             | 3             | No        | Macadam         | Poor                        |
| 276.3   | Heaton Norris Park                    | Council   | Heatons & Reddish              | No                              | 1             | No        | Macadam         | Poor                        |
| 171     | David Lloyd Club (Cheadle)            | Private   | Cheadle                        | Yes                             | 2             | Yes       | Macadam         | Good                        |
|         |                                       |           |                                |                                 | 4             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 129     | Cheadle Kingsway Sports Club          | Club      | Cheadle                        | Yes                             | 6             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 176.3   | Diamond Jubilee Recreation Ground     | Council   | Cheadle                        | Yes                             | 1             | No        | Macadam         | Poor                        |
| 210.3   | Gatley Recreation Ground              | Council   | Cheadle                        | Yes                             | 1             | No        | Macadam         | Poor                        |
| 26      | Baxter Park and Brookside Tennis Club | Club      | Cheadle                        | Yes                             | 5             | No        | Tarmac          | Good                        |
| 408.3   | North Reddish Park                    | Council   | Heatons & Reddish              | Yes                             | 2             | No        | Macadam         | Poor                        |
| 553.2   | Thornfield Park                       | Council   | Heatons & Reddish              | Yes                             | 1             | No        | Macadam         | Poor                        |

<sup>10</sup> Originally assessed using a non technical site assessment proforma, taking account of user comments. Updated to reflect any known changes.

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

| Site ID | Site name                                  | Ownership | Analysis area     | Availability for community use? | No. of courts | Floodlit? | Court type      | Court quality <sup>10</sup> |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 272.3   | Heaton Moor Park                           | Council   | Heatons & Reddish | Yes                             | 1             | No        | Macadam         | Poor                        |
| 585     | West Heaton Bowling Tennis and Squash Club | Private   | Heatons & Reddish | Yes                             | 6             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 270     | Heaton Mersey Tennis Club                  | Club      | Heatons & Reddish | Yes                             | 4             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 370     | Mellor Sports Club                         | Club      | Marple            | Yes                             | 2             | Yes       | Grass           | Good                        |
|         |                                            |           |                   | Yes                             | 2             | No        | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 47.2    | Brabyns Tennis Club                        | Club      | Marple            | Yes                             | 4             | No        | Clay            | Good                        |
|         |                                            |           |                   | Yes                             | 3             | Yes       | Artificial clay | Good                        |
| 606     | Woodside Tennis Cub                        | Club      | Marple            | Yes                             | 5             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
|         |                                            |           |                   | Yes                             | 3             | No        | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 258     | Hazel Grove Tennis & Bowling Club          | Private   | Stepping Hill     | Yes                             | 2             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
|         |                                            |           |                   | Yes                             | 2             | Yes       | Macadam         | Good                        |
| 559.2   | Torkington Park                            | Council   | Stepping Hill     | Yes                             | 4             | No        | Macadam         | Good                        |
| 169     | Davenport Lawn Tennis Club                 | Club      | Stepping Hill     | Yes                             | 4             | Yes       | Artificial turf | Good                        |
| 68.2    | Bredbury Recreation Ground                 | Council   | Werneth           | Yes                             | 2             | No        | Macadam         | Good                        |
| 331     | Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village      | Trust     | Werneth           | Yes                             | 5             | No        | Artificial turf | Good                        |

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### *Floodlit courts*

Table 12.2 sets out the courts with floodlights and which are therefore available for evening training and matches. All floodlit courts are available for community use and the majority are rated as good quality.

As shown in the table, all analysis areas with the exceptions of the Central and Werneth analysis areas have some floodlit tennis provision. The majority of this provision (42%) is situated in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis area, with all identified courts within this analysis area being flood-lit. All flood-lit tennis courts within Stockport are located at sports clubs.

### **Quality**

Of provision that is available, 95 courts (91%) are assessed as good quality and 10 are rated as poor (9%).

*Table 12.3: Summary of the quality of courts by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Good      | Standard | Poor      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 29        | -        | -         |
| Central                        | 1         | -        | 3         |
| Cheadle                        | 17        | -        | 2         |
| Heatons and Reddish            | 10        | -        | 5         |
| Marple                         | 19        | -        | -         |
| Stepping Hill                  | 12        | -        | -         |
| Werneth                        | 7         | -        | -         |
| <b>Stockport</b>               | <b>95</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>10</b> |

The courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Cale Green Park
- ◀ Heaton Norris Park
- ◀ Diamond Jubilee Recreation Ground
- ◀ Gatley Recreation Ground
- ◀ North Reddish Park
- ◀ Thornfield Park
- ◀ Heaton Moor Park

Consultation with the LTA confirms that the majority of Council owned courts within Stockport are considered to be poor or standard quality at best.

Club consultation highlighted that the majority of clubs (67%) are satisfied with the quality of their courts and rate them as good. This includes Heaton Mersey Tennis Club, which play at West Heaton Bowling Tennis and Squash Club.

The remaining four clubs believe their courts to be of standard quality. Both Ryecroft Park Sports and Social Club Tennis Club and Mellor Tennis Club attribute this to a number of courts becoming water damaged and slippery due to excess rain. However, Ryecroft Park Sports and Social Club Tennis Club also report that three courts have recently been refurbished.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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Hazel Grove Tennis & Bowling Club and Greave Tennis Club, who play at Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village, report some courts as showing signs of wear. In order to improve this Hazel Grove Tennis & Bowling Club has plans to repaint some of its courts in the near future.

As previously mentioned Brabyns Tennis Club has a desire to replace its real clay courts with artificial clay courts. This is due to issues surrounding playability in winter months. The Club also expressed an aspiration to replace a number of courts.

Two clubs; Bramhall Park Lawn Tennis Club and West Heaton Bowling Tennis and Squash Club, describe the quality of their courts as having improved due to either improved maintenance or regeneration of courts.

### ***Accessibility***

The majority of clubs state that most players travel between two and five miles to access tennis facilities.

### ***Ancillary provision***

All clubs responding to consultation report having access to changing facilities which is either good or standard in quality. The only responding club who report aspirations to make improvements to its clubhouse is Woodside Tennis Club. The LTA report that Bramhall Queensgate Tennis Club, which did not respond to survey, is looking for funding to extend its clubhouse.

Car parking provision is also reported as being either good or adequate by all clubs with the exception of Greave Tennis Club which describes it as poor.

## **12.3: Demand**

### ***Competitive tennis***

There are 14 clubs in Stockport collectively providing a total of 1,688 senior members and 1,032 junior members. The clubs vary in size, with Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club and West Heaton Bowling Tennis and Squash Club having the most members (550 each). Greave Tennis Club has the least number of members (38).

*Table 12.4: Summary of club membership (2017)*

| Name of club                          | Number of members |         |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|
|                                       | Seniors           | Juniors | Total |
| Baxter Park and Brookside Tennis Club | 53                | 43      | 96    |
| Brabyns Tennis Club                   | 148               | 104     | 252   |
| Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club        | 350               | 200     | 550   |
| Bramhall Park Lawn Tennis Club        | 160               | 150     | 310   |
| Davenport Lawn Tennis Club            | 100               | 70      | 170   |
| Greave Tennis Club                    | 22                | 16      | 38    |
| Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club   | 50                | 80      | 130   |
| Heaton Mersey Tennis Club             | 119               | 54      | 173   |
| Mellor Tennis Club                    | 98                | 40      | 138   |

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Name of club                                     | Number of members |              |              |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                  | Seniors           | Juniors      | Total        |
| Ryecroft Park Sports and Social Club Tennis Club | 87                | 77           | 164          |
| West Heaton Bowling Tennis and Squash Club       | 400               | 150          | 550          |
| Woodside Tennis Club                             | 101               | 48           | 149          |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>1,688</b>      | <b>1,032</b> | <b>2,720</b> |

A number of clubs in the Stockport area describe an increase in membership over the past five years. Bramhall Park Tennis Club, Heaton Mersey Tennis Club and Davenport Lawn Tennis Club all report an increase in senior membership. Further to this, Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club, Ryecroft Park Sports and Social Club Tennis Club and Mellor Tennis Club report an increase in junior members.

Heaton Mersey Tennis Club believes its growth in senior membership is a result of becoming part of a new multi-purpose sports site. Davenport Lawn Tennis Club suggests its increase in senior membership is due to improved marketing of the Club.

The clubs which have seen increases in junior membership attribute this to good links with schools and improved coaching programmes. This is particularly the case for Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club, which provides a junior coaching programme all year round. Other reasons given for increased junior membership include junior tennis camps during school holidays and family membership options.

Brabyns Tennis Club reported reasonably steady membership numbers, which do not rise or fall significantly. This is most likely a result of the Club's efforts to retain current members and attract new ones. The Club runs a number of events including The Great British Tennis Weekend and primary school tournaments. Following such events, offers such as discounted membership for a set period of time are provided. Further to this, programmes such as express back to tennis courses, which allow individuals to get back to playing over a shorter period of time, are offered.

The Club also has successful links with a number of schools, providing coaching sessions on school sites as well as allowing one school to use the Club's courts for lessons.

Despite reported membership increases, some clubs in the area described decreases in membership. Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club and Greave Tennis Club have seen reductions in both senior and junior membership and Bramhall Park Tennis Club has described a fall in junior members. Bramhall Park Tennis Club attributes this to a lack of school links.

Both Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club and Mellor Tennis Club highlight issues with market saturation, which in turn reduces a clubs catchment area and therefore potential members. Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club also suggests reductions in junior membership may be attributed to competition for participation with other sports. Another common trend observed by tennis clubs is a lack of members between the ages of 20 and 30. Clubs believe this is potentially due to lifestyle demands and commitments, reducing both disposable income and recreation time.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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### ***Future demand***

The majority of clubs stated that the number of courts available is adequate to meet the needs of current and potential future membership. This is with the exceptions of Ryecroft Tennis Club and Heaton Mersey Tennis Club; discussed further under the latent demand section.

### ***Latent demand***

Although no clubs within Stockport operate a waiting list, both Ryecroft Tennis Club and Heaton Mersey Tennis Club reported having latent demand. Ryecroft Tennis Club reported ideally needing an additional eight hours a week of court capacity to meet current demand. Heaton Mersey Tennis Club reported having demand to start an additional senior team. However, a lack of court space during summer months means this is not possible.

Further to this, Sport England's Segmentation Tool<sup>11</sup> is also used to help inform levels of demand. This tool splits the adult population into 19 different 'segments' based on their age, gender, socio-demographic information, and overlaid sporting activity and preferences to show the sporting habits for each segment. It also allows analysis on what sports people would like to play i.e. 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but which are not currently doing so'.

The tool identifies latent demand of 5,296 people within Stockport who would like to play tennis. The most dominant segment is 'Tim – settling down males' of which 667 (13%) would like to participate in tennis.

### **12.4: Supply and demand analysis**

Based on LTA guidelines, a floodlit court provides capacity for 60 members and a non-floodlit court provides capacity for 40 members. Using this calculation in Stockport, only West Heaton Bowling Tennis and Squash Club was running above capacity. With six flood-lit courts the site had capacity for 360 members. However, the Club had 550 members and expressed aspirations to expand further.

It is important to note that although both Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club and Heaton Mersey Tennis Club reported having spare capacity, should the clubs reach desired future membership numbers, both clubs will require additional capacity.

As the majority of courts are deemed to have spare capacity, priority should be placed on improving current facilities, in particular relating to park courts which are assessed as poor quality. This would also fit in with the LTA's desire to create park sites which are destinations for tennis.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://segments.sportengland.org/>

### 12.4: Summary

#### **Tennis summary**

- ◀ There is a total of 105 tennis courts identified in Stockport.
- ◀ 95 courts (91%) are assessed as good quality and 10 are rated as poor (9%).
- ◀ The courts assessed as poor quality are all located within park or recreation ground sites.
- ◀ All responding clubs reported their changing facilities as either good or standard in quality.
- ◀ There are fourteen tennis clubs within the Stockport area. Collectively these clubs provide a total of 1,688 senior members and 1,032 junior members.
- ◀ Based on LTA guidelines, West Heaton Bowling Tennis and Squash Club is currently running above capacity. Should Bramhall Lane Lawn Tennis Club and Heaton Mersey Tennis Club reach desired future membership numbers both clubs would require additional capacity.
- ◀ It is considered that there are enough tennis courts within Stockport to serve current and future demand and as most courts are deemed to have spare capacity. An approach when required should be placed on improving current facilities.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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### PART 13: BOWLS

#### 13.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Stockport is played on crown greens. The British Crown Green Bowling Association has overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport. The bowling season runs from May to September. Provision of bowling greens within Stockport parks may be used outside of the season.

As of 2017, there were 15 leagues which contain teams linked to greens within Stockport. A number of league representatives were contacted and asked to distribute either electronic or paper surveys. Due to a poor response rate, 16 key clubs were identified to create a cross section of bowls clubs within Stockport. These clubs were selected on the basis that contact details had been obtained and they are either a significant size club or play on a green located within a park. The clubs from which we received responses, from both the initial and focused consultation requests, are listed below:

- ◀ Bungalow Bowling Club
- ◀ Great Moor Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Houldsworth Park Bowling Club
- ◀ Marple Park Bowling Club
- ◀ Vernon Park Bowling Club
- ◀ Victoria Bowling Club
- ◀ Cheadle Park Bowling Club
- ◀ Gatley (Recreation) Bowling Club
- ◀ Houldsworth WMC Bowling Club
- ◀ Woodley Sports Club Bowling
- ◀ South Reddish Park Bowling Club
- ◀ Crown Hotel Bowling Club
- ◀ Ladybridge Bowling Club (including Ladybridge Park Bowling Club)
- ◀ St Thomas's Park Veterans Bowling Club

In addition to club consultation, consultations have also been conducted with representatives of Stockport Bowls. This has provided an overview of bowls in the area.

#### 13.2: Supply

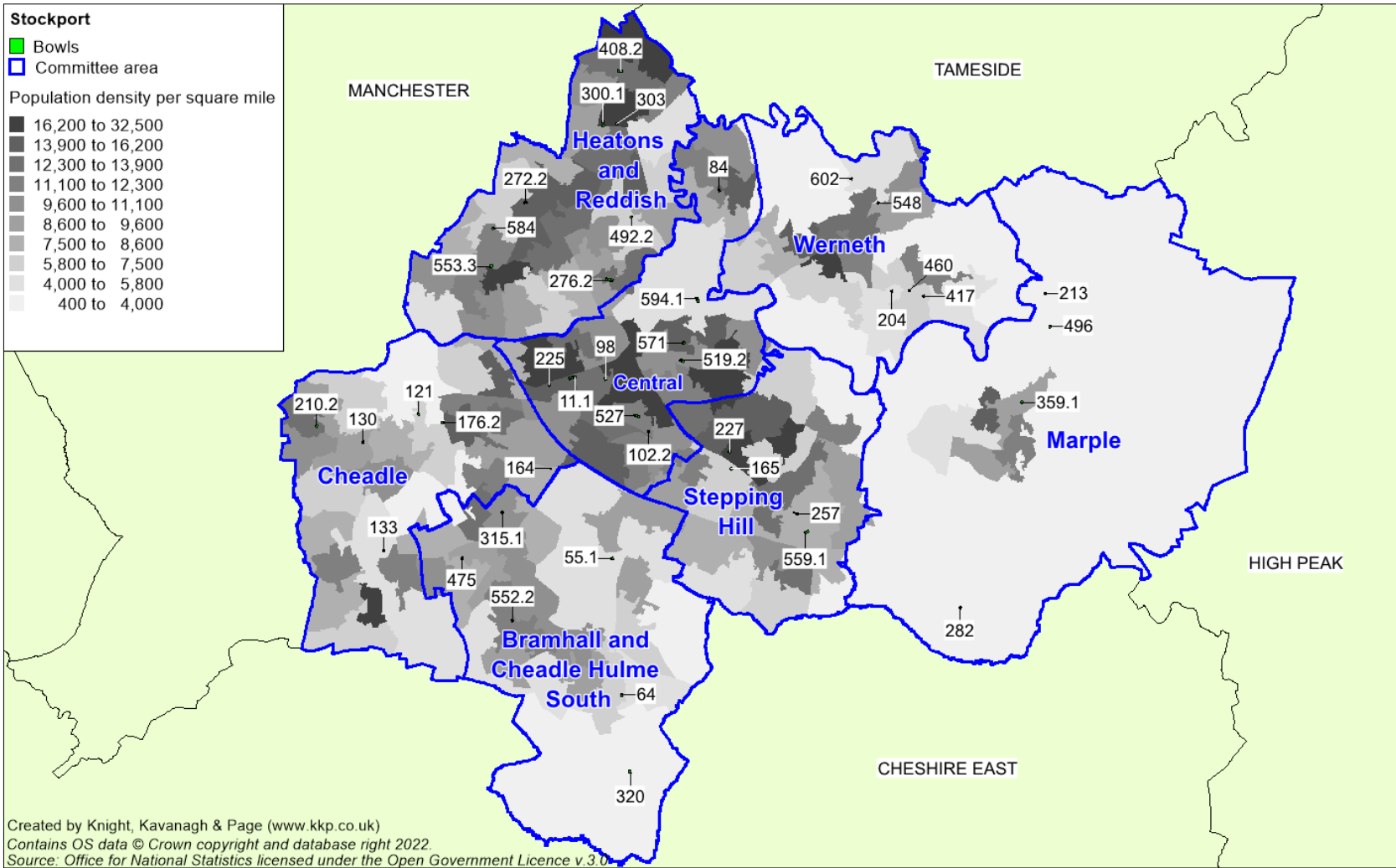
There are 44 crown green bowling greens in Stockport provided across 42 sites. There are two greens located at Alexandra Park, Houldsworth Park, North Reddish Park, Torkington Park, Heaton Norris Park and Vernon Park.

*Table 13.1: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Number of greens |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 4                |
| Central                        | 12               |
| Cheadle                        | 6                |
| Heatons and Reddish            | 9                |
| Marple                         | 3                |
| Stepping Hill                  | 5                |
| Werneth                        | 5                |
| <b>STOCKPORT</b>               | <b>44</b>        |

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 13.1: Distribution of bowling greens



# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 13.3: Key to map

| Site ID | Site                              | Analysis area                  | No. of greens | Quality  |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| 55.1    | Bramhall Park                     | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 1             | Standard |
| 64      | Bramall Queensgate                | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 1             | Good     |
| 320     | Lancaster                         | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | -             |          |
| 475     | Ryecroft Park Sports              | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 1             | Good     |
| 552.2   | Thorn Grove                       | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 1             | Good     |
| 11.1    | Alexandra Park                    | Central                        | 2             | Poor     |
| 102.2   | Cale Green Park                   | Central                        | 1             | Good     |
| 519.2   | St Thomas's Park <sup>12</sup>    | Central                        | 1             | Good     |
| 276.2   | Heaton Norris Park                | Heatons & Reddish              | 2             | Good     |
| 594.1   | Vernon Park                       | Central                        | 2             | Good     |
| 84      | Brinnington Park                  | Central                        | -             |          |
| 98      | Bungalow Bowling Club             | Central                        | 1             | Good     |
| 225     | Grange (Stockport)                | Central                        | 1             | Good     |
| 527     | Stockport Cricket                 | Central                        | 1             | Good     |
| 571     | Victoria (Stockport)              | Central                        | 1             | Good     |
| 176.2   | Diamond Jubilee Recreation Ground | Cheadle                        | 1             | Good     |
| 210.2   | Gatley Recreation Ground          | Cheadle                        | 1             | Good     |
| 315.1   | Ladybridge Sports Ground          | Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 1             | Good     |
| 121     | Cheadle Cons                      | Cheadle                        | 1             | Good     |
| 130     | Cheadle Kingsway Sports Club      | Cheadle                        | 1             | Good     |
| 133     | Cheadle Royal Hospital            | Cheadle                        | 1             | Good     |
| 164     | Cross Keys                        | Cheadle                        | -             |          |
| 300.1   | Houldsworth Park                  | Heatons & Reddish              | 1             | Good     |
|         |                                   |                                | 1             | Standard |
| 408.2   | North Reddish Park                | Heatons & Reddish              | 2             | Good     |
| 492.2   | South Reddish Park                | Heatons & Reddish              | 1             | Good     |
| 553.3   | Thornfield Park                   | Heatons & Reddish              | 1             | Good     |
| 272.2   | Heaton Moor Park                  | Heatons & Reddish              | 1             | Standard |
| 303     | Houldsworth WMC                   | Heatons & Reddish              | 1             | Good     |
| 584     | West Heaton                       | Heatons & Reddish              | 1             | Good     |
| 359.1   | Marple Memorial Park              | Marple                         | 1             | Good     |
| 213     | George Hotel                      | Marple                         | -             |          |
| 282     | High Lane                         | Marple                         | 1             | Good     |
| 496     | Spring Gardens                    | Marple                         | 1             | Good     |
| 559.1   | Torkington Park                   | Stepping Hill                  | 2             | Good     |
| 165     | Crown Hotel (Stockport)           | Stepping Hill                  | 1             | Good     |

<sup>12</sup> No longer a second green onsite

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

| Site ID | Site                              | Analysis area | No. of greens | Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| 227     | Great Moor Cons                   | Stepping Hill | 1             | Good    |
| 257     | Hazel Grove Tennis & Bowling Club | Stepping Hill | 1             | Good    |
| 204     | Friendship Inn                    | Werneth       | 1             | Good    |
| 548     | Navigation                        | Werneth       | 1             | Good    |
| 417     | Oakwood Rd                        | Werneth       | 1             | Good    |
| 460     | Romiley Arms                      | Werneth       | 1             | Good    |
| 602     | Woodley Sports                    | Werneth       | 1             | Good    |

In addition, there are also a number of greens that are either disused or reported to be no longer in existence. These sites are mapped and therefore appear in Table 13.3. However, they do not have a recorded number or greens or quality and value score. One site; Lancaster, was unable to be located.

### **Accessibility**

The majority of clubs' state that most players travel between two and five miles to access their facilities.

### **Quality**

As seen in the table above, of the assessed bowling greens, 35 (83%) are assessed as good quality, two as standard and two as poor.

The greens at Alexandra Park are assessed as poor quality due to signs of wear and tear, unevenness of surface and lack of fencing surrounding the site. The latter leaves the site susceptible to unofficial use and vandalism.

At Houldsworth Park, one of the greens scored high for quality whilst one was standard quality. The pitch rated as standard was reported, by the Club, as suffering heavily from vandalism. Despite the green being fenced, antisocial behaviour was an issue with youths cutting through railings, riding bikes over the green and leaving litter and divots in the grass.

Both the green at Heaton Moor Park and Bramhall Park are rated as standard due to wear and tear of the playing surface as well as the ditches, boards and surrounding walking areas being of a poorer condition. Furthermore, there is not adequate disabled access. In addition, Bramhall Park is observed as having some issues with litter and leaves on the playing surface.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### 13.3: Demand

#### ***Current demand***

Membership of the consulted clubs amounted to 621 men, 193 women and eight junior members.

*Table 13.4: Summary of club membership (2017)*

| Club name                                                        | Members |       |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
|                                                                  | Men     | Women | Juniors |
| Bungalow Bowling Club                                            | 29      | 3     | 2       |
| Cheadle Park Bowling Club                                        | 14      | -     | -       |
| Crown Hotel Bowling Club                                         | 45      | -     | -       |
| Gatley (Recreation) Bowling Club                                 | 40      | -     | -       |
| Great Moor Sports & Social Club                                  | 80      | 35    | -       |
| Houldsworth Park Bowling Club                                    | 30      | 20    | -       |
| Houldsworth WMC Bowling Club                                     | 75      | 16    | -       |
| Ladybridge Bowling Club (including Ladybridge Park Bowling Club) | 40      | 40    | 3       |
| Marple Park Bowling Club                                         | 50      | 25    | -       |
| South Reddish Park Bowling Club                                  | 40      | -     | -       |
| Vernon Park Bowling Club                                         | 40      | 15    | -       |
| Victoria Bowling Club                                            | 80      | -     | -       |
| Woodley Sports Club Bowling                                      | 58      | 39    | 3       |

The majority of responding clubs (70%) reported that membership numbers have stayed consistent over the past three years. Only one club; Bungalow Bowling Club describe a decrease in senior membership.

#### ***Future demand***

Four clubs reported a desire to increase membership numbers; Victoria Bowling Club, Ladybridge Bowls Club, Vernon Park Bowls Club and Woodley Sports Club Bowling. However, only Woodley Sports Club Bowling identifies a figure of 30 additional members. The other clubs consulted did not specify to what extent they wish to increase membership.

#### ***Latent demand***

No clubs consulted suggested an additional bowling green at their ground or in the area would lead to an increase in club membership. In effect, the perception is that any planned increases can be accommodated on existing greens. None of the clubs had a waiting list and the majority would welcome new members.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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Further to this, Sport England's Segmentation Tool<sup>13</sup> is also used to help inform levels of demand. This tool splits the adult population into 19 different 'segments' based on their age, gender, socio-demographic information, and overlaid sporting activity and preferences to show the sporting habits for each segment. It also allows analysis on what sports people would like to play i.e. 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but which are not currently doing so'.

The tool identifies latent demand of 542 people who would like to participate in the sport within Stockport. The most dominant segment is 'Frank' – Twilight Year Gents' (20%).

### 13.4: Supply and demand analysis

Generally, through consultation, it is considered that most bowling greens in Stockport are able to accommodate current levels of demand. It is not therefore likely that new forms of bowling provision are required. Priority should therefore be placed on ensuring green quality and ancillary provision at existing sites is sustained and improved where necessary in order to allow for continued use.

### 13.5: Summary

#### **Bowls summary**

- ◀ There are 44 crown green bowling greens in Stockport across 42 sites.
- ◀ In addition, there are also a number of greens that are either disused or through assessment are reported to be no longer in existence.
- ◀ The majority of greens (83%) are assessed as good quality. Only one site; Alexandra Park is rated as poor.
- ◀ The majority of responding clubs (70%) report that membership numbers have stayed consistent.
- ◀ Four of the responding clubs had plans to increase their number of members in the future.
- ◀ Priority should therefore be placed on ensuring green quality and ancillary provision is sustained and improved where necessary in order to allow for continued use.
- ◀ Generally, it is considered that most bowling greens in Stockport are able to accommodate current levels of demand. It is not therefore likely that new forms of bowling provision are required. Priority should be placed on ensuring green quality and ancillary provision at existing sites is sustained and improved where necessary in order to allow for continued use.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://segments.sportengland.org/>

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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### PART 14: GOLF

#### 14.1 Current provision

There are 13 golf courses identified within Stockport. These are:

- ◀ Avro Golf Club
- ◀ Bramhall Golf Club
- ◀ Bramhall Park Golf Club
- ◀ Cheadle Golf Club
- ◀ Disley Golf Course (Outside)
- ◀ Hazel Grove Golf Club
- ◀ Heaton Moor Golf Club
- ◀ Houldsworth Golf Club
- ◀ Marple Golf Club
- ◀ Mellor and Townscliffe Golf Club
- ◀ Reddish Vale Golf Club
- ◀ Romiley Golf Club
- ◀ Stockport Golf Club

Since the 2017 study, Moorend Golf Course and Gatley Golf Club have closed.

Sport England recommends that the drive-time catchment for golf courses be set at 20 minutes. Therefore, a 20-minute drive-time catchment has been applied to golf facilities within the Stockport area and can be seen in Figure 14.1.

Drive time catchments are a model intended to demonstrate the distance individuals will travel in order to access provision. Whilst it recognises speed limits it does not take into account actual conditions such as traffic congestion.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 14.1: Location and accessibility of golf clubs in Stockport with a 20-minute drive time catchment applied.

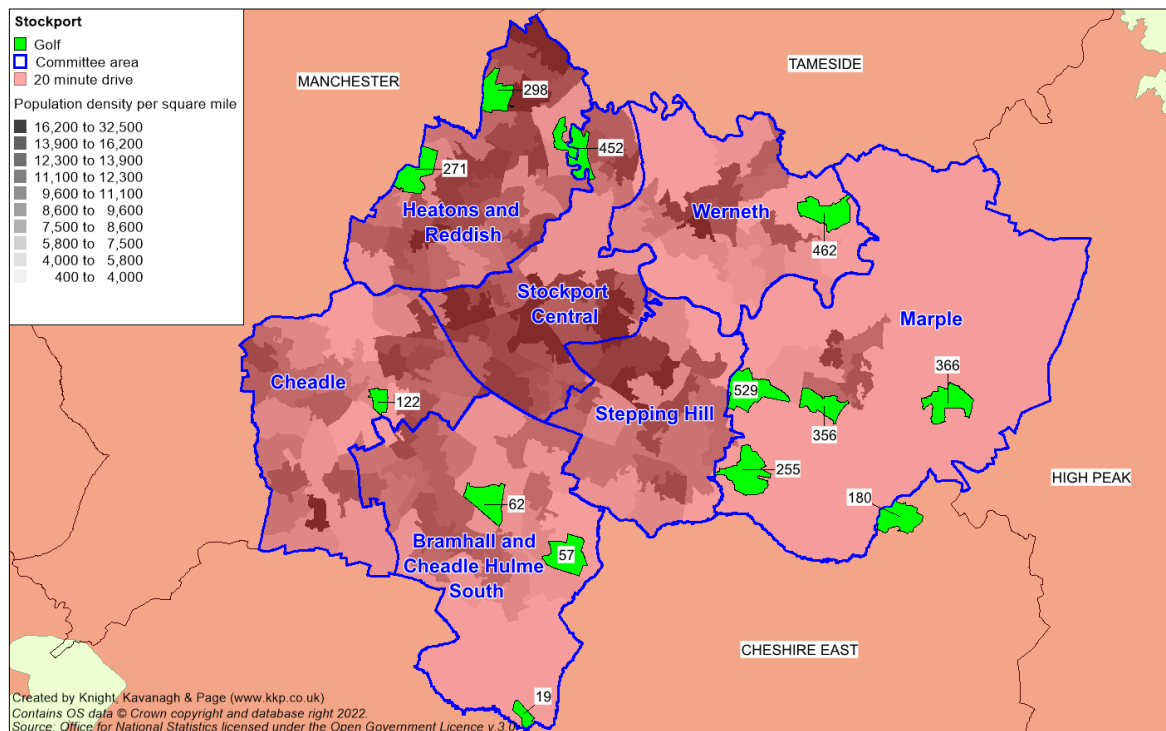


Table 14.1: Key to golf map

| Site ID | Site                             | Ownership | Holes | Comments                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19      | Avro Golf Club                   | Private   | 9     | 9-hole golf course.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 57      | Bramhall Golf Club               | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course. In addition, it has a chipping green, 2 practice bunkers, a practice putting green, 3 practice nets, a mid-iron practice area and an artificial mat tuition area. |
| 62      | Bramhall Park Golf Club          | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 122     | Cheadle Golf Club                | Private   | 9     | 9-hole golf course.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 180     | Disley Golf Club                 | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course.<br>OUTSIDE OF STOCKPORT                                                                                                                                           |
| 255     | Hazel Grove Golf Club            | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course. Driving range on site.                                                                                                                                            |
| 271     | Heaton Moor Golf Club            | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 298     | Houldsworth Golf Club            | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 356     | Marple Golf Club                 | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 366     | Mellor and Townscliffe Golf Club | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course.                                                                                                                                                                   |

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

| Site ID | Site                   | Ownership | Holes | Comments             |
|---------|------------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------|
| 452     | Reddish Vale Golf Club | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course. |
| 462     | Romiley Golf Club      | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course. |
| 529     | Stockport Golf Club    | Private   | 18    | 18-hole golf course. |

Figure 14.1 shows that there is a good coverage of golf courses across all analysis areas based on a 20-minute drive time catchment and as such on this basis there are no shortfalls in provision. Even if reduced to a 10-minute drive time, there is sufficient provision with no apparent shortfalls highlighted in terms of accessibility.

### 14.2 Supply

#### Quality

The following table provides a summary of the quality of golf courses within Stockport.

*Table 14.2: Facility plans overview (2017)*

| Site                                    | Ownership | Quality of golf course |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Avro Golf Club                          | Private   | Good                   |
| Bramhall Golf Club                      | Private   | Good                   |
| Bramhall Park Golf Club                 | Private   | Good                   |
| Cheadle Golf Club                       | Private   | Good                   |
| Disley Golf Club (outside of Stockport) | Private   | Good                   |
| Hazel Grove Golf Club                   | Private   | Good                   |
| Heaton Moor Golf Club                   | Private   | Good                   |
| Houldsworth Golf Club                   | Private   | Good                   |
| Marple Golf Club                        | Private   | Good                   |
| Mellor and Townscliffe Golf Club        | Private   | Good                   |
| Reddish Vale Golf Club                  | Private   | Good                   |
| Romiley Golf Club                       | Private   | Good                   |
| Stockport Golf Club                     | Private   | Good                   |

All courses are rated as good quality based on the original 2017 study.

#### Cost

Access to courses is available via both membership and pay and play options, although this may be limited at specific times and in some instances players would have to be booked in by current members or book in advance. At the majority of clubs, fees in order to play vary depending on whether the individual is a visitor or a guest (playing with a current member). Further to this, there is often a variation in cost depending on the time of year and a players age.

The cost and membership criterion are complex for golf within Stockport, varying for each club. This does, however, give new players wanting to join clubs a variety of flexible options. There are also concessions to specific age groups and a flexible approach to visitors.

### 14.3 Demand

As part of the 2017 work there were no waiting lists in place and as such there was no reports of demand for additional courses to service current or future demand. Since the 2017 study, Moorend Golf Course and Gatley Golf Club have also closed.

Further to this, Sport England's Segmentation Tool<sup>14</sup> is also used to help inform levels of demand. This tool splits the adult population into 19 different 'segments' based on their age, gender, socio-demographic information, and overlaid sporting activity and preferences to show the sporting habits for each segment. It also allows analysis on what sports people would like to play i.e. 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but are not currently doing so'.

The tool identifies latent demand of 3,523 people (i.e. the number of people that would like to participate in golf). Of the population that would like to participate in golf, 925 (26%) is the category segment 'Phillip – comfortable mid-life males'. This is a relatively small proportion of people and making golf courses more accessible in terms of cost would likely absorb this level of demand as opposed to creating more courses.

It should also be recognised that five golf courses are designated as Strategic Open Space within the development plan, currently under saved UDP Review policy UOS 1.2. This outlines their wider contribution to the urban form and their recreational value. The remaining nine golf courses are located within the Green Belt which helps to preserve openness and prevent urban sprawl.

Furthermore, golf courses often have historical value, having been established many years ago, given them a sense of place within an area. For example, Reddish Vale Golf Club was formed in 1912 and was designed by Alister MacKenzie; a world-famous golf course architect. Moreover, golf clubs often provide a high economic value due to cost of membership, sale of food and drink and also the hosting of different functions.

### 14.4: Summary

#### Golf Summary

- ◀ There are 13 golf courses identified as serving Stockport. Disley Golf Course is located just outside the boundary of Stockport but is likely to serve some residents.
- ◀ All courses rated as being good quality.
- ◀ Catchment mapping highlights a good coverage of golf courses across all analysis areas based on a 20 minute drive time catchment and as such there are no shortfalls in provision.
- ◀ Access to courses in Stockport is available through either membership or pay and play options.
- ◀ The cost and membership criteria is complex for golf within Stockport, it does, however, give new players wanting to join clubs a variety of flexible options.
- ◀ Many sites are also covered by other designations; recognising their value.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://segments.sportengland.org/>

### **PART 15: ATHLETICS TRACKS**

#### **15.1: Introduction**

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics, including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and welfare, training and coach education and permitting and licensing. Locally the sport is governed through England Athletics via a team consisting of an area manager and coach/club support officers.

#### ***Consultation***

As part of the 2017 study, a telephone consultation was carried out with Stockport Harriers Athletics Club. It is the only formal athletics discipline club identified in the Stockport area. However, there are a number of running clubs and triathlon clubs such as Bramhall Runners and Stockport Tri Club. Both these clubs were also consulted with via telephone and highlighted they do not access track provision and mainly participate in road running.

#### **15.2: Supply**

There is currently one athletics track in Stockport; Woodbank Park Stadium, which has a synthetic surface. Woodbank Park Stadium was laid in 1987. The track is floodlit and has six lanes, with an eight lane straight.

Woodbank Park Stadium is home to Stockport Harriers AC. The Club is responsible for the management and maintenance of the whole facility.

In addition to this track, there is a cinder track at Scholes Park. However, it is not formally used and was described through consultation as unusable. It is believed that this track has not been officially used since Manchester Harriers relocated to Wythenshawe Park.

#### ***Ownership/management***

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council owns the track and facilities at Woodbank Park Stadium. However, both the track and ancillary facilities are managed and maintained by Stockport Harriers AC.

The Club believe with projected membership numbers and revenue from events and training sessions, it will be able to continue to fund general ongoing maintenance such as track cleaning, re-texturing and re-lining.

#### ***Quality***

Stockport Harriers AC described the track at Woodbank Park Stadium as good quality. This is attributed to a good ongoing maintenance regime. For example, the Club has had the track professionally cleaned with plans to do this on a regular basis. Further evidence to the quality of the track is the fact it is currently licensed for both training and competition use and is host to league competitions.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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### ***Ancillary provision***

A new clubhouse was built at Woodbank Park Stadium just before the 2017 study. The clubhouse was funded by Stockport Harriers AC, Stockport Council and an Inspired Facilities grant from Sport England. The clubhouse consists of a clubroom, kitchen, office, storeroom, toilets and separate male, female and disabled changing rooms. The clubhouse also has full disabled access.

### **15.3: Demand**

There is one athletics club identified in Stockport; Stockport Harriers AC, which is based at Woodbank Park Stadium. The Club had 680 members in 2017; however, non-members can also take part in weekly training sessions.

In 2014, Stockport Harriers merged with DASH Athletics Club, which was a junior club also based at Woodbank Park Stadium. Stockport Harriers AC is a multi-discipline athletics club made up of track, field, distance running and wheelchair racing groups. The wheelchair racing group; Stockport Wheel Chair Racing, is an integrated group of Stockport Harriers AC, however, it does operate independently as a charity.

Although there are no other formal athletics clubs in the Stockport area, there were a number of other groups which use Woodbank Park Stadium:

- ◀ Team New Balance Manchester
- ◀ Seashell Trust
- ◀ Stockport CP Wheelers
- ◀ Schools

In addition, Woodbank Park Stadium is also available for hire throughout the year.

Stockport Harriers AC uses the track for training five days a week between the hours of 5pm and 9:30pm. Various activities, including league matches as club-organised competitions, also take place on the track at weekends.

The Stockport CP Wheelers Disabled Cycling Project accessed Woodbank Park Stadium for two sessions per week. These were on Thursday and Friday mornings between 10am and 12pm. The Seashell Trust also use Woodbank Park Stadium regularly.

There are a number of other schemes, programmes and initiatives aimed to increase participation amongst non club based runners and interest in athletics as follows.

### ***Parkrun***

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (5k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior Parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for junior runners aged four to fourteen years. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to receive a printed barcode, which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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Parkrun actively promotes local clubs as part of its weekly events in order to advertise them to runners who may potentially be interested in joining a club, whilst approximately 10% of current Parkrun participants are already associated to running clubs. It is common for local clubs to also support Parkrun events through volunteering.

### ***Couch to 5km***

Couch to 5km is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise. The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion, the end goal being for the participant to be able to run 5km by the end of the plan. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it.

Through the Couch to 5km plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge, which can help boost confidence and self-belief, whilst running regularly has been linked to combating depression. An increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock on effect leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

### ***3-2-1 routes***

3-2-1 is a Run England project which aims to provide a range of marked out running or jogging routes across the country that anyone can try. It is considered a way of providing a meaningful challenge to help more people to get running when it best suits them. Local providers (working in partnership with athletics clubs and Run England groups) can mark out routes that are three, two and one miles, kilometres or laps.

There are three 3-2-1 route locations in Stockport. The sites are listed below:

- ◀ Bramhall Park
- ◀ Bruntwood Park
- ◀ Torkington Park

### ***Future demand***

As part of the bidding process for the clubhouse at Woodbank Park Stadium (pre-2017), Stockport Harriers created a new club development plan. This outlined a desire to increase member numbers by 2% each year. This is also important for the financial sustainability of the facilities at Woodbank Park Stadium.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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### ***Latent demand***

Further to this, Sport England's Segmentation Tool<sup>15</sup> is also used to help inform levels of demand. This tool splits the adult population into 19 different 'segments' based on their age, gender, socio-demographic information, and overlaid sporting activity and preferences to show the sporting habits for each segment. It also allows analysis on what sports people would like to play i.e. 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but are not currently doing so'.

The tool identifies latent demand of 6,017 people within Stockport who would like participate in athletics. The most dominant segment is 'Tim – settling down males' of which 880 (15%) would like to participate in athletics.

### ***Peak time demand***

Peak time demand for use of athletics tracks is midweek for training and coaching sessions. There is some weekend use for training but competitions at weekends are series based and clubs take turns to host events so most competition takes place away from the main track.

## **15.4: Supply and demand analysis**

There is no recognised quantity standard for athletics facilities. However, in general it is considered that Stockport has a sufficient supply of athletics tracks to cater for current demand.

Stockport Harriers AC highlights plans to increase membership. However, the Club identified no issue with this being able to be absorbed within the current facility.

## **15.5: Summary**

### **Athletics summary**

- ◀ There is one athletics track in Stockport; Woodbank Park Stadium. The track has a synthetic surface and is licensed to host both training and competitions.
- ◀ The track is good quality, attributed to a good ongoing maintenance regime.
- ◀ The track at Woodbank Park Stadium is mainly used by Stockport Harriers AC. However, it is also used by a number of other groups and it is also available for hire throughout the year. In addition, non-members can access training sessions.
- ◀ A new Clubhouse was built at Woodbank Park Stadium. This was funded by Stockport Harriers AC, Stockport Council and an Inspired Facilities Grant from Sport England.
- ◀ Both the track and ancillary facilities are owned by the Council but managed and maintained by Stockport Harriers AC as per a management agreement with the Council.
- ◀ Stockport Harriers AC is the only identified formal discipline athletics club within Stockport. It aimed to increase membership numbers by 2% a year as set out in the club development plan.
- ◀ In conclusion, Stockport has sufficient supply of athletics tracks to cater for current demand. Stockport Harriers AC highlights planned to increase membership. However, the Club identified no issue with this being able to be absorbed within the current facility.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://segments.sportengland.org/>

### **PART 16: PLAYING PITCH STUDY**

A separate methodology exists for undertaking a needs assessment for the provision of playing pitches. This set by Sport England, in its guidance 'An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy' which is endorsed by the main pitch sport National Governing Bodies for Sport (i.e. the FA, RFU, ECB and EH). The assessment of playing pitch provision is therefore covered the Stockport Playing Pitch Assessment Report and Strategy (PPS). This section provides a brief summary of the findings from the PPS based on the information known at the time of writing.

In this context, pitch provision refers to grass pitches for football, rugby and cricket. It also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs) that may also be used for these sports in addition to other sports such as hockey.

It is important to recognise that many sites with pitches are in practice multi-functional and serve a wider community benefit than the sport it is intended to serve. Many grass pitches form part of a wider site such as a park or recreation ground. These will be used for purposes such as children's play, community events, exercising dogs or jogging as well as formal sport. The value of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities, irrespective of who owns them, depends primarily on two things: the extent to which they meet clearly identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife, biodiversity and the wider environment.

It is therefore important that any decisions relating to playing pitches seeks the work of the PPS. The PPS provides a detailed breakdown and analysis, including location maps, site specific details and future demand. These should be sought in order to determine the direction for playing pitches.

### PART 17: IDENTIFYING SHORTFALLS AND PRIORITIES

Deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility, and quantity.

#### 17.1: Quality and value

Most open space sites receive a quality and value rating. This can help inform prioritisation of enhancement. It should be done in conjunction with regard to the quantity and/or accessibility of provision in the area (i.e., whether there is a deficiency).

Presented below is a high/low classification giving the following possible combinations of quality and value for open spaces:

##### **High quality/low value**

The preferred policy approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary purpose. If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose (i.e. another open space type). Only if this is also impossible will it be acceptable to consider a change of use.

##### **High quality/high value**

All open spaces should have an aspiration to come into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them. Sites of this category should be viewed as being key forms of open space provision.

##### **Low quality/low value**

The policy approach to these spaces or facilities in areas of identified shortfall should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value.

For open spaces in areas of sufficiency a change of primary typology should be first considered. If no shortfall of other open space typologies is noted than the site may be redundant/ 'surplus to requirements'.

If there is a choice of open space sites of equal quality to declare surplus, and no need to use one or part of one to remedy a deficiency in some other form of open space or sport and recreation provision, it will normally be sensible to consider the one with the lowest value to be more disposable. Similarly, if two are of equal value, it will normally be sensible to consider disposal of the one of lower quality.

##### **Low quality/high value**

The policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality to the applied standards. Therefore, the planning system should initially seek to protect them if they are not already so.

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost effective to do so. Please refer to the individual typology sections as well as the supporting excel database for a breakdown of quality ratings.

### 17.2: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of 'effective catchments' are used, defined as the distance that most users would travel. The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are therefore intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.

Table 17.2.1: Accessibility catchments

| Open space type                   | Walking guideline | Approximate time equivalent |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Parks & Gardens                   | 710m              | 9 minute                    |
| Amenity Greenspace                | 480m              | 6 minute                    |
| Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace | 720m              | 9 minute                    |

For natural and semi-natural greenspace, Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) has been used. The ANGSt provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. It recommends that people living in towns and cities should have:

- ◆ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home.
- ◆ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home.
- ◆ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home.
- ◆ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.

No standard is set for the typologies of allotments, cemeteries, civic spaces or green corridors. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage.

For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space. Similarly, demand for allotment provision should be determined by waiting lists.

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### ***Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area***

#### Parks and Gardens

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in FIT 9-minute walk time catchment to centre of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites (e.g. Thorn Grove Recreation Ground, Woodford Recreation Ground, Lumb Lane Recreation Ground).

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in catchment mapping against all ANGSt walk times.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other key forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Green Corridor sites such as Carr Wood and Happy Valley plus Parks like Bramhall Park, South Park and Bruntwood Park may help to partly serve gap).
  - Opportunities to provide further natural and semi-natural greenspace features on such sites should be explored.

#### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in FIT 6-minute walk time catchment to centre of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Highfield Park, Adswold, Carrs Wood Green Corridor site may help to partly serve gap).

### ***Central Stockport Analysis Area***

#### Parks and gardens

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Minor gap in FIT 9-minute walk time catchment noted to north.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap unlikely to warrant new forms of provision; especially as area contains provision such as Woodbank Park and Reddish Vale Country Park.

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in catchment mapping against ANGSt 5-minute walk time (with exception to north of area).
  - Gap in catchment mapping against ANGSt 2km walk time to south of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. all Park sites

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plus large amenity sites like Bridgehall Playing Fields, Rectory Fields and Cuddington Crescent may help to partly serve gaps).

- Opportunities to provide further natural and semi-natural greenspace features on such sites should be explored.

### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gaps in FIT 6-minute walk time catchment to west and centre of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced (e.g. Bonar Park, Shaw Heath Park, Viaduct Park, St Thomas's Park may help to partly serve gap).

### ***Cheadle Analysis Area***

#### Parks and gardens

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in FIT 9-minute walk time catchment to south and northwest of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Amenity sites helping to serve gaps include Gatley Carrs, Heald Green Recreation Ground, Roundhey Open Space and Outwood Road Open Space).

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in catchment mapping against all ANGSt walk times to south and west of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other key forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. all Park sites plus large amenity sites like Gatley Carrs and, Heald Green Recreation Ground may help to partly serve gaps).
  - Opportunities to provide further natural and semi-natural greenspace features on such sites should be explored.

#### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in FIT 6-minute walk time catchment.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap is served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens (e.g. Rosevale Playing Field, Bruntwood Park, and Brookfield Park). Subsequently, priority should be ensuring quality of such sites.

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### ***Heatons and Reddish Analysis Area***

#### Parks and gardens

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - No significant catchment gap identified. Action:
- ◀ Action:
  - n/a

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in catchment mapping against ANGSt 5-minute walk time (with exception to east and southwest of area).
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. all Park sites plus the eight amenity sites of low quality as set out in quality/value matrix may help to partly serve gaps).
  - Opportunities to provide further natural and semi-natural greenspace features on such sites should be explored.

#### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gaps in FIT 6-minute walk time catchment to centre of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap is served by other forms of open space (e.g. Crescent Park, Manchester Road Park and Thornfield Park). Subsequently, priority should be ensuring quality of such sites.

### ***Marple Analysis Area***

#### Parks and gardens

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Minor gap in catchment mapping to south of dense population.
- ◀ Action:
  - Size of gap alone is unlikely to warrant new forms of provision; especially as area contains provision such as Hawk Green Recreation Ground.

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in catchment mapping against ANGSt 5-minute walk time to area of denser population.
  - Minor gap in catchment mapping against ANGSt 2km walk time to area of denser population.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Park sites such as Brabyns Park and Marple Memorial Park plus Green Corridor sites like Middlewood Way may help to serve gaps).

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- Opportunities to provide further natural and semi-natural greenspace features on such sites should be explored.

### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in FIT 6-minute walk time catchment.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gap could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Middlewood Way green corridor site may help to partly serve gap).

### **Stepping Hill Analysis Area**

#### Parks and gardens

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in FIT 9-minute walk time catchment to southwest of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - It is recognised that other forms of open space are located within the catchment gap. These may have the potential to help serve the gap in parks and could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Amenity sites helping to serve gap includes Chester Road Playing Field and Old Norbury School Fields).

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in catchment mapping against ANGSt 5-minute and 2km walk times noted in area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. all Park sites plus Amenity sites like Hazel Grove Baths and Lyndhurst Avenue may help to serve gaps).
  - Opportunities to provide further natural and semi-natural greenspace features on such sites should be explored.

#### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gaps in FIT 6-minute walk time catchment to centre and east of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - It is recognised that the identified gap is served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens (e.g. Blackstone Road Park, Boothby Street Park, Great Moor Park, Torkington Park and Devonshire Park).

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### **Werneth Analysis Area**

#### Parks and gardens

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in FIT 9-minute walk time catchment to centre of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Amenity sites helping to serve gap includes Bredbury Recreation Ground, Goyt Valley Open Space & Rec Open Space and Mill Lane Recreation Ground).

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Gap in catchment mapping against ANGSt 5-minute walk time.
- ◀ Action:
  - Gap in provision should look to be met. If not possible, alternative should be to ensure sufficient quality of existing sites.
  - Other key forms of open space with the potential to help serve catchment gaps could look to be enhanced particularly if of low quality (e.g. Park sites like Romily Recreation Ground and Amenity sites helping to serve gaps in park provision i.e. Bredbury Recreation Ground, Goyt Valley Open Space & Rec Open Space and Smithy Green Rec Ground & Open Space as well as the seven amenity sites of low quality as set out in quality/value matrix may help to partly serve gaps).
  - Opportunities to provide further natural and semi-natural greenspace features on such sites should be explored.

#### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Identified need (catchment gap):
  - Minor gap in FIT 6-minute walk time catchment to west of area.
- ◀ Action:
  - Size of gap alone is unlikely to warrant new forms of provision; especially as area may be served to some extent by other forms of provision such as Crookilly Wood Park.

### **17.3: Quantity**

Quantity figures can be used to identify areas of shortfalls. It can also help with determining requirements for future developments.

It is useful to compare existing quantity standards against current levels of provision, and national benchmarks.

Guidance on quantity levels is published by FIT in its document Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015). The guidance provides standards for three types of open space provision: parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. FIT also suggests a guideline quantity standard for equipped/designated playing space.

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For allotments, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households, an equivalent of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 17.3.1 sets out the figures for the quantity standards recommended in the 2017 work, current provision levels identified as part of this update, and national benchmarks.

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*Table 17.3.1: Comparison of quantity*

| Open space type                         | FIT  | Open Space Report (2026) | Open Space Standards Paper (2017) |
|-----------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parks & gardens                         | 0.80 | 0.96                     | 1.01                              |
| Amenity greenspace                      | 0.60 | 0.82                     | 0.86                              |
| Natural & semi-natural                  | 1.80 | 1.52                     | 1.80                              |
| Provision for children and young people | 0.25 | 0.06                     | 0.25                              |
| Allotment                               | 0.25 | 0.13                     | 0.25                              |

The quantity standards recommended in 2017 were a combination of current provision levels (at that time) and national benchmarks. If the current provision level of a typology was lower than the national benchmark, the national benchmark was recommended for use. This was due to a comparable shortfall in quantity but also shortfalls in quality and accessibility being identified and the desire to increase levels of provision.

Current provision levels are generally greater than the national benchmarks. The exception is for natural greenspace, provision for children and young people, and allotments. However, the FIT figure recognises that children and young people can and do use the spaces surrounding the defined designated areas for play. It is therefore not a direct comparison.

It is considered that this approach is still relevant and appropriate for use. It is therefore recommended that the previously recommended quantity standards are updated to reflect the slight changes in figures for parks and amenity greenspace.

*Table 17.3.2: Recommended quantity standards*

| Open space type                         | Recommended quantity standards |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Parks & gardens                         | 0.96                           |
| Amenity greenspace                      | 0.82                           |
| Natural & semi-natural                  | 1.80                           |
| Provision for children and young people | 0.25                           |
| Allotment                               | 0.25                           |

Existing provision levels for Stockport can be useful to highlight potential shortfalls across different areas. Table 17.3.3 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space.

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Table 17.3.3: Current provision levels and shortfalls by analysis area against Stockport level (hectares per 1,000 population)

| Analysis area                  | Parks and gardens |       | Natural & Semi-Natural |       | Amenity greenspace |       | Allotments        |       | Play provision    |       |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
|                                | 0.96              |       | 1.52                   |       | 0.82               |       | 0.13              |       | 0.06              |       |
|                                | Current provision | + / - | Current provision      | + / - | Current provision  | + / - | Current provision | + / - | Current provision | + / - |
| Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South | 0.77              | -0.19 | 0.66                   | -0.86 | 0.65               | -0.17 | 0.03              | -0.10 | 0.03              | -0.03 |
| Central                        | 1.58              | +0.62 | 0.76                   | -0.76 | 0.81               | -0.01 | 0.11              | -0.02 | 0.05              | -0.01 |
| Cheadle                        | 1.61              | +0.65 | 0.70                   | -0.82 | 1.21               | +0.39 | 0.15              | +0.02 | 0.06              | Level |
| Heatons & Reddish              | 0.36              | -0.60 | 2.32                   | +0.80 | 0.86               | +0.04 | 0.20              | +0.07 | 0.03              | -0.03 |
| Marple                         | 1.71              | +0.75 | 4.73                   | +3.21 | 0.53               | -0.29 | 0.10              | -0.03 | 0.20              | +0.14 |
| Stepping Hill                  | 0.53              | -0.43 | 0.68                   | -0.84 | 0.49               | -0.33 | 0.16              | +0.03 | 0.05              | -0.01 |
| Werneth                        | 0.04              | -0.92 | 2.18                   | +0.66 | 1.19               | +0.37 | 0.12              | -0.01 | 0.03              | -0.03 |

All analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. The Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Analysis Area is noted as having quantity shortfalls in all types of provision.

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### 17.4: Future needs

Once quantity standards are established, they can be used to inform how much open space provision per 1,000 people is required to strategically serve development growth areas in the future. Future need for open space will arise from the population increases from potential housing growth areas and developments.

Policy HOM1 (Delivering new homes) of the emerging Stockport Local Plan cites a housing target of 25,371.

Paragraph 262 also states that the SHLAA identifies delivery of 8,000 homes in the town centre and a further 8,000 in other urban areas.

On this basis, using the recommended quantity standards<sup>16</sup>, the following open space requirements are calculated.

The indicative population figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.35 persons<sup>17</sup> per dwelling.

#### Emerging Local Plan housing target

A figure of 25,371 dwellings is cited. It is assumed an indicative population of 59,622 people. On this basis, the table below sets out the open space requirements.

Table 17.3.4: Emerging Local Plan target open space requirements (hectares)

| Parks | Natural / semi-natural greenspace | Amenity greenspace | Allotment | Play  |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| 57.24 | 107.32                            | 48.89              | 14.91     | 14.91 |

#### SHLAA allocation

The SHLAA cites potential delivery 8,000 dwellings. It is assumed an indicative population of 18,800 people. On this basis, the table below sets out the open space requirements.

Table 17.4.4: SHLAA figure open space requirements (hectares)

| Parks | Natural / semi-natural greenspace | Amenity greenspace | Allotment | Play |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------|
| 18.05 | 33.84                             | 15.42              | 4.70      | 4.70 |

Note the figures are for guidance only. The Local Plan is in the process of being prepared and there subject to change. The open space requirements for future growth can look to be updated as required over the Plan period to reflect changes/greater detail in population projections, allocations and dwelling numbers.

<sup>16</sup> recommended quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population) x population increase / 1000  
= estimated requirement

<sup>17</sup> ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

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### APPENDIX ONE: COMMUNITY SURVEY RETURNS

A total of 679 completed surveys were returned. Analysis of the answers to the survey questions is set out in Part 3. A breakdown of the demographic data is provided below.

#### Q11. Gender

| Please select your gender |        |       |        |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| No reply                  | Female | Male  | Base   |
| 20                        | 393    | 266   | 679    |
| 2.9%                      | 57.9%  | 39.2% | 100.0% |

#### Q12. Age bands

| Please select your age band |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| No reply                    | 16-24 | 25-44 | 45-64 | 65+   | Base  |
| 15                          | 8     | 206   | 299   | 151   | 679   |
| 2.2%                        | 1.2%  | 30.3% | 44.0% | 22.2% | 99.9% |

#### Q13. Ethnicity

| To which of the following groups do you consider you belong? |                        |                        |       |       |                                        |                   |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| No reply                                                     | Asian or Asian British | Black or Black British | Mixed | White | Other ethnic group (including Chinese) | Prefer not to say | Base  |
| 22                                                           | 5                      | 2                      | 2     | 603   | 3                                      | 42                | 679   |
| 3.2%                                                         | 0.7%                   | 0.3%                   | 0.3%  | 88.8% | 0.4%                                   | 6.2%              | 99.9% |

#### Q15. Postcode/area

A total of 605 out of the 679 respondents provide a postcode. A breakdown of those providing a postcode are:

| Postcode | Approximate area                                            | Respondents | %     |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| SK1      | Stockport (e.g. Offerton)                                   | 18          | 2.7%  |
| SK2      | Stockport (e.g. Great Moor, Heaviley, Offerton, Woodsmoor)  | 65          | 9.6%  |
| SK3      | Stockport (e.g. Adswold, Cheadle Heath, Davenport, Edgeley) | 38          | 5.6%  |
| SK4      | Stockport (e.g. Heaton Chapel, Heaton Mersey)               | 150         | 22.1% |
| SK5      | Stockport (e.g. Reddish Vale,)                              | 12          | 1.8%  |
| SK6      | Stockport (e.g. Bredbury, High Lane, Marple)                | 102         | 15.0% |
| SK7      | Stockport (e.g. Bramhall, Hazel Grove)                      | 40          | 5.9%  |
| SK8      | Stockport (e.g. Cheadle Hulme, Gatley, Heald Green)         | 168         | 24.7% |
| SK12     | Stockport (e.g. Disley)                                     | 1           | 0.1%  |
| SK15     | Out - Stalybridge                                           | 1           | 0.1%  |

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| Postcode     | Approximate area | Respondents | %            |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| SK17         | Out - Buxton     | 1           | 0.1%         |
| LL58         | Out - Llandudno  | 1           | 0.1%         |
| M16          | Out - Trafford   | 1           | 0.1%         |
| M19          | Heaton Mersey    | 3           | 0.3%         |
| M20          | Out - Didsbury   | 1           | 0.1%         |
| M21          | Out - Chorlton   | 1           | 0.1%         |
| M22          | Gatley/Sharston  | 1           | 0.1%         |
| M34          | Out - Denton     | 1           | 0.1%         |
| <b>Total</b> |                  | <b>605</b>  | <b>88.6%</b> |

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### APPENDIX TWO: LIST OF SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

| Site Name                                 | Council Owned |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Woodland off Ladybridge Road              | Yes           |
| Woodhall Fields                           | Yes           |
| Woodbank Memorial Park                    | Yes           |
| Scrub off Cemetery Road                   | Yes           |
| Reddish Vale Mill Pond                    | Yes           |
| Reddish Vale                              | Yes           |
| Redbrow Wood                              | Yes           |
| Poise Brook & Goyt Valley                 | Yes           |
| Parrs Wood                                | Yes           |
| Lady Brook                                | Yes           |
| Etherow Country Park & Roach Wood (South) | Yes           |
| Ernocroft Wood                            | Yes           |
| Disused Railway at Brinnington            | Yes           |
| Crookilley Wood                           | Yes           |
| Bruntwood Park                            | Yes           |
| Bramhall & Carr Woods                     | Yes           |
| Barlow Wood                               | Yes           |
| Abney Hall Park                           | Yes           |
| Disused Railway Line in Mersey Valley     | Will do       |
| Vernon Road Wood                          | Small part    |
| Marple & Torkington Woods                 | Small part    |
| Otterpool Road & Little Woods             | Part          |
| Norbury Brook & Middlewood                | Part          |
| Lower Ridge                               | Part          |
| Knowle Wood                               | Part          |
| Kirk & River Woods                        | Part          |
| Gatley Carrs                              | Part          |
| Brabyns Wood                              | Part          |
| Botany Mill Wood                          | Part          |
| Woodville Drive Wood                      | No            |
| Woodland off Lakes Road                   | No            |
| Woodland near Unity Mills                 | No            |
| Woodland near Glossop Road                | No            |
| Woodland at Stirrup Benches               | No            |
| Woodland at Spring Gardens Hotel          | No            |
| Woodland at Marple Bridge                 | No            |
| Windybottom Wood                          | No            |
| Turncliffe Wood                           | No            |
| Torkington Road Grassland                 | No            |
| Threaphurst Clough & Ochreley Brook       | No            |
| Star Field                                | No            |
| Roman Lakes                               | No            |
| Reservoir & Scrub at Heaton Mersey        | No            |
| Pond at Burnage                           | No            |
| Pond and Meadow at Heald Green            | No            |

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| Site Name                 | Council Owned |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Poise Bridge Flushes      | No            |
| Peeres Wood               | No            |
| Peak Forest Canal (South) | No            |
| Ox Hey Pastures           | No            |
| One Oak Farm              | No            |
| Nab Top Wood              | No            |
| Mellor Moor Meadows       | No            |
| Marple Dale Wood          | No            |
| Ludworth Moor             | No            |
| Linnet Clough             | No            |
| Gigg Brook                | No            |
| Foggbrook                 | No            |
| Fish Ponds at Davenport   | No            |
| Chudleigh Close Pond      | No            |
| Brinnington Clay Pits     | No            |
| Benfield Clough           | No            |
| Strines Wood              | ?             |
| Pole Bank (South)         | ?             |
| Apethorne House (South)   | ?             |

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### APPENDIX THREE: QUALITY AND VALUE CRITERIA AND WEIGHTINGS

The quality and value criteria used to mark each type of open space are set out in the tables below.

*Table A3.1: Quality criteria used against each open space type*

|                                         | Parks | Natural greenspace | Amenity greenspace | Allotments |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Main entrance                           | 1     | 1                  | 1                  | 1          |
| Other entrances                         | 1     | -                  | 1                  | 1          |
| Access within and through site          | 1     | -                  | 1                  | 1          |
| Personal security                       | 1     | -                  | 1                  | 1          |
| Boundary / controls adequacy            | 1     | 1                  | -                  | 1          |
| Parking Number and location             | 0.333 | -                  | -                  | -          |
| Parking - Quality                       | 0.333 | -                  | -                  | -          |
| Toilets accessibility and appearance    | 1     | -                  | -                  | -          |
| Seats and benches - Number and location | 0.333 | 0.333              | 0.333              | -          |
| Seats and benches - Maintenance         | 0.333 | 0.333              | 0.333              | -          |
| Picnic tables - Number and location     | 0.333 | 0.333              | -                  | -          |
| Picnic tables - Maintenance             | 0.333 | 0.333              | -                  | -          |
| Litter bins - Number and location       | 0.333 | 0.333              | 0.333              | -          |
| Litter bins - Maintenance               | 0.333 | 0.333              | 0.333              | -          |
| Lighting - Number and location          | 0.333 | 0.333              | 0.333              | -          |
| Overall maintenance and cleanliness     | 1     | 1                  | 1                  | 1          |
| Drainage                                | 1     | 1                  | 1                  | 1          |
| Landscaping design                      | 0.5   | -                  | 0.5                | -          |
| Paths                                   | 1     | 1                  | 1                  | 1          |
| Conservation                            | 1     | 2                  | -                  | 1          |

## STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

|                                                       | Parks | Natural greenspace | Amenity greenspace | Allotments |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| <i>Maintenance of buildings and artefacts</i>         | 1     | -                  | -                  | 1          |
| <i>Drug use</i>                                       | -5    | -5                 | -5                 | -5         |
| <i>Motor bikes</i>                                    | -5    | -5                 | -5                 | -5         |
| <i>Glass</i>                                          | -5    | -5                 | -5                 | -5         |
| <i>Abandoned cars</i>                                 | -5    | -5                 | -5                 | -5         |
| <i>Fire damage</i>                                    | -5    | -5                 | -5                 | -5         |
| <i>Fly tipping</i>                                    | -5    | -5                 | -5                 | -5         |
| <i>Other site problem</i>                             | -5    | -5                 | -5                 | -5         |
| <i>Physical access - public transport links/stops</i> | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Physical access - safe crossing places</i>         | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Access social - minimum entrance widths 1.5m</i>   | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Access social - directional signposts</i>          | 5     | 5                  | 1                  | 5          |
| <i>Parking well signed</i>                            | 3     | 3                  | 1                  | -          |
| <i>Easy to read/clear messages</i>                    | 3     | 3                  | 3                  | 3          |
| <i>Well maintained and free from graffiti</i>         | 3     | 3                  | 3                  | 3          |
| <i>Basic up to date information</i>                   | 3     | 3                  | 3                  | 1          |
| <i>Situated at entrance</i>                           | 3     | 3                  | 3                  | 3          |
| <i>Maps and graphics</i>                              | 3     | 3                  | 1                  | -          |
| <i>Evidence of site marketing</i>                     | 3     | 3                  | 3                  | 3          |
| <i>Signs at accessible height</i>                     | 3     | 3                  | 3                  | 3          |

# STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table A3.2: Value criteria used against each open space type

|                                                        | Parks | Natural greenspace | Amenity greenspace | Allotments |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| <i>Other green space of the same typology close by</i> | 1     | 1                  | 1                  | 1          |
| <i>Level of use (observations only)</i>                | 2     | 1                  | 1                  | 1          |
| <i>IOD Multiple Deprivation Rank</i>                   | 1     | 1                  | 1                  | 1          |
| <i>Space meets needs of Elderly</i>                    | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Space meets needs of Juniors</i>                    | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Space meets needs of Teenagers</i>                  | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Space meets needs of Disabled</i>                   | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Space meets needs of Families</i>                   | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Space meets needs of Visual amenity</i>             | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 3          |
| <i>Space meets needs of Other</i>                      | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Structural and landscape benefits</i>               | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Ecological benefits</i>                             | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Educational benefits</i>                            | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Social inclusion and health benefits</i>            | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Cultural and heritage benefits</i>                  | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Amenity benefits and a sense of place</i>           | 5     | 5                  | 5                  | 5          |
| <i>Economic benefits</i>                               | 5     | 5                  | -                  | 5          |