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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Leisure and recreation are important for our quality of life. Leisure and sports facilities and outdoor green spaces help us to enjoy more active and healthy lives, whilst also making our local areas more attractive places to live.
- 1.2 The West Wiltshire Community Strategy 2004-2014 identifies the need to promote healthy lifestyles and greater physical activity, and also to improve opportunities for people to access recreation including parks, open and water spaces. In its Corporate Plan 2006-2010, West Wiltshire District Council has identified “better access to recreation” as a key spotlight area where particular improvement is needed.
- 1.3 A critical task has been to complete a fundamental review of leisure and recreation needs within the district. The Council has used the findings of this Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (L&RNA) to develop policies and an action plan for the planning, delivery and management of leisure and open space provision in the district.

Purpose and Status

- 1.4 The purpose of this document is to provide the spatial planning framework for the immediate future provision of leisure and recreation open space in the district, including the allocation of additional sites. In 2003, a Local Plan Inspector recommended that West Wiltshire District Council should carry out a needs assessment and audit of open space, sports and recreation facilities as a matter of urgency so that a future strategy for open space and recreation could be produced at the earliest opportunity. The assessment and audit would enable robust local standards to be developed which should be included in development plans. The Inspector recommended that, following public consultation, new policies should be adopted as a replacement for the present policies.
- 1.5 Consequently, this document has been produced as an interim Development Plan Document (DPD) for the period up to 2016 to address the urgent need to review open space and sport and recreation planning policies. In particular, the pressing need is to develop spatial policies to deliver the following outcomes:
 1. Ensure that future provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities better meets local needs, by identifying local standards of provision;
 2. Ensure that existing provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities better meets local needs, by putting in place a framework to review existing low value provision;
 3. Identify and deliver further open space provision in areas of need.
- 1.6 The opportunity has been taken, at the same time, to put in place a policy framework to guide the production of further leisure-related strategies up to 2016.

How to read this document

- 1.7 This document sets out the vision, objectives and policies of West Wiltshire District Council relating to recreation and leisure matters within West Wiltshire. It has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.8 The document sets out a brief **spatial portrait** of the district which provides the geographical context for this DPD and identifies some of the major issues to be addressed by this DPD.

- 1.9 All DPDs must be produced having regard to national, regional and local strategies and policies. Those relevant to recreation and leisure are summarised within the **policy context**.
- 1.10 The spatial portrait, policy context, the results of the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment and local consultation have resulted in the identification of a series of **issues** which are addressed in this DPD.
- 1.11 From these issues, a **spatial vision** for leisure and recreation in West Wiltshire and its key components has been developed. From this vision, specific **spatial objectives** have been identified.
- 1.12 Within each thematic area, these objectives have been translated into **spatial policies** which will be used to implement the spatial objectives. Each policy includes targets, indicators and delivery mechanisms.
- 1.13 Policies will be subject to regular **monitoring and review** to ensure that they are achieving their objectives.
- 1.14 The DPD contains new site allocations for leisure and recreation and these are set out in revisions to the **Proposals Map**, which is published separately.

2 Spatial portrait of West Wiltshire

Context

- 2.1 West Wiltshire lies within the South West administrative region of England, in the county of Wiltshire. It covers an area of approximately 517 sq km and is mainly rural in character with almost one third of its area making up parts of the Cotswolds and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Trowbridge, the county town of Wiltshire, is the largest settlement in the District with an urban population estimated at around 30,000 in 2006. There are four other towns in the District, including Bradford on Avon (population 9,500), Melksham (population 19,500), Warminster (17,500) and Westbury (13,000) and a number of villages scattered in the countryside.

Figure 1: West Wiltshire



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Issues relevant for this DPD

- 2.2 The following characteristics have been identified as the most significant in relation to this DPD:

A growing population which has an increasing life expectancy

- 2.3 The most recent estimate of the District population is 125,120 (2006). Of the population, 77% live in the urban areas of the five towns, with the remainder in smaller villages and hamlets. The population is increasing (a 9.6% increase between 1991 and 2001) and the latest population and household projections indicate that it will continue to do so in the future. Between 1996 and 2006 6,971 homes were built in West Wiltshire at a rate of 697 a year, as against the Structure Plan requirement of 11,750 homes by 2016, at an annual rate of 588 a year. As amended, the draft

Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West is planning for an average of 615 annual completions within West Wiltshire by 2026.

- 2.4 The provision of new recreation space and facilities to meet demands arising from new development is a key aspect of this DPD. The numbers of young people (0-16 year olds) are increasing as a proportion of the total population. This is particularly significant as the L&RNA concluded that there are not enough appropriate facilities for teenagers and children's play areas need improving. In addition, the proportion of people over 65 will grow in the future. This will influence the nature of future recreation provision and the level of demand. Growing demand will also focus attention on the need for better management and maintenance of existing facilities.

Whilst the population is relatively healthy, there is a need to increase the number of residents who take regular physical activity

- 2.5 West Wiltshire's population is relatively healthy in comparison with the national average. Most health indicators are better than for England as a whole. Life expectancy is increasing and is higher than the national average. Although the proportion of people reporting limiting long term illness in West Wiltshire increased between 1991 and 2001, it was still amongst the lowest in England. Statistics show that whilst cardiovascular disease and cancers are still major killers, they are in decline. However, the incidence of colorectal cancer is quite high and higher than the National Standard Mortality Rate. Colorectal cancer can be related to an unhealthy diet and lack of physical exercise.
- 2.6 The number of overweight and obese people has tripled over the last two decades and it is still rising and needs to be addressed through the promotion of physical activity and healthy eating. Engagement in physical activity reduces the risk of up to 20 chronic diseases and disorders including obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers. People living close to green space live longer, enjoy better health and are more likely to meet the recommended guidelines for physical activity levels. In 2004, a Peoples Voice Panel Survey indicated that 39% of people in West Wiltshire take no physical activity on a regular basis to keep fit. Many factors (personal circumstances, unavailability, and lack of access to facilities) contribute to this low take up.
- 2.7 Just over 3,000 people (3.6% of the population) were permanently sick or disabled in 2001. This is slightly higher than the proportion registered in the county, but it is still just over 1% less than the South West statistics. The needs of this part of the population are important in addressing improvements to the accessibility of the recreational facilities. Improving social and physical access to recreation can provide opportunities for health improvement.

There are pockets of deprivation, particularly in Trowbridge

- 2.8 Although deprivation in the District is relatively low within the national context, some of West Wiltshire's wards are amongst the most deprived in the country. According to latest health profile statistics (published 2006), only 3% of West Wiltshire's inhabitants live in the most deprived fifth of areas in England, but 13% of children live in low income households. The provision of recreational facilities, including well-designed children's playgrounds, can provide an opportunity for fun, providing that accessibility (in terms of cost and location) to lower income populations is guaranteed.

There are perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour

- 2.9 In West Wiltshire the number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population has been stable or slightly decreasing during 2006. Generally, the level of crime in the District is lower than national levels and lower than in Swindon. However, overall, it is worse than in other Wiltshire districts and, within the District, the ward of Trowbridge Adcroft is consistently within the worst ten wards of the Wiltshire Police area.
- 2.10 The L&RNA reports on the safety concerns of the population using the recreational facilities within the District. Children's play areas at the end of cul-de-sacs, for example, are considered potentially unsafe as they are isolated. A few playgrounds have become meeting places for teenagers and are not used as intended, as children and parents feel threatened. In addition, there are growing concerns about vehicles using bridleways.

Almost 60% of the District is designated for environmental protection, including 2 AONBs; this presents recreational opportunities

- 2.11 West Wiltshire's natural environment is recognised internationally, nationally and locally for its wildlife and nature conservation interest and for its high landscape quality. There are three Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), a Special Protection Area (SPA), and 19 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within West Wiltshire, together with 198 sites of nature conservation interest. Two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) fall within West Wiltshire, including the Cotswolds AONB which covers the north-west tip of the district, between Bradford on Avon and neighbouring Bath, and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB which covers a large rural area to the south of Warminster.
- 2.12 Many of these areas are open for public access, providing the people of West Wiltshire with opportunities to enjoy the natural environment and there is strong evidence that this has clear health benefits. The L&RNA revealed that people feel that protecting the environment should be a high priority and that villages should be protected from overdevelopment.

There are increasing pressures upon environmental resources

- 2.13 The District's 19 Sites of Special Scientific interest have been designated for their biodiversity and natural habitats. Of the SSSIs in Wiltshire, 16.2% are declining in quality.
- 2.14 Over 350 of the 517 sq km of the District is agricultural land, and much of this is used as grassland (over 180 sq km). However, not all development can be accommodated on previously developed land within settlements and an average of 57% of all new housing developed between 1991 and 2005 was on greenfield land.
- 2.15 Water resources in West Wiltshire include the Bristol River Avon, the Hampshire River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal. There are abstraction limitations within this area and the upper reaches of the River Wylye (a tributary of the Hampshire Avon) in the south of the District currently suffers from over-abstraction.
- 2.16 The District continues to register an increase in car ownership (over 64,000 cars in 2001, against 33,140 in 1991). The car is the means of transport used for 63% of trips to work even though over 61% of the population work less than 5 km from home and 30% work less than 2km from home. The District Council has established two Air Quality Management Areas, in Westbury and Bradford on Avon, where levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates from road transport have exceeded national air quality limits.

2.17 The creation of new greenspace, as part of developments, and the enhancement of existing spaces through habitat management are important ways in which recreation provision can help to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

3 Policy context

3.1 This Leisure and Recreation DPD has many direct and indirect relationships with other plans, programmes and policies.

3.2 All development plan documents must:

- be consistent with national planning policies;
- be in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy;
- be in conformity with the Local Development Framework Core Strategy;
- contain policies consistent with policies within other DPDs;
- have regard to the authority's community strategy; and
- have regard to any other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the area or to adjoining areas.

3.3 In terms of direct relationships, the DPD has been developed having regard to a number of key strategy and policy documents.

National policies and guidance

3.4 **Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (2005)** identifies the Government's commitment to deliver housing, services and facilities, including good parks and a pleasant, safe, clean and green environment for local communities.

3.5 **Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Space, Sport, and Recreation (2002)** is the primary national planning document on the subject matter of this DPD. Much of the policy is based on the Government Report "Green Spaces, Better Places", produced by the Urban Green Spaces Task Force. It relates strongly to the Government's sustainability, urban renaissance, rural renewal, social inclusion and health and well being agendas and has open space as its focus. It recommends that planning policy documents should:

- promote a clear typology of open spaces;
- be based on local assessments and audits with qualitative and quantitative components to set local standards;
- emphasise the need for accessibility, both in terms of location and of charges;
- recognise the importance of enhancing existing open spaces and facilities
- use planning obligations to remedy both qualitative and quantitative deficiencies in provision and provide additional resources for green spaces;
- where appropriate, seek contributions for open space or sport and recreation facilities from developers of commercial property;
- provide a clear statement that before an open space can be redeveloped for another purpose, it must be "surplus to requirements" in terms of open space generally; and
- take account of the contributions from local communities and facilitate greater community involvement in the development and improvement of green spaces.

Regional strategies and plans

3.6 **Life's out there...be active in the South West (2004)** is the regional strategy produced by Sport England and is based on the national "Framework for Sport" document. The strategy is based on four main themes: delivering community sport, encouraging active living, influencing strategic planning and raising sport's profile.

- 3.7 Local government is seen as the critical building block for sport and there are several outcomes identified to which the DPD can contribute (which are also articulated at a lower level):
- raising public participation levels in sport and active recreation by a least 1% per year;
 - widening and improving access to safe, free play facilities;
 - improving the health and wellbeing of communities;
 - creating stronger and safer communities; and
 - benefiting the economy – making parks and open spaces centres of activity.
- 3.8 **Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG10) (2001)** is the current statutory Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West and therefore part of the development plan for West Wiltshire. It includes a chapter devoted to tourism, culture, leisure and sport, which states that local authorities should:
- identify and protect recreational open spaces and playing fields;
 - identify sites and opportunities for the provision of new cultural leisure and community sports facilities;
 - maximise the use of highly managed areas such as country parks, national trails, cultural attractions and sports facilities;
 - encourage less intensive recreation in other areas such as river valleys by providing essential facilities, such as toilets, bus stops, footpaths and cycleways in appropriate sustainable locations; and
 - maximise the benefits of sport, leisure, recreation and cultural development for the environment, local communities, local economies and visitors.
- 3.9 **The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006 – 2026** is the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which will replace existing structure plans in the region when it is finally adopted, probably later in 2008. Section 6 of the RSS deals, amongst other issues, with leisure and recreation. It emphasises the importance of:
- the need to carry out thorough and rigorous assessments of the need for sport and recreation facilities in line with PPG17;
 - the involvement of young people and hard to reach groups in discussions about the use of open space and community design; and
 - green Infrastructure, which is itself an important means of providing positive benefits for the region and includes parks, woodland and informal open space, as well as links between town and country and along canals and watercourses, and is the subject of RSS Policy GI1.

Local strategies and plans

- 3.10 The **Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016**, which was adopted jointly by Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council in April 2006, will shortly be replaced by the RSS. The Structure Plan deals with recreation, leisure and tourism in Chapter 8, which also contains a number of policy provisions, including:
- the need for the provision of a wide range of facilities for sport, recreation, leisure and the arts to meet local needs;
 - the need for recreational open space;
 - the need for people with disabilities to be taken into account in the provision of facilities;
 - the provision of opportunities for informal countryside recreation;
 - the need for the provision of recreation and tourism developments associated with the Kennet and Avon Canal; and
 - the need to safeguard the historic alignment of the Wilts and Berks Canal.

- 3.11 **Wiltshire Community Strategy (2004)** has ten themes as its basis. The most important in relation to this DPD are health, the environment, children and young people, and culture. Desired outcomes derived from these themes include:
- improved health and well being of the at risk sectors of the population by lifestyle changes;
 - a greater number of parks gardens and school grounds maintained in an environmentally friendly way;
 - promotion of healthy lifestyles amongst children and younger people; and
 - increased opportunities for participation in sports and exercise for all age groups.
- 3.12 **West Wiltshire – a place to be proud of (2004-2014)** is the community strategy for West Wiltshire, produced by the West Wiltshire Local Strategic Partnership. It is based upon similar themes to those set out in the county strategy and, in relation to this DPD, the relevant policies are to:
- encourage people to take more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing;
 - promote healthy lifestyles;
 - encourage the use of parks and open spaces and ensure access for all;
 - increase opportunities for people to participate in arts and sports based activities; and
 - increase opportunities for people, especially the young, to engage in regular physical activity.
- 3.13 **Local Area Agreement (2007 – 2010)** has been developed by the Wiltshire Strategic Board (WiSB) and will work towards “creating stronger and more sustainable communities in Wiltshire”. The LAA provides a mechanism to help achieve WiSB’s ambitions to improve performance on joint priorities. It helps partners to develop new approaches whilst providing a framework for incremental sustainable long term change. Wiltshire’s LAA has been developed on a template provided by central Government which uses “blocks” or “themes” to identify the relevant areas of service delivery under the agreement. These are:
- Children and Young People
 - Economic Development and Enterprise
 - Environment
 - Healthier Communities
 - Older People
 - Safer and Stronger Communities.
- 3.14 There are headline outcomes that sit under each block, each of which has a number of sub-outcomes, targets and indicators. The most appropriate outcome in terms of leisure and recreation sits within the “Healthier Communities” block and relates to increasing activity levels with a view to halting the rising trend in the obesity of the population. The District Council has also adopted this target.
- 3.15 **Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07-2010/11** sets out the County Council's transport objectives, strategy, plans and targets to 2011. The key priorities of this document are:
- tackling congestion;
 - delivering accessibility;
 - safer roads; and
 - better air quality,
- together with network management and other quality of life issues. In seeking to meet their transport priorities, the County Council through this Plan identifies the potential for improvements to assist with improving the quality of public spaces and

better streetscapes, enhancing biodiversity and contributing towards healthy communities, in particular through improving access to good walking and cycling routes. The Plan includes the Western Wiltshire Sustainable Transport Strategy which includes proposals to enhance walking, cycling and public transport access in and between the five towns of West Wiltshire and neighbouring towns. The Plan also refers to the development of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan which will be progressively incorporated into local transport planning by 2011.

Conclusions

- 3.16 The Leisure and Recreation DPD has been prepared within the policy context provided by the documents summarised above. A summary of other relevant strategies and policy documents is set out in Appendix 4.
- 3.17 There are many common themes which can be identified through all levels of strategy and policy development. The most salient themes for this DPD to address are:
- giving attention to the needs of young people;
 - providing infrastructure which will allow residents to be more active;
 - maximising the use of existing leisure facilities;
 - pursuing equality of opportunity;
 - involving people in their local environment;
 - helping people to improve their awareness of local distinctiveness, biodiversity and wildlife;
 - recognising the importance of the high quality countryside in the district;
 - promoting the dual use of school land and facilities;
 - considering community safety in parks and other green spaces; and
 - ensuring that the district makes effective use of planning obligations.

4 Leisure and recreation provision in West Wiltshire

- 4.1 A Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment of the District was completed in July 2005 with additional audit work carried out during 2006/07. This Assessment reviewed the amount, distribution and quality of the existing open space and sport and recreation facilities within the District. It identified where there is a need for more or better provision and recommended appropriate provision standards for the District Council to use as part of the planning process.
- 4.2 The Assessment closely followed the methodology for carrying out audits and setting local standards identified in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation and its companion guide "Assessing Needs and Opportunities". As such, it serves as the baseline for the planning of future recreation needs of the District and is the prime evidence source.

Quantity of Provision in West Wiltshire

- 4.3 The Assessment identified the total quantity of existing provision in each of the main settlement areas of the District, for each type of open space or sport and recreation facility, expressed as square metres per person.

Table 1: Existing Leisure and Recreation Provision in West Wiltshire

	Bradford	Melksham	Trowbridge	Warminster	Westbury
Allotments	22,990	32,000	42,600	18,312	1,442
Bowling greens	4,900	2,940	2,940	1,470	1,470
Equipped play	2,640	4,160	10,000	4,880	3,600
Multi-functional greenspaces	66,599	196,700	586,114	392,304	274,803
Sports pitches and courts	88,703	153,586	278,005	184,454	123,991
Teenage facilities	1,920	5,645	4,785	2,870	2,060
Urban parks	2,634	0	58,175	41,595	11,638
Sports halls	1,648	1,464	2,788	740	1,460
Swimming pools	370	490	325	225	130
Total	192,404	396,985	985,732	646,850	420,594

Source: Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)

All figures are in square metres

- 4.4 The Assessment compared local views on the adequacy of existing provision with the existing quantity across the District in order to establish the level of provision that local interests generally found adequate. Some forms of provision are found mainly or exclusively in the five towns. Accordingly, the Assessment concentrated on these in order to derive suitable standards for the District as a whole. In rural areas, what matters more is accessibility and ensuring that spaces or facilities are large enough to be fit for purpose. Quantity standards are still appropriate, however, to assess the amount of contribution that should be sought from developers towards local provision.
- 4.5 The proposed local quantity standards are set out in the Table 2 below.

Table 2: Proposed quantity standards

Form of provision	Quantity (sq m/person)
Allotments	1.5
Bowling greens	0.2
Equipped play	0.5
Multi-functional greenspaces	12
Sports pitches and courts	10
Teenage facilities	0.25
Urban parks	1.3
Sports halls	0.08
Swimming pools	0.05

Source: Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)

- 4.6 The Assessment then compared the level of provision in each town with the amount required by the application of the quantity provision standard to assess the broad level of need for additional provision across the District. Table 3 below sets out a summary of the overall identified shortfalls and surpluses of open space provision by town by applying the quantity standards.

Table 3: Shortfalls and surpluses of open space provision by town

	Bradford	Melksham	Trowbridge	Warminster	Westbury
Allotments	+8,950	+3,041	-2,475	-8,253	-18,238
Bowling greens	+3,028	-921	-3,070	-2,072	-1,154
Equipped play	-2,040	-5,493	-5,025	-3,975	-2,960
Multi-functional greenspaces	-45,721	-34,972	+225,514	+179,784	+117,363
Sports pitches and courts	-4,897	-39,474	-22,495	+7,354	-7,209
Teenage facilities	-420	+819	-2,728	-1,558	-1,220
Urban parks	-9,534	-25,098	+19,110	+18,572	-5,418
Total net shortfall or surplus	-50,634	-102,099	+208,832	+189,853	+81,164

Surpluses identified with +

Shortfalls identified with -

All figures are in square metres

Source: Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)

- 4.7 For indoor sports facilities, the Assessment compared the amount of provision in the District with the amount suggested as needed by the Sport England Calculator. The results are illustrated in Table 4.

Table 4: Indoor Sports Facilities

	Required	Available
Pools (sq. m water)	1,185	1,540
Sports halls (badminton courts)	33	46
Indoor bowls (rinks)	7.5	4

Source: Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)

Distance thresholds

- 4.8 Local accessibility to open space and sport and recreation facilities is as important as overall quantitative levels of provision. Distance thresholds help to identify the distance that people in general are willing to travel in order to use or visit a facility or space. The Assessment analysed national and local guidance and research to identify a range of applicable distance thresholds. National sources included: PPG13, RPG10, NPFA Six Acre Standard, Sport England surveys, English Heritage's concept of "walkable neighbourhoods" and English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGst). Several local market research and user surveys were also identified. These were then assessed with regard to local geography in West Wiltshire.
- 4.9 Proposed distance thresholds for West Wiltshire are set out in Table 5 below. As it will not always be possible to achieve this level of accessibility for every resident of the District to all forms of provision, especially in established residential and other areas, these thresholds in general represent a policy aspiration rather than a firm requirement. However, they are a requirement for new development.

Table 5: Proposed distance thresholds

Form of provision	Travel time (minutes)	Straight line walking thresholds	Straight line cycling thresholds	Driving time thresholds
Equipped play areas	5	300 m	600 m	-
Most greenspaces	10	600 m	1,200 m	-
Grass pitches	15	900 m	1,800 m	5,000 m
Indoor sports facilities	20	1,200 m	2,400 m	10,000 m

Source: Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)

- 4.10 Distance thresholds enable an assessment of the accessibility of existing open space and sport and recreation facilities. By identifying catchment areas for facilities, it is possible to identify those parts of the District where deficiencies currently exist.
- 4.11 The Assessment identified a number of areas within the District where particular facilities are needed to address shortfalls in accessible greenspace.

Table 6: Shortfalls in accessible local greenspace

Location	Needs
Bradford on Avon	Artificial turf pitch, play provision, skateboarding, mini-soccer pitches
Melksham	Artificial turf pitch, play provision, mini-soccer pitches, bowling green
Trowbridge	Allotments, bowling green, play provision, skateboarding, mini-soccer pitches
Warminster	Allotments, bowling green, play provision, mini-soccer pitches
Westbury	Allotments, artificial turf pitch, bowling green, play provision, skateboarding
Rural areas	Allotments, bowling greens, play provision, teenage facilities, mini-soccer pitches

Quality and value

- 4.12 The measurement of the quality and value of existing open space and sport and recreation facilities is an essential component of an audit in order to determine the future need for enhancement. The Assessment defined "quality" as the range of features or facilities on the site (e.g. trees, shrubs or seats), their basic characteristics (e.g. appropriate to the site or not), and their condition (e.g. on a spectrum from very good to very poor). "Value" refers to the value of a site to people and bio-diversity; to its cultural and heritage value; and to its strategic value, for example, by providing a sense of openness in a densely developed area.
- 4.13 In total, 327 sites across the District were audited for quality and value using a standardised audit form and scoring system. The detailed results are contained within appendices to the Assessment, but the results can be summarised as follows:
- (i) The District has much that it can "be proud of". Most of its greenspaces are generally of good quality and the changes needed to make a noticeable improvement to the less good spaces are generally relatively minor.
 - (ii) There is a need to improve the quality, and especially the drainage, of a number of grass pitches. Some sites also lack changing accommodation, or have only very poor changing. One or two of the artificial turf pitches are nearing the stage where it will be necessary to invest in a replacement carpet.
 - (iii) Some spaces are of low value and lower than average quality. Their future role and function should be subject to review.
- 4.14 The Assessment recommended detailed quality standards as an aspiration for existing provision and as a requirement for future developments. These are set out in Appendix F to the Assessment.

Conclusions

- 4.15 The Assessment identified a number of conclusions and issues to be addressed regarding overall levels of recreation provision in West Wiltshire. These can be summarised as follows:
- (i) Bradford and Melksham are deficient in sport and recreation provision in overall quantity terms to meet local needs. However, at all towns, overall levels mask shortfalls or surpluses in different forms of provision.
 - (ii) The district needs no more pools or sports halls but may need some additional indoor bowling facilities.

- (iii) In terms of local access to facilities, there may be a need for additional provision.
- (iv) There are opportunities to rationalise provision and possibly to convert some open spaces to other types of open space, or dispose of some sites that offer little value to local communities.

5 Leisure and recreation issues

Key Issues

- 5.1 Taking account of the District's characteristics, the overall policy context and the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment, there are a number of thematic issues which the Council needs to address. However, there are two key issues which require immediate action, and these are the focus of this interim DPD. These are levels of provision and provision for outdoor sport.

Levels of provision

- There should be sufficient infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population;
- There should be sufficient infrastructure to provide opportunities for residents to be more active;
- There should be equality of opportunity for all residents to access recreational facilities;
- Bradford and Melksham are deficient in sport and recreation provision in overall quantity terms to meet local needs. However, at all towns, overall levels mask shortfalls or surpluses in different forms of provision; and
- In terms of local access to facilities, there may be a need for additional provision.

Provision for outdoor sport

- There is inadequate provision for pitch sports in the district, especially in Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury; and
- Many of the district's pitches lack drainage and only have a low carrying capacity, exacerbated by the fact that most are built on clay.

Other Issues

- 5.2 In addition, the following other thematic issues have been identified.

Countryside access

- How the Council and its partners can maximise access to the countryside for both active and passive recreation, where this is consistent with the conservation and enhancement of landscape character and biodiversity; and
- How the Council and its partners can improve residents' awareness of the high quality landscapes in the District and of its distinctiveness and biodiversity.

Greenspace management and maintenance

- Greenspaces should be designed and maintained to be as safe as possible;
- Local communities throughout the district would like to see their local greenspaces better managed and maintained; and
- Local communities should be encouraged to become involved in greenspace management and maintenance.

Indoor sports provision

- The district has a good range of indoor sports facilities but there is a growing need for refurbishment or replacement.

Provision for children's play

- The district has a lot of small, equipped play areas of a traditional design, which offer relatively little stimulation and excitement to most children.

Provision for teenagers

- Attention needs to be given to the needs of young people, particularly in areas of deprivation; and
- Teenage provision across the district is too often limited to rather forlorn basketball hoops, some ball courts or walls, and some teenage shelters, mainly on recreation grounds. Whilst Melksham has a very good skateboard park, provision for BMX and skateboarding elsewhere in the district is limited. The BMX track at Studley Green in Trowbridge is valued by teenagers but does not comply with good practice design standards.

Provision for water-based recreation

- The district has only a limited amount of water space for sailing and canoeing, and the direct access to the nearest coast means passing through the Bath/Bristol area with its traffic congestion. Shearwater is very attractive and is used for a range of water sports, but it is limited in size and slightly peripheral to much of the district's population. The Cotswold Water Park is on the northern boundary of the county, but is also not readily accessible to most potential West Wiltshire water sport participants;
- Anglers have been successful in establishing access to many of the small lakes that exist within the district; and
- The canals are popular for narrow-boating, and the marina seems to be successful. Should the Council do more to promote boating and using the canals for other water based recreation such as canoeing?

Country parks

- There are opportunities to make better use of urban fringe locations to increase access to the countryside, particularly through maximising the use of managed areas such as country parks; and
- Southwick is a country park in name only. It is used mainly by dog walkers, perhaps partly because it offers only a very limited range of other things to do and partly because the Council puts very little effort into managing it. As West Wiltshire has an excellent network of rights of way, Southwick is unlikely to attract large numbers of people unless it can offer something different. At present there is little reason for most people to visit it.

Working with schools

- There are opportunities to maximise the use of existing facilities; and
- Out of hours access to school facilities varies from one school to another across the district. Some are locked, while others have more or less open access but with little informal community use. The independent schools probably do most to support local sport and recreation, but some are sited away from centres of population, so their impact is limited.

Funding

- The District Council is finding it difficult to fund the status quo properly, especially in relation to management and maintenance. Improving management and maintenance regimes, not to mention any new provision that may be needed, may therefore be unaffordable.

6 A vision for West Wiltshire

The Vision:

West Wiltshire will have a network of safe, accessible, high quality spaces, and sport and recreation facilities that makes West Wiltshire a place to be proud of, meets local needs and enhances the “liveability”¹ of the district, promotes health and well being, promotes sustainability, supports bio-diversity and makes the best use of land.

6.1 This vision has a number of key components:

- The network of spaces and facilities is more important than any individual spaces or facilities - in other words, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Equally, every space or facility does not have to be suitable for all of its possible uses - spaces can be designed and maintained for specific purposes;
- Spaces and facilities should provide a safe and secure environment whilst providing challenging opportunities for recreation and play;
- All communities should have equal opportunities to access facilities. Access to free facilities is particularly important to low-income families;
- Easy access by walking, cycling and public transport is important and meeting the needs of people with disabilities is particularly relevant;
- High quality is more important than quantity. It will be better to have a network of accessible high quality spaces than lots of poor quality provision;
- The countryside in the district and its high quality landscapes are appreciated by residents and visitors and help form an agreeable image of the district;
- Meeting diverse local needs for leisure and recreation is more important than retaining spaces that serve no useful purpose. The priority should be to tackle deprivation and social exclusion;
- Local communities are involved with the maintenance of greenspaces and access routes;
- Greenspace, accessible countryside and sport and recreation provision help to support “liveability”; greenspaces and accessible countryside help to form an image of the district for both residents and visitors;
- Greenspaces and accessible countryside support sustainability in various ways provided they are designed and/or managed in ways that make this possible. For example, there is evidence that visiting greenspaces helps relieve stress, therefore contributing to people’s emotional, physical and mental health, and that greenspaces help to reduce pollution and climate issues and surface water run-off;
- Greenspaces should be designed and managed in ways that support and encourage wildlife and biodiversity; and
- Spaces or facilities that are not needed in their present form or location provide an opportunity to make better use of land.

¹ Liveability - "Environmental qualities which make a place attractive to live and work in"

7 Spatial objectives

7.1 The vision for West Wiltshire is to be taken forward through the following spatial objectives which have been developed from the issues identified.

Deliver sustainable leisure and recreation facilities

7.2 Delivering sustainable development² is a key objective for this DPD. All proposals will be assessed against the principles of sustainable development which are set out below and which are the foundation of the policies in this document:

- Meet local needs, in particular respecting and promoting the diverse needs of all groups in society;
- Minimise the need to travel and support increased accessibility by walking, cycling, by public transport and for those with mobility needs;
- Protect and wherever possible enhance environmental assets, including wildlife and natural habitats, historic features and sites, local landscape and townscape character;
- Minimise the environmental impact of development through sustainable construction, lifetime resource, energy and water use efficiency and renewable energy ;
- Make the most efficient use of land and give priority to the reuse of previously developed land;
- Achieve high quality and inclusive design that creates safe, adaptable and accessible environments.

7.3 In addition to this principal objective, a number of specific leisure and recreation objectives have been identified. These are to:

- **Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible³ open spaces to meet local needs where this is consistent with the conservation and enhancement of landscape character and biodiversity of AONBs;**
- **Maximise access to the countryside for active and passive recreation;**
- **Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces;**
- **Provide high quality and accessible³ indoor sports facilities to meet local needs;**
- **Provide high quality, imaginative and accessible³ children's play areas;**
- **Provide high quality and accessible³ outdoor sports facilities to meet local needs;**
- **Provide high quality and accessible³ recreation facilities for teenagers to meet local needs;**
- **Support opportunities to develop a variety of water-based recreation activities;**
- **Develop a policy for the use of country parks;**
- **Promote out of hours access to school recreation facilities by the local community;**
- **Identify measures to adequately fund improvements to recreation facilities;**

² A widely used international definition is "Development which meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

³ Accessible by walking, cycling, by public transport and for those with mobility needs.

- **Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment (L&RNA).**

7.4 These objectives have informed the development of detailed spatial policies for future leisure and recreation provision.

Spatial development strategy

7.5 The current spatial strategy for West Wiltshire is contained within the Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG10), published in September 2001, the "saved" Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016, adopted in April 2006 and the "saved" West Wiltshire District Local Plan First Alteration, published in March 2004. This Leisure & Recreation DPD has been prepared within the context of the existing spatial strategy contained within RPG10 (now RSS10) and the above "saved" plans. It does not seek to amend or change the spatial strategy.

7.6 The South West Regional Assembly is currently preparing a draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West which is due to be approved in late 2008. West Wiltshire District Council is contributing to the preparation of a Core Strategy which will form part of the Local Development Framework for Wiltshire from 2006 to 2026. Until this process has been completed, the provisions of the existing spatial strategy will apply to the policies within this DPD.

Key spatial elements of this Development Plan Document

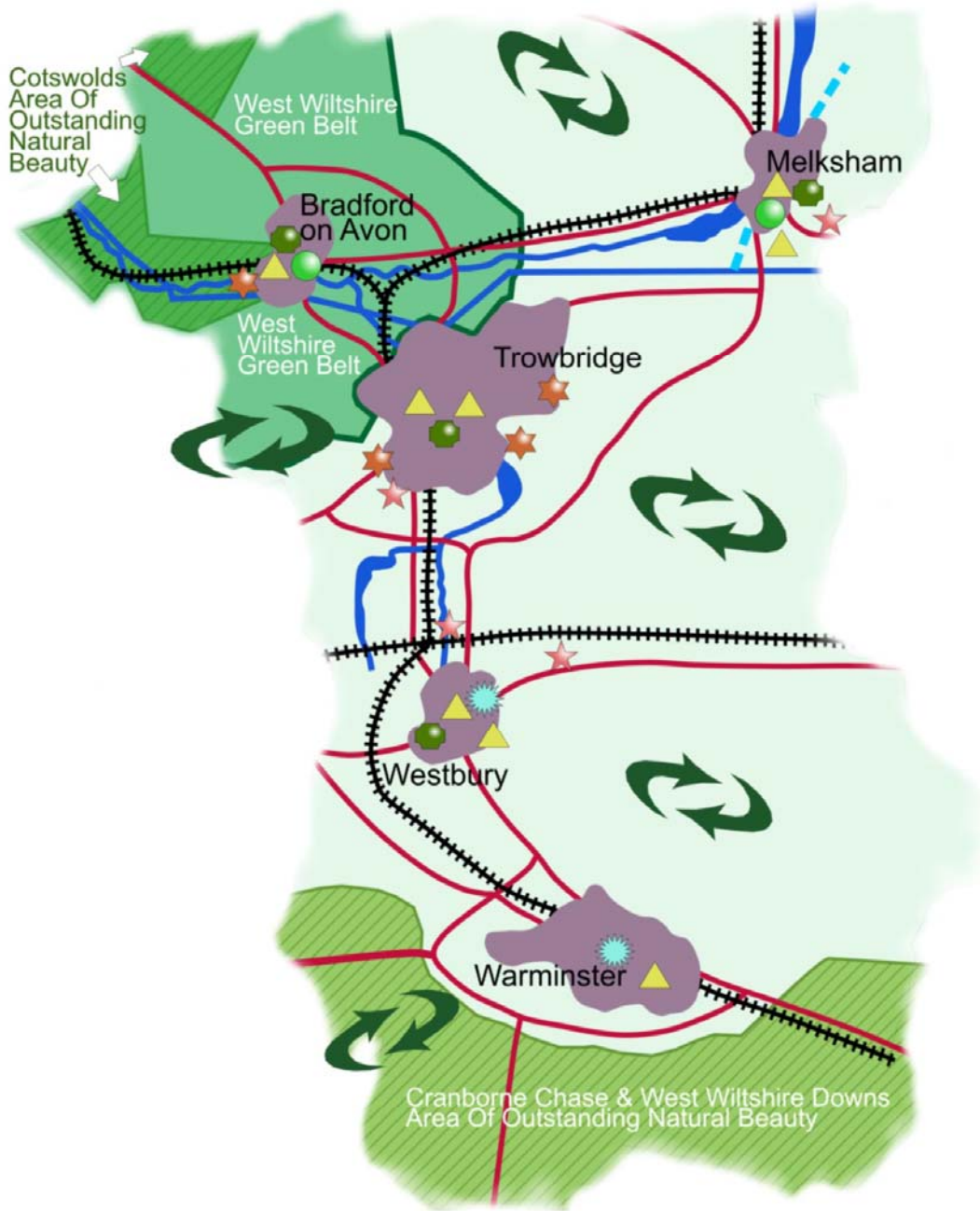
7.7 Most open space and sport and recreation facilities within the district are located at the five towns of Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury. These provide for the needs of local people living within the towns and also act as local centres for a large rural catchment providing in particular for indoor leisure provision (e.g. pools and sports halls). Within the five towns the objective to meet local needs requires existing shortfalls and surpluses of provision to be addressed. Spatially, the main needs which this DPD seeks to address are for:

- more open space provision in Bradford on Avon and Melksham;
- more pitch provision in Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury;
- the review of low value sites, particularly where there is an overall surplus of provision, for example in Trowbridge and Warminster; and
- refurbishing or replacing the existing indoor leisure centres at the five towns.

7.8 Within rural areas, the most important needs which this DPD seeks to address are for:

- future provision to be accessible;
- facilities to be large enough to be fit for purpose;
- linkages to be made between greenspace / rights of way and with public transport;
- increased public access to the countryside, including urban fringe country parks around Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge;
- encouraging further water based recreation, particularly along the rivers (Avon and Wylde) and canals (Kennet and Avon and Wilts and Berks).

Figure 2: Key Spatial Elements



 Refurbish or replace indoor leisure facilities	 Overall surplus of open space provision	 Old line of Wilts and Berks canal
 Need for more open space	 Urban fringe country parks	 Access to countryside improvements
 Need for more pitch provision	 Allocated sites for new grass pitch provision	 Rivers and canals

8 Key spatial policies

- 8.1 As an interim Development Plan Document, the focus has been on developing policies which will deliver outcomes to address the key issues of levels of provision and outdoor sports provision.

Levels of provision

Spatial objectives:

Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible open spaces to meet local needs

Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment

Policy LP1 Protection and enhancement of existing open space or sport and recreation provision

High value and/or high quality open space and recreation provision will be protected from development for other land uses. Wherever possible, these facilities should be enhanced to meet identified local needs.

Delivery

Protection of existing high value and quality space through the District Council's development control process;

Enhancement of existing open space through an open space and pitch strategy to be produced by the District Council by 2010 and implemented thereafter.

Further targets and indicators may be derived from this strategy;

Enhancement / redevelopment by town and parish councils where identified in community area and parish plans;

Enhancement through developer contributions acquired through S106 Agreements linked to new development.

- 8.2 Existing open space and sport and recreation facilities should be protected from development where local assessments demonstrate that they are of high quality or high value to the local community. The Council has carried out a detailed Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment to identify those facilities which are of high or low quality and value. Those spaces which are of high value and/or of high quality will be protected. These are listed in Appendix 1. This assessment will be regularly reviewed and the quality and value of sites reassessed to ensure that existing provision continues to meet local needs into the future.
- 8.3 "Quality" is defined as the range of features or facilities on the site (e.g. trees, shrubs or seats), their basic characteristics (e.g. appropriate to the site or not), and their condition (e.g. on a spectrum from very good to very poor). "Value" refers to the value of a site to people and bio-diversity; to its cultural and heritage value; and to its strategic value - for example, by providing a sense of openness in a densely developed area.

Spatial objectives:

Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible open spaces to meet local needs

Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment

Policy LP 2 Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport and recreation provision

Proposals that result in the loss of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities will be permitted only if this would not cause significant harm to nature conservation interests, to the landscape or settlement character and at least one of the following policy tests is met:

- (i) The site that will be lost is clearly surplus to requirements in terms of its current use, and there is no need for it to be used for a different form of open space or sport and recreation provision; or**
- (ii) The development will result in the enhancement of other existing spaces or facilities - this will represent a greater benefit to the community served by the provision that will be lost than retaining the previous facilities; or**
- (iii) The development will result in replacement provision that will be at least as accessible, at least equivalent in terms of attractiveness and quality, and capable of accommodating and sustaining at least the same levels and types of use as the provision that will be lost; or**
- (iv) The proposed development is ancillary to the use of land used for sport and physical recreation and will not adversely affect either the level of use it can sustain or the quality of provision.**

The District Council has carried out a comprehensive needs assessment and will maintain an up-to-date assessment of local open spaces and recreation facilities. This assessment forms the evidence base for the above policy tests.

Particular regard should be paid in applying these policy tests to the settlements where there is an identified lack of open space provision or local deficiencies in accessible open space.

Delivery

Through the District Council's development control process;

Through the implementation of an open space and pitch strategy to be produced by the District Council by 2010. Further targets and indicators may be derived from this strategy;

Through the implementation of the children's play strategy produced by the District Council in partnership with local stakeholders and the Big Lottery.

8.4 This DPD does not propose the loss of open space or sport and recreation provision. However, a framework is needed to deal with proposals that come forward through the planning application process.

8.5 In certain specific cases, it may be acceptable for development to take place upon existing open spaces. This is broadly where there is no need for the open space or where development will enhance or replace existing local provision. Decisions should be taken having regard to an up-to-date local recreation needs assessment.

Spatial objectives:

Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible open spaces to meet local needs

Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment

Policy LP3 Review of low value sites

The District Council will review those spaces classed in the latest leisure and recreation needs assessment as being of low value in the light of wider planning policies, taking account of the relative accessibility, quality and value of alternative provision in the area, the views of the local community, and the resources available to the District Council.

The staged review of spaces will consider the following order of priority:

- (i) retain the site and enhance it when resources allow;**
- (ii) retain the site and convert it to the most appropriate alternative form of greenspace use when resources allow;**
- (iii) consider disposal for other uses and use the money in the vicinity of the land sold to enhance existing spaces or facilities of more value to the local community.**

Sites of low value but high quality are protected under Policy LP1 but would also be reviewed under this policy to find ways of improving their value. Only if that is not possible will priorities (ii) or (iii) apply.

Particular regard should be paid in applying these policy tests to settlements where there is an identified lack of open space provision or local deficiencies in accessible open space.

Delivery

Through the introduction of a trial scheme introduced by the District Council in 2007 to review low value sites;

Through the implementation of an open space and pitch strategy to be produced by the District Council by 2010. Further targets and indicators may be derived from this strategy;

Through the implementation of the children's play strategy produced by the District Council in partnership with local stakeholders and the Big Lottery.

- 8.7 The Assessment has recommended a process by which the District Council can review those sites identified as being of low value to the community. The review of these sites offers the potential for the Council to change the level, type and quality of provision to more closely meet the needs identified in the Assessment.
- 8.8 Lists of sites of high quality and/or value, and of low value, are included at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively.
- 8.9 There is a need for a staged approach to reviewing low value sites. The first and therefore preferable option is to retain the site and enhance it when resources allow. However, this should depend upon there not being adequate alternative provision of the same type of greenspace within the distance threshold of the site, with higher existing or potential value to the local community. If there is no adequate alternative provision, sites will be assessed for their potential for enhancement to increase their value. This could include enriching the wildlife and biodiversity content through projects with such bodies as Wiltshire Wildlife Trust or upgrading facilities to meet the demands arising from new development through the use of developer funded contributions.
- 8.10 If there is adequate alternative provision of the same type of greenspace within the distance threshold of the site, with higher existing or potential value to the local community, then conversion to an alternative form of greenspace should be considered the next preferable option. The most appropriate alternative form of greenspace use should be determined, having regard to the results of the latest needs assessment and the views of the local community as expressed through community area plans or through specific consultation.
- 8.11 Disposal for other land uses should only be contemplated as a last resort, once all other options for the review site have been examined (see above). This DPD does not propose the disposal of particular open spaces. Policy LP3 provides a policy framework by which the Council will review low value sites through its proposed strategies and any proposals that result in the loss of open space will have to conform to the requirements of Policy LP2 above and be determined through the planning application process.
- 8.12 The District Council will have regard to the views of the local community, including tenants' and residents' associations. Resources achieved from the disposal of any site will be put back into making improvements to remaining open space and sports facilities within the local community.

8.13 The proposed review process can be summarised as follows:

Is the site in its present form of low value to the local community?	No >	Retain the site and enhance it when resources allow
Yes v		
Is there, or could there be, adequate alternative provision of the same type of greenspace, within the distance threshold of the site, with higher value, or potential value, to the local community?	No >	Retain the site and enhance it when resources allow
Yes v		
Is there a shortfall of any other forms of greenspace within the distance threshold of the site for which it might be suitable?	No >	Consider disposal and reinvesting in local recreation facilities
Yes v		
Is the site suitable for those form(s) of greenspace for which there is an identified deficiency in the area?	No >	Consider disposal and reinvesting in local recreation facilities
Yes v		
Retain the site and convert it to the most appropriate alternative form of greenspace use when resources allow.		

Spatial objectives:

Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible open spaces to meet local needs

Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment

Policy LP4 Providing recreation facilities in new developments

Where new development (especially housing) creates a need for access to open space or sport and recreation provision, an assessment will be made as to whether a contribution to open space or sport and recreation provision is required.

Depending on the size of the proposed development, its location and likely impact in terms of increasing the demand pressures on open space and sport and recreation provision, developers may be required to:

1. Make on-site provision; or
2. Fund off-site provision; or
3. Fund the enhancement of off-site provision; or
4. Provide a mix of the above.

A condition will be imposed to achieve the first of these outcomes and a planning obligation will be required to achieve the second or third. The fourth outcome will require a condition and a planning obligation.

Any necessary provision will be calculated taking into account the quantity standards and distance thresholds set out in this document.

Any necessary provision will be delivered in phase with development.

Delivery

Through developer contributions acquired through S106 Agreements linked to new development.

- 8.14 The Council intends to provide for open space as part of new developments taking into account the proposed quantity standards and distance thresholds (accessibility standards) set out below. Proposed quality standards are set out in Appendix 3.

Table 7: Proposed quantity standards

Form of provision	Quantity (sq m/person)
Allotments	1.5
Bowling greens	0.2
Equipped play	0.5
Multi-functional greenspaces	12
Sports pitches and courts	10
Teenage facilities	0.25
Urban parks	1.3
Sports halls	0.08
Swimming pools	0.05

Table 8: Proposed distance thresholds

Form of provision	Travel time (minutes)	Straight line walking thresholds	Straight line cycling thresholds	Driving time thresholds
Equipped play areas	5	300 m	600 m	-
Most greenspaces	10	600 m	1,200 m	-
Grass pitches	15	900 m	1,800 m	5,000 m
Indoor sports facilities	20	1,200 m	2,400 m	10,000 m

8.14 The Development Control “line of thinking” set out below, taken from the *Companion Guide to PPG17*, summarises how the Council will apply its quantity and accessibility provision standards in a transparent, logical manner to identify the need for on-site or off-site provision.

<p>After development is complete, will there be sufficient open spaces and sport and recreation facilities within appropriate distance thresholds of the development site to meet the needs of both existing residents and the residents of the proposed new development, as assessed using the Council’s adopted quantity and accessibility standards?</p>			
Yes		No	
<p>Does the quality of each of the existing open spaces or sport and recreation facilities within the appropriate distance thresholds match the adopted quality standard?</p>		<p>If any new open spaces or sports facilities are on-site, will they be large enough to be both fit for purpose and cost effective to maintain and meet the appropriate adopted quality standard?</p>	
Yes	No	Yes	No
<p>The developer will normally not be required either to provide on-site open space or sports facilities or contribute to the provision or enhancement of off-site provision.</p>	<p>The developer will normally be required to contribute to the enhancement of off-site open space or sports facilities within appropriate distance thresholds in accordance with the adopted provision standards. This is normally achieved by a planning obligation.</p>	<p>The developer will normally be required to make on-site provision in accordance with the adopted provision standards. This is normally achieved by a condition attached to a grant of planning permission.</p>	<p>The developer will normally be required to contribute to off-site provision within appropriate distance thresholds in accordance with the adopted provision standards. This is normally achieved by a planning obligation.</p>

8.15 The Council has established that its clear priority should be to enhance existing provision where appropriate rather than seek new facilities as a result of new development. Accordingly, for most new residential developments within existing settlements, the Council will require developers to contribute to enhancing existing provision, rather than require them to provide or fund new facilities, and will require developers to enter into an appropriate planning obligation for this purpose. However, the demands arising from new development cannot always be satisfied by

enhancing existing provision. New urban extensions, for example, may require new facilities to be provided to meet the Council's adopted standards.

- 8.16 The Council, at its discretion, will use any contributions that developers provide to enhance local provision, or make new provision, as close as practicable to the proposed development. The Council may, at its discretion, aggregate contributions from two or more developments in order to achieve worthwhile benefits for local communities.
- 8.17 Any contribution to an existing or new facility will be to meet an identified increase in demand arising from the development proposed and must be fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to it. However, the exact form of that contribution will also have regard to local priorities as set out in a community area plan.
- 8.18 It is intended to include an SPD on infrastructure provision in the forthcoming review of the LDS for Wiltshire. This will include guidance on standards and the calculation of developers' contributions. In order to provide transparency, an on-line tool will be provided, which will allow developers to assess, for any proposed development:
- The amount(s) and type(s) of on-site provision the Council may be likely to require;
and
The contribution(s) it may require towards the enhancement of existing provision.
- 8.19 It is important that any necessary on-site or off-site provision is made at the right time to ensure that needs are met when they arise. In large developments where it is proposed to phase construction, recreation space should be provided at the same time as the housing within that particular phase.
- 8.20 Should a developer feel that site conditions and the economics of provision have an impact on the amount of planning obligations that the development can sustain, the Council will require a detailed financial appraisal of the proposal to be provided by the developer to support the case. If this appraisal demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Council, a need to review the planning obligations for the development, the Council will have regard to the priorities identified in local community strategies and its own corporate plans to determine the nature of any reduction in contributions.

Spatial objectives:

Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible open spaces to meet local needs

Provide high quality and accessible indoor sports facilities to meet local needs

Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment

Policy LP5 New sport and recreation facilities

Proposals for new sport and recreation facilities within the District will be supported provided that they meet needs identified in an up to date needs assessment, are located at the most accessible location possible at the settlements they are intended to serve, are readily accessible by sustainable modes of transport and are in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Proposals for new open space provision in Bradford on Avon and Melksham or for new sports pitch provision in Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury will be particularly encouraged given the current lack of facilities at these towns.

Delivery

Through the development control process - Local planning authority and other decision makers;

Creation and enhancement by the District Council working with town and parish councils where identified in community area and parish plans;

The District Council to implement an indoor facilities strategy by 2011.

- 8.21 The Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment has identified a number of deficiencies in the current provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities within the District. Whilst this DPD identifies some specific initiatives to improve the current supply, it is inevitable that new proposals will come forward through the life of this Plan which were not originally envisaged. It is important that the local planning authority can properly assess new proposals for sport and recreation facilities.

9 Provision for outdoor sport

Spatial Objective:

Provide high quality and accessible outdoor sports facilities to meet local needs

Policy OS1

New artificial turf pitch provision

The District Council will support, and facilitate where it can, the development of artificial turf provision on school sites, specifically third generation artificial turf pitches, designed to support multi-team and multi-age community clubs, on secondary school sites.

Delivery

Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space through an open space and pitch strategy to be produced by the District Council by 2010 and implemented thereafter;

Through the District Council in partnership with the County Council, Town Councils, Parish Councils and Community Area Partnerships for facilities identified in community area plans;

Through provision funded by developer contributions acquired through S106 Agreements linked to new development.

- 9.1 Developing artificial turf pitches (ATPs) at existing secondary school sites has been identified in the Needs Assessment as the most effective way of meeting the shortfall in pitch provision within the district. Dual use of facilities maximises benefits to the community and provides an opportunity for the expansion of local clubs.

Spatial Objective:

Provide high quality and accessible outdoor sports facilities to meet local needs

Policy OS2 New grass pitch provision

Proposals for the development of grass sports pitches and ancillary facilities will be permitted at the following locations to address the shortage of pitch provision at Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury:

- (A) Land at Woolmore Farm, Melksham;
- (B) Land adjacent to Woodmarsh, North Bradley (Trowbridge);
- (C) Land at Leigh Park, Westbury;
- (D) Vivash Park, Westbury;

provided that development protects and where possible enhances wildlife habitats, historic and landscape features, delivers a sustainable drainage solution and creates a safe and convenient connection to existing pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks and the highway without creating transport problems. Acceptable mitigation measures will be implemented where appropriate.

Delivery

Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space through an open space and pitch strategy which is being prepared by the District Council in line with the recommendations of the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment;

Through the District Council in partnership with the County Council, Town Councils, Parish Councils and Community Area Partnerships for facilities identified in community area plans;

Through provision funded by developer contributions acquired through S106 Agreements linked to new development.

- 9.3 The shortage of pitch provision, especially in Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury, requires both the development of ATPs and some new grass pitch sites.
- 9.4 Land at Woolmore Farm, Melksham provides an opportunity for further grass pitch provision adjacent to a new secondary school for Melksham and new residential areas at Bowerhill. The site will also provide replacement provision for the 4.5 hectare Christie Miller Sports Field, which is allocated for future employment provision. The District Council will work with partner organisations to maximise access to these facilities for clubs and for the local community. If the review of indoor provision recommends the replacement of the Christie Miller complex, there is space available to provide for this on this site. Facilities should be designed and managed to ensure that there are no adverse impacts upon the character and setting of nearby listed properties, particularly Woolmore Farmhouse, a Grade II* listed building, and those located at The Spa.
- 9.5 A site adjacent to Woodmarsh, North Bradley is well located on the edge of Trowbridge to provide additional sports pitches. The landowner and Trowbridge Football Club have identified the site as providing the long term home of the football club. Any buildings should be ancillary to the use for sports pitches and should not reduce the openness of the area.
- 9.6 At Westbury, the Council will promote the development of the site illustrated on the Proposals Map to the east of Penleigh Farm and known as Leigh Park. The site, which is bounded to the south by Penleigh Road and to the north and west by railway lines, extends to approximately 10.4 hectares. Preliminary proposals have been prepared and a sustainability appraisal carried out for the site. These proposals will be developed further and funding sources explored with a view to the delivery of playing pitches for public use, together with a new home for Westbury United Football Club, within a 3-5 year timescale.
- 9.7 Vivash Park contains underused and despoiled land that offers potential to meet the formal and informal recreation needs of the adjacent residential areas of the Ham and Frogmore.
- 9.8 Developers are advised to contact the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, Natural England, Wiltshire County Council as transport authority and other statutory consultees as necessary to determine the detailed requirements of the development of these sites.

10 Other spatial policies

- 10.1 Whilst this interim Development Plan Document is focused on developing policies to address some key issues which require urgent action, the opportunity has been taken, at the same time, to put in place a wider policy framework to address all of the issues identified during the review of leisure and recreation provision in the District. Some of the policies require the development of further leisure related strategies or action plans to implement them and where these are required these are clearly identified. Other policies can be delivered directly through the planning system, through management practices or through community strategies and plans.

11 Countryside access

Spatial Objective:

Maximise access to the countryside for active and passive recreation

Policy CR1 Footpaths and Rights of Way

The public rights of way network will be protected from development for other land uses and extensions and improvements will be sought, where appropriate, as part of development proposals.

The public rights of way network will be reviewed and plans implemented to:

- (i) Improve the network through better designed and accessible furniture, signage, waymarking and interpretation boards, lighting and maintenance;**
- (ii) Extend the network to make new, better or safer linkages between routes and with public transport.**

In Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the development and maintenance of the network will conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the landscape.

Delivery

Protection of existing routes through the development control process - Local planning authority and other decision makers;

Enhancement through developer contributions acquired through S106

Agreements linked to new development;

Enhancement through partnership working with Wiltshire County Council and Wiltshire Local Access Forum to help implement the Wiltshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan to be published by the end of 2008;

Enhancement through partnership working with local communities (via town and parish councils) to maintain routes in good order.

- 11.1 Within built up areas, footpaths, towpaths and bridleways play an important recreational role linking urban open spaces together. Outside urban areas, they provide opportunities for public access to and enjoyment of the open countryside. Footpaths and rights of way (RoWs) also form part of a more general transportation network allowing people to choose a more sustainable means of transport to the private car when travelling between homes and local facilities.

- 11.2 New developments will be expected to provide a good network of footpaths and cycleways within the site connecting to the existing network within the area and, in urban fringe and village locations, provide good links into the countryside network and inter-urban routes.
- 11.3 The County Council is legally responsible for RoWs and is preparing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan, which it will publish by the end of 2008. The Plan is being prepared within the context of the County Council's "Framework for Managing the Rights of Way Network in Wiltshire 2004-2009" and will link into the Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07-2010/11. The Plan will assess the extent to which the RoW and other opportunities to access the countryside meet the present and likely future needs of the public and will set out the County Council's proposals for managing and improving the network.
- 11.4 The County Council has established a hierarchical approach to the future management and maintenance of RoWs, concentrating resources on well-used and strategic links between communities. New and replacement path furniture should be designed to conserve and enhance local landscape character and provided on the principle of the "least restrictive option", i.e. gap, gate, stile, to promote easy access. Appropriate surface treatment can also facilitate easy access.
- 11.5 There are opportunities for a number of other agencies to work together to implement local improvements. For example, grants are available to local parish councils to help them maintain (and enhance) their local RoWs – although it is primarily a maintenance fund and is still reliant on local volunteers. The Wildlife Trust also uses its own maintenance events as opportunities to provide people with an ecological experience and to re-connect with the natural environment.
- 11.6 In terms of extensions to the network, the County Council has identified a need to link RoWs with urban cycle routes, identify missing links in the network and seek to address issues of accessibility, particularly where RoWs connect onto difficult road crossings. There is also a need to improve links with the public transport network and to improve access to country parks where possible. The County Council is also working with Natural England and with the two Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty management bodies to sign and improve access to designated Access Land, e.g. Bratton Downs / Westbury White Horse.
- 11.7 Significant parts of the District are designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. All relevant authorities should have regard to the purpose of AONB designation to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. Management plans have been produced for the two AONBs within the District, which include policies promoting interlinked RoW routes accessible to all. Therefore, in developing and managing RoWs in AONBs, relevant authorities should establish positive measures to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the landscape.

Spatial Objective:

Maximise access to the countryside for active and passive recreation

Policy CR2 Country Parks

Country parks will be protected from development for uses other than recreational and enhanced for recreation and wildlife where possible at the following locations:

- A Biss Meadows, Trowbridge**
- B Paxcroft Brook, Hilperton**
- C Southwick**
- D Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon**

At Biss Meadows and Paxcroft Brook, enhancements and extensions will be sought through negotiations on the development of adjacent allocated housing sites.

At Southwick, the District Council will maintain the current uses on site and make improvements to signage and maintenance regimes to meet local visitor needs and to enhance biodiversity.

At Barton Farm, there are opportunities to develop better public access to the River Avon for bathing, rowing, canoeing and angling as well as improve visitor interpretation and habitat enhancement

Delivery

Protection of existing country parks through the development control process -

Local planning authority and other decision makers;

Enhancement through developer contributions acquired through S106

Agreements linked to new development;

Enhancement through the actions specified in the management plan for each country park, adopted by 2010 and produced by the District Council in partnership with Community Area Partnerships and implemented thereafter;

further targets and indicators may be derived from these plans;

Enhancement / redevelopment by town and parish councils where identified in community area and parish plans.

- 11.8 Country parks provide local residents of towns and larger urban areas with the opportunity to visit the countryside, and are usually situated on the urban fringe. Research has shown that almost half of all visits to the countryside are within five miles of home, emphasising the need for accessible countryside "on the doorstep". Many country parks are based around historic parkland, others have interesting natural landscape features. Most provide a wide range of recreational activities, but with the focus on informal recreation (walking, fishing, picnics, etc) and enjoyment of the countryside rather than formal sports activities. Whilst easy access for local people is the most important criterion, a basic range of facilities to cater for the visitor is normally required.
- 11.9 At Trowbridge, the floodplain of the River Biss and its tributary the Blackball Brook provides an important green wedge right into the town centre, linking directly with Trowbridge Park. The development of this area as the Biss Meadows country park has been facilitated by development of housing in the vicinity and the implementation of the east Trowbridge strategic housing site offers the opportunity to further develop facilities. The park will include managed grassland areas, riverbank enhancements,

extended and improved riverside walks, recreational and play facilities, cycleways and managed access to the Green Lane Wood nature reserve.

- 11.10 Land adjacent to Paxcroft Brook has also been planned as a country park in association with the development of Paxcroft Mead. It provides river corridor enhancements as well as meeting the recreational needs generated by the residential development in the form of an easily accessible area for walking, cycling and other informal recreation. The "village green" also provides a facility for sports and other events. The completion of the western and eastern sections of the park are required as part of allocated housing developments.
- 11.11 Southwick Country Park comprises 61 hectares of gently undulating countryside located between Trowbridge and Southwick. The park provides informal recreation opportunities for walking and picnicking. The District Council has been reviewing its options for developing the country park into the future. Although a number of other recreation uses have been investigated, the District Council considers that at this time, the most sustainable option is to maintain the current uses on the site. The Council has decided to make some improvements to signage and picnic areas for visitors and provide for better maintenance of hedges and countryside management to encourage biodiversity and wildlife habitats. There is currently insufficient demand for golf courses, showgrounds, camping or caravan park or cycle sports facilities. There are better locations in the local area for sailing, BMX / skateboarding and pitch sports, for which there is demand. In the longer term, the Council will retain the opportunity to develop golf or another large land use.
- 11.12 Barton Farm Country Park is a 15 hectare countryside facility bounded by the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal at Bradford on Avon. Wiltshire County Council owns the park and, working with the local community, has developed a series of visitor attractions and opportunities for walking, picnicking, rowing, fishing, nature study, etc. The County Council is investigating how to improve the infrastructure and enhance the wildlife areas. There is potential for improving public access to the river and in particular for those with mobility needs.
- 11.13 Country parks will be developed in consultation with the Environment Agency to ensure that the efficiency of floodplain corridors is maintained, flood storage provided for and that the ecological character of any riverside walkway is conserved and improved in an appropriate manner. Further consideration will be given to the establishment of Local Nature Reserves within such parks where appropriate.
- 11.14 The District Council recognises the importance of the current public access and use of Longleat Estate and woodlands for recreational purposes and notes that the Longleat Estate has produced an Estate Plan which includes a number of recreation proposals likely to come forward during the Plan period. Any such proposals will be considered against development plan policies.

Spatial Objective:

Maximise access to the countryside for active and passive recreation

Policy CR3 Greenspace Network

The development of a greenspace network will be sought in and around the urban areas within the District. Development proposals will be permitted which extend and enhance existing riverside walks, recreational areas and fragmented habitats, and in addition, secure and maintain public access to the banks of rivers, canals and other habitats, where they will have no adverse impacts on wildlife. The establishment of Local Nature Reserves as part of the network will be addressed.

Delivery

Creation and enhancement through developer contributions acquired through S106 Agreements linked to new development;

Creation and enhancement by the District Council working with town and parish councils where identified in community area and parish plans;

Through partnership with Natural England, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Wiltshire County Council and the Community Area Partnerships;

Enhancement through partnership working with Wiltshire County Council and Wiltshire Local Access Forum to help implement the Wiltshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan to be published by the end of 2008.

- 11.15 The identification of green wedges, informal recreation spaces and networks of linear routes between recreational destinations within and on the edge of urban areas can serve to maximise the use of natural riversides, woodlands and meadows. This can be beneficial to local communities by providing a safe and pleasant network of green space away from road traffic and also to wildlife conservation by protecting habitats and wildlife corridors within urban areas. The provision of appropriate land and facilities in developing this network may be secured through legal agreements and planning obligations where appropriate.

12 Greenspace management and maintenance

Spatial Objective:

Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces

Policy GM1 Maintenance of existing open space

The District Council will implement a flexible and varied maintenance regime rather than a uniform approach across all spaces. Maintenance arrangements will take into consideration:

- (i) the role and function of local spaces;**
- (ii) local needs;**
- (iii) the need to maintain and where possible to enhance wildlife and biodiversity;**
- (iv) local landscape and townscape character;**
- (v) the need to create safe, adaptable and accessible spaces;**

Delivery

Through an open space and pitch strategy to be produced by the District Council by 2010;

Through maintenance contracts for each park and open space;

Access for all, including disabled, through open space and pitch strategy as above;

Through District Council working in partnership with local communities (via town and parish councils/community area partnerships).

- 12.1 The traditional approach of the District Council to the maintenance of existing open space has been to apply a common standard to all open spaces. However, the size, role and function of open spaces are different throughout the District and the Council no longer considers it appropriate to take a "one size fits all approach". Rather than develop a new hierarchy approach to open space maintenance, which suggests some spaces are more important than others, a better way forward is to vary maintenance regimes to meet the different roles and functions of local spaces. There could be major benefits from this approach, in terms of meeting local needs, reflecting local character and increasing local biodiversity, but any changes will need to be subject to local consultation.

Spatial Objective:

Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces

Policy GM2 Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space

Developers will be required to make arrangements for the long term management and maintenance of all new or enhanced provision resulting from development including management for wildlife. This may be achieved by:

- (i) The developers making acceptable arrangements for management and maintenance in perpetuity;**
- (ii) The District Council adopting the new or enhanced provision (assuming it does not already own it), at no cost to the authority, together with a commuted maintenance sum sufficient to fund management and maintenance for a period of 20 years.**

Delivery

Through an open space and pitch strategy to be produced by the District Council by 2010 and implemented thereafter;

Through the development control process - Local planning authority and other decision makers;

Through developer contributions acquired through S106 Agreements linked to new development.

- 12.2 Providing new or enhanced open space to meet needs arising from new developments through the planning system is only the start of the process. Putting in place a long term, sustainable, management and maintenance regime is essential to ensure that local needs continue to be provided for.
- 12.3 Traditionally, open space has been transferred from developers to the District Council together with a commuted maintenance sum to cover the costs of maintenance into the future. This approach will continue in the future, particularly where development leads to the enhancement of existing provision. However, the District Council's preferred approach where new provision is required, is for developers to make alternative arrangements which will secure the management and maintenance of the open space in perpetuity. The detailed arrangements for this preferred approach will be subject to consultation with the development industry and local communities and will be set out in the proposed guidance.

Spatial Objective:

Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces

Policy GM3 Future management partnerships

The District Council will work with "friends" groups and other partner organisations to identify the best approach to the future management and maintenance of public open space. New arrangements will be subject to local consultation.

Delivery

Through an open space and pitch strategy to be produced by the District Council by 2010 and implemented thereafter;

Through District Council working in partnership with local communities (via town and parish councils/community area partnerships).

- 12.4 The District Council supports the development of partnership working and opportunities for more community action will be investigated on a case by case basis. Working with local "friends" of the greenspace, parish and town councils and local tenant and resident associations can have a positive effect on the use of local greenspaces, to the benefit of local communities. Voluntary work could reduce the District Council's maintenance costs, although the transfer of budget responsibilities between organisations may not in itself achieve improved maintenance arrangements.

13 Indoor sports provision

Spatial Objective:

Provide high quality and accessible indoor sports facilities to meet local needs

Policy IS1 Indoor Leisure Centres

The District Council will develop a programme for the refurbishment and/or replacement of Council owned leisure centres, as follows:

- (i) Undertake a feasibility study to investigate the provision of new indoor leisure centre provision in Melksham and Westbury, to include the options for single wet and dry facility and separate wet and dry facilities;**
- (ii) Relocate Castle Place Leisure Centre to a more sustainable and accessible site within Trowbridge;**
- (iii) Develop a refurbishment programme in respect of Bradford on Avon Pool, Trowbridge Sports Centre, and Warminster Sports Centre.**

Delivery

Improved accessibility / raised profile of facilities by 2008 through new improved signage to be installed by the District Council in liaison with community area partnerships;

The District Council to implement an indoor facilities strategy by 2011. Detailed feasibility and investigative work will be undertaken between 2008 and 2011.

- 13.1 Many of the indoor sports centres and pool facilities within the District were constructed during the 1970s and will need refurbishment in the next few years if they are to continue to meet customer needs and expectations. The Needs Assessment highlighted this being particularly relevant to the two dual use centres, Trowbridge and Warminster, and to Leighton Recreation Centre in Westbury.
- 13.2 Some facilities are located within even older buildings which may not be suitable in the long term for these recreational uses. The Needs Assessment identified the desirability of replacing the facilities of Christie Miller Sports Centre at a more desirable and sustainable location in Melksham, and finding a more suitable civic use for the historic building that Westbury Pool currently inhabits.
- 13.3 Some facilities are not located in easily accessible places and this issue needs to be addressed if the Council is to maximise use of its facilities and meet the participation targets. The poorly located Castle Place Leisure Centre is already the subject of an approved planning consent to replace it at St. Stephen's Place in Trowbridge. Christie Miller Sports Centre is located on an industrial estate at some distance from local residents and a large number of its users have to travel by car. The Needs Assessment recommends that the District Council commission a feasibility study to investigate providing a new wet and dry centre for Melksham to replace the current split site facilities and this work is programmed for between 2008 and 2011.
- 13.4 The District Council will undertake further feasibility studies to establish a refurbishment and/or replacement programme to form part of the proposed indoor

facilities strategy. The strategy will be subject to extensive consultation with partner organisations and the local community.

Spatial Objective:

Provide high quality and accessible indoor sports facilities to meet local needs

Policy IS2 Joint indoor leisure centres

When considering the provision of new or replacement indoor sports facilities, the District Council will investigate with the County Council and secondary schools the potential for joint facility developments.

Delivery

Through a joint project group including the District Council - Wiltshire County Council and local schools to identify and implement agreed joint user facility development;

The District Council to implement an indoor facilities strategy by 2011. Detailed feasibility and investigative work between 2008 and 2011.

- 13.5 Many of the District's indoor sports facilities which are available for community use are located on school sites. The Needs Assessment suggested that when considering the replacement of existing facilities or the provision of additional facilities to meet future needs, it would be sensible for the District Council, the County Council and local schools to work in partnership. Opportunities exist to enhance school facilities available for community use or to construct additional facilities on a joint District/County basis, particularly at the replacement George Ward School in Melksham.
- 13.6 The District Council will also look to facilitate and encourage stakeholders, partners and other agencies to enable community use of leisure and recreational facilities where appropriate as part of the leisure facilities strategy.

14 Provision for young people

Children's play

Spatial Objective:

Provide high quality, imaginative and accessible children's play areas

Policy YP1 Children's play areas

The District Council, working jointly with partner organisations, has prepared a Play Strategy (September 2007).

The Strategy aims to deliver an Active Play Environment in each of the five towns in the District in the period 2008-2010. Under five headings, the Strategy seeks to address the Council's key objectives for children's play. ***The Council will implement the Strategy through the following Action Plan:***

- ***Develop the project portfolio in order to improve play opportunities in the short term***
- ***Promote physical play***
- ***Provide challenging fixed play opportunities***
- ***Provide play which contributes towards the creation of safer communities***
- ***Provide fun play opportunities***
- ***Create quality environments for play***
- ***Involve children and young people in the development of play***
- ***Promote equality and inclusion***
- ***Raise the profile of play***
- ***Develop planning policy that allows for innovative play***
- ***Provide play opportunities which develop essential life skills.***

Delivery

Through the implementation of the children's play strategy Everything to Play For (2008), including funding through the Council's application to the Big Lottery Fund;

Through the District Council in partnership with the County Council, Town Councils, Parish Councils and Community Area Partnerships for facilities identified in community area plans.

- 14.1 At a national level, the Play England project is aiming to widen access for children and young people to play opportunities. The development of play strategies by local authorities working in partnership with local groups has been identified as a key delivery mechanism in this project. National funding is available over a five year period and play strategies will develop a framework for longer term funding from both existing and emerging sources. Wiltshire is developing a Wiltshire-wide play partnership which will steer the required outcomes from the Play England project. The District Council considers that the development of a play strategy is the best approach to ensure that local play issues identified in the Needs Assessment can be addressed comprehensively.
- 14.2 This document provides broad quantitative standards and distance thresholds for the provision of future play areas associated with new development. The Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment also identifies broad qualitative standards for new play areas. The Play Strategy defines more detailed standards for future play

opportunities and those which will be sought through the planning system will be published in a Supplementary Planning Document to be included in a future revision of the Local Development Scheme. Broadly, the approach is to develop a hierarchy of play facilities that provide a varied range of opportunities for play, including more challenging equipment that recognises a child's need to test boundaries, whilst keeping children safe from harm. However, play is not simply about swings and roundabouts in a park and the Play Strategy identifies other ways of encouraging and supporting play activities, for example ensuring the natural environment is accessible for play opportunities and providing more innovative fixed play equipment which is not prescriptive in terms of use.

- 14.3 Some of the problems identified with existing play areas can be resolved over time through the Council's preferred approach for developers to enhance existing open space provision rather than to provide additional open space needed for new developments. Changes in the Council's management and maintenance practices will also achieve improvements. However, some existing low value play areas may not be appropriate for enhancement and the overall review of open spaces owned and managed by the District Council set out in policy LP3 above provides a framework to reassess their future roles. Any proposed disposal of open space will have to conform to the requirements of Policy LP2 above and be determined through the planning application process.

Provision for teenagers

Spatial Objective:

Provide high quality and accessible recreation facilities for teenagers to meet local needs

Policy YP2 Provision for teenagers

The District Council will consult with local teenagers and youth groups to provide a network of facilities that meet needs and comply with adopted quantity and accessibility standards and with appropriate quality standards.

Delivery

Through the implementation of the children's play strategy Everything to Play For (2008), including funding through the Council's application to the Big Lottery Fund;

Through the District Council in partnership with Town Councils, Parish Councils and Community Area Partnerships developing facilities identified in community area plans (for example, skateboard parks in Trowbridge and Westbury);

Provision funded through developer contributions acquired through S106 Agreements linked to new development;

Through the County Play Partnership, making better use and achieving a greater variety of activities at existing youth facilities in the district.

- 14.4 Improving opportunities for young people to access recreation and other services is a key objective of the West Wiltshire Community Strategy. This priority is reflected in the five community area plans where specific opportunities are identified, for example, developing and improving skate parks at the five towns and delivering extended youth coaching programmes.

- 14.5 Whilst the Needs Assessment and local consultation have established that a network of facilities is required, the exact form of that provision must be established by young people. The District Council has established a youth champion to develop effective consultation with young people. The Council will work with the County Council's youth development service, with the community area partnerships, with the County Play Partnership and with other partners to identify and engage with youth groups to establish the exact form of provision required.

15 Provision for water-based recreation

Spatial Objective:

Support opportunities to develop a variety of water-based recreation activities

Policy WR1 River based recreation

Proposals to develop river areas for better public access and for all types of water sports, including fishing, bathing, rowing and canoeing, will be encouraged provided that they do not adversely affect the water quality or quantity, amenity, visual quality or value as a wildlife habitat of a river or watercourse and associated wetlands.

The County Council, working with partner organisations, will investigate opportunities to increase public access to river areas.

Delivery

Protection, creation and enhancement through the development control process - Local planning authority and other decision makers;

Enhancement of water based recreation through the District Council working in partnership with the County Council and local water sports clubs;

Through the District Council in partnership with the County Council, Town Councils, Parish Councils and Community Area Partnerships for facilities identified in community area plans (for example, opening up the River Biss to create public walkways with natural features (Trowbridge Community Area Plan) and the promotion of an annual river festival (Melksham Area Community Strategy);

Through the Wilts & Berks Canal River Route and Melksham River Avon Riverside Enhancement Study, distinct projects have been identified for delivery between 2008 and 2012.

- 15.5 The District contains a number of important natural watercourses, including the rivers Avon and Wylde and their tributaries. Policies within the development plan seek to protect rivers and watercourses from developments that would have an adverse affect on their drainage functions, on water quality, nature conservation or their landscape value.
- 15.6 However, some of these watercourses perform a variety of important recreation functions, which can include fishing, bathing, rowing and canoeing, or riverside walks. The Avon, in particular, provides for a range of water recreation activities, including rowing and canoeing at Bradford on Avon. A riverside walk has been developed at Melksham and recent community events show that the riverside could be used more. Opportunities to extend public access to rivers will be supported provided that their primary functions are protected. The County Council is investigating opportunities to improve facilities at Barton Farm Country Park, and will, following consultation with the Environment Agency, other partner organisations and local groups, identify the most appropriate locations for improved public use of river areas.

Spatial Objective:

Support opportunities to develop a variety of water-based recreation activities

Policy WR2 Kennet and Avon Canal

Proposals for recreational and tourist development on the Kennet and Avon Canal will be permitted, provided they do not detract from the navigation of the canal, its ecological value or its local environment. The development should be integrated into the existing footpath, cycleway and public transport network and highway access and parking issues should be satisfactorily resolved.

Delivery

Through the development control process - Local planning authority and other decision makers;

Through enhancements identified by British Waterways and the Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership.

- 15.7 The re-opening of the Kennet and Avon Canal in 1990 has created potential for increased water recreation, enhanced access to the countryside and opportunities for education and wildlife conservation. The District Council is a member of the Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership and supports the policies set out in British Waterways' Kennet and Avon Conservation Plan, which aims to conserve the canal's heritage, nature conservation value, and environs, whilst balancing this in as sustainable way as possible against the needs of its users.
- 15.8 The economic vitality of the canal is important in ensuring its future. This depends upon attracting sufficient moorings linked with support and other facilities for tourism. Two marinas have been established within the District at Widbrook Farm, Bradford on Avon and at Hilperton, and other enhancements have been delivered at, for example, Avoncliff and Bradford wharf.
- 15.9 However, the canal flows through a high quality landscape, including through the Cotswolds AONB, and itself provides a rich variety of wildlife habitats. Development of facilities must therefore have particular regard to the need to protect and where possible enhance environmental assets. Development must also not create navigational difficulties or create water supply problems. Developments in the Western Wiltshire Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be critically assessed in the light of other relevant plan policy considerations.
- 15.10 The District Council promotes the use of the Kennet and Avon Canal for leisure purposes and will work with British Waterways and other partner organisations to identify sites for improved pedestrian access and environmental improvements.

Spatial Objective:

Support opportunities to develop a variety of water-based recreation activities

Policy WR3 Wilts and Berks Canal

The restoration and reconstruction of the Wilts and Berks Canal as a navigable waterway is supported in principle. Proposals will be permitted that are designed to develop the canal's recreational and nature conservation potential, in particular the use of the old line of the canal for walking, cycling and interpretation. The historic alignment of the canal from the point where it enters the District at its northern boundary to the point where it meets the northern boundary of the present built up area of Melksham will be protected from inappropriate development with a view to its re-establishment as part of a navigable waterway and development which is likely to destroy the original alignment of the canal or its associated works along this section will be resisted. South of Melksham it will be necessary to identify a new route to link with the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The Canal Partnership will search for a new line for the canal at Melksham to join the old line at or before the border with North Wiltshire District. Proposals for a new line must demonstrate there will be no overall adverse effect on cultural heritage and the natural environment.

Delivery

Through the development control process - Local planning authority and other decision makers;

Through funding applications for enhancements by the Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership.

- 15.11 The Wilts & Berks Canal within the District originally ran from the Kennet and Avon Canal at Semington north through Melksham and on towards Lacock. Despite being abandoned in the early twentieth century its alignment is still visible in many places. The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust has been successful in raising lottery funding and is working to restore the canal to full navigation. Reintroduction of the canal has great potential to bring benefits in terms of recreation, tourism, employment generation and nature conservation. The District Council is a member of the Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership and supports in principle the restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal through the District.
- 15.12 Much of the original line of the canal through Melksham has since been built on; however the line can be followed, and the District Council will support its identification by signage where appropriate. Other parts of the original line also have potential for interpretation, particularly the junction with the Kennet and Avon Canal at Semington, and the Council will support the development of a footpath network based on a restored canal towpath linking with other appropriate rights of way where the canal has been lost under development.
- 15.13 The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is currently examining possible route options for a new cut at Melksham. The District Council will identify a broad area of search for a new line in the forthcoming Core Strategy, provided that an agreed route is technically feasible and that there is a reasonable prospect of it being delivered within the relevant Plan period. Additional facilities for sewage disposal and waste collection need to be considered when the line is selected and all proposals must demonstrate that there will be no overall adverse effect on the natural environment.

16 Working with schools

Spatial Objective:

Promote out of hours access to school recreation facilities by the local community

Policy SC1 Dual-use of school facilities

Proposals for the dual use of school playing fields and indoor sports facilities will be encouraged to help meet the needs of local communities.

Delivery

The District Council to implement an indoor facilities strategy by 2011. Detailed feasibility and investigative work will be undertaken between 2008 and 2011.

- 16.1 Increased partnership working, including better school/club links, is essential to maximise use of existing facilities. The "Extended Schools" project aims to put the school at the heart of the local community and may provide some opportunities for the increased availability of school indoor sports facilities outside school hours. This could help supplement provision in urban areas and provide more accessible facilities in rural areas. However, there should also be better working together to plan for future schools provision, in terms of location, form and function. The "Building Schools for the Future Programme" provides an opportunity to achieve this.

17 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment Action Plan

- 17.1 The District Council has developed a corporate Leisure and Recreation Action Plan to help deliver the policies set out in this document. Figure 3 below sets out the Action Plan, with indicative timescales.

Supplementary Planning Document

- 17.2 The District Council also intends to develop a Supplementary Planning Document setting out how the recreation provision standards contained within this DPD should be applied and how developers' contributions will be calculated. A timetable for the production of this document will be included in a future revision of the Local Development Scheme.

Monitoring Framework

- 17.3 To assess the effectiveness of the policies in delivering the DPD objectives, targets and indicators have been identified within a monitoring framework; these are presented in Table 9 below. A particular priority will be to monitor the impact of development to ensure that policies do not have an unfavourable impact upon certain groups.
- 17.4 The DPD's targets and indicators will be set out in the Annual Monitoring Report, along with all the others relating to Local Development Documents. The Leisure and Recreation DPD needs to respond to changing policies and circumstances. Over time, where policies and indicators are changed at national, regional and local levels, the monitoring framework will need to be amended.
- 17.5 At the same time, the monitoring process will indicate how the policies have performed against the Plan's objectives and will highlight where policies need to be reviewed or changed.

FIGURE 3 LEISURE AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

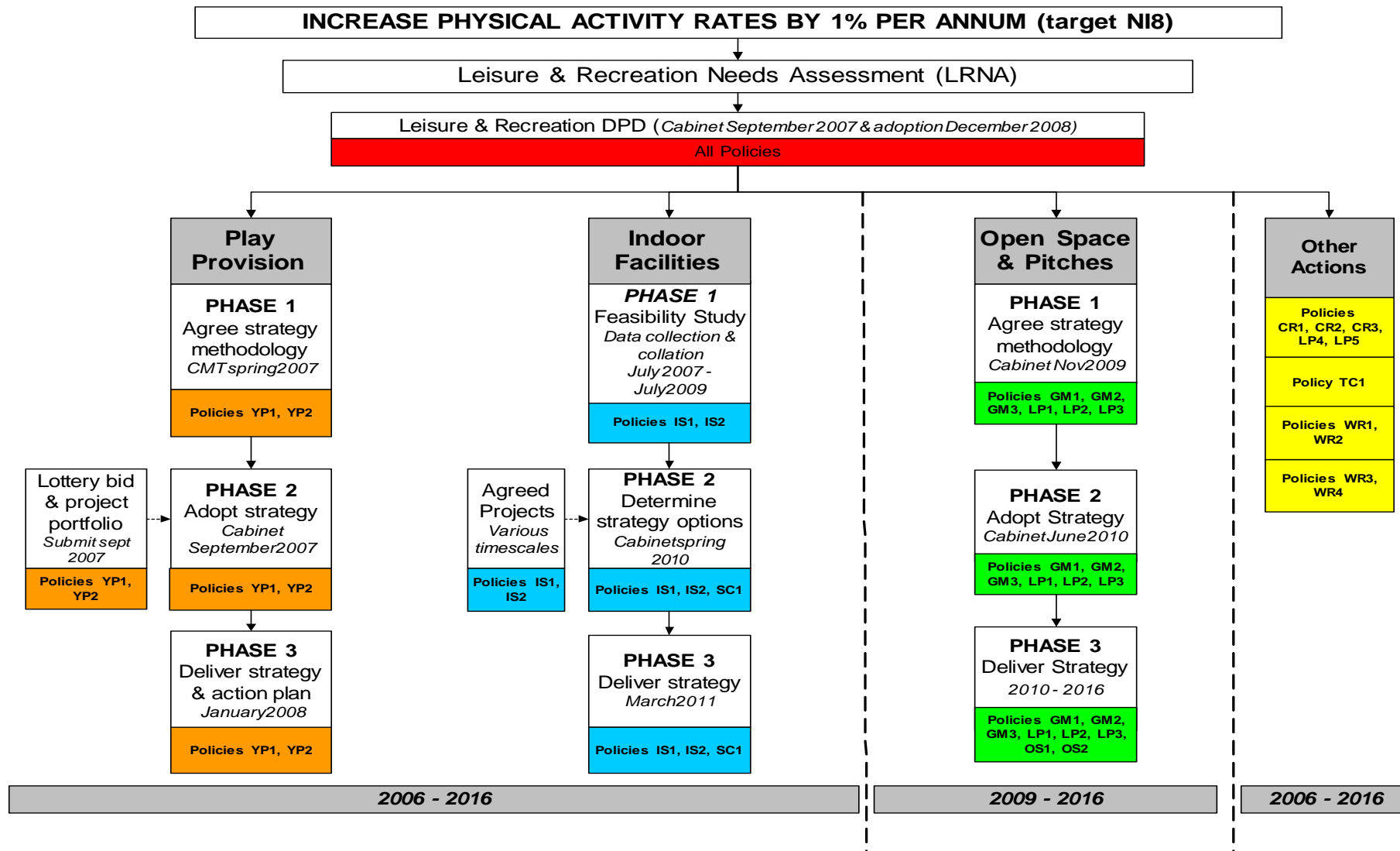


TABLE 9 POLICY MONITORING

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	SOURCE	FREQUENCY
LP1 Protection and enhancement of existing open space or sport and recreation provision	Level of satisfaction with sports/leisure facilities (National Indicator BV119a)	Improve and maintain customer satisfaction with sport/leisure facilities (65% by 2010)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory satisfaction survey (ODPM)	Annually Every 3 years
LP2 Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport and recreation provision	Level of satisfaction with parks and open spaces (National Indicator BV 119e)	Improve and maintain customer satisfaction with parks and open spaces (80% by 2010)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory satisfaction survey (ODPM)	Annually Every 3 years
LP3 Review of low value sites	Proportion of total open space areas and sports facilities that are high value and high quality	Raise number of sport and recreational facilities that are high value and high quality (target for 2010 to be developed)	LRNA database Rolling audit review	Annually
LP4 Providing recreation facilities in new developments	Number of swims and other visits to the Council's 8 leisure facilities (WWDC Service Indicator CL2)	Raise number of swims and other visits to the Council's 8 leisure facilities(10,700 pa by 2010)	DCL user statistics	Monthly
LP5 New sport and recreation facilities	% of people declaring that they regularly undertake physical activity(WWDC Service Indicator CL1)	Increase % of people declaring that they regularly undertake physical activity by 1% per annum	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually
	<u>LAA Indicator:</u> 1% increase per annum in numbers achieving ½ hour per day moderate intensity physical activity.	<u>LAA Outcome:</u> The District Council, together with its partners, will improve health and reduce health inequalities with a view to halting the rising trend in obesity through increased activity levels.	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually

OS1 New artificial turf pitch provision	Level of satisfaction with sports/leisure facilities (National Indicator BV119a)	Improve and maintain customer satisfaction with sport/leisure facilities (65% by 2010)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory satisfaction survey (ODPM)	Annually Every 3 years
OS2 New grass pitch provision	Proportion of total open space areas and sports facilities that are high value and high quality	Raise number of sport and recreational facilities that are high value and high quality (target for 2010 to be developed)	LRNA database Rolling audit review	Annually
	Number of swims and other visits at the Council's 8 leisure facilities (WWDC Service Indicator CL2)	Raise number of swims and other visits at the Council's 8 leisure facilities(10,700 pa by 2010)	WWDC Sustainable Communities (Leisure) DCL user statistics	Monthly
	Number of visits to "joint " leisure facilities where the Council has a joint use agreement	Raise number of visits to the leisure facilities where the Council has a joint use agreement	WWDC Sustainable Communities (Leisure) DCL user statistics	Monthly
	Number of visitors accessing facilities by foot, cycle or public transport (or wishing to)(customer survey required)	Raise number of visitors accessing facilities by foot, cycle or public transport (or wishing to)	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually
CR1 Footpaths and rights of way	% of total length of Rights of Way which meet "ease of use criteria"	Achieve "ease of use" of 85% of Rights of Way within Wiltshire by 2010	ROWIP (NB Rights of Way cross municipal boundaries)	
CR2 Country parks	Level of customer satisfaction with parks and open spaces (National Indicator BV 119e)	Improve and maintain customer satisfaction with parks and open spaces (80% by 2010)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory satisfaction survey (ODPM)	Annually Every 3 years
CR3 Greenspace network	Proportion of total open space areas and sports facilities that are high value and high quality	Raise number of sport and recreational facilities that are high value and high quality (target for 2010 to be developed)	LRNA database Rolling audit review	Annually

	% of people declaring that they regularly undertake physical exercise (WWDC Service Indicator CL1)	Increase % of people declaring that they regularly undertake physical activity by 1% per annum	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually
	Numbers of new community nature reserves created within the District	Create at least 1 new community nature reserve every 2 years	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Biennially
	<u>LAA Indicator:</u> 1% increase per annum in numbers achieving ½ hour per day moderate intensity physical activity.	<u>LAA Outcome:</u> The District Council, together with its partners, will improve health and reduce health inequalities with a view to halting the rising trend in obesity through increased activity levels.	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually
GM1 Maintenance of existing open space	Level of customer satisfaction with parks and open spaces (National Indicator BV 119e)	Improve and maintain customer satisfaction with parks and open spaces (80% by 2010)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory satisfaction survey	Every 3 years
GM2 Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space	Proportion of total open space areas and sports facilities that are high value and high quality	Raise number of sport and recreational facilities that are high value and high quality (target for 2010 to be developed)	LRNA database Rolling audit review	Annually
GM3 Future management partnerships				
IS1 Indoor leisure centres	Level of satisfaction with sports/leisure facilities (National Indicator BV119a)	Improve and maintain customer satisfaction with sport/leisure facilities (65% by 2010)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory satisfaction survey (ODPM)	Annually Every 3 years
IS2 Joint indoor leisure centres	Number of swims and other visits to the Council's 8 leisure facilities (WWDC Service Indicator CL2)	Raise number of swims and other visits to the Council's 8 leisure facilities (10,700 pa by 2010)	WWDC Sustainable Communities (Leisure) DCL user statistics	Annually
SC1				

Dual-use of School Facilities	% of people declaring that they regularly undertake physical activity(WWDC Service Indicator CL1)	Increase % of people declaring that they regularly undertake physical activity by 1% per annum	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually
	Number of visits to "joint " leisure facilities where the Council has a joint use agreement	Raise number of visits to the leisure facilities where the Council has a joint use agreement	WWDC Sustainable Communities (Leisure) DCL user statistics	Annually
	<u>LAA Indicator:</u> 1% increase per annum in numbers achieving ½ hour per day moderate intensity physical activity.	<u>LAA Outcome:</u> The District Council, together with its partners, will improve health and reduce health inequalities with a view to halting the rising trend in obesity through increased activity levels.	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually
YP1 Children's play areas	Level of satisfaction with parks and open spaces (National Indicator BV 119e)	Improve and maintain customer satisfaction with parks and open spaces (80% by 2010)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory satisfaction survey (ODPM)	Annually Every 3 years
	Proportion of total open space areas and sports facilities that are high value and high quality	Raise number of sport and recreational facilities that are high value and high quality (target for 2010 to be developed)	LRNA database Rolling audit review	Annually
	Improved or additional play areas	Improve or add 10 play areas per annum	Council review	Annually

YP2 Provision for teenagers	Level of satisfaction with greenspaces of people 11-18 years	Improve and maintain young customer satisfaction with sport/leisure facilities and parks and open spaces	Local Survey (Tomorrows Voice)	Biennially
	Proportion of total open space areas and sports facilities that are high value and high quality	Raise number of sport and recreational facilities that are high value and high quality (target for 2010 to be developed)	LRNA database Rolling audit review	Annually
	Numbers involved in sports development (WWDC Service Indicator CL3)	Raise numbers involved in sports development (6100 by 2010)	WWDC Sustainable Communities ports Development Officer	Annually
	<u>LAA Indicator:</u> 1% increase per annum in numbers achieving ½ hour per day moderate intensity physical activity.	<u>LAA Outcome:</u> The District Council, together with its partners, will improve health and reduce health inequalities with a view to halting the rising trend in obesity through increased activity levels.	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Annually
	More specific play opportunities for teenagers	Install fitness equipment for teenagers in town parks in each of the five main towns by 2012	Council review	Annually
WR1 Sailing lakes	Number of people who have membership of watersports (sailing canoeing, water skiing) clubs	Raise number of people who have membership of watersports clubs	Sailing clubs	Annually
WR2 River based recreation				
WR3 Kennet and Avon Canal	To be developed	To be developed	Kennet and Avon Canal Partnership	To be developed
WR4 Wilts and Berks Canal	Length of the canal restored to water	To be developed	Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership	Annually

APPENDIX 1

List of high quality and/or value sites derived from the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (May 2007). These sites are protected under Policy LP1. Refer to Proposals Map, which illustrates the predominant use of each site.

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Allotments			
Shoulder of Mutton Allotments	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Sladesbrook Allotment A	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Sladesbrook Allotment B	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Sladesbrook Allotment C	Bradford on Avon	Low	High
Methuen Avenue	Melksham	High	Low
Rutland Close Allotments	Melksham	Low	High
Church Lane	North Bradley	High	Low
Southwick	Southwick	High	High
Gloucester Road	Trowbridge	High	High
Harmony Place	Trowbridge	High	Low
Mornington Gardens	Trowbridge	High	High
Bradley Road	Warminster	High	High
Cedar Grove	Westbury	High	Low
Hawthorn Grove	Westbury	High	Low
Hazel Grove	Westbury	High	Low

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Bowling Greens			
Avon sports and social club	Bradford on Avon	Low	High
Bradford Bowls Club	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Avon Sports & Social Club	Melksham	High	High
Spencer Sport & Social Club	Melksham	High	High
Trowbridge Park	Trowbridge	High	Low
Ash Walk Bowling Green	Warminster	High	High

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Equipped Play Areas			
Atworth Recreation Ground	Atworth	Low	High
Bearfield Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Christchurch Primary School	Bradford on Avon	Low	High
Fitzmaurice Primary School	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Greenland Play Area	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Poulton Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Shalebrook Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Spencers Orchard Play Area	Bradford on Avon	High	High
St Aldhelm Play Area	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Victory Field	Bradford on Avon	High	High

Barton Farm	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Bratton Recreation Ground	Bratton	High	Low
Curtis Orchard	Broughton Gifford	High	Low
Codford Recreation Ground	Codford	High	High
Corsley Heath Recreation Ground	Corsley Heath	High	High
Dilton Marsh	Dilton Marsh	High	Low
The Breach	Dilton Marsh	High	Low
Edington Playing Field	Edington	High	High
Holt Recreation Ground	Holt	High	High
Aloeric Primary School	Melksham	High	High
Bowerhill School	Melksham	Low	High
Hazelwood Play Area	Melksham	High	High
KGV Recreation Ground	Melksham	Low	High
Lowbourn Infants School	Melksham	Low	High
Methuen Avenue	Melksham	Low	High
Riverside Drive	Melksham	Low	High
Spring Meadows Play Area	Melksham	High	High
Broad Stones	Monkton Farleigh	High	Low
Peace Memorial Field	North Bradley	High	High
Paxcroft Brook	Paxcroft Mead	High	High
Stourton Park	Paxcroft Mead	High	Low
Wessex Close	Semington	Low	High
Shaw Recreation Ground	Shaw	High	Low
Staverton	Staverton	Low	High
Sutton Veny School	Sutton Veny	High	High
Beech Grove	Trowbridge	High	Low
Carders' Corner	Trowbridge	High	Low
Downside Park	Trowbridge	High	Low
Ethandune Hilperton Road	Trowbridge	High	High
Hawthorn Grove	Trowbridge	Low	High
Hilperton Recreation Ground	Trowbridge	Low	High
Lacock Gardens	Trowbridge	High	Low
Painter's Mead	Trowbridge	High	Low
Paxcroft main site	Trowbridge	High	High
Seymour Rd	Trowbridge	Low	High
Southwick Road	Trowbridge	Low	High
St Stephens Place	Trowbridge	High	High
St Thomas Delamere Road	Trowbridge	High	Low
Stallard St	Trowbridge	Low	High
Staverton	Trowbridge	Low	High
Westfield Close	Trowbridge	Low	High
Woolpack Meadow	Trowbridge	High	Low
Worsted Close	Trowbridge	High	Low
Yeoman Way	Trowbridge	High	High

Upton Lovell Play Area	Upton Lovell	High	High
Fore Street	Warminster	High	High
Goodwin Close Play Area	Warminster	Low	High
Grovelands	Warminster	High	High
Heathlands	Warminster	High	High
Imber Ave Play Area B	Warminster	Low	High
Lakeside Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Mead Play Area	Warminster	High	High
New Close Primary School	Warminster	High	Low
Pound Street Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Princecroft Infant & Junior School	Warminster	High	High
Princess Gardens	Warminster	High	High
Queensway Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Sambourne CoE Primary School	Warminster	High	High
St. Johns School	Warminster	Low	High
The Dene	Warminster	High	High
Becksmill	Westbury	High	Low
Bitham Brook Primary	Westbury	Low	High
Bridge Court	Westbury	High	Low
Chestnut Play Area	Westbury	High	High
Grassacre Park	Westbury	High	High
Penleigh	Westbury	Low	High
Westbury Infants School	Westbury	High	Low
Westwood Park	Westwood	High	High
Winsley Recreation Ground	Winsley	High	High

Type of Site	Location	Quality*
Indoor Facilities		
Blue Pool	Melksham	High
Bradford-on-Avon Pool	Bradford on Avon	High
Castle Place LC	Trowbridge	High
Christie Miller SC	Melksham	High
Leighton Recreation Centre	Westbury	High
Matravers School	Westbury	High
Trowbridge Sports Centre	Trowbridge	High
Wiltshire School of Gymnastics	Melksham	High

*No value has been assigned to Indoor Facilities.

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Multi-Functional Greenspaces			
Barnpiece Play Area	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Barton Farm Country Park	Bradford on Avon	High	High

Bearfield Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Christchurch Primary School	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Culvers Close	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Fitzmaurice Primary School	Bradford on Avon	Low	High
Fitzmaurice Primary School	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Riverside Walk	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Shalebrook Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High
St. Laurence's Secondary School	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Victory Field	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Westbury House Gardens	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Bratton Village Green	Bratton	High	Low
The Common	Broughton Gifford	High	Low
Little Parks	Holt	High	Low
Aloeric Primary School	Melksham	High	High
Conigre Mead	Melksham	High	High
George Ward School	Melksham	High	High
George Ward School	Melksham	Low	High
Hazelwood Play Area	Melksham	High	High
Lowbourne Junior School	Melksham	High	High
Spencer Sport & Social Club	Melksham	High	High
Farleigh Rise	Monkton Farleigh	High	Low
Biss Meadows Country Park	Trowbridge	High	High
Elm Grove Farm	Trowbridge	Low	High
Green Lane Wood Nature Reserve	Trowbridge	High	High
Southwick Country Park	Trowbridge	Low	High
Trowbridge Park	Trowbridge	High	High
Area adjacent to Lake Pleasure Ground	Warminster	Low	High
Arn Hill Woodland Walk	Warminster	Low	High
Boreham Road Field	Warminster	Low	High
Copheap	Warminster	Low	High
Fore Street Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Goodwin Close	Warminster	Low	High
Imber Ave Play Area	Warminster	Low	High
Imber Road Northern Play Area	Warminster	Low	High
Lake Pleasant Gdns	Warminster	High	High
Malvern, Cotswold and Epping Play Area	Warminster	Low	Low
Pepper Place Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Portway Rec Grd	Warminster	High	High
Queensway Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Ruskin Drive Play Area	Warminster	High	Low
Smallbrook Meadows	Warminster	High	High
St. Andrews Road Play Area	Warminster	High	High
The Avenue County Primary School	Warminster	High	High
The Downlands Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Warminster Common	Warminster	Low	High

Frogmore Lake	Westbury	Low	High
Grassacre Park	Westbury	High	Low
Memorial Garden	Westbury	High	Low
Morgan Walk	Westbury	High	Low
Penleigh Lake	Westbury	Low	High
Westbury Lea	Westbury	High	High
Wetland off Campion Close	Westbury	Low	High

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Pitches and Courts			
Stonar School	Atworth	High	High
Atworth Recreation Ground	Atworth	High	Low
Avon Sports and Social Club	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Culver Close Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Poultton Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Victory Field	Bradford on Avon	High	High
St. Laurence Secondary School	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Bratton Recreation Ground	Bratton	High	Low
The Common	Broughton Gifford	High	Low
Chapmanslade Recreation Ground	Chapmanslade	High	Low
Chapmanslade School	Chapmanslade	Low	High
Chitterne Recreation Ground	Chitterne	High	Low
Brown's Field (Freshford United FC)	Freshford	High	High
Holt Recreation Ground	Holt	High	High
Horningsham Playing Field	Horningsham	High	Low
Kingston Deverill Village Hall	Kingston Deverill	High	Low
Avon Sports & Social Club	Melksham	High	High
Bowerhill Sports Ground	Melksham	High	High
King George V Playing Field	Melksham	Low	High
Aloeric Primary School	Melksham	High	Low
Bowerhill Primary School	Melksham	Low	High
George Ward School	Melksham	Low	High
George Ward School	Melksham	High	High
Lowbourne Junior School	Melksham	High	Low
Monkton Farleigh PS	Monkton Farleigh	Low	High
North Bradley PS	North Bradley	Low	High
Golden Fleece Cricket Club	Shaw	High	Low
Shaw Primary School	Shaw	Low	High
Trowbridge Cricket Ground	Trowbridge	High	High
Trowbridge Rugby Club	Trowbridge	High	High
Westbourne Tennis & Bowls Club	Trowbridge	High	High
Hilperton Recreation Ground	Trowbridge	High	Low
Lambrok Playing Field	Trowbridge	High	High

Paxcroft Mead	Trowbridge	Low	High
Southwick Rec Ground	Trowbridge	High	High
Trowbridge Park	Trowbridge	Low	High
Woodmarsh Playing Field	Trowbridge	High	High
Clarendon School	Trowbridge	High	High
John of Gaunt School	Trowbridge	High	High
Longfield Junior Sch MUGA	Trowbridge	Low	High
St Augustines Catholic College	Trowbridge	High	High
Walwayne School	Trowbridge	Low	High
Highbury F.C.	Warminster	High	Low
Warminster RFU Club	Warminster	High	High
Warminster Town FC	Warminster	High	Low
Boreham Road Field	Warminster	Low	High
Coldharbour Playing Fields	Warminster	High	High
Warminster Cricket Ground	Warminster	High	High
Lake Pleasure Ground	Warminster	Low	High
Garrison Sports Field	Warminster	High	High
Kingdown Community School	Warminster	High	High
Princecroft Infant & Junior School	Warminster	Low	High
Sambourne CoE Primary School	Warminster	Low	High
The Minster Prep School	Warminster	High	Low
Warminster Senior School	Warminster	High	High
Warminster Prep School	Warminster	High	Low
West Ashton PS	West Ashton	Low	High
Lafarge Sports Ground	Westbury	High	Low
Westbury Utd Football Ground	Westbury	High	Low
Leighton Sports Ground	Westbury	High	High
Penleigh Recreation Ground	Westbury	High	Low
Matravers School	Westbury	High	High
Redlands Field	Westbury	High	High
Poplars Cricket Ground	Wingfield	High	High
Bradford on Avon RFC	Winsley	High	High
Winsley Cricket Club	Winsley	High	High
Winsley Primary School	Winsley	Low	High
St Andrews FC, Winsley Hill	Winsley Hill	High	Low

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Teenage Facilities			
Bearfield Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Poulton Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High
Shalebrook Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	High

Victory Field	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Barton Farm	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Codford Recreation Ground	Codford	High	Low
Edington Playing Field	Edington	High	Low
Aloeric Primary School	Melksham	High	Low
Hazelwood Play Area	Melksham	High	Low
Lowbourne Junior School	Melksham	High	Low
Shaw Recreation Ground	Shaw	High	Low
Hilperton Recreation Ground	Trowbridge	Low	High
Paxcroft main site	Trowbridge	High	High
Stallard St	Trowbridge	Low	High
Upton Lovell Play Area	Upton Lovell	High	Low
Fore Street	Warminster	High	Low
Grovelands	Warminster	High	Low
Imber Ave Play Area B	Warminster	Low	High
Lakeside Play Area	Warminster	High	High
Mead Play Area	Warminster	High	Low
New Close Primary School	Warminster	High	Low
Queensway Play Area	Warminster	High	Low
Sambourne CoE Primary School	Warminster	High	Low
Grassacre Park	Westbury	High	Low
Winsley Recreation Ground	Winsley	High	High

APPENDIX 2

List of sites of low value, which will be subject to review under Policy LP3

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Allotments			
Frome Road Allotments	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Berryfield	Melksham	Low	Low
Dunch Lane	Melksham	Low	Low
Methuen Avenue	Melksham	High	Low
Murray Walk Allotments	Melksham	Low	Low
Southbrook Road	Melksham	Low	Low
Church Lane	North Bradley	High	Low
Harmony Place	Trowbridge	High	Low
Home Close Farm	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Cedar Grove	Westbury	High	Low
Hawthorn Grove	Westbury	High	Low
Hazel Grove	Westbury	High	Low

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Bowling Greens			
Culver Close	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Trowbridge Park	Trowbridge	High	Low
Westbourne Bowls Club	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Lafarge Bowls Club	Westbury	Low	Low

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Equipped Play Areas			
Berryfield Park	Berryfield	Low	Low
Fitzmaurice Primary School	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Greenland Play Area	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Bratton Recreation Ground	Bratton	High	Low
Curtis Orchard	Broughton Gifford	High	Low
Chapmanslade Recreation Ground	Chapmanslade	Low	Low
Chapmanslade School	Chapmanslade	Low	Low
Chitterne Recreation Ground	Chitterne	Low	Low
Corton Playing Field	Corton	Low	Low
Dilton Marsh	Dilton Marsh	High	Low
The Breach	Dilton Marsh	High	Low
Heytesbury Primary School	Heytesbury	Low	Low
Horningsham Playing Field	Horningsham	Low	Low

Pyotts Corner Recreation Ground	Keevil	Low	Low
Limpley Stoke	Limpley Stoke	Low	Low
Awdry Avenue Recreation Ground	Melksham	Low	Low
Clackers Brook	Melksham	Low	Low
Dorset Crescent	Melksham	Low	Low
Dunch Lane	Melksham	Low	Low
Foresters Park Road	Melksham	Low	Low
Heather Avenue	Melksham	Low	Low
Kestrel Court	Melksham	Low	Low
Broad Stones	Monkton Farleigh	High	Low
Farleigh Rise	Monkton Farleigh	Low	Low
Stourton Park	Paxcroft Mead	High	Low
Shaw Recreation Ground	Shaw	High	Low
Southwick Village Hall/Playing Field	Southwick	Low	Low
Newleaze Play Area	Steeple Ashton	Low	Low
Steeple Ashton Playing Field	Steeple Ashton	Low	Low
Stockton Recreation Ground	Stockton	Low	Low
Beech Grove	Trowbridge	High	Low
Brook Road	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Carders' Corner	Trowbridge	High	Low
Cornbrash Rise	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Downside Park	Trowbridge	High	Low
Drynham Park	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Elm Grove	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Foxglove Drive	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Lacock Gardens	Trowbridge	High	Low
Painter's Mead	Trowbridge	High	Low
Parsonage Road, Paxcroft	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Poplars	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Regents Place	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Southwick Playing Field	Trowbridge	Low	Low
St Thomas Delamere Road	Trowbridge	High	Low
Woolpack Meadow	Trowbridge	High	Low
Worsted Close	Trowbridge	High	Low
Imber Ave Play Area A	Warminster	Low	Low
New Close Primary School	Warminster	High	Low
Becksmill	Westbury	High	Low
Bridge Court	Westbury	High	Low
Campion Close	Westbury	Low	Low
Hawkridge Park	Westbury	Low	Low
Kendrick Close	Westbury	Low	Low
Kingfisher Drive	Westbury	Low	Low
Timor Rd	Westbury	Low	Low
Westbury Infants School	Westbury	High	Low

Indoor Facilities

No value has been assigned to Indoor Facilities.

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Multi-Functional Greenspaces			
Barnpiece Play Area	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Downsview Play Area	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Southville Close Play Area	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Bratton Village Green	Bratton	High	Low
Newleaze Park	Broughton Gifford	Low	Low
The Common	Broughton Gifford	High	Low
Little Parks	Holt	High	Low
Awdry Avenue Recreation Ground	Melksham	Low	Low
Bader Park Play Area	Melksham	Low	Low
Berryfield Park Play Area	Melksham	Low	Low
Blenheim Road	Melksham	Low	Low
Halifax Road	Melksham	Low	Low
Hampton Meadow	Melksham	Low	Low
King George V Playing Field	Melksham	Low	Low
Queensway Play Area	Melksham	Low	Low
Roundpond Play Area	Melksham	Low	Low
Sarum Avenue	Melksham	Low	Low
Farleigh Rise	Monkton Farleigh	High	Low
Oak Drive	North Bradley	Low	Low
School Lane	Staverton	Low	Low
Behind Manton Close	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Bradley Road Pocket Park	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Chilmark Road	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Delamere Road	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Lowmead	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Studley Rise	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Blackdown & Chiltern Play Areas	Warminster	Low	Low
Malvern, Cotswold and Epping Play Area	Warminster	Low	Low
Quantock, Mendip, Sherwood & Savernake Play Area	Warminster	Low	Low
Ruskin Drive Play Area	Warminster	High	Low
Grassacre Park	Westbury	High	Low
Hawkrige Road Pond	Westbury	Low	Low
Lafarge Sports Ground	Westbury	Low	Low
Memorial Garden	Westbury	High	Low
Morgan Walk	Westbury	High	Low
Oldfield Park	Westbury	Low	Low

Prospect Square	Westbury	Low	Low
Studland Park	Westbury	Low	Low
Westbury Miniature Railway	Westbury	Low	Low
Westbury Youth and Community Centre	Westbury	Low	Low

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Pitches and Courts			
Atworth Recreation Ground	Atworth	High	Low
Bearfield Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Poulton Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Christchurch Primary School	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Fitzmaurice Primary School	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Fitzmaurice Primary School	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Bratton Recreation Ground	Bratton	High	Low
Bratton PS	Bratton	Low	Low
The Common	Broughton Gifford	High	Low
Chapmanslade Recreation Ground	Chapmanslade	High	Low
Chitterne Recreation Ground	Chitterne	High	Low
St Mary's Primary School	Codford	Low	Low
Edington Playing Field	Edington	Low	Low
Hilperton Primary School	Hilperton	Low	Low
Hilperton Recreation ground	Hilperton	High	Low
Holt PS	Holt	Low	Low
Horningsham Playing Field	Horningsham	High	Low
Kingston Deverill Village Hall	Kingston Deverill	High	Low
Aloeric Primary School	Melksham	High	Low
Cornflower Way	Melksham	Low	Low
Foresters Park Road	Melksham	Low	Low
Lowbourne Junior School	Melksham	High	Low
St. Michaels Junior School	Melksham	Low	Low
Wessex Close	Semington	Low	Low
Golden Fleece Cricket Club	Shaw	High	Low
Recreation Ground	Shaw	Low	Low
Sandpit Recreation Ground	Steeple Ashton	Low	Low
St Mary's PS	Steeple Ashton	Low	Low
Grove Playing Field	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Seymour Recreation Ground	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Stallard Recreation Ground	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Staverton PF	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Highbury F.C.	Warminster	High	Low
New Close Primary School	Warminster	Low	Low
St. Johns School	Warminster	Low	Low
The Minster Prep School	Warminster	High	Low

Warminster Prep School	Warminster	High	Low
Warminster Town FC	Warminster	High	Low
Bitham Brook Primary School	Westbury	Low	Low
Lafarge Sports Ground	Westbury	High	Low
Penleigh Recreation Ground	Westbury	High	Low
Westbury C of E Junior School	Westbury	Low	Low
Westbury Utd Football Ground	Westbury	High	Low
St Andrews FC, Winsley Hill	Winsley Hill	High	Low
Winsley Parish Playing Field	Winsley	Low	Low

Type of Site	Location	Quality	Value
Teenage Facilities			
Atworth Recreation Ground	Atworth	Low	Low
Lancaster Road	Bowerhill	Low	Low
Bearfield Recreation Ground	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Christchurch Primary School	Bradford on Avon	Low	Low
Victory Field	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Barton Farm	Bradford on Avon	High	Low
Chitterne Recreation Ground	Chitterne	Low	Low
Codford Recreation Ground	Codford	High	Low
Edington Playing Field	Edington	High	Low
Pyotts Corner Recreation Ground	Keevil	Low	Low
Riverside Drive	Melksham	Low	Low
Aloeric Primary School	Melksham	High	Low
Hazelwood Play Area	Melksham	High	Low
Kestrel Court	Melksham	Low	Low
KGV Recreation Ground	Melksham	Low	Low
Lowbourne Junior School	Melksham	High	Low
Methuen Avenue	Melksham	Low	Low
Wessex Close	Semington	Low	Low
Shaw Recreation Ground	Shaw	High	Low
Foxglove Drive	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Hawthorn Grove	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Lambrok	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Southwick Road	Trowbridge	Low	Low
Upton Lovell Play Area	Upton Lovell	High	Low
Fore Street	Warminster	High	Low
Grovelands	Warminster	High	Low
Mead Play Area	Warminster	High	Low
New Close Primary School	Warminster	High	Low
Queensway Play Area	Warminster	High	Low
Sambourne CoE Primary School	Warminster	High	Low
Bitham Brook Primary	Westbury	Low	Low

Campion Close	Westbury	Low	Low
Grassacre Park	Westbury	High	Low
Penleigh	Westbury	Low	Low

APPENDIX 3

Proposed quality standards

Accessible Natural Greenspace

General Characteristics

- Open naturalistic appearance which blends into the surrounding countryside
- Only limited internal areas of poor visibility
- Distinct identity
- Good use of views out of or across the site
- Good use of topography, space and planting

Accessibility

- Entrances or access points linked to rights of way, bridlepaths, quiet lanes and cycling routes and water courses to create wildlife corridors and a network of greenspaces
- Accessible from the adjacent road or car park area by walking or in a wheelchair where appropriate
- Good network of internal paths, linking to rights of way, bridle paths, quiet lanes and cycling routes in the vicinity

Planting and Biodiversity

- Good mix of native species and habitats, depending on site characteristics
- Dense, bushy hedgerows
- Wildlife protection areas
- Clearings or gaps in tree crowns to allow light penetration to woodland floor, where appropriate
- Well developed shrub, field and ground layers and wide, species rich edge, where appropriate

Facilities and Features

- Built heritage structures and natural features conserved
- Interpretation of flora and fauna as appropriate
- Litter bins and seats at key points
- Signs requiring dogs to be kept under control and fouling disposed of to “pooper” bins
- Adequate safety measures adjacent to areas of water (will depend on size, depth and current, if any)
- “Way marked” routes, where appropriate

Management and Maintenance

- Managed primarily for wildlife and nature conservation
- Litter clearly under control with litter bins emptied regularly
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling and “pooper bins” available at various points, plus notices relating to the avoidance of dog fouling
- No or very little evidence of flytipping and rapid, effective removal of tipped material
- Wooded areas well managed

- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary

Minimum Size Requirements

English Nature's Research Report 153, *Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities* (1995), concludes that size is not as important in terms of species richness as other factors such as habitat diversity, management, vegetation structure and topography. Its guide to *Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Town and Cities* (English Nature) recommends a minimum size of 0.25 ha (2,500 sq m).

Allotments

General Characteristics

- Screen planting to provide some privacy
- Clear separation between adjacent allotments
- Signage at site entrances giving details of ownership and how to apply for an allotment; also emergency telephone numbers
- Securely fenced with lockable gates

Accessibility

- Linked to pedestrian and cycle path systems
- Adequate parking close to entrance to the site (but not necessarily on-site)
- Site entrance not more than 400 m from nearest bus stop and preferably not more than 250 m
- Adequate paths, suitable for people with disabilities

Planting and Biodiversity

- Good mix of species in planting around and within the site
- Dense, bushy hedgerows (where present)

Facilities and features

- Water point serving each group of allotments

Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary
- All facilities in clean, safe and usable condition

Minimum Size Requirements

- In spite of metrication, allotments are still measured in rods (1 rod = 30.25 sq yards or 0.84 sq m) and allotment plots are normally either 5 rods (roughly 126 sq m) or 10 rods (roughly 253 sq m). There is no need for any minimum number of plots on an allotments site.

Amenity Greenspaces

General Characteristics

- Part of a network of greenspaces providing traffic segregated routes through residential or other areas which link to major walking and cycling routes and bus stops
- Designed to create a sense of place and complement and provide a setting for adjoining buildings, with “sun traps”
- “Cared for” general appearance
- Views out of or across the space, ideally to local landmarks

Accessibility

- Traversed by hard surfaced paths, where appropriate, which are suitable for wheelchairs, wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass and broadly following desire lines (but avoiding straight lines wherever possible)

Planting and biodiversity

- Good balance of mown grassed areas, in varying widths or sizes (large enough for informal recreation such as kickabouts or mini-soccer where appropriate) and mixed indigenous and ornamental species and ages of trees or shrubs, but with a predominantly open character
- Range of habitat types e.g. woodland, ponds, grasslands, hedgerows
- Buffer or shelter planting as necessary

Facilities and Features

- Field drainage and/or soil amelioration designed to ensure that spaces do not become waterlogged after heavy rain
- May incorporate provision for children or teenagers but such facilities should not be central to or the main focus of the spaces
- Adequate litter bins
- Signs indicating that dog fouling should be picked up and disposed of responsibly
- May incorporate public art or heritage features (e.g. statues)
- Seats, in both sunny and shaded areas
- Adequate safety measures adjacent to potentially dangerous areas of water (e.g. rivers, canals)
- Path lighting where appropriate
- Passive surveillance from nearby properties, but in a way which respects the privacy of occupants

Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling and “pooper bins” available at various points, plus notices relating to the avoidance of dog fouling
- Grassed areas to have a low preponderance of broad leaved weeds; they must be cut to an even length and if clippings are left in place after cutting they must be short so as not to have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the area
- Horticultural areas and flower/shrub beds weed free and ideally mulched
- Flowering plants dead headed and pruned as necessary
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as

necessary

- All facilities in clean, safe and usable condition
- Path or other lighting adequately maintained and working

Minimum Size Requirements

- Areas of AGS should be at least large enough to be used by local young people for a kickabout without creating a nuisance for the residents of neighbouring dwellings. The smallest size of mini-soccer pitch is 27 x 18 m with margins of at least 3 m all round (minimum 33 x 24 m overall). This can be therefore taken as a guide to the minimum size of an area of AGS.

Local Equipped Play Areas

General Characteristics

- Located beside a well used pedestrian pathway
- Activity area of at least 400 sq m with a buffer zone, possibly with appropriate planting, between the play area and nearest dwelling boundary of at least 10 metres on all sides. There should be at least 20m between the activity zone and the nearest dwelling window.
- Ample space for children to run around and play games such as “tag”
- Passive surveillance from the windows of nearby buildings is desirable

Accessibility

- Accessible to children or adults with disabilities
- Linked to the local footpath and cycleway network

Planting and Biodiversity

- Good mix of “child-friendly” (i.e. not sharp, spiky or poisonous) plant and tree species in the vicinity, but in positions which will not result in major leaf drop within the play area

Facilities and Features

- At least five types of play equipment, designed to provide opportunities for balancing (e.g. beams, stepping logs, clatter bridges); rocking (e.g. see-saw or spring animals); climbing/agility (e.g. frames, nets, overhead bars); sliding (e.g. straight slides); and social play (e.g. sheltered areas or children’s seating)
- Dog-proof fencing, at least 1 m high, fitted with at least two outward-opening, self-closing gates
- Seats for parents or carers
- Litter bin(s)
- Signage to indicate that the area is intended for children; dogs should be excluded; the name and telephone number of the District or Parish Council
- Suitable safety surfacing beneath and around play equipment
- Effective drainage of all surfaces

Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Very little or no evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal

- No dangerous litter such as broken glass
- Safety surfacing in good condition
- Play equipment in safe and usable condition
- Dog-proof fencing safe and effective at excluding dogs
- Seats for children or parents/carers in safe and usable condition

Minimum Size Requirements

- See above

Neighbourhood Equipped Play Areas

General Characteristics

- Activity area of at least 1,000 sq m, with a range of equipment designed for children of different ages and incorporating separate areas for younger and older children
- Surrounded by a buffer zone, possibly with appropriate planting, between the play area and nearest dwelling boundary of at least 30 metres on all sides.
- Suitable safety surfacing beneath and around play equipment
- Accessible to children or adults with disabilities
- Effective drainage of all surfaces

Accessibility

- All parts of the site fully accessible to people with disabilities
- Linked to local footpath and cycleway network
- Accessible by public transport – nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m

Planting and Biodiversity

- Good mix of “child-friendly” (i.e. not sharp, spiky or poisonous) plant and tree species in the vicinity, but in positions which will not result in major leaf drop within the play area

Facilities and Features

- At least eight types of play equipment, designed to provide opportunities for balancing (e.g. beams, stepping logs, clatter bridges); rocking (e.g. see-saw or spring animals); climbing/agility (e.g. frames, nets, overhead bars); sliding (e.g. straight slides); and social play (e.g. sheltered areas or children’s seating). At least five of the eight pieces of equipment should encourage adventurous climbing, single point swinging (e.g. in a car tyre on a rope), balancing, rotating or gliding (e.g. an aerial runway).
- Dog-proof fencing, at least 1 m high, fitted with at least two outward-opening, self-closing gates
- Seats for parents or carers
- Adequate litter bin(s)
- Signage to indicate that the area is intended for children; dogs should be excluded; the name and telephone number of the play area owner
- Parking for bicycles

Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Very little or no evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- No dangerous litter such as broken glass
- Safety surfacing in good condition
- Play equipment in safe and usable condition
- Dog-proof fencing safe and effective at excluding dogs
- Seats for children or parents/carers in safe and usable condition

Minimum size requirement

- See above

Sports Pitches (grass and artificial turf)

General Characteristics

- External lighting in car parking areas
- External lighting on pavilions with PIR detectors
- Signs indicating that dogs must be kept on a lead and any fouling picked up and disposed of responsibly
- Rows of more than eight parking spaces to be separated by soft landscaping
- Adequately separated from adjoining residential properties
- Adequate measures in place to control light spill from floodlighting to adjoining properties and related land

Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Convenient car parking
- Good connections to paths and cycling routes in the vicinity of the site
- Wide access routes with clear sight lines at site entrance/egress
- Hard surfaced paths following desire lines from parking to pavilions
- Paths and buildings fully accessible by wheelchair where appropriate
- Path system appropriate to the circulation needs of players within the site, with wide, hard surfaces in heavily trafficked areas (to avoid constant muddy areas) and from changing pavilions to artificial surfaces
- Path system approximating to desire lines for those crossing the site, but avoiding straight lines wherever possible (note that this can have implications for pitch layout)

Planting and Biodiversity

- Strong structure planting around the perimeter of the site using native species (designed as buffer planting to reduce wind on pitches and noise or light spill as appropriate to the site and adjoining properties or roads and also to promote biodiversity)
- Internal structure planting where appropriate
- Amenity or naturalistic landscaping in the vicinity of buildings and car parking

Facilities and Features

Changing pavilions

- Changing rooms (with the number of rooms appropriate to the number of pitches or other facilities on site) consisting of changing spaces, showers and drying area, plus separate changing for match officials where appropriate
- Capable of simultaneous male and female team and/or officials' use, where appropriate
- First aid room (essential only for pitch sports and athletics)
- Space for refreshments with kitchen
- No rooflights in flat roofs on single storey buildings
- Adequate secure maintenance equipment storage
- Lockable security shutters on all pavilion doors and windows
- Passive surveillance from nearby properties

Pitches, practice areas and other facilities

- Correct orientation (pitches generally between 35 degrees west and 20 degrees east of N-S; athletics tracks generally oriented so the finishing straight is not in line with the prevailing south-westerly wind)
- Playing facilities meeting relevant governing body requirements in terms of length, width, even-ness of surface, boundary distances (cricket) and side clearances or safety margins
- Artificial surfaces in good overall condition, free from tears and uneven areas
- Floodlighting to relevant governing body requirements for the standard of play
- No end to end slope on pitches greater than 1:40 (1:80 preferable); no side to side slope greater than 1:40 (1:60 preferable)
- No pitch more than 200 m from nearest changing pavilion
- Well drained pitch surfaces
- Winter sports grass pitches to have pipe drains plus sand slits where necessary (note: sand slits to be renewed every 10 years)
- Artificial surfaces to comply with relevant governing body requirements and BS 7044: Artificial Sports Surfaces
- All artificial surfaces (and any safety surround areas) to be fully enclosed within lockable chain link fence at least 3.0 m high

Management and Maintenance

- Grass lengths appropriate to sport with full grass cover on grass pitches
- Posts and goals safe and free from rust or sharp edges, with hooks for nets where appropriate
- Line markings straight and easily seen
- Surface repairs carried out quickly and effectively
- Surround netting and entrance gates to artificially surfaced areas in good condition
- Floodlights in full working order
- Information on site ownership and the facilities available at the site entrance
- Contact details for emergencies at any pavilion

Minimum Size Requirement

- Single pitch sites are uneconomic to maintain. Accordingly we recommend that there should be a minimum of two pitches on all sites.

Bowling Greens

General Characteristics

- Green, banks and ditches to meet relevant governing body standards
- No broad-leaved trees overhanging the green

Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Convenient car parking
- Linked to local footpath network
- Hard surfaced path all round the green
- Site and pavilion to be fully accessible to people with disabilities

Planting and Biodiversity

- Shelter planting/screening to provide summer time shelter from wind, privacy for bowlers and support biodiversity

Facilities and Features

- Greens to have at least six rinks (to allow play along and across the green to even out wear)
- Changing pavilion with at least male and female changing rooms and social area

Management and Maintenance

- Grass sward kept short and clear of weeds

Minimum Size Requirement

- One green

Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs) or Multi-courts and Tennis Courts

General Characteristics

- Reasonably sheltered from the wind
- A free-draining or drained impervious surface
- Surrounded by netting which prevents balls escaping from the court(s) area
- Courts oriented roughly north-south

Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Convenient car parking
- Linked to local footpath network
- Site and pavilion to be fully accessible to people with disabilities

Planting and Biodiversity

Amenity planting composed mainly of native species to improve appearance, provide

shelter, reduce noise transfer and promote biodiversity

Facilities and Features

- Posts and tennis nets in good condition, without large holes through which the ball can pass
- Clearly marked courts with adequate safety surrounds
- Basketball hoops and football goals, if present, securely fixed with no sharp edges
- Floodlighting (if present) to meet governing body requirements

Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Very little or no evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling
- No dangerous litter such as broken glass
- Court(s) surface in good condition

Minimum Size Requirement

- One court

Urban Parks

General Characteristics

- Well defined boundaries or perimeter, preferably enclosed with railings or walls
- A welcoming appearance at the entrance and therefore well maintained, free from litter and graffiti, with good views over an attractive parkland landscape with clear points of interest to draw visitors in
- Range of natural and man-made structures of heritage features such as ponds, statues, buildings and ornamental railings
- Good use of topography so that slopes are gentle, views across and out of the park are attractive and visitors can get a sense of scale
- Reasonable privacy for the residents of nearby dwellings; ideally, houses should not back on to the park, but be on the other side of the road

Accessibility

- Clearly visible entrances, ideally signed on nearby roads and pedestrian or cycling routes
- Park entrances linked to safe pedestrian and designated cycling routes (where they exist)
- Secure bicycle storage at the main entrance to the park, at least, and ideally secondary entrances as well
- Adequate parking adjacent to at least the main entrance (can be on-street) and ideally secondary entrances as well
- Main entrance, and ideally secondary entrances, within 400 m, at most, of the nearest bus stop, but preferably 250 m
- Internal path system which links up with adjoining roads and pedestrian or cycling routes; preferably at the junctions of streets, rather than in the middle of them, and provides a number of “short cuts” across or through the park
- All paths hard surfaced, well drained and suitable for wheelchairs and baby

buggies; maximum slope not more than 1:12 and then only for short distances; otherwise not more than 1:24

- Path network linking points of interest within the park
- No areas within the park accessible only by ascending or descending steps; where there are steps there should also be an easily found ramp

Planting and Biodiversity

- Diverse species of flowering and non-flowering trees, of various ages, including native species; also shrubs and plants providing a wide range of habitats
- Hedgerows, where present, reasonably dense, thick and bushy so as to provide habitats
- Some areas of dense planting, difficult for people to penetrate and in areas where they will not provide hiding places, but providing habitats for small animals and birds
- Woodland areas to have clearings or gaps in crowns to allow light penetration to the woodland floor and development of undergrowth

Facilities and Features

- Field drainage and/or soil amelioration designed to ensure that grassed areas do not become waterlogged after heavy rain
- Equipped play areas for young children (under 10), where present – see separate quality standard
- Provision for teenagers, where present – see separate quality standards
- Sports facilities, where present – see separate quality standards
- Adequate litter bins – well designed, located adjacent to the path system, bird/squirrel/rat proof and cleared regularly
- Examples of public art, linked to the path system
- Bandstands, if present, well maintained
- Ornamental fountains, if present, in good working order and well maintained
- Café facilities in larger parks
- Good views through and across the park so that each visitor is providing a form of informal surveillance of other users
- Adequate safety measures adjacent to areas of water which might be dangerous (e.g. notices regarding depths, life buoys)
- Adequate lighting for appropriate paths
- Informative interpretation signs or other material relating to natural features (e.g. geology, land form); heritage features (e.g. statues, historic/listed buildings, bandstands); wildlife (e.g. details of the main birds and animals to be seen in the park); landscaping (e.g. information on trees and other planting and especially horticulture areas)
- Adequate signage giving directions both within the park and to nearby streets or features of interest outside it

Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling and “pooper bins” available at various points, plus notices relating to the avoidance of dog fouling
- Grassed areas to have a low preponderance of broad leaved weeds; they must be cut to an even length and if clippings are left in place after cutting they must be short so as not to have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the area
- Horticultural areas and flower/shrub beds weed free and ideally mulched

- Flowering plants dead headed and pruned as necessary
- Woodland areas maintained and thinned to provide easy access
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary
- All facilities (especially toilets) in clean, safe and usable condition
- Path or other lighting adequately maintained and working

Minimum Size Requirement

- Minimum size depends on the context

Youth Activity Areas (age 12-16 years)

General Characteristics

- Located close, but not immediately adjacent, to a well used pedestrian route
- Located well away from the nearest dwellings

Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Linked to local footpath and cycle path network
- Fully accessible to people with disabilities

Planting and Biodiversity

- Tough, but not prickly landscaping in the immediate vicinity of the area

Facilities and Features

- Mix of facilities such as skateboard/BMX ramps, basketball goals, teenage shelters
- Casual seating
- Low level lighting with both light and dark areas
- Adequate provision of litter bins
- Field drainage and/or soil amelioration designed to ensure that grassed areas do not become waterlogged after heavy rain

Management and Maintenance

- Graffiti regularly removed from more visible, high profile areas
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces and structures in good condition and repaired as necessary
- Path or other lighting adequately maintained and working

Minimum Size Requirement

- 1,000 sq m – equivalent to a Neighbourhood play area in the NPFA's Six Acre Standard

Indoor Sports Halls and Swimming Pools

General Characteristics

- External lighting, with movement or passive infra-red (PIR) detectors
- Entrance clearly identifiable from the car park
- No landscaping in which potential attackers could hide

Accessibility

- Linked to the local footpath and cycle path network
- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 250 m of entrance/access points
- Adequate parking for the range of facilities available, with a tarmac surface in good repair and at least two designated disabled spaces close to the main entrance
- Site and building fully accessible to people with disabilities
- Cycle parking

Planting and Biodiversity

- Attractive landscaping to the site and building, incorporating native species where possible

Facilities and Features

Internal Support Areas

- Reception desk immediately inside main entrance and clearly visible
- Disabled toilets
- Baby changing facility in male and female changing areas or toilets
- General accessibility for people with disabilities – see separate checklist
- Décor and finishes in good condition
- Clear route from reception to changing and activity areas

Activity Areas

- Meeting appropriate governing body or Sport England standards
- Adequate storage, accessed from activity areas
- Mat storage, where required, physically separate and vented to outside air
- Décor and finishes in good condition

Changing Areas

- Separate male and female changing (although mixed sex villages desirable for pools)
- Adequate locker provision
- Adequate shower and toilet provision
- Décor and finishes in good condition

Management and Maintenance

- Professionally managed

Minimum Size Requirement - Pools

- Main pools should be not less than 20 m x 4 lanes and learner pools not less than

9 x 7 m

Minimum Size Requirement – Sports Halls

- A hall with three badminton courts is needed if it is to be suitable for other indoor sports such as volleyball

APPENDIX 4

POLICY CONTEXT

1. National policies and guidance

1.1 **Living Places: Caring for Quality (2004)**, deals specifically with the enhancement of the “liveability” of urban areas and the contribution of public spaces to urban renaissance. It promotes a joined up approach by the agencies involved in the design and maintenance of public space and highlights the need for community involvement.

1.2 **Game Plan: A strategy for delivering Government’s sport and physical activity objectives (2002)** set out the Government’s agenda to increase and widen the base of participation in sport.

1.3 **The Framework for Sport in England: A Vision for 2020 (2004)**, published by Sport England, builds on Game Plan and produces a vision for sport in England and a strategy and action plan to promote physical activity.

1.4 **Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) - Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)** sets out the Government’s key aims for sustainable development and includes several high level objectives to:

- make development land available to improve residents’ quality of life
- contribute to sustainable economic development;
- protect and enhance the natural and historic environment;
- ensure high quality development through pursuit of good design and efficient use of resources;
- ensure development benefits the entire community and helps create safe, sustainable communities with good access to jobs and facilities.

PPS1 sets out the framework for specific policies further developed in thematic planning policy guidance notes and statements (PPGs/PPSs).

1.5 **The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000** extends the general public’s access to the countryside and gives them the opportunity to walk freely on mapped areas of down land and registered common land in the District. At the same time, the protection of precious natural resources, including rare and vulnerable species and their habitats, need to be secured as required by the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, as amended and the **Habitats Regulations 1994**.

2. Regional plans and policies

2.1 The emerging **Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026 (draft 2006)** indicates that the broad thrust of RPG10 policy is still relevant but it reinforces and highlights sustainable development priorities. It emphasises that access to sport, recreation and open space is essential in shaping sustainable, healthy, communities and that the availability of such facilities contributes to quality of life and a feeling of well being.

2.2 In broad terms, policy requires that the delivery of homes, jobs and services is secured in alignment and that large-scale development contributes to a full range of community facilities and infrastructure including health, sport and leisure (Policies CS1 and LCF1).

- 2.3 Sustainable construction is a key RSS policy (Policy G) which highlights the need for new leisure facilities and the refurbishment of any existing facilities to be completed according to sustainable principles, minimising resource use, energy consumption, water use and waste production.
- 2.4 Green Infrastructure (Policy GI1) is identified as a key component of the quality of life in urban areas and is described as a network of multifunctional sites (such as parks, informal open spaces and nature reserves) including some “blue” linkages such as water courses.
- 2.5 The spatial strategy recognises Trowbridge within the District as a strategically significant town which will play a critical role in delivering development to 2026 (Policies A and SR23). The economic potential of the market towns in the District to provide for locally significant development is acknowledged (Policy B).
- 2.6 Two of the aims of the RSS are to address deprivation and inequality and to ensure that people are treated fairly so that they can participate in society (Policies SI1 and SI2). In relation to the DPD, this means the needs of all groups in society being taken into account in the development of the document’s policies.

3. Local strategies and plans

- 3.1 As well as the county wide and West Wiltshire community strategies, there are also **community area plans** for each of the 5 community areas within West Wiltshire. These highlight the need for improved recreational facilities generally and for youth opportunities and facilities in particular.
- 3.2 **Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 (2006)** is a "saved" plan within the Local Development Framework for West Wiltshire. It sets out the broad planning framework for the future of Wiltshire, outlining a strategy for development and also a strategy for the conservation of its heritage. The Plan includes sustainable development priorities to ensure that local and special needs are accommodated, that the reliance on private motorised transport is reduced, that rural communities have appropriate facilities and services and that the amenities of settlements and the qualities of the countryside are protected.
- 3.2.1 The document contains policies on recreation, sport and leisure which support the provision of a wide range of facilities to meet the diverse needs of local communities without adverse impact on the environment. There should be regard to the needs of people with disabilities. Positive measures for informal countryside recreation are set out such as:
- improvements to the rights of way network;
 - providing small car parks and picnic facilities in appropriate locations;
 - increasing opportunities for water based recreation;
 - providing access to suitable areas including woodland and historic monuments;
 - making use of lengths of disused railway line / canals / other areas of derelict land.
- 3.2.2 Proposals for Kennet and Avon canal related developments should have regard to navigational interests and their environmental impact, whilst support is given to

safeguarding the historic alignment of the Wilts & Berks Canal with a view to its long term re-establishment as a navigable waterway.

- 3.2.3 This DPD will replace policies contained within this plan. The policies to be superseded by this DPD are set out in Appendix 5.
- 3.3 **West Wiltshire District Local Plan First Alteration (2004)** sets out the local planning policies for West Wiltshire and is a "saved" plan within the Local Development Framework for West Wiltshire. The overall strategy of the Plan is to encourage the regeneration of the West Wiltshire towns within the A350 corridor and achieving a sustainable balance between the need for development and for environmental protection.
- 3.3.1 The Plan contains a recreation chapter containing 16 recreation policies which aim to:
- protect existing indoor and outdoor recreation uses;
 - provide criteria for identifying new sites for recreation facilities;
 - provide criteria for assessing new developments;
 - provide standards for new open space in housing developments;
 - allocate land for new recreation space.
- 3.3.2 The Plan also contains a separate section containing 4 policies relating to the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Wilts and Berks Canal, together with a detailed policy statement on canals.
- 3.3.3 This DPD will replace policies contained within this plan. The policies to be superseded by this DPD are set out in Appendix 5.
- 3.4 **Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan** contains a section regarding generic issues, one of which is recreation and leisure, and it identifies several areas of concern for biodiversity and several actions which are of relevance to the DPD:
- using the development control process for net biodiversity gain in new developments;
 - auditing greenspaces for actual and potential biodiversity;
 - prioritising audited sites and producing and implementing management plans;
 - producing simple guidelines to allow longer grass on parts of all open space sites and use of native species.
- 3.5 **AONB management plans** have been produced for both AONBs within the District. Policies in this DPD need to be in harmony with the aim to protect the special landscape qualities and scenic beauty of the two areas. The plans include a range of social economic and environmental policies, many of which are interlinked.
- 3.6 The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan 2004-2009 is the current management plan which covers the 379 square miles of the AONB, and extends into Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset, as well as Salisbury and West Wiltshire Districts. The Council is represented on the AONB Partnership. The Plan includes a section on recreation tourism and access and other related policies. The most relevant objectives are to:
- promote the AONB and its rights of way as a recreational resource for quiet enjoyment;
 - maintain and enhance tranquillity and dark night skies;
 - ensure a variety of interlinked routes accessible to all;
 - assist Local Access Forums and Rights of Way Improvement Plan development;

- investigate opportunities to link public and community transport and rights of way to reduce dependence on the private car;
- engage local communities in determining their recreation needs;
- ensure new recreation development respects distinctive local built and landscape character.

3.7 The Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2008-2013 was adopted in 2008 by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, on which the District Council is represented. The Cotswolds AONB covers almost 800 square miles and extends into Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset, as well as North Wiltshire and the north western corner of West Wiltshire. The Management Plan highlights the links between access and recreation and farming, tourism, biodiversity, transport and the historic environment. It emphasises the Cotswolds as a renowned destination for walking and includes priority actions to:

- manage and improve access and the recreational use of the countryside;
- raise awareness of opportunities to access open country;
- assess the adequacy of existing access in partnership with accessibility groups;
- take account of AONB landscape, distinctiveness and design guidance in consideration of new (recreation) proposals;
- promote and develop links between biodiversity as a resource for people to appreciate and for healthy recreation;
- minimise the effects of noise and light pollution .in relation to (recreational) activity and development

3.8 The West Wiltshire District Council **Corporate Plan 2006-2010**, linked to the Community Strategy, identifies “better access to recreation” as one of the spotlight areas for action. The main aim here is to increase the number of people who are regularly active and it contains key performance indicators which also serve as indicators in this DPD.

APPENDIX 5

Superseded Policies

The following table illustrates which “saved” West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration policies and which “saved” Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 policies will be superseded by the proposed policies within the Leisure and Recreation DPD.

Proposed Leisure and Recreation DPD Policy	“Saved” West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration policy to be superseded
LP1	
LP2	R2
LP3	R1
LP4	R4
LP5	R5; R14
OS1	
OS2	R6
CR1	R11
CR2	R9
CR3	R8
GM1	
GM2	
GM3	
IS1	R16
IS2	
YP1	
YP2	
WR1	
WR2	CA1
WR3	CA4
SC1	R3
Proposed Leisure and Recreation DPD Policy	“Saved” Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 policy to be superseded
LP1; LP2; LP3; LP4; and LP5	RLT1
CR1; CR2; CR3; WR1; and WR2	RLT2
WR3	RLT3
WR4	RLT4

Note: Five “saved” policies (**R7, R10, R12, R13 and R15**) from the West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration (2004) have not been superseded by new policies in the DPD. They will therefore continue in force until they are replaced by the forthcoming Wiltshire-wide Local Development Framework.

A brief summary of each policy is provided below. The full policies are listed afterwards.

Summary

R7 deals with Trowbridge Cricket Ground, which is allocated for cricket and associated recreational uses unless an alternative provision is made in the locality. Part of the ground is owned by the Health Authority and no development is permitted on this particular area unless it is specifically required for improved community health care facilities.

R10 deals with Poulton Field, Bradford on Avon. This policy supports proposals for recreational facilities on this site and making more effective use of this site for recreational purposes.

R12 deals with allotments. Development proposals which involve a loss of allotment sites will not be permitted unless appropriate alternative provision is made elsewhere or it can be demonstrated that they are no longer needed.

R13 deals with the recreational use of sailing lakes and seeks to safeguard this and to permit development proposals which enhance it, subject to highway and environmental considerations. Proposals for further new sailing lakes and associated facilities will normally be permitted, subject to specific qualifications.

R15 relates to proposals for development associated with golf course proposals and considers them separately from the main use and, also, sets out a list of considerations in assessing the proposals.

Full Extracts from the Local Plan

R7 Trowbridge Cricket Ground

R7 The Trowbridge Cricket Ground area, as defined on the Proposals Map, is allocated specifically for cricket and associated recreational use unless an appropriate alternative provision is to be made in the locality. Part of the area adjacent to the main pitch, annotated on the Proposals Map, is in the ownership of the Health Authority. No development will be permitted on this particular area unless it is specifically required to be used for improved community health care facilities.

2.5.1
2 Trowbridge Cricket Ground is an important local facility and is used as the County Cricket Ground where a number of international cricket matches have been held in recent years. A part of the overall area in use for the cricket ground is in the ownership of the Health Authority. In order to secure the continued viability of the cricket ground, its practice facilities and its ability to stage major events, it is important that this part of the area remains in use in association with the existing pitch. It is acknowledged, however, that

should the Health Authority require the land to provide enhanced health care facilities, then it ought to be utilised for that purpose.

R10 Poulton Field, Bradford on Avon

R10 More effective use of Poulton Field, Bradford on Avon will be sought for recreational purposes. Development proposals for recreational use will be permitted and the improvement of on-site facilities and the dual use of adjacent school fields for wider community use will be encouraged.

2.5.1
6 Poulton Field, Bradford on Avon comprises two areas totalling approximately 7 hectares, which are in use as playing fields. The western field is education authority land serving the Fitzmaurice Primary School; the eastern field is owned by the District Council. It is considered that more use could be made of the Poulton Field area if the reclaimed clay pit to the west were used for car parking (Policy CA4). The District Council recognises the interests and obligations of the education authority but feels that the two fields should be considered as a whole, for dual use by the general public, and include improved facilities such as changing rooms, formal courts etc providing enhanced sporting opportunities for the local area and the town as a whole.

R12 Allotments

R12 Development proposals which involve the loss of existing allotment sites will not be permitted unless appropriate alternative provision is made elsewhere, or it can be demonstrated that there is no longer demand for such a use locally.

2.5.1
9 Allotments can contribute to the greenspace of urban environments, as well as providing for a specific recreational demand from the public. Sites should not be lost unless replaced elsewhere or their use is proved to be no longer in demand.

R13 Sailing Lakes

R13 The recreational use of existing sailing lakes will be safeguarded and development proposals will be permitted which enhance such use, subject to environmental and highway considerations.

Proposals for further new sailing lakes and associated facilities will be permitted elsewhere in the District having regard to location, environmental and highway considerations, in consultation with the Environment Agency.

2.5.2
0 The sailing lakes at Station Road, Westbury and Shearwater on the Longleat Estate are important recreational resources. The sailing lake at Station Road, Westbury is also an extremely attractive and important feature for wildlife interest on the northern edge of Westbury and on the approach to the station. The development of Policies H14 and E1C will afford the opportunity to provide better access to the lakeside, including pedestrian access

along the southern edge of the lake and the water's edge. Shearwater is a very popular destination for local people and visitors providing a first class area for quiet informal recreation. This use should be safeguarded and enhanced with the provision of improved facilities for sailing and angling together with improvements to footpaths, interpretation, bird hides and picnic areas. The District Council will encourage the provision of facilities to allow the disabled access for angling, sailing and informal recreation. Any proposals at Shearwater will be considered against relevant Structure and District Plan policies particularly those relating to the protection of the AONB.

R15 Development at Golf Courses

R15 Proposals for development associated with golf course proposals, such as golf driving ranges, hotels and restaurants, will be considered as a separate issue to the main use and will be subject to the following considerations:-

- 1 The appropriateness of the proposal to any associated development or proposal;
- 1a The impact of the proposal upon the Western Wiltshire Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, landscape setting to towns, Areas of High Ecological Value, areas of recognised archaeological importance, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and other interests of acknowledged importance including the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and the protection of Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas for wild birds, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Sites, Local Nature Reserves, protected species and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance;
- 2 The impact of the proposal upon the amenities of the countryside and nearby residents, including any visual or noise intrusion;
- 3 The appropriateness of measures such as artificial lighting and fencing within these areas;
- 3a The impact of the proposal upon the environment due to the provision of water supplies and the disposal of surface water;
- 4 Traffic generation, highway safety and parking provision;
- 5 The development does not conflict with other Structure Plan or District Plan First Alteration policies.

2.5.2 Golf driving ranges, hotels, restaurants and other associated development seek to locate at

- 3 golf courses and in doing so create a development issue which is wider than that of the golf course use itself. Such facilities may be incongruous to a countryside setting and may also generate excessive traffic movements on country roads. Policies R14 and R15 will be used to determine the total impact of such developments upon the amenities of the local area.