



MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY

FINAL REPORT

JUNE 2011

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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INTRODUCTION

This document is the Strategy for open spaces, sport and recreational provision in Melton. It has been developed and driven by the results of research and analysis regarding the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation provision across the Borough. Data generated by this process is set out in the accompanying assessment reports¹, which highlight key issues emerging from detailed assessment of the quality and distribution of provision and the findings of consultation with local groups and people. The report also identifies deficiencies in provision based on the application of quantity, quality and accessibility standards.

The Strategy sets out a vision for the next ten years in relation to the provision and improvement of open space, sport and recreation facilities. The Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for the Borough, which should be implemented over the next five years (2005-2010). It recommends actions for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

It should be recognised that the Strategy and Action Plan is outlined to provide a framework and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, partners and possible sources of external funding have been identified. There is a need to build key partnerships with schools, community clubs, town and parish councils and private landowners to maintain and improve provision. In these instances the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements). This document provides clarity about the way forward, and allows the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and achieve.

A recommended five year review should take account of demographic and changes to fit with revisions of other strategies, such as the Core Strategy, management plans etc.

¹ Open Space Assessment Report, Playing Pitch Assessment Report and Indoor Sports Assessment Report

CONTEXT

The following section summarises the key strategic documents relevant to this Strategy and link, where appropriate, to the aims and objectives set out later.

The recent Localism Bill, introduced in December 2010, contains the Government's measures for strengthening local democracy. It establishes an aim to shift decision making powers from central Government to local councils and communities, giving them the legal support and confidence to deliver more innovative and efficient services. Plans include:

- ◀ Devolving significant new powers to councils.
- ◀ Establishing powerful new rights for local people and communities.
- ◀ Radically reforming planning.
- ◀ Making housing fairer and more democratic.
- ◀ Creating powerful incentives for economic growth.

One of the key aspects of the Bill with regard to open space, sport and recreation provision is the creation of the Community Right to Build. This will give communities more control over local housing decisions. It removes the need for any organisation bringing forward developments under this power to apply for planning permission, as long as it meets minimum criteria and is supported locally. It is part of the legislation's wider Neighbourhood Planning reforms, which also sees the introduction of a New Homes Bonus. The scheme offers cash for councils that allow new homes to be built in their area, through matching council tax revenue raised on each new house for six years.

The long term implementation of the legislation is yet to be seen. However, the importance of councils having an up to date and clear understanding of open space, sport and recreation provision is vital. Schemes such as the Community Right to Build and the New Homes Bonus are likely to increase the need for councils to be able to provide a sufficient amount of provision to an acceptable standard of quality.

Growth Point Status

In 2005, the Government announced the New Growth Points Initiative to support local communities wishing to pursue large scale, sustainable growth including housing.

29 New Growth Points were identified in 2006 through a bidding process. The 3 Cities & 3 Counties (6 C's) Growth Point is the largest and most complex of these incorporating Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and their respective counties (to include Melton).

It is anticipated that the Borough will provide around 160 dwellings annually until 2026, around 4,000 units. The Sustainable Urban Extension at Melton has been identified, as part of the Programme of Development, a key housing site likely to deliver over 800 dwellings, with the remainder spread out across the Borough.

Melton Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (Preferred Options), (2008)

The Melton Local Development Framework is currently being prepared. It will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan and cover a period of time up to 2026.

The Core Strategy options report identifies a lack of suitable development opportunities within the Borough's settlements, specifically Melton Mowbray, means that around 1,260 dwellings will need to be built upon Greenfield land. In order to meet the need for extra housing land a strategic site has been identified as having the potential for a Sustainable Urban Extension. This site is expected to provide around 800 to 1,000 of the projected 1,260 dwellings on Greenfield sites. This Strategic site to the north of Melton Mowbray will also feature local services and employment allocations.

Key partners

Open space, sport and recreation facilities are owned and managed by a wide variety of agencies across Melton, including MBC, LCC, Melton Mowbray Town Estate and parish councils, civic associations, sports clubs and local agencies such as Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT). Strategic management and planning across the areas is therefore, complex. There is, however, evidence of good partnership work between different landowners and managers. The following section identifies the key partner agencies that should be fully engaged in the Strategy in order to help achieve the aims and objectives set. It identifies the key policy documents to which each agency is currently working.

Leicestershire County Council

LCC manages a variety of sites and facilities. These range from local footpaths to national trails, from country parks to small picnic sites, from education school grounds to amenity grasslands, from reservoirs to ponds, to car parks, canals, wetlands, woodlands, visitor centres, greenways and even historic buildings and structures. In addition, both practical and legal management of the PROW network falls to the PROW team within the Countryside Service of LCC.

There are a number of County Council strategic documents that are relevant to summarise and take account of within this Strategy. These are as follows:

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The document presents a framework to guide the management and development of Public Rights of Way in the County over a five-year period. It looks at topics such as relevant issues, allocation of resources and establishes the mechanisms to measure and monitor performance. From this a series of aims and objectives have been formed to guide the service.

Some key findings from the plan include:

- ◀ Most walking journeys begin from the doorstep.
- ◀ 90% of the Leicestershire public see access to the countryside as important.
- ◀ Most people in the county go walking or riding in the countryside at least once a month.
- ◀ 94% of the Leicestershire public live in or close to predominantly urban areas.
- ◀ 46% of the network is within these areas, amounting to 1400 kilometres (870 miles) of routes near to doorsteps.

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- ◀ The main motivation for walkers and riders is because it is fun and healthy.
- ◀ Over the last 25 years the amount of miles travelled on foot and bicycle fell by more than 25%.
- ◀ Physical activity, walking in particular, could make the single most effective contribution to the health of the nation.

Space for Wildlife - Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015

Space for Wildlife is the latest version of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan, covering a five year period from 2010 to 2015.

The aim of Plan is to primarily halt the loss of biodiversity. This is aimed to be achieved through broadening the overall scope of the Plan in order to address wildlife conservation in the countryside. The three main components of the LLRBAP are:

- ◀ To promote the restoration, management and creation of BAP priority habitats.
- ◀ To promote the creation of new wildlife habitat in the wider countryside.
- ◀ To survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Sites system.

This approach is a return to the broader intentions of the 1992 Biodiversity Convention. It is intended to promote a new more flexible approach to nature conservation and wild life areas managed in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Parish/town councils

A significant proportion of the open space, sport and recreation sites in Melton are owned and managed by parish and town councils. They are particularly significant owners of play areas, allotments and outdoor sports provision. It is therefore imperative that the parishes are consulted in relation to delivery of Strategy aims and objectives. Where possible, parish councils should be encouraged to work to deliver recommended actions in parallel with their individual parish plans.

During the audit and assessment, all parish councils were approached to take part in consultation and via this process key issues, deficiencies and demand for provision and where appropriate were identified and included in the Strategy. This is not to say that all aspirations have been recorded; MBC should continue to work with parish councils to ensure that good working relationships are maintained.

Melton Mowbray Town Estate

Melton Mowbray Town Estate is a charitable, non profit organisation and is a key provider of open space in the Borough. It owns a variety of outdoor sports facilities, including a golf course, and parks within the Borough, predominately in the town centre.

Many of the parks in the town centre are owned by Melton Mowbray Town Estate and are maintained to a high standard. It employs up to thirty wardens, which are both volunteers and paid employees. It has worked hard over recent years to further improve the user and visitor experience in its town centre parks. Improvements since the last study include installing a bridge between Play Close and Wilton Park (classified as outdoor sports due to its primary use), upgrading children's play areas (including increasing disabled access through installing a wheelchair friendly roundabout), refurbishing the bandstand and increasing planting schemes.

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The Town Estate is currently in the process of applying for Queen Elizabeth II Fields status, an initiative to protect and create open space across the Country, for its town centre parks.

Open space specific

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT) is responsible for the management of three nature reserves within the study boundary. Two are designated as sites of special scientific interest (SSSI). One (Holwell Reserves) is a Regionally Important Geological Site.

Each nature reserve managed by LRWT has a five-year management plan to ensure that the individual specific habitats and features of that site are retained and protected. Bringing Back Biodiversity; Strategic Development Plan 2005 – 2010 details the Trust's mission to strengthen the wildlife in Leicestershire and increase appreciation of the need for conservation. The plan sets out its priorities as:

- ◀ *Managing people* – seeking investors in people accreditation as a measure of our own performance.
- ◀ *Plan, project and performance management* – clear targets to be used to monitor and evaluate results.
- ◀ *Information and knowledge management priorities* – improve document management, ensuring system is consistent and clear.
- ◀ *Governance priorities* – review organisational risks and take appropriate action to manage identified risks.
- ◀ *Financial management priorities* – ensure financial reserves are maintained to satisfactory level and develop budget and financial management systems.

Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission (FC) works to ensure that England's trees, woods and forests play their part in enriching people's quality of life and their environment. Forestry and other land management activities have a key role to play in combating climate change by, for example, providing alternative energy sources to fossil fuels and low energy, renewable, materials.

The English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) is the Forestry Commission's programme to support forestry and woodland projects in England. Its objectives are to sustainably create and manage woodlands, and to maintain and increase delivery of public benefits within woodland. The main grant projects available to woodland owners and managers are detailed on the English Woodland Grant Scheme pages. It is supported via the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and grants are paid as a contribution towards the cost of providing appropriate public benefit through woodlands.

Corporate Plan 2009-2012

In England, forestry accounts for 8% of the land area, much of it is near towns where it provides important recreational opportunity. The FC believes it to be vital to sustain woodlands and increase their contribution to the environment for both current and future needs. The aims and objectives of Forestry Commission England flow from the Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (ETWF) and from the wider objectives of Ministers.

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Aims espoused in this Strategy that are shared with ETWF are to:

- ◀ Provide a resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits;
- ◀ Ensure that existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change, play a role in adapting rural and urban environments to those impacts and contribute to their mitigation;
- ◀ Protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscapes;
- ◀ Increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to the quality of life;
- ◀ Improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products;
- ◀ Be an effective, efficient, respected, high profile and sustainable delivery body where equality and diversity are embraced and embedded in all that we do as a service provider and practise as an employer.

England's Trees Woods and Forests (ETWF) Delivery Plan 2008-2012

The Government's Strategy for England Trees, Woods and Forests, launched in 2007, highlights the contribution that trees make to social, environmental and economic objectives today and sets out a vision for their future role. The goal is that by 2020 more woods will be brought into sustainable woodland management supplying raw materials for use in construction and for wood fuel, and we will have a healthier landscape for wildlife and an increase in people visiting woodlands.

British Waterways

British Waterways seeks to help all sectors of society enjoy the waterways, via a range of activities including boating, fishing, cycling and walking. As a leisure and recreation resource, canal corridors require enhancement and facilities to support their leisure use. These include marinas, mooring facilities, service facilities etc., as well as facilities for land based visitors; providing refreshments etc. Without these, the ability to realise the economic and social benefits of canals would be undermined.

Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire

Groundwork provides practical support for communities in need and works with partners to help improve the quality of people's lives, their prospects and potential and the places where they live, work and play. Its vision is of a society of sustainable communities that are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper.

One example of its work is at Priory Close Park in Melton Mowbray. Groundwork in partnership with Mars in the Community helped to deliver a Mars UK Flag Ship Community project. This included carrying out work such as path replacement, repairing damaged benches and improving sightlines. The project also included a family fun day which encouraged young people to help keep the site tidy.

Volunteer groups

Volunteer groups are a valuable resource contributing greatly to the physical habitat management and conservation tasks undertaken at a number of open spaces across Melton. Via the different partnership organisations there is extensive community engagement in the management of open space. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), the National Trust and LRWT proactively involve local community groups and schools in improvement work projects within the nature reserves and woodlands.

These external organisations also manage environmental education programmes that aim to engage schools and community members in issues around nature conservation and the wider environment. Including tasks such as tree planting, hedge laying, nature reserve management and habitat protection. It is essential that those involved in delivery of this Strategy actively engage with these groups when working towards meeting its aims.

Sport England

Sport England (SE) has recently clarified its primary role; to grow, sustain and excel participation in community sport. Its ambition is to get more people playing and enjoying sport and to help those with talent get to the very top. It seeks to achieve this through working closely with national governing bodies of sport and building strong partnerships with local authorities.

The strategy commits Sport England to deliver on a series of demanding targets by 2012/13:

- ◀ One million people doing more sport.
- ◀ A 25% reduction in the number of 16-18 year olds who drop out of five key sports.
- ◀ Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- ◀ A measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience.
- ◀ A major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

SE has recently launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF²) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need leveling or drainage works.

Sites that could be considered for this funding programme include:

- ◀ Egerton Park
- ◀ Melton Country Park
- ◀ Thorpe Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Pickwell Cricket Club

² http://www.sportengland.org/funding/protecting_playing_fields.aspx

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A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England. Protection of playing fields was further enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09) which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

As a statutory consultee for the loss of playing fields, Sport England is a key partner. Regional planning officers should be kept informed of developing projects/schemes and can provide essential guidance and advice throughout the process, not just at planning application stage.

The Football Association (FA)

The FA's National Game Strategy (2007-2012) provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a six year period.

The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young players)
- ◀ Growth and retention (adult players)
- ◀ Football for All
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Player development
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Football work force
- ◀ Facilities
- ◀ Partnerships and investment
- ◀ Promotion

The Strategy also reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites.

Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities rather than in private members' clubs. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years as priorities have been in other sectors. This has resulted in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built 5-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of 5-a-side teams in recent years.

Ongoing engagement with the FA is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Strategy. KKP would recommend MBC further engages with the FA Regional Facility Manager (East Midlands) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

Rugby Football Union (RFU)

The National Facilities Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England, at a national, regional and local level. The framework enables clubs, Constituent Bodies (CBs), the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) and other partners to:

- ◀ Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- ◀ Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.
- ◀ Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management / operational structures and potential financial viability which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.
- ◀ Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- ◀ Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

The strategy shows clubs what facilities are needed to provide these different programmes, from grass roots through to the professional game.

Ongoing engagement with the RFU is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Strategy. KKP would recommend MBC further engages with the RFU Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (Midlands and East) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

English Cricket Board (ECB)

Grounds to Play – ECB Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013) continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified| in the previous strategy: Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
 - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established the County Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
 - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
 - ◀ The focus of this plan will be on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than a focus on a substantial increase in participation;
 - ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
 - ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position the cricket club at the heart of the community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to the local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

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The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this new plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance.
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Boards).
- ◀ Developing women's cricket.
- ◀ Attracting volunteers.
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base.
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs.
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket.

The theme of this plan therefore progresses to Grounds to Play and it is in the areas of facilities and coaches where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

Partners particularly applicable to community cricket include:

- ◀ England and Wales Cricket Trust - to provide up to £5 million of interest free loans to member clubs for recreational projects and to work with grounds in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2013.
- ◀ Sport England - to enhance the Whole Sport Plan award of £38 million by obtaining a further £10 million of lottery aid support by 2013.

Ongoing engagement with the ECB is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Strategy. KKP would recommend MBC further engages with the Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (Midlands) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

KEY ISSUES FROM THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Open spaces

Parks and gardens

- ◀ There are seven sites classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens in Melton, totalling just over 80 hectares.
- ◀ Site assessments show that a number of parks would be appropriate and likely to score well if they were to be submitted for the Green Flag Award scheme. Melton Country Park and Play Close/New Park/Priors Close score particularly well for quality, each receiving a score of 71% from the site assessments. Burrough on the Hill Country Park and Egerton Lodge Memorial Gardens also score above the 60% threshold used for determining a sites potential ability to achieve accreditation.
- ◀ Most survey/consultation respondents are willing to drive 10 minutes to access provision, recognising that provision tends to be located in the more urban areas of the Borough i.e. Melton.
- ◀ There are no parks and gardens in North Analysis Area (specifically Bottesford) and the area is not served by provision elsewhere in the Borough. Although there are other types of formal provision, such as allotments and cemeteries servicing the area, these do not meet the needs of parks provision. Much of the East Analysis Area is also not served by parks provision; however, this area has low population density.

Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ There are 14 sites classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces in Melton totalling almost 50 hectares.
- ◀ Three sites were assessed for quality, only one scored highly against the threshold of 50% (Browns Hill Quarry Nature Reserve). However, all sites assessed are recognised as high value due to the contribution to wildlife/environmental benefits but also enhancing the appearance of the area.
- ◀ There are no designated LNRs in Melton. As such, the area is deficient against the Natural England recommended standard of one hectare of designated LNR per 1,000 population. However, there are sites which have opportunity to have areas designated, for example, the countryside areas of Melton Country Park.
- ◀ Most respondents will accept travelling up to 10 minute walk to access natural and semi natural sites, which generally corresponds with the Natural England ANGST model which states that everyone should have access to at least two hectares of greenspace within 300m of their home.
- ◀ There is generally a good distribution of natural and semi natural sites across the Borough, with provision provided in all analysis areas. However, there are residents in Melton and Asfordby without access to provision based on a 10 minute walk time. There are also no designated local nature reserves in the Borough, although a number of sites do have nature reserve status.

Green corridors

- ◀ There are two sites classified as green corridors in Melton with open access. In addition, there are approximately 136 hectares of public rights of way (PROW) within the Borough.
- ◀ the rural footpath network in Melton is very good with excellent way marking and maintenance by LCC. Open spaces in the more urban areas of the Borough tend to be well linked, particularly in Melton. Its Heritage Trail takes in the town centre parks on its route and is a particularly valuable asset to local tourism.
- ◀ Clawson Hose & Harby Parish Council suggests that the Grantham Canal (owned by British Waterways) requires restoration to bring it up to a suitable quality to maximise its accessibility to users. This is also reflected in the quality assessment which when assessed against Green Flag criteria, scores as poor.
- ◀ During consultation, Garthorpe and Coston Parish Council highlighted that although there are enough open spaces in the Parish, footpaths and bridleways are affected by fly tipping, and illegal vehicle access (motorbikes/4x4), inhibiting use and enjoyment of provision.
- ◀ Identified demand for opening up routes includes:
 - ◀ Melton to Great Dalby around Melton Airfield.
 - ◀ Fisherman's Path which would better link Kirkby Bellars to Melton.
 - ◀ Restricted byway near to Asfordby Road Golf Course along the River Wreake.

Amenity greenspace

- ◀ There are 82 sites classified as amenity greenspace in Melton, totalling just over 30 hectares.
- ◀ On the whole, stakeholders appear to be happy with the amount of amenity greenspace. There is limited, if any, demand for additional provision in the Borough, with the vast majority of rural settlements at least providing a village green. However, consultation does highlight a theme of provision lacking ancillary and recreational facilities such as play equipment, informal sports provision and general functionality.
- ◀ Amenity greenspaces, in general, are popular sites for recreational activities such as dog walking, informal play and walking. The associated issue of dog foul is a common concern; one often commented upon throughout consultation.
- ◀ Most survey/consultation respondents are willing to travel around 5 minutes to access provision, recognising that provision tends to be locally accessible.
- ◀ As the accessibility standard set for amenity greenspace is relatively small (as provision is deemed by users to be locally significant), there are some gaps highlighted within Central Analysis Area, specifically on the outskirts of Melton and Asfordby.
- ◀ Although there is limited demand expressed for additional provision, with the vast majority of rural settlements at least providing a village green, Clawson Hose & Harby Parish Council expresses that Harby is lacking a recreation area.

Provision for children and young people

- ◀ There are 51 sites in Melton classified as provision for children and young people, totalling just less than five hectares.
- ◀ Since 2005, play areas have also been subject investment either through Section 106 monies or the Play Builder scheme, for example Dickens Drive, Dieppe Way, Scalford Brook and Hartopp Road.
- ◀ Bottesford Parish Council identifies demand for further provision for teenagers such as an adventure playground. However, there are no firm plans in place as to where this would be located or how it would be funded.
- ◀ Teenagers using children's play areas in the evenings is still an isolated problem in some of the larger rural settlements. Asfordby Parish Council reports that complaints received, resulted in the play area being removed from the open space off Charnwood Road.
- ◀ In general, play areas are of adequate quality, with an average score of 53%. Although more play areas score poor quality than high (against a 60% threshold/standard), only five score particularly poor (less than 30%).
- ◀ Given that the majority of provision is identified as being of LEAP size, FIT recommends that users are willing to walk five minutes to access such provision. Although, it is likely that users will travel further to access bigger, more equipped sites, respondents suggest that on average, they are willing to walk 5 – 10 minutes to access provision.
- ◀ Frisby on the Wreake and Sproxton/Stonesby (one in each area) report demand for access to play areas. It should be noted that we have recorded a play area at Sproxton Village Hall and it is likely that the demand would be increase its size rather than provide an additional play area.
- ◀ There is, generally, a good distribution of provision for children and young people across Melton. Most provision is located in Melton and Asfordby, both in terms of number of sites and hectares per 1,000 population. However, 14 settlements do not have access to play provision. In most cases, the under 16 population for these areas (up to 500 metres around settlement) does not approach 100. The exceptions, where formal play provision should be made are:
 - ◀ Wymondham
 - ◀ Great Dalby
 - ◀ Frisby on Wreake
 - ◀ Stonesby

Allotments

- ◀ There are 43 sites in Melton classified as allotments, totalling a significant 30 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Most allotments in Melton are operating at 100% capacity with few vacant plots identified. Unlike in 2005 when there was no waiting list for allotment plots and vacant plots were available at each site, the majority of sites now have a waiting list. Currently there is a combined waiting list of over 200 people across the Borough. This is a significant increase in demand and reflects the current trend in having an allotment, not only from a healthy living aspect but also as a way to save money.

- ◀ There are no significant reported issues relating to the quality of provision. The allotments within Melton Country Park are assessed as being of the highest quality of those that were assessed. Those scoring lower in quality were generally affected by having no water supply and ancillary facilities as opposed to the appearance of the site. Clawson Hose & Harby Parish Council reports that none of its five sites have a water supply.
- ◀ Although provision exists in all analysis areas, not all of the Melton population is serviced by allotments.
- ◀ Based on the current population of 49,295 (Mid 2008), Melton as a whole meets the NSALG standard. Using the suggested national standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Melton is just 6.2 hectares. Therefore, against this standard, existing provision of 29.93 hectares is said to meet the needs to the population. However, further demonstrating that local demand for allotments is high, there is a combined waiting list of over 200 people across the Borough.
- ◀ Asfordby Parish Council (on Asfordby Business Park) and MBC (at Lakeside Terrace Allotments) signal the intention to provide further allotment provision in the future.

Cemeteries and churchyards

- ◀ There are 62 sites in Melton classified as cemeteries or churchyards, totalling just over 22 hectares.
- ◀ Asfordby Parish Council has recently designated land to extend Hoby Road Cemetery to provide additional burial space. It also reports local demand to add a garden of remembrance.
- ◀ No significant problems or issues are raised with regard to the general quality of provision, reflecting the value and quality of work by those who carry out maintenance at sites across the Borough. However, a couple of instances of inappropriate use are given but these are not reflected in the audit assessment.
- ◀ Although residents would accept over a 15 minute walk or up to a 30 minute drive to access provision, it is recommended that new cemetery provision is driven by the need for burial capacity rather than accessibility.

Civic spaces

- ◀ There remains one site, Market Place in Melton classified as civic spaces providing 0.20 hectares of provision.
- ◀ There are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas in or market squares which residents view as civic space.
- ◀ A sizeable proportion of the Market Place in Melton is owned by the Town Estate and it is regularly used to hold events. It also forms part of the Melton heritage Trail. The site assessment scored it highly for both quality and value reflecting its value to residents and visitors to the town centre.
- ◀ A number of settlements are without access to provision. However, some civic facilities may be unrecorded due to difficulty classifying such spaces where, for example, they are multipurpose spaces that double up as car parks.

Sports facilities

Football summary

- ◀ KKP identified a total of 95 teams playing in Melton across 17 sites, providing a total of 33 pitches.
- ◀ Since the 2005 study, the number of pitches (available for community use) has remained the same. Furthermore, the number of football competitive teams (with the exception of mini soccer) has increased by an additional 13 teams. However, mini soccer teams have decreased by 11 teams.
- ◀ The majority of pitch provision is concentrated in the Central Melton, East Melton and North Melton analysis areas. There are no football pitches in the West Melton Analysis Area although this corresponds with the rurality of the area.
- ◀ In Melton the club to team ratio is 1:2.5 (i.e. each club runs on average 2.5 teams).
- ◀ FA demand trend analysis and team generation rates (TGRs) highlight that participation rates in Melton are generally higher than national and regional averages.
- ◀ There are a number of well established clubs in Melton which have the Charter Standard status.
- ◀ Three sites (comprising eight senior pitches) are overplayed by three matches each week.
- ◀ The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of junior boys for which there will be an anticipated further 5.4 teams by 2026. These teams are most likely to occur in the Central Melton, East Melton and North Melton analysis areas.
- ◀ The PPM highlights a significant surplus of senior pitches, but deficit of junior football pitches. Oversupply is reduced slightly for senior pitches when taking into account future growth, there is still a significant amount of oversupply highlighted across Melton for senior football pitches. This is likely to be as a result of significant spare capacity expressed, particularly in the Central and North Melton analysis areas.

Cricket summary

- ◀ There are 16 cricket pitches available for community use in Melton, accommodating a significant 71 teams (including senior and junior).
- ◀ There are 20 cricket clubs in the Borough, of which, four clubs field junior teams.
- ◀ Although it is difficult to fully express overplay through calculating the capacity of cricket pitches, it would appear, that there are a number of pitches operating over capacity.
- ◀ Consultation identifies that Egerton Park Cricket Club is operating at capacity in terms of junior teams and has plans to develop an additional cricket pitch at Egerton Park.
- ◀ The PPM summary anticipates (taking into account future population growth) that there will be a significant shortfall of 12.7 pitches by 2026. The shortfalls are mainly due to some pitches being played slightly over their current capacity.
- ◀ It is likely that the shortfall of pitches can be accommodated on the current supply and, in the main, does not result in the need for additional pitches. The ECB will support the development of one additional pitch at Thorpe Cricket Club (on the basis that security of tenure is secured).

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Rugby summary

- ◀ The audit identifies four senior rugby union pitches available for community use (King Edward VIII School). Melton Mowbray RFC is the only club in the Borough, generating 28 teams (including senior, junior and mini).
- ◀ King Edward VIII School has some spare capacity to accommodate a further one match each week.
- ◀ King Edward VIII School site is subject to proposals for redevelopment by LCC, which is currently in negotiations with the Club to determine a new lease.
- ◀ No latent demand is identified by Melton Mowbray RFC.
- ◀ TGRs for rugby in Melton are good compared to national averages, particularly at senior men's level, junior girls and junior boys.
- ◀ The PPM suggests that there is a current small oversupply, which concurs with the small spare capacity highlighted earlier (one match per week). However, by 2026 this is likely to result in a small undersupply of pitches.

Hockey summary

- ◀ The Borough has one full sized, floodlit AGP located at King Edward VIII School. Furthermore, there are two grass hockey pitches located at education sites.
- ◀ Melton Hockey Club is the only hockey club in the Borough. Since the previous 2005 study, the number of teams has increased by one senior team.
- ◀ King Edward VIII School AGP has spare capacity to accommodate an additional one match each week at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ The quality and quantity of provision is considered to be adequate to meet the needs of hockey in the Borough.

Bowls summary

- ◀ There are six bowling greens in the Borough. Since the 2005 study, there has been a loss of one green.
- ◀ With the exception of Melton Town Bowls Club, all sites provide one flat bowling green. MTBC provides two flat bowling greens and an indoor bowling facility comprising of eight rinks.
- ◀ Demand can be accommodate on current provision and there appears to be limited demand for new greens.

Golf summary

- ◀ There are four golf courses in Melton; Asfordby Road Sports Ground, Six Hills, Melton Mowbray and Stapleford Park Hotel & Golf Course.
- ◀ Golf participation has decreased slightly in recent years.
- ◀ Based on a 20 minute drive time some areas of low population are not served by provision within the Borough.
- ◀ Demand appears to be met by current provision.

Tennis summary

- ◀ The Borough provides 30 tennis courts, including 15 courts which are located at school sites.
- ◀ In total, there are two tennis clubs in the Borough (Hamilton and Belvoir). Hamilton Tennis Club is regarded as a key club and is Clubmark accredited.
- ◀ There is no identified latent demand for outdoor additional courts. This would suggest that demand can be satisfied by existing provision. However, the LTA report there is a lack of indoor courts in the County, in particularly the lack of a permanent bubble structure.
- ◀ The majority of tennis courts were assessed as good quality.

Sports halls

- ◀ This assessment identifies a total of five sports hall sites in Melton (including one sports hall at King Edward VIII remaining open).
- ◀ The condition of the sports halls variable with the exception of new facilities at Long Field School and John Ferneley College.
- ◀ Demand for sports halls in Melton is currently unmet with a considerable deficiency, and will continue to be exacerbated in 2015.
- ◀ Only 99.9% of demand is met with an aspirational figure of 140%.
- ◀ The closure of Melton Leisure Centre (Melton Brooksby College) and the partial closures of the King Edward VIII facility have raised significant concerns locally regarding the limitations of access to sports hall.

Activity/village halls

- ◀ There are 69 sites with activity/village halls in Melton.
- ◀ The distribution of activity/village halls is good and they service an important local demand for recreation sport and physical activity.
- ◀ The majority of activity/village halls are likely to be in at least 'adequate' condition but with some constraints on design.
- ◀ The accessibility of an activity/village hall will depend on several issues.
- ◀ Bookings remain buyout spurred by the development of programmes by MBCs physical activity service.

Swimming pools

- ◀ The supply of swimming pools in Melton is focused on provision made at the Waterfield Leisure Pool.
- ◀ With the exception of residents in the North analysis area the majority of the Borough's population resides within a 20 minute drive of a swimming pool.
- ◀ 130% of the total demand for swimming in Melton is satisfied, which is below the level of 140% which is recommended by Sport England.

Health and fitness gyms

- ◀ There are nine sites, providing at least 193 fitness stations in Melton. There is a good spread of provision across the centre of the Borough.
- ◀ However, access at the majority of sites is limited to 'Registered Membership Use'.
- ◀ Calculations suggest that there are more health and fitness stations in Melton than required to satisfy demand in 2010 and 2015.

STRATEGIC VISION AND AIMS

Vision

This strategy is an important opportunity to achieve excellence. Reflecting the opportunity to 'raise standards' across Melton and so that it dovetails with major influences on management and planning of open space, sport and recreation facilities, the following strategic vision is proposed:

'Melton will be a distinctive, high quality rural environment in which to live and work, and to visit, supported by a network of high quality open space, sport and recreation facilities to create a sense of place for all'.

Aims

Well managed and appropriately placed open spaces serve as a delivery mechanism for challenges and priorities set out within the Melton Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013. Most obviously open spaces contribute to improving people's quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. Open spaces can also influence perceptions of community safety, deprivation and poverty levels and the local economy.

Outlined in this document are the top three priorities that have been identified as the main areas to improve and develop:

- ◀ Rejuvenate Melton Mowbray Town Centre
- ◀ Integrate the priority needs of the Borough with the services offered by our partners to better meet our customer's needs
- ◀ Develop our approach to supporting and developing young people incorporating relevant education and skills in the Borough

Supporting the three priorities are the key objectives of the Strategy:

- ◀ Focus work in the priority neighbourhoods
- ◀ Re-vitalise Melton Mowbray Town Centre
- ◀ Create a Safer and Stronger community
- ◀ Reduce traffic congestion in Melton Mowbray
- ◀ Enable and support the provision of affordable housing
- ◀ Improve the health and wellbeing of local people
- ◀ Improve learning opportunities to help individuals achieve their potential
- ◀ Improve the local economy and infrastructure
- ◀ Making existing structures and projects more accessible

Delivery of the following strategic aims will support work to achieve the long-term vision for the area, under some of the key objective headlines:

1. Enable and support the provision of affordable housing

Aim: To ensure that any new developments take into account the need for appropriate levels of public open space, sport and recreation facilities.

Aim: To minimise the impact of urban development through the protection, enhancement and creation of valuable open space, sport and recreation facilities that meets community needs.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

2. Create a safer and stronger community

Aim: To utilise open space, sport and recreation facilities to promote and celebrate community cohesion, equality and diversity via provision of a range of inclusive activities that engage residents.

Aim: To provide safe, usable open space, sport and recreation facilities that are accessible and inclusive for all residents.

3. Improve the local economy and infrastructure

Aim: To provide a range of attractive and accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities contributing to quality of life in order to attract high quality staff to the area.

Aim: To provide high quality open space, sport and recreation provision in order to continue to attract inward investment.

Aim: To provide accessible, well connected open space, sport and recreation facilities through promotion and development of green infrastructure and a network of linking wildlife corridors.

4. Improve the health and wellbeing of local people

Aim: To promote the use of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Melton by providing a network of high quality, accessible provision that encourages residents to make healthy choices.

Aim: To utilise open space, sport and recreation facilities to provide, accessible, affordable and suitable activities for older generations.

Aim: To achieve a balance between quality and quantity of provision in order to ensure a sustainable network of open space, sport and recreation for future generations.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above strategic aims to be delivered. The following example objectives apply to open space, sport and recreation facilities:

- ◀ All open space, sport and recreation provision identified as high value within the audit and assessment reports should be retained and protected within the planning system.
- ◀ Within a phased programme, and in partnership with landowners and other providers of provision, improve the quality of all open space, sport and recreational provision and where possible create green infrastructure. Sites identified by the audit as low quality should be prioritised for improvement.
- ◀ All partners to work together to provide usable, accessible and safe open spaces, sport and recreational facilities.
- ◀ Rectify inadequacies and meet shortfalls, as outlined in the assessment reports.
- ◀ Use development opportunities and consult with the community to identify facility need and increase and/or improve existing provision in line with the findings of the assessment reports.
- ◀ Ensure that provision is of an appropriate distribution, quantity and quality (new facilities will only be provided or supported where they contribute to the appropriate distribution of facilities).
- ◀ Develop a jointly prepared robust, effective policy to obtain Section 106 contributions from developers that can be used to help fund shortfalls identified in the Strategy and to support parish councils, sports clubs and social enterprises. This may include a minimum settlement level appropriate to the development.
- ◀ Calculating developer contributions will be a transparent process based on a consistent adopted formula. Money raised will be spent in accordance with investment priorities set out in the Strategy and based on the audit and assessment findings. Where development contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement must be completed specifying the amount and timing of sums to be paid.
- ◀ Capital receipts from disposals of open space, sport and recreation facilities should be ring-fenced specifically for investment into other open space, sport and recreation provision. It should be invested in accordance with the aims of the Strategy.
- ◀ Existing and future provision should all comply with DDA legislation, where possible, ensuring that it is fully accessible for all residents (including, where relevant, the elderly, disabled people, young people, girls/women and BME groups).
- ◀ In line with the Melton Green Infrastructure Strategy, access to all forms of provision should be improved (e.g., by locating any new sites near public transport hubs; increasing public transport links to larger sites, especially at weekends and throughout the summer).
- ◀ To conserve and enhance the wildlife which inhabits green spaces, and foster an appreciation of ecology and the natural world.
- ◀ To maintain a safe, clean, accessible and attractive environment for children's play and for the leisure of older and disabled residents and families.
- ◀ To explore options for the management of new areas of open space to be undertaken by community owned and run trusts.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The following objectives reflect key areas to be addressed over the lifetime of the Strategy. Recognising both the variety of ownership of provision across the area, from local authorities to parish councils to clubs, implementation of this strategy will be the responsibility of MBC in partnership with local stakeholders. Recommendations must also be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to meet planning considerations.

The aim of this Strategy is to identify facility needs, which can then be used to negotiate with developers and secure future Section 106 agreements.

OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES

- ◀ To adopt the use of a quality and value matrix to determine the level of protection given to a site.
- ◀ As a priority, focus on improving low quality sites of high value and any low value sites of high quality and investigate how these sites could be enhanced. The following matrix provides a guide for quality and value classifications and is applied with the action plan:

High quality/high value

Ideally all open spaces should have an aspiration to come into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them.

High quality/low value

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

Low quality/high value

The policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

Low quality/low value

Wherever possible, the policy approach to these spaces or facilities should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose.

- ◀ If there is a choice of spaces or facilities of equal quality to declare surplus, and no need to use one or part of one to remedy a deficiency in some other form of open space or sport and recreation provision, it will normally be sensible to consider disposing of the one with the lowest value. Similarly, if two are of equal value, it will normally be sensible to dispose of the one of lower quality.
- ◀ Raise awareness of accessible open space provision and the value of sites in relation to wildlife, health and educational benefits e.g. through a marketing strategy, greater promotion on the Council websites, on site signage and leaflets.
- ◀ Improve open spaces with regard to increasing biodiversity by planting more native trees and other plant species and more fruit trees.
- ◀ Develop a well promoted and varied open space events and activities program enthuse residents to utilise the resources directed through development of an events strategy.
- ◀ Investigate potential to improve public transport links (frequency and affordability) between rural settlements and key service areas.

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- ◀ To increase enforcement controls of 4x4s, quad bikes and motorbikes on common land and woodland areas. In areas of significant problem look to work with local police enforcement officers and community groups to tackle issues of misuse.
- ◀ Increase the communication of and around enforcement (such as on the spot fines and potential convictions) in relation to fly tipping, litter and dog fouling.

Parks and gardens

- ◀ Support town and parish councils to consider sites for future Green Flag Award. This should include specific support in developing management plans and other associated policies.
- ◀ Develop and keep up to date management plans for all parks scoring 60% above (Green Flag pass mark), focused on maintaining site quality and encouraging further use. Undertake necessary improvements and work to successfully submitting a site by 2012.
- ◀ As and when resources allow, work to encourage and support the formation of more 'friends of' groups to increase community engagement in the management and development of parks and gardens.
- ◀ Continue to improve access to provision, e.g. raising awareness through promotion, car parking, upgrading paths.
- ◀ Work to formalise amenity greenspace in North Analysis Area to help meet deficiency identified and improve access to parks for residents in the area.

Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ Due to the importance placed on natural greenspaces in relation to biodiversity and ecological benefits, the priority for natural greenspace provision is to improve access and quality in the rural areas.
- ◀ Work to designate local nature reserve status on existing sites, including as a priority Melton Country Park.
- ◀ Work in partnership with the Wildlife Trust (which owns a number of nature reserves across the area) to designate some of its sites to LNR status to help meet identified deficiencies.
- ◀ Provision of new sites, particularly in and around Melton and Asfordby could be achieved by making existing natural areas formally accessible or increasing the "naturalness" of existing areas of formal open space. Review maintenance regimes for formal open space provision and where feasible modify to introduce natural features e.g. wildflower meadows and woodland planting.
- ◀ Continue to build partnerships with external agencies and voluntary sector organisations involved in the management of sites.
- ◀ Work to raise awareness of accessible natural and semi-natural open space provision and the value of the sites in terms of habitat value and education benefits should be undertaken. This may be achieved through increased information accessible on the authority's website and greater engagement of local schools.
- ◀ Access to the countryside should be maximised in order to allow promotion as a valuable open space resource for a variety of users. As well as habitat value it should also offer informal play opportunities and provide walking and horse riding routes linking a number of settlements.

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- ◀ The potential of semi-natural sites should be utilised to develop and promote 'creative' and 'wild' play opportunities and help reduce deficiencies expressed in the provision for children and young people.

Green corridors and public rights of way (PROW)

- ◀ Retain all sites and upgrade quality where appropriate. Improvements to the network should be initiated and guided via implementation of the Leicestershire Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- ◀ Further shortfalls in the provision of PROW and green corridors should be identified through consultation with users such as cycling and horse riders.
- ◀ Where appropriate and feasible work to upgrade PROW status to provide for a range of different users. In particular, work towards increasing the provision of PROW of bridleway status and creating circular off-road routes.
- ◀ Where appropriate, continue to improve access to provision (taking into account disability access). Investigate methods of improving provision to information e.g. route distances, destinations and difficulty.
- ◀ Investigate and work to provide new routes suitable for use of off-road motorised vehicles. Improve promotion and access to information regarding the network of unsealed minor highways.
- ◀ Continue to develop and support community involvement in the management of green corridors.

Amenity greenspace

- ◀ Given the high value placed on amenity greenspace by residents in terms of providing social focal points for the community, the priority for amenity greenspace is to improve quality.
- ◀ Deficiencies on the outskirts of Melton and Asfordby and in Harby are to be met by increasing access to nearby provision and encouraging greater travel opportunities to sites.
- ◀ Work to create more functional and visually attractive amenity greenspaces through, for example, provision of seating and/or landscaping.
- ◀ Ensure that new housing developments provide sufficient allowances for amenity greenspaces, where appropriate.
- ◀ Develop, promote and encourage the play opportunities offered by sites, where appropriate.
- ◀ Raise awareness of dog fouling by-laws covering sites. Raise awareness amongst dog owners that dog waste can be disposed off in ordinary litterbins.
- ◀ Encourage and support community involvement and ownership of amenity greenspace. Support local communities to facilitate events and activities on sites.

Provision for children and young people

- ◀ The priority for equipped children's play provision is to have fewer but larger, better quality sites offering high play value. Rationalise equipped play provision by investigating further the value of LAPs to local communities. In the short term, consider removal of low value LAPs and reinvestment in more strategic sites.
- ◀ Improvements to high value low quality sites should be prioritised: those falling below 55% quality should be improved; ensuring a high proportion of the total population has access to high quality play provision.
- ◀ All new equipped play provision should meet minimum size standards, be of at least LEAP size and provide significant play value in a high quality environment.
- ◀ Work towards increasing the provision of casual play opportunities within amenity greenspaces, particularly in settlements deficient of formal play provision.
- ◀ Work with local communities and young people and ensure that users are involved in the design and location of future provision to create greater ownership of sites and ensure that users needs are being met. Affordable and fully accessible activities should be targeted at young people.
- ◀ Fully utilise developer contributions to address the quality of current stock and achieve better contributions to increase the scale of provision and underpin the continued maintenance of any new provision.
- ◀ Support and encourage providers of provision to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of play provision. All new and refurbished play areas to provide inclusive provision.
- ◀ Where appropriate and feasible, new provision for children and young people should offer more adventurous and challenging play opportunities with a variety of equipment catering for a wide age range. Encourage greater provision of interactive play equipment such as talk tubes and interactive grids.
- ◀ Encourage parish councils to communicate/share the hiring of mobile play activities in order to ensure value for money and to maximise coverage to deficient areas.

Allotments

- ◀ Recognising the high value placed on allotment provision all existing provision to be retained.
- ◀ In partnership with allotment associations and parish councils, ensure plot splitting and sharing to maximise the use of current provision to meet significant identified demand. Also ensure that where a waiting list for provision exists, a single tenant cannot be allocated more than one plot.
- ◀ All new major development to design into schemes growing areas at multiple levels for residents (internally, externally at ground level, roofs gardens, communal balconies) and the planting of edible soft landscaping (e.g. fruit and nut trees). Alternatively if this is not feasible require a contribution to allotment provision off site.
- ◀ Support current proposals to extend or create new provision, with priority given to provision in the Central Analysis Area.
- ◀ Where sites are not supplied with fresh water, work with landowners to seek opportunities and funding to install a central supply.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

- ◀ When identifying land suitable for new allotment provision, the following should be considered:
 - ◀ 1) Proximity to settlement: proximity of users homes for relative convenience and environmental sustainability. Sites should usually be close enough to allow connection to a mains water supply.
 - ◀ 2) Horticultural value: sites should be mostly unshaded and have uncontaminated soil suitable for growing fruit and vegetables.
 - ◀ 3) Access and parking: access is required for plot holders and for operatives and their equipment to provide essential services to sites i.e. fencing, drainage, deliveries of compost or manure etc. Some parking provision is required to allow young families in particular to visit plots with ease.
 - ◀ 4) Security: avoid isolated area and sites should normally be located away from trouble spots known for vandalism.
- ◀ Work towards creating a centralised waiting list system in partnership with parish council providers in order to allocate any available plots to local residents identified on waiting lists and limits the ability for cross boundary use to occur. For instance, individuals outside a particular parish may not be aware that provision is available in a neighbouring parish.

Cemeteries

- ◀ The priority for cemeteries is to ensure that provision remains accessible and is promoted as a recreation resource. New provision should be driven by the need for burial space rather than the need for open space.
- ◀ Monitor and assess future provision in order to ensure future land availability in the medium term. In the short term, review and commit to writing policy to guide the level of maintenance to be undertaken at closed churchyards.
- ◀ Further community involvement in the management and maintenance of cemeteries and disused churchyards should be encouraged.
- ◀ Greater use of cemeteries for informal recreation e.g. walking and continue to enhance areas for wildlife should be encouraged.
- ◀ Encourage use of cemeteries as an educational resource, both in terms of heritage and environmental value.

Civic space

- ◀ The priority for civic spaces is to increase their functionality through enhancements such as seating and public art.
- ◀ Formally identify all civic spaces across the Borough. This should include assessment of potential sites and lead to development of a strategy. The potential for car parks should also form part of the review.
- ◀ Continue to commit to the 'In-Bloom' competition which adds to the sense of pride that the local community has and encourages residents to value provision and appreciate the town centre and surrounds.

OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The action plan does not identify all quality and value improvements to be made. Specific details on how they could best be achieved can be found in the accompanying study database. Typical issues to address in order to increase quality include examples such as increasing the regularity of maintenance at the site, provision of litterbins and provision of benches. Typical issues to address in order to increase value include examples such as raising awareness of the site, increasing overall quality and increasing community engagement with the site. Prioritisation of improvements should be led through the annual maintenance planning programme.

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

Justification of sites within the action plan

The action plan details policy options relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new provision. One of the following criteria has been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the action plan:

- ◀ The site suffers from access problems in terms of safety, poor signage and/or poor disability provision.
- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community empowerment.
- ◀ The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Gaining revenue funding from planning contributions in order to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Gaining planning contributions to assist with the creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease site to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups/parish councils to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
General			
S - L	To fully utilise developer contributions to secure investment for both new provision and quality improvements.	Produce supplementary planning guidance which adopts locally derived provision standards.	1, 3 and 4
M	To make best use of resources and funding opportunities in order to ensure high quality is achieved for all.	Ensure open spaces are managed strategically across Melton.	3 and 4
S	To have a strategic management tool to help prioritise investment and to determine the level of protection given to a site within the planning system.	Adopt use of quality and value matrix.	1, 3 and 4
S - M	To ensure that high standards are strived for and to further increase the quality of provision at a strategic level.	Adopt aspiration of all Parks to be managed to Green Flag standard within five years, with at least one successful submission.	2, 3 and 4

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Quality score	Value score	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Allotments							
Knossington Allotments	61	18.5%	22.4%	L	No water supply to the site. Holders use water butts. Allotments are within what looks to be a private site which has disused stables and a large stable field. No ownership signs.	Encourage the landowner to seek funding opportunities to install a water supply to the site.	3 and 4
Lakeside Terrace Allotments	62	-	-	M	Current waiting list of 26 for the site.	MBC has identified that an additional six plots (12 half plots) could be provided at Lakeside Terrace.	2 and 4
Nether Street Allotments	88	37.1%	29.4%	M	Deterioration of perimeter fencing.	Work with the parish council to seek opportunities for funding to upgrade/refurbish perimeter fencing.	2 and 4
Melton Country Park Allotments	81.4	54%	29.4%	S	Although the allotments located in Melton Country Park score well during the site assessment, consultation suggests they are overgrown and require fencing.	Work to improve the quality of the site and where plots may be overgrown seek to re-establish. Look for opportunities for funding to refurbish/install fencing.	3 and 4
Parks and gardens							
Golden Jubilee Park	46	57.9%	68.4%	S	Slight improvement in quality required to reach overall high quality.	Strive to improve maintenance and management of the site with a focus on Green Flag standards/criteria.	2 and 3
Main Street Garden, Great Dalby	76	34%	29.5%	M	Assessed as low quality against Green Flag criteria. Site currently acts predominately as a visual amenity.	Work to improve visitor experience in order to further increase the quality and value of the site. Install seats/benches.	2 and 3

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Quality score	Value score	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Melton Country Park	81	71.1%	83.2%	M	Areas that require attention include the badly neglected car park at the café entrance, key paths which are unsuitable for wheelchair users.	Continue to work towards implementing the five year management plan and seek to submit a Green Flag application for the site in 2013, working closely with the Friends of Melton Country Park. Work with the Wildlife Trust to seek LNR designation for part of the site.	2,3 and 4
Play Close, Priors Close, New Park	98	71.3%	69.5%	S	Car park improvements required. Further improve site accessibility.	Resurfacing and extension of the car park. Ensure path quality around the pond/lake is improved for wheelchair access.	2 and 4
Natural/semi natural greenspace							
High Street, Somersby Greenspace	112	32.2%	25.6%	S	Small pond surrounded by trees. Gradient and accessibility of the site is poor.	Work to increase awareness of the site to help improve site value and use.	2 and 4
Station Road Meadow	162	23.9%	38.9%	L	Site scores as low quality due to a lack of features such as benches, car parking, signage/interpretation, litterbins. However, as a visual amenity it is an attractive site.	Given the sites high value, consider the feasibility of increasing the functionality of the site through provision of benches and interpretation.	2 and 4
Amenity greenspace							
School Lane Amenity	111	32.8%	47.1%	S	Site is identified as having the potential to be enhanced. Picnic tables would be of benefit to the site.	Identify a local community group to work with to enhance the quality of the site.	2 and 3
The Square	170	38.8%	21.2%	M	No seats/benches or litterbins recorded on the site, resulting in the site scoring low quality.	Work to improve the quality and maintenance of the site, including installing benches/bins.	2
Asfordby Hill Amenity	8	39.7%	27.1%	M	No seats/benches or litterbins recorded on the site, resulting in the site scoring low quality.	Work to improve the quality and maintenance of the site, including installing benches/bins.	2 and 4

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Quality score	Value score	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Holwell Village Green	132	33.9%	21.2%	S	Lacks landscape design/maintenance and general functionality.	Consider increasing the functionality of the site in order to increase its quality.	2 and 4
Main Street Amenity	73	46.3%	38.8%	L	Lacks landscape design/maintenance and general functionality.	Consider increasing the functionality of the site in order to increase its quality.	2 and 4
Back Lane Amenity	9	53.7%	47.1%	S	Generally a good site, but lacks functionality.	Consider installing ancillary and recreational facilities such as play equipment and informal sports provision to enhance the user experience.	2, 3 and 4
Pasture Lane Amenity	94	38.8%	27.1%	M	Lacks landscape design/maintenance and general functionality.	Consider increasing the functionality of the site in order to increase its quality.	2 and 4
Green corridors							
Grantham Canal	47	58.9%	47.1%	M	Requires restoration to bring it up to a suitable quality to maximise its accessibility to users.	Refurbish to establish a multi user route.	3 and 4
Provision for children and young people							
Church Lane Play Area	26.1	33%	41.8%	L	Lacks litter bins and benches and there is no contact information present.	Work to improve the quality of the site.	2 and 3
Main Street Amenity Play Area	73.1	33%	41.8%	L	Lacks litter bins and benches and there are no controls to prevent illegal use.	Work to improve the quality of the site.	2 and 3
School Lane Play Area	111.1	32.3%	23.6%	M	Poor surface quality requires updating.	Upgrade safety surface.	3
Sewstern Amenity Play Area	114.1	30.9%	41.8%	M	Unfenced site with a lack of litter bins and benches.	Work to improve the quality of the site.	2 and 3

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Quality score	Value score	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Crompton Road Play Area	29	30.2%	20%	S	Site has limited scope, with only 4 pieces of equipment. However, it is well located and used.	Increase in size and variety of equipment. Consider a more adventurous themed play area.	2 and 3
Melton Country Park Play Area	81.2	61.9%	47.3%	M	Although the site scores as high quality, there are reports that the ground is uneven and the rough path has churned up creating a mixture of mud and woodchip.	Work to improve and upgrade the surface quality in consultation and partnership with Friends of Melton Country Park.	2 and 3
Melton Road Play Area	83	51.5%	41.8%	S	Generally a good site but equipment requires repainting.	Refurbish the equipment in order to increase site quality.	2 and 3

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES OBJECTIVES

General objectives

- ◀ *To increase participation in sport and active recreation by improving the quality of outdoor sports facilities in Melton.*

It is vital that local residents, clubs and organisations have access to the best facilities possible, both to sustain current levels of participation, accommodate identified latent and future demand and to stimulate new activity. These facilities must meet the minimum specification requirements set out by governing bodies of sport and/or leagues/competitions as well as (as far as possible) meet the aspirations of sports clubs in the area.

In Melton, there are a number of sites which are not served by changing facilities. These sites, in effect, can only be considered poor quality. Furthermore, there are also some key sites that have poor quality facilities. The lack of (or poor) quality facilities is not conducive to retaining existing players nor attracting new participants. Consultation suggests that this is one of the primary reasons limiting participation growth, particularly amongst juniors.

It is clear that, across the life of this strategy, not all of those sites currently without access to good quality changing facilities can be upgraded. It is therefore important to prioritise those sites which, by providing/upgrading the changing facilities, will have the greatest impact on the largest number (and variety) of participants. The following sites should therefore be considered short-term priorities:

- ◀ Melton Country Park
- ◀ Old Dalby Cricket Club

Overplay on playing pitches

- ◀ In order improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock, it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity (Sport England suggests that a good pitch can accommodate two matches per week). This is determined by assessing pitch quality and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this, for example at Melton Country Park, Thorpe Road Recreation Ground and Belvoir High School.
- ◀ *To increase participation in sport and active recreation by ensuring that there are a sufficient number of facilities to meet both current and future demand.*

The assessment indicated an overall surplus of senior provision but an under supply of junior and mini pitches. However, the extent of this balance differs across different areas of the Borough and by sport type.

In general the current playing pitch stock should be protected. Identified deficiencies should be met through improvements to the current pitch stock and changing some senior pitches to junior pitches. Demand for junior provision should be updated in two years (2013) to further quantify it in terms of provision required.

However, on a case by case basis there may be some scope for rationalisation to create investment to improve the quality of other sites. As an example, it appears that LCC wish to dispose of some of the pitches at King Edward VIII School.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Currently two teams are identified as playing on the site, Mowbray Rangers Girls U15 and Wrightys XI. The closest football pitches are located at All England Ground and Egerton Park Sports Ground, both which have spare capacity to accommodate displaced teams. However, mitigation in terms of improving current quality/capacity, especially at Egerton Park Sports Ground, would be important in order to improve or sustain additional use.

In this situation it is also important to consider the supply and demand analysis results. For example, although Central Analysis Area has an oversupply of senior pitches, overall in the area there is a shortfall of junior and mini pitches, which suggests that although the King Edward VIII pitches may be surplus to the requirements of senior football, they have the potential to be used to meet deficiencies identified for junior/mini football.

In addition to expressed future demand, national changes in sport participation and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase occurs, it will obviously impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work approximates latent demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e., it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur.

The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities.

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Sustained participation in senior 11 a side and youth football categories.	Required investment in the improvement of key sites to maintain capacity and participation levels.
	FA conversion rates predict local growth of youth male (39 teams), adult male 11 a side (4 teams), mini soccer (4 teams) and adult small sided (19 teams).	An increase in youth male football which increase the need for senior pitches and segregated changing facilities where necessary. However, the Sport England PPM does identify a surplus of 13 senior pitches so new provision may not be needed.
Cricket	Development of Focus (i.e., Clubmark) Clubs and an increase in midweek (junior) matches.	An increase in junior participation may result in the need to secure access to school pitches as second home grounds.
Rugby union	Emerging school/club links will result in increased junior participation within clubs.	An increase in the demand placed on the current pitch stock.

The Sport England, Playing Pitch Model used in the Assessment highlights an anticipated future surplus of senior football pitches. Whilst these predictions should not be used in isolation, they are in line with issues highlighted. However, this type of surplus is important to overall levels of provision in the context of using adult pitches to accommodate junior and mini-play as multifunctional pitches. Furthermore, surplus pitches allow some to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term.

As a long term priority, Melton Borough Council should work in partnership with local junior leagues to develop a central venue junior site to centralise demand for junior pitches and assist clubs, which have difficulty finding suitable sites, and often have to use multiple sites to accommodate all teams.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

◀ *Maximise community access to all outdoor sports facilities in the Borough.*

It is not uncommon for school sports provision not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established dual use sites, community access to outdoor sports facilities can be limited. The assessment report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ School facilities are, in general, unattractive to community clubs (e.g., because of the lack of ancillary facilities).
- ◀ There are no identified standard community use agreements between clubs and schools.

In the short term, it is recommended that a working group is established in each authority to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased use of school outdoor sports facilities and should incorporate the following representation:

- ◀ Sports development officers.
- ◀ Partnership development manager(s).
- ◀ PE/Education officers.
- ◀ Individual school representative.

Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
 - ◀ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across each local authority area.
 - ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
 - ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
 - ◀ Ensure that playing pitch provision at schools meets the needs of the local community and contributes towards overcoming deficiencies in the area.
- ◀ Adopt a strategic management approach to playing pitch facilities in the Borough to achieve the necessary increase in quality and quantity of provision. This could be based on a tiered approach to the provision of sites in order to prioritise them:

Tier A sites	Tier B1 sites	Tier B2 sites	Tier C (education) sites
Strategically placed in the Borough context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
Generally accommodates more than three pitches.	Generally accommodates more than two pitches.	Generally single pitch sites.	Generally accommodates more than one pitch.
Generally single sport provision, but could be a dedicated junior/mini site.	Generally single sport provision.	Generally single sport provision.	Formal school use agreement in place or being worked towards.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Tier A sites	Tier B1 sites	Tier B2 sites	Tier C (education) sites
Provides a high standard of pitch provision and pitches can usually accommodate up to 4 matches per week.	Provides a good standard of pitch provision and pitches can accommodate up to 3 matches per week.	Provides a good standard of pitch provision and pitches can accommodate up to 3 matches per week.	Provides a good standard of pitch provision and pitches can accommodate 2 matches per week.
Adequate changing to accommodate both senior and junior teams concurrently.	Maintenance can be either by the club or remain with the local authority.	-	Capital receipt will be ring-fenced and re-invested to improve local sports facilities.

Football

- ◀ The aspiration for football is to work towards meeting identified deficiencies in junior and mini provision and increase the quality and standard of changing rooms.
- ◀ The current level of playing pitch stock should be maintained and the anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in the contribution towards addressing the deficit of junior and mini pitches.
- ◀ Work towards meeting likely future deficiencies in junior pitches by also utilising pitch provision at school sites. Encourage greater usage of primary school sites to cater for mini-soccer demand and ensure site security and access to changing facilities is enhanced.
- ◀ All sites with two or more pitches should be well drained and have access to appropriate quality changing facilities to cater for junior requirements. As a priority, apply a high level of maintenance to key sites throughout the playing season.
- ◀ Continue to support clubs and parish/town councils in the management and identified improvements to their provision.
- ◀ Investigate potential training facilities to ameliorate pressures on key pitch sites and training facilities, whilst addressing the current deficit.

Cricket

- ◀ The aspiration for cricket is to maintain current provision levels and quality. However, further access to pitches may need to be sought in the future to ensure that demand continues to be met.
- ◀ Continue to support clubs in the management and development of facilities. Where possible, work with landowners and clubs in order to maintain the viability and financial security of sites.
- ◀ As a priority, support the following clubs (in line with ECB priorities) to fully develop their facilities in relation to fine turf projects and changing facilities/clubhouses.
 - ◀ Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club – Ground extension and 2nd ground provision (2010 – 2012).
 - ◀ Egerton Park – replacement of non turf bowling ends (2013).
 - ◀ Old Dalby Cricket Club – replacement of the clubhouse facility.
- ◀ Support existing clubs to maintain and develop their ancillary facilities to cater for junior and girls/women's cricket.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

- ◀ Support clubs in the Borough (Knipton, Great Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Croxton Kerrial and Long Clawson) to establish junior sections.
- ◀ In the long term, support Egerton Park CC to develop access to a second pitch to satisfy demand.
- ◀ Ensure cricket net provision in the Borough is accessible for all clubs.
- ◀ In the long term, work in partnership to develop an indoor cricket centre of ECB standard in order to prioritise access to good quality provision and reduce travel costs for clubs
- ◀ Ensure clubs have access to covers to protect squares to help eliminate the issue of drainage due to high levels of rainfall.

Rugby union

- ◀ The aspiration for rugby is to work towards meeting identified deficiencies and increase quality as required.
- ◀ King Edward VIII School (which provides both football and rugby pitches) site is subject to proposals for redevelopment by Leicestershire County Council, which is negotiating with the Club to determine a new lease. MBC should work with Melton RFC and the RFU to ensure the need to maintain or mitigate the loss of rugby pitches and ancillary facilities so that all teams are accommodated approximately in terms of competitive and training fixtures at King Edward VIII School.
- ◀ Further explore the need to maintain or mitigate the loss of the football pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that all teams are accommodated appropriately in terms of competitive and training fixtures on the site.
- ◀ The current playing pitch stock should be protected and any surplus of senior pitches should be considered in the contribution towards addressing the current and future deficit of junior and mini pitches.

Hockey

- ◀ The aspiration for hockey is to maintain current levels of provision as minimum but as a priority, increase accessibility to ensure community use is maximised to meet identified need.
- ◀ Ensure that school provision is able to offer appropriate access to changing facilities, particularly for clubs operating junior sections.
- ◀ Invest in a contingency fund to address likely forthcoming carpet/floodlight replacement at King Edward VIII School over the next ten years.

Tennis

- ◀ Work towards increasing the quality and accessibility of public tennis courts at Knossington.
- ◀ In general, encourage further casual use of public tennis courts and provide strategic reserve for the current usage levels at private facilities. This should include increasing the quality of provision where under use is attributed to poor quality (e.g. Knossington Tennis Court).

- ◀ Where demand exists, support tennis clubs to improve court quality and/or install floodlighting (in order to increase the capacity) of existing tennis court provision.
- ◀ Continue to support and encourage junior development at key tennis clubs in order to increase participation levels in the sport i.e., Hamilton and Belvoir.
- ◀ Support Melton Town Estate with its facility proposal at Asfordby Road Golf Course which include the provision of three or four indoor courts (air hall seasonal structure), four outdoor tennis courts and a fitness facility which will include a cafe area.

Bowls

- ◀ Support and encourage junior bowls development in order to sustain future participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ A small number of greens could be lost in the long term if not fully justified by demand and if compensatory provision and/or appropriate improvements to increase capacity are not made on a nearby green.
- ◀ All bowling greens and pavilions to be safe, secure facilities. All to be (where possible) fully accessible for disabled users and spectators.
- ◀ Ensure bowling green quality remains of a high standard.

Golf

- ◀ Support clubs to improve facilities and with their development aspirations.
- ◀ All golf courses to be safe and secure facilities, through a continued programme of upgrading and installing perimeter fencing, where appropriate.
- ◀ Support clubs to increase golf participation levels in the Borough.

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The action plan does not identify all quality and value improvements required. Specific details on how this is best achieved can be found in the accompanying study database. Prioritisation of improvements should be led through the annual maintenance planning programme.

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

Justification of sites within the action plan

The action plan details policy options relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new provision. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the action plan. Just one of the following may apply:

- ◀ The site suffers from access problems in terms of safety, poor signage and/or poor disability provision.
- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community empowerment.
- ◀ The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Gaining revenue funding from planning contributions in order to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Gaining planning contributions to assist with the creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease site to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups/parish councils to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
General			
M	To fully utilise developer contributions to secure investment for both new provision and quality improvements.	Produce supplementary planning guidance which adopts locally derived provision standards.	1, 3 and 4
L	Work in partnership, to make best use of resources and funding opportunities across the Borough in order to ensure high quality sports facilities help to sustain high levels of participation.	Ensure outdoor sports facilities are managed strategically across the Borough and where possible resources and best practise are shared.	3 and 4
M	There is an identified need to increase the use of school playing pitch facilities in order to meet current and future demand identified.	Establish a steering group to whose primary objective is to increase use of school playing pitch facilities.	2 and 3
S	To have a strategic management tool to help prioritise investment and to determine the level of protection given to a site within the planning system.	Adopt a strategic management (i.e., tiered) approach to playing pitch facilities.	1, 3 and 4
L	Accessibility of indoor cricket net provision is considered to be poor. Nets at school sites are also often unusable for long periods due to exams.	Engage with, and encourage schools to provide cricket nets as a priority. Develop at least one indoor cricket centre in the Borough on a school site.	3

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP Ref	Capacity rating	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objectives met
Football						
All England Sports Ground	1		S	The site has spare capacity to accommodate a further 1.0 matches per week.	Overplay from sites such as Melton Country Park and Thorpe Road could potentially be transferred to this site. Continue to maintain pitch to current quality.	4
Asfordby Sports & Social Club	2		S	The site is used by Asfordby Amateurs FC, Melton Allstars, Asfordby Amateur Girls and Asfordby Amateur Ladies. Although our analysis shows spare capacity, only one pitch can take one more team per week. Consultation suggests this site cannot accommodate any further play.	Monitor pitch capacity and maintain quality of pitch to current standard.	4
Asfordby Parish Playing Field	3		S	The pitches are good quality and have the capacity to accommodate a further 1.5 matches per week. This site is currently used by Asfordby Village FC.	Maintain current pitch quality. Consider leasing to the Club.	2 and 4
Asfordby Hill	5		M	There is spare capacity to accommodate a further 0.5 matches per week. The site is used solely by Melton Mowbray Rangers FC. Old brick pavilion building which is in disrepair and dilapidated, is no longer in use.	Remove and consider replacing the dilapidated clubhouse facility to further enhance the site appearance.	4

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP Ref	Capacity rating	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objectives met
Egerton Park Sports Ground	15		M	<p>Site assessments score the pitches as adequate quality. Pitches are undulated in places and in need of rolling.</p> <p>The site is owned by Melton Town Estate.</p> <p>Wooden football pavilion is considered to be poor quality.</p>	<p>Work with and encourage Melton Town Estate to seek opportunities to increase the quality of the pitches.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the ancillary facilities which in return will increase pitch capacity.</p> <p>Site priority for Protecting Playing Fields funding programme.</p>	4
King Edward VIII School	20		S	<p>The site has significant spare football capacity and could accommodate a further 3.0 matches per week.</p> <p>As a result of LCC proposals for the site, there would be an overall loss of two senior football pitches.</p>	<p>Displacement of teams could be accommodated at Egerton Park Sports Ground with mitigation for loss of pitches resulting in improving quality at Egerton Park Sports Ground.</p>	1 and 3
Melton Country Park	23		S - M	<p>Assessments score the pitches and clubhouse facility as poor quality.</p> <p>The site is overplayed by 0.5 matches per week due to poor quality.</p>	<p>Consider transferring some of the teams to sites where there is spare capacity, for example Egerton Park Sports Ground or All England Ground.</p> <p>Increase the pitch quality and ancillary facilities which in return will increase pitch capacity.</p> <p>Site priority for Protecting Playing Fields funding programme.</p>	3

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP Ref	Capacity rating	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objectives met
Thorpe Road Recreation Ground	28		S	There is overplay of 2.0 matches per week. It could potentially accommodate a junior pitch that could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere. Assessments score the pitch as average quality but note the goal posts are bent and rusty and the playing surface is undulated.	Investigate the potential to transfer some teams to other sites with spare capacity to reduce overplay. Improve current pitch quality. Site priority for Protecting Playing Fields funding programme.	3
Howell Sports Ground	53		S	There is spare capacity to accommodate a further 1.0 matches per week.	Encourage greater community usage of pitches to cater for current and future demand.	2 and 4
Queen Elizabeth 11 Jubilee Park	61		S	The site is used to capacity and was scored as an average quality pitch.	Monitor pitch capacity to ensure no overplay.	4
Buckminster Playing Field	12		S	Good quality pitch with capacity to accommodate an additional 1.5 matches per week.	Encourage greater community usage of pitches.	2 and 4
Goadby Road	16		S	The site is currently used by Waltham Eagles and has spare capacity that could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.	Consider the designation of senior pitches to junior pitches. This would contribute towards the deficit of junior and mini pitches in the area.	3
Croxton Kerrial Sports Ground	14		S	This site is currently used by Croxton Kerrial FC and is used to capacity.	Monitor play at the site to ensure pitch quality does not deteriorate further.	4
Hose Village Hall Sports Field	18		S	The site has significant levels of spare capacity to accommodate an additional 3.5 matches per week. Good quality pitches.	Maintain current pitch quality. Investigate the potential for additional community use in the future.	4

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP Ref	Capacity rating	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objectives met
Bottesford Cricket & Social Club	59		S	This site has capacity to accommodate an additional 1.0 match per week. Site assessments score the pitch as good quality.	Investigate the potential to transfer some teams to other sites with spare capacity to reduce overplay.	3
Bottesford Village Hall Playing Field	64		S	Site assessments score the pitches as good quality. There is spare capacity to accommodate an additional 1.0 match per week.	Continue to maintain pitch to current quality and work to increase use.	4
Belvoir High School	79		S	The pitches are overplayed by 0.5 matches per week.	Consider transferring some of the teams to sites where there is spare capacity, for example Bottesford Village Hall.	3

Site	KKP Ref	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Cricket					
All England Ground	1	S	The site comprises one senior football and a cricket pitch (70%). Site assessments score the pitch as good quality.	Continue to maintain pitch to current quality.	4
Asfordby Sports & Social Club cricket pitch	78	S	The site houses a cricket pitch, three senior, one junior and two football pitches. KKP site assessments score the pitch as good quality (79%).	Continue to maintain pitch to current quality.	4
Egerton Park Sports Ground cricket pitch	68	M	The site is owned by Melton Town Estate and is used by Egerton Park Cricket Club. The Club has plans to develop a second cricket pitch located to the rear of the clubhouse facility to accommodate junior growth. Cricket nets at the site are of poor quality.	Partners should support the Club to identify possible sources of funding to deliver the project highlighted.	3 and 4

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP Ref	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Buckminster Cricket Club	11	M	Ancillary facilities are of poor quality and in need of improving.	Partners should support the Club to identify possible sources of funding to deliver the project highlighted.	3 and 4
Goadby Road cricket pitch	74	S	The site is the home ground of Waltham Cricket Club (one team). It has spare capacity to accommodate additional play.	Encourage greater community usage of the pitch.	4
Pickwell Cricket Club	24	S	KKP site assessments score the pitch as good quality (67%). However, the pitch was undulated in places.	Improve the pitch surface.	3
Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	27	M	The Club has plans for ground extension and 2 nd ground provision (2010 – 2012). Excellent quality pitch.	Partners should support the Club to identify possible sources of funding to deliver the project highlighted. Continue to maintain the high pitch quality to league standards.	3 and 4
Site	KKP Ref	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Belvoir Cricket Club	7	S	Well maintained site providing one cricket pitch with portable cricket covers and a clubhouse facility.	Continue to maintain site/pitch to current standard.	4
Old Dalby Cricket Club	60	S	Site assessments rate the clubhouse facility as very poor quality and in disrepair. The Club is fundraising for this development. Good quality pitch.	Partners should support the Club to identify possible sources of funding to deliver the project highlighted. Maintain pitch quality.	3 and 4

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP Ref	Capacity rating	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Rugby union						
King Edward VIII School	20		S - L	<p>KKP site assessments score the pitch as good quality (74%). However, consultation reports the pitches are in need of draining and seeding.</p> <p>Melton Mowbray RFC is based at the site. It has access to four senior rugby (including one which is floodlit) and also marks out four mini pitches with cones.</p> <p>As a result of LCC proposals for the site, the Club would take on a new lease of the playing field to the south. This area would be redeveloped with pitches and overall this would result in the loss of two senior football pitches.</p>	<p>Ensure that Melton Mowbray RFC has continued access to enough pitches to meet current and future demand within a secure long term lease.</p> <p>Improve pitch quality on the playing field to the south of the site and ensure it is adequately drained.</p>	1, 3 and 4

Site	KKP Ref	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Hockey					
King Edward VIII School	20	S - L	<p>Home ground to Melton Hockey Club.</p> <p>The site provides one, full sized, floodlit, sand based artificial grass pitch (AGP).</p> <p>The pitch has spare capacity (based on peak day demand; Saturday) to accommodate an additional one match each week.</p> <p>KKP site assessments rate the pitch to be of adequate quality.</p>	<p>Work to ensure the pitch is not overplayed and monitor pitch quality to ensure it does not deteriorate.</p> <p>Ensure a sinking fund is in place to replace the carpet in partnership with the hockey club in the long term.</p>	2 and 3

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	KKP Ref	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Tennis					
Knossington Tennis Court	69	L	Below average court quality with poor access.	In the long term, improve access and court quality by refurbishing the surface.	3
Golf					
Asfordby Road Sports Ground	4	L	The site is owned by Melton Town Estate (MTE) and comprises an 18 hole course. It reports that the course is running at a loss and as such, it is looking at its future potential. MTE is in preliminary discussions with the LTA regarding proposals to develop three or four indoor courts (air hall seasonal structure), four outdoor tennis courts and a fitness suite facility which will include a cafe area. The proposed development will not have an impact on the provision of golf at the site.	Support partners on the facility development and ensure there will be no loss of golf provision.	2 and 3

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES OBJECTIVES

There are a series of key actions which must be realised to support the delivery of the action plan. These require an overall consideration of the provision across the Borough and greater partnership working locally in the formation of a steering group of representatives who can advise and support the Council in decision making for the benefit of the community. In brief MBC should:

- ◀ Establish a steering group of partners including Melton, Borough Council, Active Melton, Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport and Leicestershire County Council to define and agree the requisite requirements for community use across all sites.
- ◀ Determine a coherent strategy which defines the principles of community use to influence access to local community facilities by sports clubs and community associations and pay and play users. It is important that this is inclusive of local community aspirations. It should work to standardise site access including pricing and sports development arrangements.
- ◀ Work with the defined steering group to complete a management options appraisal for the King Edward VII site.
- ◀ Work to meet deficiencies identified within the supply and demand analysis to define future needs for the Borough in relation to sports hall, swimming pools and health and fitness provision.
- ◀ Ensure that there are sufficient publicly accessible facilities to accommodate community use by sports clubs and general community pay and play opportunities. In particular consideration must be given to ensuring that a greater proportion of health and fitness provision is accessible in the future.
- ◀ Continue to engage with providers of activity/village halls to ensure that this type of provision.

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ACTION PLAN

Site	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Belvoir High School	M	Reasonable quality facilities.	Work with the School to identify potential areas of funding for quality improvements.	2 and 4
	S	Community use of facilities at peak times limited to 25-30%.	Work with the School to broker access arrangements.	
John Ferneley College	S	Ensure there remains a good level of community use.	Work with the School management body to ensure that community use is maintained and that there is greater working with Active Melton to engage sports development objectives as part of community use agreements.	2 and 4
King Edward VII School	S - M	The future access and management arrangements for the site are unclear. The closure of the site has had a detrimental effect on the delivery of activity by local sports clubs and participation in sport. Supply and demand modelling suggests that there is a significant deficiency in the provision of sports halls within Melton.	Work with partners including Leicestershire County Council, Active Melton and Sport England to maintain or mitigate the loss of indoor sports halls and fitness suite provision. The Council should undertake a management options appraisal to consider the most effective model for the future provision of sports hall/fitness suite facilities across Melton, in terms of securing community use for local sports clubs and pay and play access for the community.	1 and 4
Long Field School	S	The site has excellent quality facilities but community use is limited.	Work with the School to ensure that the pricing policy supports the delivery of sports development objectives.	2 and 4

MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

Site	Time-scale	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Strategic objective met
Melton Leisure Centre (Melton Brooksby College)	S	<p>This was a significant facility located close to the town centre which included a 4-court hall amongst other extensive sport and leisure facilities including squash courts. The College's facilities closed in August 2010. Many clubs have had to look for facilities outside the town.</p> <p>The facility closed as a result of the lack of economic sustainability and the fact that it was making a loss.</p> <p>Supply and demand modelling suggests that there is a significant deficiency in the provision of sports halls within Melton.</p>	<p>Work with partners including Active Melton and Sport England to maintain or mitigate the loss of indoor sports hall provision.</p> <p>The Council should undertake a management options appraisal to consider the most effective model for the future provision of sports hall/fitness suite facilities across Melton, in terms of securing community use for local sports clubs and pay and play access for the community.</p> <p>Compensatory measures should ensure that a 4-court hall is maintained in order to address the identified deficiencies which would only be further exacerbated by any additional closures.</p> <p>Furthermore it is also important that the Council considers opportunities for the re-provision of squash courts which were lost when the centre closed and have resulted in the local club also folding.</p>	1 and 4
Waterfield Leisure Pool	M	<p>The pools are of variable quality (i.e. whilst the main 25 metre pool is regarded as adequate quality, the leisure pool is regarded as poor and the learner pool is good quality).</p> <p>It is currently the only accessible local authority provision across the Borough.</p>	<p>As part of the contract with Sports and Leisure Management Limited (SLM) ('Everyone Active') work to ensure that the facilities, and in particular the main pool, are maintained/upgraded to good quality.</p>	3 and 4