



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

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DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2032



DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY

Evidence Base EVB 17: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation, December 2019

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DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2032



EVIDENCE BASE PAPER EVB 17: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

December 2019

This Document is one in a series which comprises the evidence base that informs the preparation of the Derry City and Strabane District Local Development Plan (LDP 2032) Plan Strategy.

It builds upon the suite of thematic Topic Papers prepared and published alongside the LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP), which established the May 2017 baseline position and identified the key issues that needed to be addressed by the LDP.

This Evidence Base paper updates the baseline POP position and sets out the evidence base that has informed the strategy, designations and policies within the draft LDP Plan Strategy. Evidence has been informed by feedback from public consultation, discussions with Elected Members, input from statutory consultees, stakeholder groups, from other Departments within the Council, liaison with adjoining Councils and through the iterative Sustainability Appraisal process.

The Evidence Base is published as a 'supporting document' in accordance with Regulation 15(a) of the Planning (LDP) Regulations (NI) 2015.

CONTENTS

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 1.0 | Introduction to Paper | 4 |
| 2.0 | Legislative and Policy Context | 6 |
| 3.0 | Background and Statistical Data | 21 |
| 4.0 | Preferred Options Paper Stage | 43 |
| 5.0 | Key Considerations | 45 |
| 6.0 | Draft Plan Strategy Stage | 48 |
| 7.0 | Sustainability Appraisal | 55 |
| 8.0 | Equality Impact Assessment | 58 |
| 9.0 | Rural Needs Impact Assessment | 59 |
| 10.0 | Appendix | 60 |
| 10.1 | Planning Policy Statement 8 (Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation, PPS 8). | |
| 10.2 | Parks and gardens in the District – including urban parks, country parks, forest parks and formal gardens. | |
| 10.3 | Sports Pitches in Derry City. | |
| 10.4 | Pitches in Strabane Town. | |
| 10.5 | Remainder of Pitches in District (excluding Derry and Strabane). | |
| 10.6 | Leisure facilities in the District. | |
| 10.7 | Golf Courses in the District. | |
| 10.8 | Maps of Pitches in the District. | |
| 10.9 | Playground provision in the District. | |
| 10.10 | Play provision in Derry. | |
| 10.10 | Play Provision in Derry City by type. | |
| 10.11 | Play Provision in Strabane. | |
| 10.12 | Designated sites within Derry City and Strabane District Council. | |
| 10.13 | Woodland Trust estates within the District. | |
| 10.14 | Allotments and Community Garden in the District. | |
| 10.15 | Civic Spaces in the District. | |
| 10.17 | Natural and semi-natural green spaces. | |
| 10.18 | Quantity of Playing Pitches in District Council Areas. | |
| 10.19 | Quantity of Playing Pitches in District Council Areas. | |

1.0 Introduction to Paper

This paper provides information on Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation and will assist in considering how the LDP can strategically meet the open space, sport and recreation needs of the District and will provide:

- an understanding of the open space, sport and recreation situation in the District, in terms of existing provision and any future requirements;
- consider future options for open space and recreation provision in line with current regional policy and
- consider draft strategic planning policies for open space, sport and outdoor recreation.



Types of Sport, Recreation and Open Space

- 1.1 The Council of Europe's European Sports Charter defines sport as "*all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships, or obtaining results in competition at all levels.*" There is wide recognition of the contribution that sport makes to a sense of local and national identity, to personal, moral and physical development and individual enjoyment. Additionally, recognition needs to be given to the wider socio-economic and health benefits of sport and recreation – including job creation, physical fitness and cross-community relationship building.
- 1.2 Open space is generally defined as *all open space of public value*. It can be privately or publicly owned and maintained, combining green space and leisure areas to improve and enhance the amenity of the area. This includes a wide range of types of open space, such as public parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities, play areas, amenity open space, greenways, community pathways and rights of way, coastal and river corridors, ponds and reservoirs, natural and semi-natural spaces, woodlands, allotments and community gardens,

cemeteries, designed landscapes and civic spaces. Where there is built development that is ancillary to the use of the open space, this is also included in the LDP definition of open space. This includes, for example, access pathways, car parks, changing facilities, shelters, pavilions and other associated structures. Open space can serve many different needs of the population depending on size, location and accessibility. In urban areas, open space may fulfil many functions – facilitating sport and organised recreation, children’s play, passive recreation, informal amenity, ‘green lungs’ providing wildlife corridors and urban breaks which help to define different neighbourhoods.

- 1.3 Derry City and Strabane District Council, amongst others has a statutory responsibility for the provision of adequate recreational facilities within the District. Other bodies include local sports clubs, educational establishments, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Forest Service, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Waterways Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland (in association with Department for Communities and the National Lottery).
- 1.4 As well as having responsibility for sport and recreation provision, the Council is leading the Community Planning process for the District, working in partnership with statutory agencies and the community, voluntary and business sectors to plan for and improve services that matter to local people, including sports and recreation facilities.
- 1.5 There are a range of parks and children's play facilities across Derry City and Strabane District. The area is presently served by a wide range of formal private recreational clubs including soccer, rugby, cricket, Gaelic games and golf. The widespread provision of school playing fields throughout the area also offers future potential for community use. The Council is also actively involved in community partnerships for the development and operation of recreational sites. These open spaces deliver a range of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure benefits which contribute to the structure and identity of the District.

2.0 Legislative and Policy Context

- 2.1 **Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021:** The Northern Ireland Executive's public consultation on the draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 closed on 22 July 2016. Work is now being taken forward to develop the final Programme for Government. There are several relevant references to open space and recreation in the draft document. Under Outcome 2: We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment, the Executive will make their contribution to valuing the place we live in by: Helping to improve the quality of the places in which people live, work and play and increasing access to clean, high quality, green spaces. Under Outcome 10: We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society, the Executive will attract and support international cultural and sporting events. Under Outcome 14: We give our children and young people the best start in life, the Executive will support opportunities for play, recreation and creativity.
- 2.2 **OFMDFM Play and Leisure Policy Statement for Northern Ireland** This policy statement was produced by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in 2011 and aims to improve current play and leisure provision for all children and young people between 0 – 18 years. It outlines the Executive's commitment to children and young people's play and leisure needs and their right to engage in these activities. This statement highlights that facilities used for play are frequently seen as focal points for communities and that good play provision and appropriately designed spaces for children create a positive environment and contribute to the sense of well-being and security children have with their surroundings.
- 2.3 **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) - The Rural White Paper Action Plan – June 2012.** This action plan aims to identify and address the key challenges facing rural communities. One of the rural visions within this document is for the continuing development of linkages between rural and urban areas so that everyone can enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of rural places and the facilities and services of larger towns and cities. It sets out a number of policy priorities one of which includes: "to safeguard the beauty and fabric of our rural areas and increase opportunities for all to enjoy the benefits of the countryside".
- 2.4 **Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS):** The RDS 2035 aims to protect and enhance the network of open spaces in the North West. The network consists of open countryside, country parks, urban parks, forests and community greenways. They are important recreational facilities which help to define a sense of place and character for urban communities. They provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles. Opportunities should be taken for connections to an enhanced network of pedestrian paths, cycle-ways and ecological corridors. These have the potential to support biodiversity by linking existing ecological areas creating a network of green spaces throughout the North West. The management of parks and open spaces will encourage the regeneration of the city.

- 2.5 **Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015 (SPPS):** It states that government recognises that open space, sport and outdoor recreation is important to society now and in the future. It supports many cultural, social, economic, health and environmental benefits. Everyone, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities should have easy access to open space and the opportunity to participate in sport and outdoor recreational activity or simply enjoy and have contact with nature. This is recognised in the RDS which highlights the need to provide adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure in cities, towns and neighbourhoods, and new developments.
- 2.6 Open space, whether or not there is public access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban life by providing important green lungs, visual breaks and wildlife habitats in built-up areas. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas, listed buildings and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban and rural regeneration.
- 2.7 The regional strategic objectives for open space, sport and outdoor recreation are to:
- safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision;
 - ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity;
 - facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside that do not negatively impact on the amenity of existing residents;
 - ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities;
 - achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities; and
 - ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity.
- 2.8 The SPPS also states that in plan making, councils should bring forward an Open Space Strategy (OSS) that must reflect the aim, objectives and policy approach of the SPPS, tailored to the specific circumstances of the plan area. The LDP should be informed by a survey/assessment of existing open space provision and future needs. This should include both public and private open space, and identify the different needs they serve (see Appendix for all types of open space in the District).
- 2.9 In preparing LDPs, councils should assess existing provision of open space in the plan area against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) recommended minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of 'outdoor playing space' per 1,000 population (commonly referred to as the '6 acre standard'). These assessments should consider both the level of 'outdoor playing space' provision in the plan area, and the distribution and accessibility of such land use.

- 2.10 Where appropriate, key site requirements for zoned residential land should include guidance on the provision of areas of public open space (including formal and informal recreation areas) as an integral part of the development. Where residential zonings occur in close proximity to existing or zoned open space, plans will normally provide guidance on the need for linkages between the development and these areas in order to facilitate ease of access. The Northern Ireland countryside lends itself to accommodating a wide range of recreational activities. LDPs should contain policy for the consideration of development proposals for outdoor recreation in the countryside. In doing so councils should have regard to a range of issues including:
- visual and residential amenity;
 - public safety, including road safety;
 - any impact on nature conservation, landscape character, archaeology or built heritage; and
 - accessibility.
- 2.11 The SPPS also states that zonings for future needs should take into account the following:
- accessibility to and from existing and proposed housing areas;
 - the potential for any detrimental impact on biodiversity or on sensitive environmental areas and features;
 - the contribution that open space can make to the quality of the environment, sense of place and community life;
 - the importance of protecting linear open spaces such as pedestrian and cycle routes, community greenways, former railway lines and river and canal corridors many of which are valuable in linking larger areas of open space and providing important wildlife corridors/ecological networks;
 - promoting and protecting public access to and along the coast;
 - making adequate provision of green and blue infrastructure; and
 - Identifying and designating areas of open space which perform a strategic function, such as landscape wedges in urban areas.
- 2.12 **Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7): Quality Residential Environments** sets out planning policies regarding residential development. PPS 7 requires development proposals to integrate areas of public open space, including children’s play spaces, as an intrinsic element of any new residential development, to meet the needs generated by that development.
- 2.13 **Planning Policy Statement 8 (PPS 8) Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation:** The policy objectives of PPS8 are:
- To safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision;
 - To ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity;
 - To facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside;

- To ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, the elderly and those with disabilities;
- To achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities; and
- To ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity.

2.14 PPS8 sets out planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation. It also advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It is consistent with the commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity. The policies contained in PPS8 are as follows:

- OS1 Protection of open space;
- OS2 Public open space in new residential development;
- OS3 Outdoor recreation in the countryside;
- OS4 Intensive sports facilities;
- OS6 Development of facilities ancillary to water sports; and
- OS7 The floodlighting of sports and outdoor recreational facilities.

2.15 **PPS 3: Planning Policy Statement 3: Access, Movement and Parking**

PPS 3 sets out the Department's planning policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessment, the protection of transport routes and parking. The main objectives of the statement relevant to open space and recreation are to:

- promote road safety, in particular, for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users;
- make efficient use of road space within the context of promoting modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport;
- ensure that new development offers a realistic choice of access by walking, cycling and public transport, recognising that this may be less achievable in some rural areas;
- promote the provision of adequate facilities for cyclists in new development.

2.16 **Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside** sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. It states that planning permission will be granted for outdoor sport and recreational uses in accordance with PPS8.

2.17 **Revised Planning Policy Statement 15** Revised Planning Policy Statement 15: Planning and Flood Risk, sets out the policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment. This PPS seeks to prevent development within the flood plain, other than for specified exceptions. One of these allows for the use of the land in the flood plain for sport and outdoor recreation, amenity space or for nature conservation purposes, including

ancillary buildings. This however does not include playgrounds for children. The PPS also refers to the importance of open space for flood risk management purposes, including planning for storm exceedance and sustainable drainage.

2.18 **Guidance Documents - Creating Places and Living Places** Both PPS7 and PPS8 are complemented by the guidance document Creating Places which provides more detailed guidelines on securing quality design in new residential development. It highlights the importance of integrating “green” areas into the overall design concept.

2.19 **Living Places, An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for Northern Ireland**, was published in September 2014 and aims to establish the key principles behind good place making. It seeks to inform and inspire all those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland.

2.20 **Derry Area Plan (DAP) 2011**: The DAP 2011 zoned lands for recreation and open space use in Derry City and the villages of Culmore, Eglinton, Newbuildings, Park and Strathfoyle. Chapter 10 in the DAP deals with ‘Recreation and Open Space’ and there are 4 Proposals / Policies:

- Proposal R1 Recreation and Open Space Provision – The Department zones sufficient land to meet the recreational and open space needs of the District.
- Policy R1 Protection of Zoned Recreation and Open Spaces Areas - The Department will not permit proposals for built development in areas zoned as Recreation and Open Space on Maps 2, 3 and the Village Maps except where:
 - the development is related to the existing use,
 - the development provides leisure facilities, or
 - any replacement buildings do not exceed the site coverage of the existing development.
- Policy R2 Recreational use of the River Foyle – The Department will encourage both private and public bodies to provide appropriate recreational facilities along the River Foyle, particularly between Craigavon Bridge and Foyle Bridge.
- Policy R3 Open Space Provision in New Housing Areas - The Department will require as necessary the provision of manageable areas of incidental open space suitable for informal amenity and play use within new housing developments.

2.21 **Strabane Area Plan (SAP) 2001**: The SAP stated that by using the NPFA standard, the Department had established that a shortfall in terms of provision and distribution existed in Strabane, Castlederg and Sion Mills. Within Strabane and Castlederg, there was a need for additional land suitable for recreation and open space more widely distributed throughout the urban areas, while in Sion Mills there were proposals to provide for passive recreational facilities. At the time of publication, it was felt that sufficient land was available in Newtown Stewart to meet the needs of the plan period.

2.22 **Derry City and Strabane Districts Council Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan – Our Community Plan:** The SGP provides a unique opportunity for the Council to genuinely shape the District for local communities and will enable them to adopt a joined up approach, incorporating linkages to other functions such as regeneration, local economic development and community planning. It is intended that the LDP will be the spatial reflection of the SGP and that the two should work in tandem towards the same vision for the Council area and our communities and set the long term social, economic and environmental objectives for the District.

2.23 The Community Plan has higher level strategic policies, as well as incorporating existing strategies/proposals for the District. The Outcome of Physical and Environmental Regeneration section refers to well designed and managed green space, with a stronger environmental stewardship and that we will value and enhance our environment. More integrated, sustainable and accessible transport also includes the delivery of green way provision and the green network. This includes the expansion of the greenway network, including Riverfront, Town Centre and Strathfoyle.

2.24 **North West Greenway Network Project:** In December 2016, Derry and Strabane District Council, Donegal County Council, the Department for Infrastructure (NI) and Sustrans (the UK-based cycling and walking charity), were awarded €14.8 million funding from the EU's INTERREG VA programme, administered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), to construct 46.5kms of cross-border greenway. Match-funding has been provided by the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland.

The objectives are:

- To construct 46.5kms of greenway and cycling/walking routes;
- Encourage a minimum of 500 people to cycle or walk to school, work or college by 2022;
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions entering our atmosphere by over 300 carbon tonnes per annum by 2023;
- Encourage more people to walk and cycle as part of their daily routine and
- Invest in the wider economic and social infrastructure in the North West Region.

2.25 The Northwest greenway routes link Derry to Buncrana via Bridgend; Muff to Derry via Culmore; and Lifford to Strabane. Once completed, this will result in a greenway network of approximately 126.5km in the North West, of which 76.5km will be classified as high quality greenway.

2.25 The Council is also progressing the following:

- the implementation of the Northwest Greenways (2015) to provide improved access and connectivity to our communities, public realm and economic centres including delivery 1km of greenway provision per annum by working towards the delivery of:

- Strathfoyle Greenway
 - Mourne/Strabane Sion Mills Greenway
 - Clooney Greenway
 - Strabane 2nd pedestrian bridge
 - Bay Road Greenway and Pennyburn Bridge
 - Creggan Country Park Greenway
 - Foyle Valley Greenway Derry/Strabane/Lifford
 - Kilfennan Valley Greenway
 - St Columb's Park Public Realm (phase 2)
 - Waterside Greenway (Phase 4) - Gransha Estate
 - Castledearg Greenway
- Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan to establish the future vision for the management, maintenance and development of Council owned green space.
 - Complete the regeneration of Brooke Park;
 - Develop a District Park for Strabane Town;
 - Regeneration of Ballyarnett Country Park;
 - Open a District park at Culmore;
 - Development of a Play Plan and establish a new Play Partnership for the future management, maintenance and development of play provision district-wide.
- To complete existing play parks including:
 - Irish Street
 - Rose Court
 - Fountain
 - Brooke Park
 - Ballyarnett
 - Drumahoe
 - Kilfennan
 - Ballymagroarty
 - Brandywell
 - Magheramason
 - Newtownstewart
- Develop and deliver two new regionally significant sport and leisure facilities, one on the west bank of Derry and another in Strabane Town;
 - Deliver the Brandywell stadium, dog track, sports centre and pitches;
 - Council in partnership with Donegal County Council are hoping to drive forward plans on the '*Riverine Project*', which seeks to create a significant new cross-border community asset for Strabane and Lifford. This is an ambitious which could potentially provide an entire new community infrastructure which can be shared by all those living in close proximity to the border. The project offers the opportunity to completely transform the area and enhance its profile as an attractive visitor destination. The project comprises of 47 acres covering two currently unused open natural spaces, including a partially covered outdoor public events space, community building and a world class play experience, radiating out into shared parkland featuring walkways, river access and parking.

If taken to the next stage the area will also benefit from greatly enhanced infrastructure with a new cross-border greenway network connecting Lifford and Strabane as well as a cross border pedestrian bridge linking the towns. The space will span either side of the banks of the River Foyle in Lifford and Strabane which will be interconnected by a community footbridge. Both local Councils have now jointly submitted a Stage I application under the Peace IV Shared Space and Services Programme following a jointly managed community consultation which helped shape the ambitious new vision for the area. In June 2019 it was announced that a €8.96m funding package has been announced for the cross-border Riverine Project in Lifford and Strabane.

- Improve blueways and waterways access for the improvement of marine-based activity and angling within the Foyle Catchment with the initial redevelopment of Prehen Boathouse and the slipway at Bay Road;
- Build the capacity of our local sporting and recreational clubs to develop business cases and funding plans for delivery of third party sporting and recreational facilities;
- Develop a multi provision approach to addressing deficiencies in sport pitch provision, develop and implement a plan to address this and develop our Clondermott and Melvin sites in phase 1.

2.26 **A North West Greenway Plan** was published by DCSDC in September 2015. This document aims to provide the basis of a strategic and co-ordinated plan for the development of a network of Greenways throughout the North West. It provides a potential greenways map, which identifies a series of recommended Greenway routes for further investigation, as a result of information gathered and initial consultations. The Plan focuses on a study area comprising of County Donegal and Derry City and Strabane District Council. The vision is to develop a cross border network of greenways that link people with places locally, regionally and nationally - bringing social, economic and environmental well-being to all. The aim is to establish the region as a place where people want to live and work and where businesses want to locate, by making sustainability and active travel key elements in the planning and development policy of the region.



2.27 **The One Plan**, published by Ilex in 2010, states that a second-city requires a number of elements to provide the ‘critical mass’ to ensure that it achieves the foundations for a sustainable City Region. These elements include a good quality of life in terms of recreational and leisure provision. In Derry City, the south of the west bank is identified as an area in which a range of water based activities might be located and within which tourism and recreational activities could be developed. At present there is no access from the west bank to the river anywhere above Craigavon Bridge for boating or other water based recreational activities. The essence of the proposal for the river is to develop access from the road to the river and a public slipway to provide access onto the river. The potential exists to develop a major waterside recreational amenity at Daisyfield, such as an all-city schools boathouse or National Centre for Excellence in Water-sports. The Plan recognises that the quality of rural areas is vital to the development of the region in terms of the food economy, tourism and recreation and leisure.

2.28 **Strabane Town Centre Masterplan (September 2010):** In February 2009, the Department for Social Development (DSD), and Strabane District Council (SDC), with DoE Planning Service acting as a statutory partner, commissioned a Regeneration Masterplan for Strabane Town Centre. This non-statutory document provided the basis, and justification for decision making on the promotion, implementation and timing of urban regeneration initiatives in the town centre for the period up to 2020. The Masterplan states that Open Space provision in the town centre is critical to encourage a stop and shop culture and to develop a town centre living strategy which will give residents a quality of life comparable with suburban living. All new developments should build in as much

green space as possible to foster the image of the town centre as a place to reside and not to shop and leave.

- 2.29 The Masterplan includes a section '*Place Quality*' which encompasses a number of different elements of the physical structure and fabric of the Town Centre. These are the physical elements of the place: what it looks like (and the historic elements that shape its character), how it is arranged, the relationship between the buildings and the open space and how it fits into its landscape.
- 2.30 The Masterplan aims to provide a safe, attractive and animated public realm, this includes open spaces. The Strabane Masterplan refers to the SCORE site, adjacent to the Alley Arts Centre, a large hard landscaped area of public open space, 0.38 hectares in size and offers 2 options for its regeneration. There is also a site at Butcher/Market Street which has the potential to become the principal public space in Strabane.
- 2.31 **Ebrington Development Framework (EDF):** In January 2016, the DOE Minister granted outline planning approval for the regeneration of the former Ministry of Defence (MoD) site at Ebrington in Derry. The proposal is for a range of uses including museum and heritage, creative industries, education, research and development and hotel and leisure. It is the largest single regeneration site in Derry.
- 2.32 The largest open green space within walking distance of the city centre is St. Columb's Park, North of Ebrington. Previously the park had a poor physical relationship with the Cityside and Waterside. The Peace Bridge has had a very positive impact with a footfall of 1m per annum, but is still poorly connected on the important North-South axis. Ebrington will act as a 'bridge' to this green space, enhancing access for all parts of the community. The linear green corridor that extends along the eastern bank of the Foyle and proposed Clooney Greenway provides a further opportunity to associate green space with health and well-being.
- 2.33 Fort George, the former Army base was acquired by the Department for Social Development in 2004. The proposal for the 6.2 hectare site includes residential, office and education uses, as well as retail, cafes, bars, restaurants and parking. The plans provide for up to 82,274 square metres of floor space and allows for the decontamination and infilling of the site. This will include areas of open space and will connect to the Riverwalk and Bayroad Park.
- 2.34 **The Strategic Riverside Masterplan** (draft 2011) was prepared by consultants for Derry City Council, Ilex, DSDs North West Development Office, the Loughs Agency and Derry's Port & Harbour Commission. It has three principal purposes:
- To secure a spatial strategy for the river corridor in the wider study area.
 - To stimulate leisure, recreation and tourism opportunities creating employment whilst preserving and enhancing the environmental value of the river asset.
 - To secure a detailed framework to guide development along the urban waterfront between the Foyle and Craigavon Bridges setting standards that

will help regenerate the city. The Strategic Riverside Masterplan consists of two main parts – a River Strategy, which covers the entire study area from Culmore to Newbuildings and an Urban Waterfront Framework, focusing in more detail upon the Riverbanks between the Foyle and Craigavon Bridges. The River Strategy stated that within Derry the major impact upon access to the riverside is created by having one of the city’s main strategic arterial routes running directly adjacent to the river between the Craigavon and Foyle bridges on the Cityside. Such severance also exists on the Waterside as a result of the location of the railway line running along the eastern shoreline.

2.35 DCSDC Corporate Plan 2018/19 and Performance Improvement Plan 2018/19 includes objectives to help people develop long, healthy and fulfilling lives by increasing participation in high quality leisure, sport and healthy living activity.

Examples of the key achievements, under the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan include:

- The newly opened £5.7m Brooke Park achieved a number of accolades including: being shortlisted for a National Association of Public Sector Excellence Award for Best Housing, Regeneration or New Build Initiative; being highly commended at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Awards for Community benefit; being awarded a Green Flag award by Keep NI Beautiful.
 - Working with WHSCT to extend this route beyond the Gransha Estate
 - Take forward the €18m North West Greenways project – 46.5km of greenway across 3 cross border routes.
 - proposed community district park in Strabane and Lifford.

2.36 Derry City and Strabane District Green Infrastructure Plan

The Council have published a Green Infrastructure Plan 2019 – 2032. This document provides an evidence base report for the development of the LDP 2032. It will consider the findings of the GI audit, gaps in green space provision, proposed GI, maintenance programmes and possible future sources of funding. The purpose of this guide is to present GI as a strategic approach, for the creation of a planned and managed network of multi-functional green spaces, which can deliver a range of environmental, economic and social benefits for local communities. It will identify priority areas for protecting and improving green infrastructure and will highlight the importance of enhancing biodiversity, safeguarding ecosystem services, mitigating and adapting to climate change, improving health and well-being benefits. GI is an interconnected network of multi-functional natural and semi-natural areas, which provide multiple environmental, economic and social benefits, linked throughout the urban and rural landscape. It is mostly comprised of countryside, parks, natural habitats, allotments and green links (river and stream corridors, pedestrian and cycling routes). These spaces provide a mix of functions including recreation, sustainable transport, education, wildlife habitat, flood risk management, local food production, energy production and ecosystem services. Often these functions overlap, for example, a woodland can provide a habitat for wildlife, a recreational asset, a landscape feature and a fuel supply. GI can provide several environmental, social and economic functions within a site. For

example, it will aim to physically connect areas of open space, to include the district’s key parks, habitats, other open space features, greenways and blueways, in an interlinked network of GI corridors. Also, it will link the main urban areas with the urban fringes, countryside and with adjacent districts.

- 2.37 GI can provide several environmental, social and economic functions within a site. For example, it will aim to physically connect areas of open space, to include the district’s key parks, habitats, other open space features, greenways and blueways, in an interlinked network of GI corridors. Also, it will link the main urban areas with the urban fringes, countryside and with adjacent districts. Potential benefits and functions of Green Infrastructure:

| ENVIRONMENTAL | SOCIAL | ECONOMIC |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Access to natural green space | Access to sport & recreational space | Improved aesthetics |
| Providing ecosystem services, for example, flood management, improved air & water quality | Improved physical & mental health | Improved investment by stakeholders |
| Enhancing biodiversity habitats, species & connectivity | Connectivity within a network | Increased land & property values |
| Food, fishery & energy production | Education & life-long learning | Increased tourism potential |
| Climate change mitigation & adaptation | Social inclusion & interaction | Cost effective way to connect villages, towns & cities |
| Carbon storage | Increased sense of community | Improve resilience when used in combination with grey infrastructure |

- 2.38 By incorporating Green Infrastructure (GI) through spatial planning, it enables interactions between different land uses to be investigated over a large geographical area.

Strategic level spatial planning will help to:

- locate the best places for habitat enhancement projects, to help reconnect healthy ecosystems and improve connectivity between protected areas;
- guide infrastructure developments away from particularly sensitive nature areas and provide robust areas where they might additionally contribute to restoring or recreating GI features as part of the development proposal; and
- identify multi-functional zones where there are compatible land uses that support health ecosystems.

- 2.39 **Derry City and Strabane District’s Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017 - 2032: Our Community Plan** (DCSDC 2017), aims to improve social, economic and environmental well-being and long term objectives for the district to contribute to the sustainable development in Northern Ireland. This GI Framework links with Council’s Community Plan mission, ‘to improve the social,

economic and environmental well-being of the city and district and to do so in a sustainable way’.

2.40 **Derry City and Strabane District Council ‘Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy’.** Derry City and Strabane District Council commissioned a ‘*Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy*’. The methodology for the commission is ‘Towards a Level Playing Field; Playing Pitch Model’ developed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The Playing Pitch Model requires focused research on supply, demand and quality to assess adequacy of provision for training requirements, however the consultants have addressed adequacy of provision for training given its importance in consideration of overall provision. Part 1: Audit of Existing Provision was published on 7 June 2018. Part 2 of the Pitches Strategy published on 6 November 2019, presented a plan of strategic projects that are either in progress or being recommended. It is noted that the Council has a number of ‘live’ projects and a number of projects being considered which taken together will add substantially to the existing stock, helping to improve the overall picture for *adequacy of provision* and increase the buffer of pitches.

2.41 The research was carried out from January 2018 to April 2018, looking at association football, Gaelic games, hockey, rugby and cricket.⁽¹⁾ The Council requires two main outputs, namely:-

- An audit of all playing pitches in the control of Derry City and Strabane District Council, including an inventory of other pitches, and;
- A Playing Pitches Strategy that allows the Council to make informed planning decisions regarding pitch provision and assists with the targeting of financial investment and the planning of the delivery of sports development programmes.
- It was considered important to prepare and present an inventory of all known pitches in all ownerships for the five sports in the Council area. The inventory and this study deals only with pitches suitable for competition at some level, therefore Multi Use Games Areas are outside the scope of this study. The summary shows there are 143 pitches suited to competition at some level across the five sports; training pitches of varying sizes are additional to this and are noted in each sport-specific section as appropriate.

2.42 The following is a summary of the Full and Youth Match Provisions in the District. Further details of the adequacy of provision for association football, Gaelic games, cricket, hockey and rugby can be found further at points in the full report.

Table 1.3: Summary of Full and Youth Match Pitches

| Ownership | GRASS | | | | | ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES | | | TOTALS |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| | Assoc Football | Gaelic Games | Cricke t | Hocke y | Rugb y | Assoc Football | Gaelic Games | Hockey (Astro) | |
| Council | 42 | 3 | 0 | n/a | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 53 |
| Club/Community | 9 | 21 | 18 | n/a | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53 |
| Education Sector | 14 | 3 | 6 | n/a | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 37 |
| Totals | 65 | 27 | 24 | n/a | 13 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 143 |

Other relevant Government Strategies

- 2.44 The Northern Ireland Government has launched several important policy documents in recent years which promote the delivery of enhanced facilities for open space, sport and recreation. These strategies re-affirm the importance of sport and recreation and are expected to be delivered by a combination of central government departments together with Council and the community/voluntary sectors.
- 2.45 **Play and Leisure Policy Statement** for Northern Ireland was produced by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in 2009. The aim of this policy framework is to improve existing play and leisure provision for all children and young people from 0 - 18 years. As a result, the *Play and Leisure Implementation Plan* was produced in 2011. This specifies high level outcomes with emphasis on the value placed on play, and improved play and leisure facilities for all children and young people in order to support their development, enjoyment and growth.
- 2.46 **Sport Matters: The NI Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019** outlines a broader Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. Its vision is for "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport..." It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period and informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: Participation, Performance and Places. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans.
- 2.47 **Active Places Research Report 2009 Bridging the Gap and 2014 update** provides an evidence base to inform the strategic development of sports facilities in Northern Ireland. The 2009 report identified unmet demand and shortfalls for sports facilities such as sports halls, swimming pools, tennis courts, athletic facilities and pitches in Northern Ireland. The 2014 update presents facility shortfall tables for Pitches and Sports halls only. The facility shortfall tables presented in the 2009 Report excluded school sports facilities

due to their limited availability for community use. However, in light of recent Community Use of Schools guidance published by Sport NI and the Department of Education, it is important to recognise the potential value of school sports facilities in addressing the facility shortfalls throughout Northern Ireland.

- 2.48 **Community Use of School Premises – A Guidance Toolkit (January 2014).** The Department of Education produced this document to provide practical guidance to achieving community use of school sports facilities. There is a range of educational, recreational and sporting facilities which can be used to meet a variety of needs not only for pupils, but for their parents, families and local communities.
- 2.49 **Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024:** This strategy was prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI in May 2014. The vision of this strategy is to make Northern Ireland a world class mountain bike destination.
- 2.50 **NIEAs Outdoor Recreation Action Plan (ORAP)** provides key recommendations for actions and challenges that need to be addressed to make Northern Ireland a place where outdoor recreation can deliver:
1. Healthy active lifestyles for local people from all communities.
 2. Economic growth through encouraging visitors to come and enjoy the outdoors
 3. Protection of landscapes and ecosystems for future generations.
- 2.51 **The Children and Young Peoples Strategy 2017-2027.** The Programme for Government (PfG) identifies that a key desired outcome is “giving our children and young people the best start in life”. This Strategy is a key component to achieve this. Similarly to the PfG, this Strategy sets out how to improve we the lives of our children and young people.
- 2.52 **Young People and Sport in NI, Exploring attitudes to and experiences of sport and physical activity among children and young people in Northern Ireland.** The research feeds into ongoing policy development in Northern Ireland which acknowledges the positive role that sport and physical activity can play both at grassroots level, for example in the alleviation of poverty, social exclusion and disadvantage and in the promotion of equality and good relations, and at competitive top athlete level.
- 2.53 **Emerging Strategies** Derry City and Strabane District Council, in partnership with Sport NI, commissioned Strategic Leisure to produce a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland and 11 District Council Area Reports. New District Council Area Reports will flow out of the Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland and identify strategic need for local facilities. It will recommend locations for development/refurbishment of sports facilities. The draft area plan for the Derry City and Strabane District Council area was produced, however, following review it was evident that a framework for the prioritisation and development of facilities required further consideration.

3.0 Background and Statistical Data

3.1 Open Space, Sports and Outdoor Recreation Provision:

In considering the current and future needs of the city, in terms of open space, the council has undertaken an exercise to identify and quantify the existing provision of a variety of types of open space across the District (see Appendix for full list). The amount and how accessible it is to those who currently use or could use it along with the views from the POP consultations, consultees and stakeholder will inform the appropriate policies and proposals at the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan stage.

3.2 The Council offers a full range of outdoor facilities ranging from sports pitches to more leisurely activities. This assessment includes formal sports and recreation grounds, playing pitches and children's play space. Other forms of open space in the plan area which are excluded from the definition of outdoor playing space but still provide important informal passive recreation such as parks, country parks and general amenity areas are identified in the Appendix. Derry City and Strabane District Council recently published 'Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy' used the methodology 'Towards a Level Playing Field; Playing Pitch Model' developed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The Playing Pitch Model required focused research on supply, demand and quality to assess adequacy of provision for training requirements, however the consultants have addressed adequacy of provision for training given its importance in consideration of overall provision. Part 1: Audit of Existing Provision was published on 7 June 2018 and Part 2 of the Pitches Strategy published on 6 November 2019 along with the FIT standards audit has been used to provide evidence for an understanding of open space in the District.

3.3 Derry Area Plan (DAP) 2011

The Derry Area Plan zoned 5 separate areas of existing recreation and open space in Derry City totalling 62 hectares:

| DAP Ref | Type of Open Space in DAP | Name/Address as per DAP | Approx Area (HA) Zoned |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| DYEROS 01 | Existing Recreation and Open Space | Brooke Park and Brooke Park Leisure Centre | 8 |
| DYEROS 02 | Existing Recreation and Open Space | St Columbs Park and Foyle Arena Leisure Centre | 30 |
| DYEROS 03 | Existing Recreation and Open Space | Whitehouse Road, Derry | 9 |
| DYEROS 04 | Existing Recreation and Open Space | Rosstown Road, Derry | 1 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| DYROS 05 | Existing Recreation and Open Space | Top of the Hill Park | 13 |
| Total Hectares | | | 62 |

There were 6 areas of zoned open space outside of Derry City in the Derry Area Plan. These are located in Strathfoyle, Eglinton, and Newbuildings and they total 16 hectares:

| DAP Ref | Type of Open Space in DAP | Name/Address as per DAP | Approx Area |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| SFROS01 | Recreation and Open Space | Strathfoyle | 6 |
| EGROS01 | Recreation and Open Space, Eglinton Primary School | Eglinton Primary School | 2 |
| EGROS02 | Recreation and Open Space, Cricket Ground, Eglinton | Cricket Ground, Eglinton | 2 |
| EGROS03 | Recreation and Open Space, Playing Fields, Eglinton | Playing Fields, Eglinton | 3 |
| NBEROS01 | Recreation and Open Space: West, Newbuildings | Newbuildings | 1 |
| NBEROS02 | Recreation and Open Space: East, Newbuildings | Newbuildings | 2 |
| Total Hectares | | | 16 |

The DAP also identified 55 areas of land zoned for recreation and open space, totalling 473.490ha.

3.4 **Strabane Area Plan (SAP) 2001:** The Strabane Area Plan 2001 zoned four separate areas for recreation purposes in Strabane town. A total of 33.35ha was zoned.

| SAP Ref | Type of Open Space in SAP | Name/Address as per SAP | Approx. Area (Ha) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| SE 30.6.1 (3 parts) | Recreation and Open Space | South of Laurel Drive, Meetinghouse Street, Town Street, Ballycolmand and Milltown Road | 10.50 |
| SE 30.6.2 | Recreation and Open Space | Drumrallagh, Strabane | 8.01 |
| SE 30.6.3 | Recreation and Open Space | Adjacent to Urney Road, Strabane | 6.77 |
| SE 30.6.4 | Recreation and Open Space | Adjacent to Urney Road, Strabane | 8.07 |
| Total Hectares | | | 33.35 |

There were 4 areas of zoned open space outside of Strabane Town in the Strabane Area Plan. These are located in Castlederg and Sion Mills and totalling 13.54 hectares.

| SAP Ref | Type of Open Space in SAP | Name/Address as per SAP | Approx. Area (HA) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| CG 58.4 | Recreation and Open Space | West of the Town Centre and Adjacent to the River, Castlederg | 2.67 |
| CG 58.2 Part One | Recreation and Open Space | Derg valley Leisure Centre, Mitchell Park Complex and Drumquin Road, Castlederg | 8.55 total |
| CG 58.2 Part Two | Recreation and Open Space | Drumquin Road, Castlederg | |
| CG 58.2 Part Three | Recreation and Open Space | Castlederg | |
| SS 69.2 | Recreation and Open Space | Banks of River Mourne, Sion Mills | 2.32 |
| Total Hectares | | | 13.54 |

- 3.5 **Use of the Fields in Trust standard** Fields in Trust is the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), which was first established in 1925. To measure open space provision in each settlement, the Fields in Trust (FIT) standard, formerly known as the NPFA standard, was used as a yardstick. Within this definition the FIT recognises there is a distinction between sports/active recreation and children's play, and recommends a minimum standard for each of these broad headings. The 2.4 hectares per 1,000 Population is for a "Total Playing Space" interpretation, but for outdoor sport, 1.6 hectares per 1000 population is recommended and for children's playing spaces, between 0.6 and 0.8 hectares per 1000 population is recommended.
- 3.6 As noted previously the SPPS states that councils should assess existing provision of open space in the plan area against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) recommended minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of 'outdoor playing space' per 1,000 population (commonly referred to as the '6 acre standard').
- 3.7 The Six Acre Standard (SAS) was established as a guide to ensure that sufficient land is set aside in appropriate locations to enable the population to participate in sports, outdoor play, games and other physical recreation. The FIT does not regard 'outdoor playing space' to be the same as public open space, rather it is space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children's play. Accordingly it is a significant component, but not the only form, of open space. 'Outdoor playing space' is made up of two main components. The first includes land provided for outdoor sport, principally for adults and youths. The second is playing space for children.
- 3.8 It is noted that the Six Acre Standard is not a legislative requirement, but this standard is commonly used as a benchmark in spatial planning throughout the United Kingdom. This standard excludes: sports grounds and stadiums, verges, woodlands, commons, the seashore, nature conservation areas, allotments, ornamental parks and gardens, golf facilities, water used for recreation, indoor sports halls and leisure centres and commercial entertainment complexes and theme parks. The NPFA does recognise that there are circumstances where some of these can make a valuable contribution to the total recreational provision of communities, but these are not regarded as substitutes for elements of the NPFA standard.
- 3.9 Care needs to be taken when applying the FIT Standard to the countryside of Derry and Strabane. For example, a rural area with relatively few settlements may have relatively few sports facilities. On the other hand, a community or village with a population of 1,000 for example may still need a range of facilities, yet applying the standard to a single football pitch could suggest over-provision. Additionally, an area with a high dependence on passive recreation or on water-based outdoor sport would be expected to score poorly against the FIT standard. Nevertheless, this standard does provide a useful starting point in assessing the overall level of provision in the District currently.

3.10 Projection of Future Need of Outdoor Sport Provision

An assessment of the future needs of the council area up to 2032 can be calculated using the NISRA projected population of 149,500 and applying the FIT (NPFA) standard as follows:

- 3.11 Calculations indicate that additional population growth is projected to be 859 between 2011 and 2032 based on NISRA projections. This would require a total of 358.8 hectares of outdoor sports provision with a total number of 239 playing pitches and 89.7 – 119.6 ha of children’s play spaces (see tables below for calculations).

| Outdoor Sport Provision | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| | NISRA | Strategic Growth Plan |
| Projected Population 2032 (A) | 149,500 | 160,000 |
| 2011 Census Population (B) | 148,191 | 148,191 |
| Additional Population Growth (A-B) | 859 | 11,809 |
| Projected Future need of outdoor provisions is 2.4 (Ha) per 1000 population | 358.8 | 384 |

- 3.12 **Projection of Future Need for Playing Pitches until 2032.** An assessment of the future playing pitches needs of the council area up to 2032 can be calculated using the NISRA projected population of and applying the FIT standard as follows:

| Playing Pitches | | |
|---|----------|-----------------------|
| | NISRA | Strategic Growth Plan |
| Projected Population 2032 (A) | 149,0500 | 160,000 |
| 2011 Census Population (B) | 148,191 | 148,191 |
| Additional Population Growth (A-B) | 859 | 11,809 |
| Projected future need of play pitches 1.6 (Ha) per 1000(average pitch size) | 239.2 | 256 |

- 3.13 The following table shows a breakdown of the type of pitches in the District and the total hectares in Derry, Strabane and the remaining settlements in the District. In Derry there are Basketball, cricket, Gaelic, Multi-use, Rugby, Soccer and MUGAs totalling 70.76 hectares. In Strabane Town there are Cricket, Gaelic, Hockey, Multi-use, Soccer pitches and MUGAs totalling 19.4 hectares. The remainder of the District totalled 86.9 hectares and encompassed Athletics, Cricket, Gaelic, Hockey, Multi-use, Rugby, Soccer and MUGAs totalling 86.9 hectares. The appendix shows in more detail the location of the pitches in the District.

- 3.14 The source of this information is taken from the Council’s ‘Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy’ and a

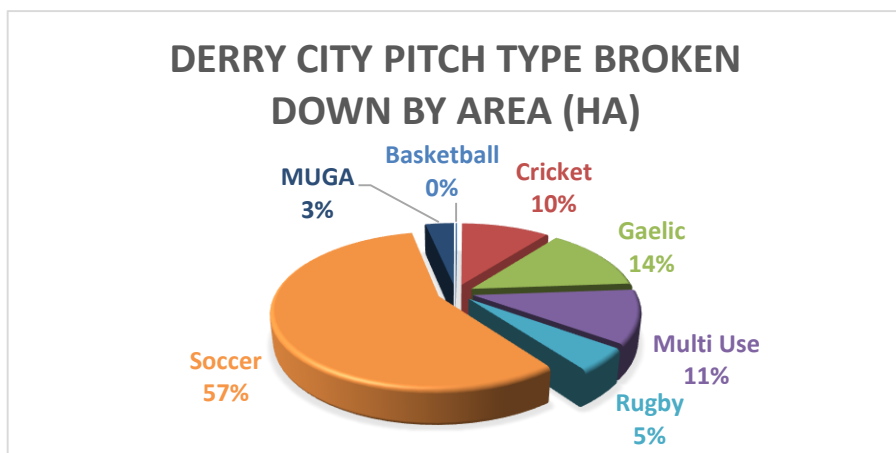
spatial audit of all pitches in the District. In total there are 177.06 hectares of pitches in the District. If we take the NISRA calculation of 239.2 – 177.06, 62.14 extra hectares are required. Based on the 1.6 average pitch size a total of 38.8 pitches would be needed in the District until 2032.

| Pitches in Derry City and Strabane District Council 2018 | Hectares |
|--|---------------|
| Derry City Pitches | 70.76 |
| Strabane Town Pitches | 19.4 |
| Other Settlements in District | 86.9 |
| Total | 177.06 |

Derry City Pitches Summary

| Type | Area (HA) |
|------------|-----------|
| Basketball | 0.12 |
| Cricket | 7.27 |
| Gaelic | 9.47 |
| Multi Use | 7.89 |
| Rugby | 3.44 |
| Soccer | 40.21 |
| MUGA | 2.36 |

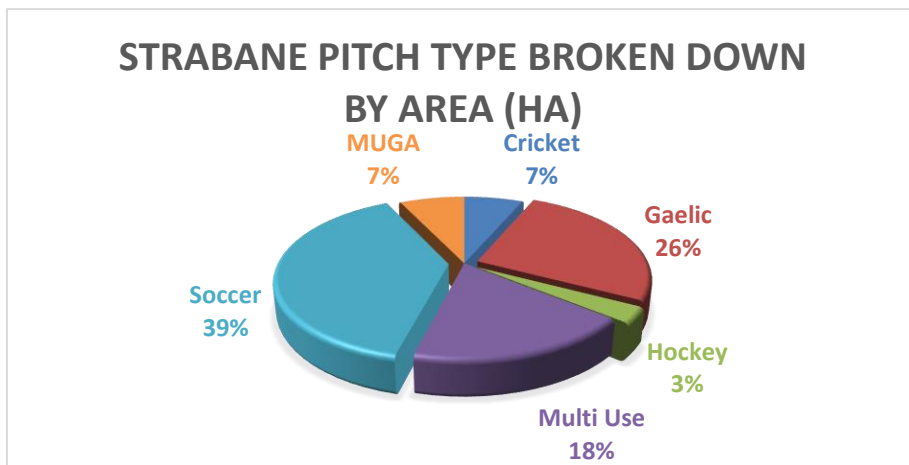
| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total Area (HA) | 70.76 |
|-----------------|-------|



Strabane Pitches Summary

| Type | Area (HA) |
|-----------|-----------|
| Cricket | 1.26 |
| Gaelic | 5.08 |
| Hockey | 0.61 |
| Multi Use | 3.52 |
| Soccer | 7.54 |
| MUGA | 1.39 |

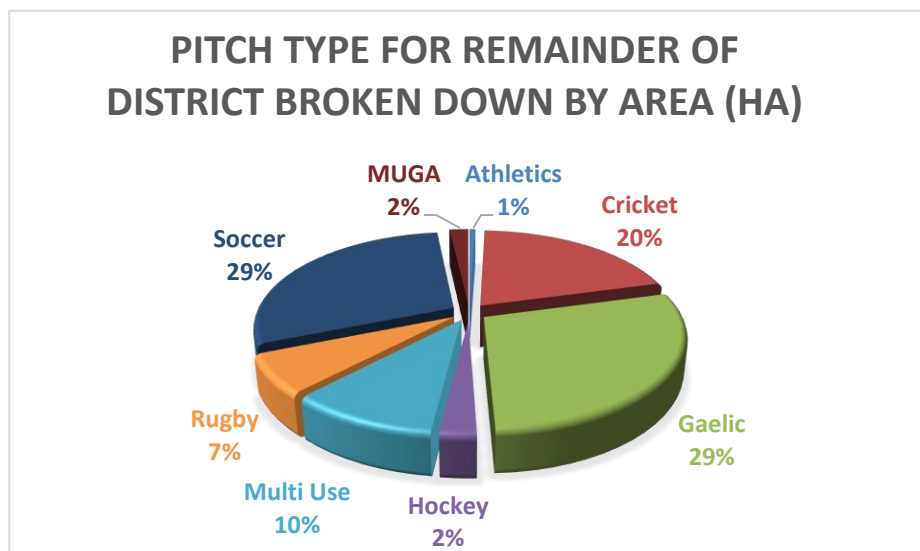
| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Total Area (HA) | 19.4 |
|-----------------|------|



Remainder of District (Excluding Strabane and Derry City)

| Type | Area (HA) |
|-----------|-----------|
| Athletics | 0.49 |
| Cricket | 17.57 |
| Gaelic | 24.89 |
| Hockey | 2.17 |
| Multi Use | 8.86 |
| Rugby | 5.88 |
| Soccer | 25.47 |
| MUGA | 1.57 |

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Total Area (HA) | 86.9 |
|-----------------|------|



3.15 **Derry City and Strabane District Council ‘Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy’** used the methodology ‘Towards a Level Playing Field; Playing Pitch Model’ developed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The Playing Pitch Model requires focused research on supply, demand and quality to assess adequacy of provision for training requirements, however the consultants have addressed adequacy of provision for training given its importance in consideration of overall provision. Part 1: Audit of Existing Provision was published on 7 June 2018.

3.16 It was considered important to prepare and present an inventory of all known pitches in all ownerships for the five sports in the Council area. The inventory and this study deals only with pitches suitable for competition at some level, therefore Multi Use Games Areas are outside the scope of this study. The summary shows there are 143 pitches suited to competition at some level across the five sports; training pitches of varying sizes are additional to this and are noted in each sport-specific section as appropriate.

3.17 **Adequacy of Provision for Pitches in accordance with the Sport England Model:**

Adequacy of provision for community use is assessed for each sport against three scenarios in accordance with the Sport England model:-

| Reference | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| Scenario 1 | All pitches (in all ownerships) |
| Scenario 2 | Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not with secured use (excludes pitches not available to community use). |
| Scenario 3 | Council pitches only |

3.18 Adequacy of provision across the Council area for each sport is summarised as follows, where a '+' result indicates supply of pitches exceeds current demand and a '-' result indicates a shortfall in supply of pitches for current demand. Scenario 1 and Scenario 3 are assessed in the sports-specific sections of this report; Scenario 1 is deemed to be unrealistic as it includes pitches in the education sector that are generally not available for community use. Similarly Scenario 3, assessed in the sports-specific sections is deemed to be unrealistic as it considers only Council-owned pitches. For these reasons Scenario 2 is summarised here as the most realistic Scenario. It is summarised for the whole Council area and, where appropriate, for each of four sub-areas:-

| Adequacy of Provision – Scenario 2 | | | | | | |
|---|------------|---------|------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sport/Category | Whole area | Council | By Area | | | |
| | | | Derry City | Derry Rural | Strabane Town | Strabane Rural |
| <u>Association Football</u> | | | | | | |
| Youth pitches (U12-U16) | +28 | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Adult pitches (U17, U18, older) | +3 | | +2 | +1 | +3 | -3 |
| <u>Gaelic Games</u> | | | | | | |
| Go Games, Youth and Adult pitches for matches and training | -8 | | -3 | evens | -0.5 | -4 |

| Cricket | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Youth, Junior and Adult pitches for matches and training | +1 | evens | evens | evens | +1 |
| Youth, Junior and Adult pitches for matches and training | +1 | evens | evens | evens | +1 |
| Hockey | | | | | |
| Mini Hockey | +1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Youth Hockey | +1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Adult Hockey | evens | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Rugby | | | | | |
| Mini Rugby | +2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Youth Rugby | evens | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Adult Rugby | -2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

3.19 The assessment demonstrates that the provision of pitches for community use, excepting youth pitches for association football barely meets demand and in the case of Gaelic games falls well short of demand. The following sections considers in more detail Association football, Gaelic Games, Cricket, Hockey and Rugby.

3.20 **Association Football – Summary of Pitches.** Looking at competitive match pitch provision within the Council area there is a total of 65 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and Small Sided Games matches and 8 full size 3G facilities under all ownership. In addition, there are two youth 3G pitches (Leafair, Magee University). However not all of these full and youth grass pitches are available for community use – generally secondary school pitches are not available for competitive matches. This is further discussed under Adequacy of Provision.

A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities provision by ownership is:

| Ownership | Full and Youth Match Pitches | | | Training Pitches – varying sizes | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| | Grass Full | 3G Full | Youth 3G | Grass | AstroTurf | 3G Training | Shale/ MUGA |
| Clubs/Community/ Other Sport | 9 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Secondary School | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| University | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Council | 42 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| Outside Council | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 2 ⁽⁴⁾ | 0 |
| Total | 65 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 19 | 8 |

3.21 Of the eight full size 3G pitches identified in the above table, three have been recently completed. Brandywell Stadium (x1) and Melvin Sport Complex (x2). It is expected these will be available both for adult competitive matches, mid-week training and also for Small Sided Games. Use of 3G pitches for adult matches will help reduce the pressure on the Council's grass pitch stock. The hire cost for an adult competitive match on a 3G pitch is set to be the same as that for a grass pitch to encourage use. The four 3G pitches under education ownership (Lisneal College, Holy Cross College, St Columb's College and St Mary's College) have some community use for training and SSG's but are not currently available for competitive adult and youth matches.

3.22 **Adequacy of Provision for Association Football.** Matches: District-wide. The Sport England Playing Pitch Model quantitatively assesses adequacy of provision by comparing pitch supply to demand. Three pitch scenarios are assessed, each with the following number of pitches available for matches:-

| Reference | Description | No. of grass and 3G pitches available for adult matches | No. of grass and 3G pitches available for youth matches |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Scenario 1 | All pitches | 64 x grass 8 x 3G ⁽⁶⁾ | 64 x grass 10 x 3G ⁽⁷⁾ |
| Scenario 2 | Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use). | 43 x grass 4 x 3G | 38 x grass 6 x 3G |
| Scenario 3 | Council pitches only | 35 x grass 4 x 3G | 37 x grass 5 x 3G |

Whilst adequacy of provision for all three scenarios is assessed, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy.

Youth (U12 to U16) + 28 pitches
Adult (U17, U18, older) + 3 pitches

3.23 Scenario 2 excludes education pitches (generally not available for club matches), the 7 Council pitches currently not in use plus the 2 dedicated youth pitches, so reducing the combined number of full size grass and 3G pitches available for adult games to 46.

3.24 Given that Councils often require a pitch surplus for operational reasons (maintenance, closure of poor quality pitches due to inclement weather, spike in demand, etc) the over-supply of 3 pitches for adult matches (or 6% of total supply) is a comparatively small buffer; four other local authorities in Northern

⁽⁶⁾ Includes Brandywell Stadium and Melvin Sports Complex 3G pitches although they were not available in 2017/18 season, they will be available for the 2018 season and beyond, the other 3G pitches are: Bishop's Field (1), Holy Cross College (1), Lisneal College (1), St Columb's College(1), St Mary's College (1).

⁽⁷⁾ Leafair 3G pitch is slightly too small for adult games and is included in youth totals.

Ireland have a combined average 34% of a buffer in pitches supply for association football.

3.25 **Matches: By Area for Association Football** Four areas within the District are also assessed for adequacy of provision; here are the results:-

| Area | Adequacy of Provision (Adult) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Derry City | + 2 pitches |
| Derry Rural | + 1 pitch |
| Strabane Town | + 3 pitches |
| Strabane Rural | - 3 pitches |

The analysis shows none of the areas exceeds the over-supply of 3 pitches for the District whilst Strabane Rural has a shortfall in supply.

3.26 **Gaelic Games – Summary of Pitches** Gaelic games are traditionally played on a grass pitch which at full regulation size is 145m x 90m. With recent developments in artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology synthetic pitches suited to Gaelic games are beginning to appear although ATP's are more suited to Gaelic football than to hurling or camogie. The majority of Gaelic clubs own their pitch/pitches and premises, however due to the large numbers of teams per club they often make use of community and Council pitch facilities both for training and occasionally for competitive matches.

3.27 A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities by ownership is:-

| Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches and training | | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Ownership | Full Grass | Full 3G | Training Grass | Training 3G | MUGA + Astro turf |
| Clubs/County Board | 21 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Education | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Derry City and Strabane District Council | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 27 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 5 |

3.28 **Adequacy of Provision District-wide for Gaelic Games**

The Sport England Playing Pitch Model quantitatively assesses adequacy of provision by comparing pitch supply to demand. Three pitch scenarios are assessed. Given the profile of Gaelic games it is assumed that all adult, youth and Go Games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used in the delivery of competitive games.

| Reference | Description | No. of Full Grass +3G | No. of Training Grass |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Scenario 1 | All pitches | 28 | 10 |
| Scenario 2 | Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use). | 23 x Grass | 8 |
| Scenario 3 | Council pitches only | 3 x Grass 1x 3G | 1 |

3.29 Whilst adequacy of provision for all three scenarios is assessed, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy.

Go Games Youth and Adult matches and training - 8 pitches

It is important to note the following comments when considering the result for Scenario 2:-

- Based on the club survey, Scenario 2 assumes that Gaelic pitch capacity is 5 games per week PLUS 16 x 1-hour training slots, that is, total usage of approximately 30 hours per week – this is dependent on weather and pitch maintenance.
- Scenario 2 includes does not include the use of 3G facilities for matches and training.
- Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for training and match needs. This suggests that clubs are delivering matches and training ‘under pressure’ which is likely to impact on current participation rates and future growth. The pressure on current pitch supply may become more of an issue as the large number of youth (male and female) teams filter through to adult levels - present provision would struggle to support any projected growth.

3.30 **By Area for Gaelic Games**

Four areas within the District are also assessed for adequacy of provision, as follows:-

| Area | Adequacy of Provision (Adult) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Derry City | - 3 pitches |
| Derry Rural | Evans |
| Strabane Town | - 0.5 pitches |
| Strabane Rural | - 4 pitches |

Remembering that this analysis considers the provision of full size and training size grass pitches it’s clear that a shortfall in provision is experienced in all areas but is most acute in Derry City and Strabane Rural. It’s useful to reflect on the number of teams in each area and the number of pitches in each area:-

| Gaelic Games – Distribution of Teams by Area | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Area | All Teams (adult and youth) | % |
| Derry City | 38 | 40% |
| Derry Rural | 17 | 18% |
| Strabane Town | 10 | 10% |
| Strabane Rural | 31 | 32% |
| Totals | 96 | 100% |

| Supply of Grass Pitches per Area (Scenario 2) | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|------|----------|
| | Council | | Club | |
| | Full | Training | Full | Training |
| Derry City | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Derry Rural | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Strabane Town | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Strabane Rural | 0 | 0 | 9 | 4 |

3.31 Summary of Gaelic Games

All but three of the Gaelic games clubs in the Council area operate their own pitches and changing accommodation. The foregoing assessment of supply / demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points. Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only grass pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches and training for all age groups: -

| Derry City | Derry Rural | Strabane Town | Strabane Rural |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| -3 pitches | +0 pitches | -0.5 pitches | -4 pitches |
| Supply not meeting demand | Supply meeting demand | Supply just meeting demand | Supply not meeting demand |

3.32 An analysis of the adequacy of provision by area demonstrates the shortfall of pitches is most significant in Derry City and Strabane Rural. This analysis does include the use of the new multi-sports 3G pitch at Melvin Sports Complex – use of this pitch is likely to relieve training pressure on club pitches and matches in the early part of the season (February, March and early April).

3.33 Most Gaelic games clubs have at least 2 grass pitches: one full size and one training size. Three clubs have 3G training pitches which accommodate the clubs' winter and preseason training and are also available for use by other clubs/other sports. Three clubs do not have their own facilities; Culmore GAC is a new club in Derry City and currently makes use of Thornhill College, this is unlikely to be a long-term solution for the club. Strabane Hurling club draws on members from Strabane Town and the surrounding areas – the catchment for hurling clubs in this area is wider than Gaelic football clubs. Strabane Hurling Club has agreed use of Sigerson GAC pitches but notes difficulty in securing

training venues – the club aspires to develop their own pitch. Council facilities are used by some Gaelic games clubs for training sessions, e.g., Sean Dolans GAC has bookings on the 3G pitch at Bishops Field, Derry City.

3.34 It is known there is currently funding earmarked from Ulster GAA and Central GAA Council for large scale promotion and development of Gaelic games in both Derry City and Belfast City. Further development of Gaelic games in Derry City can only be supported with pitch and changing accommodation investment.

3.35 With the 20 clubs fielding 281 teams each club has an average of 14 teams. Whilst Gaelic games generally is thought of as operating during the summer months in practice the season commences with pre-season training from January to March with competitions running through to October. Each week during the competition season a total of 100 Go Game/youth/adult matches are played; with 23 full pitches available this points to 5 matches taking place on each pitch. Training needs add significantly to the use of pitches as the same stock of pitches is used for matches and training. Survey results show that the average weekly use (matches and training) of each clubs' main pitch is 24 hours.

3.36 Cricket – Summary Pitches/Cricket Squares

A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities by ownership and quality is:-

| Cricket Squares used for matches and training – quantity and quality | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ownership | No of cricket squares | Good | Standard | Poor | Unknown |
| Clubs | 18 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Education | 6 | - | - | - | 6 |
| Total | 24 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 7 |

3.37 Adequacy of Provision for Cricket District-wide

Three pitch scenarios are assessed – the same stock of pitches is used both for matches and training, therefore training needs are incorporated in the assessment.

| Reference | Description | No of full size grass pitches |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Scenario 1 | All pitches | 24 |
| Scenario 2 | Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use). | 18 |
| Scenario 3 | Council pitches only | 0 |

3.38 Whilst adequacy of provision for all three scenarios is assessed, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy.

Youth, Junior and Adult matches and training + 1 pitch

Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is just meeting demand for competitive games and training for all age groups with a small surplus of one pitch. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is only just meeting demand.
- Scenario 2 assumes that cricket pitch capacity is 5 games on a weekly basis plus 10 hours of training. Most of the clubs play in the North West Cricket League in which up to 30% of teams are based outside the Council area. The demand for pitches for games on occasions will therefore be reduced for away matches as these will be based outside the Council area.
- Scenario 2 demonstrates cricket provision is being well used with little pitch capacity to encourage growth – some clubs with a large number of teams and just one pitch, note on occasions, difficulty with accommodating both matches and training effectively. The following was recorded by three clubs in the online club survey:-
 - “We don't have access to a 2nd pitch.”
 - “The pitch owner sometimes doesn't allow us to play.”
 - “Localised flooding has impacted on both pitches causing the pitch unplayable for much of last season and the beginning of this 2018 season.”

Scheduling of more adult games mid-week would perhaps allow for an increased number of matches to be accommodated, however given that adult matches can last more than 4 hours this may not always be an option.

3.39 By Area for Cricket

Four areas within the District are also assessed for adequacy of provision, as follows:-

| Area | Adequacy of Provision (Adult) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Derry City | Evens |
| Derry Rural | Evens |
| Strabane Town | Evens |
| Strabane Rural | + 1 pitch |

Whilst this demonstrates only a small surplus, cricket does not require a 'buffer' of pitches in the same way as other field sports, although several clubs aspire to extending training areas and / or developing a second pitch.

3.40 Summary of Cricket

The foregoing assessment of supply / demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches and training: -

- All teams
- + 1
- Supply just meeting demand

- These results demonstrate a sport in general using pitch resources to the maximum for matches and training – there is little spare pitch capacity to sustain significant growth. Just four of the clubs have a second pitch: Ardmore CC, Bready CC, Donemana CC and Killyclooney CC.
- Participation in cricket is predominantly male at youth and junior levels, however seven clubs report having an adult female team. About half of the clubs expect female membership to grow in the next 5 years. Cricket Ireland, whilst having a clear female development pathway acknowledges there is a huge potential for more female participation.

3.41 **Hockey – Summary of Pitches** Club hockey is now played exclusively on artificial turf pitches (ATP’s), either sand filled / dressed or water ‘AstroTurf’; 3G surfaces are not suited to hockey. It is the case that school’s hockey often uses the shale pitches still found on many school sites, however these are not recognised for competitive play by the Ulster Hockey Union. A summary and breakdown of current match and training facilities by ownership is:-

| Hockey Pitches used for matches and training | | |
|--|-----------------|----------|
| Ownership | Astroturf pitch | Shale |
| DCandSDC | 1 | 2 |
| Education | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 3 | 5 |

The AstroTurf pitches are all sand filled/dressed; there are no water-based hockey pitches in the Derry and Strabane area. The two education site pitches are at Foyle College and at Castlederg High School.

3.42 **Adequacy of Provision** In accordance with the Sport England model for adequacy of provision the pitch supply for each of three scenarios for adult, youth and mini competitive hockey games is:-

| Pitch Site | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 | Scenario 3 |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Astroturf | Astroturf | Astroturf |
| Council | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Education | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Totals | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Based on the quantitative analysis, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy of provision for hockey as follows:-

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Mini | + 1 pitch |
| Youth | + 1 pitch |
| Adult | evens |

- Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is meeting demand for mini and youth and no surplus for adult.
- Scenario 2 assumes that hockey pitch capacity is 3 games on a Saturday afternoon and 80% of games are played then. A lower pitch capacity i.e. a third game from 4.00pm to 6.00pm cannot be played will result in that supply cannot meet demand.
- Scenario 2 assumes that U15 games are played both mid-week and on Sundays as per Ulster Hockey fixtures – given that there are just two U15 teams supply meets demand.
- It is known that both AstroTurf pitches in Scenario 2 are also used for other sports training e.g. Castledearg High School pitch is used for association football, Gaelic and rugby club training. This may reduce the availability for hockey training and matches if hockey is not given priority. St Columb's AstroTurf pitch is also used extensively for association football training.

3.43 Summary of Hockey

The following points summarise the impact of provision for hockey in the Derry and Strabane area:-

- It is noted there is only one Council owned synthetic AstroTurf hockey pitch; adequacy of provision therefore relies on the use of Castledearg High School synthetic hockey pitch – Derg Valley Junior and Senior clubs are based here. Hockey is a minority sport in the Council area, however all four clubs aspire to grow their membership. Participation is mostly female but three of the clubs hope to grow male participation.
- The condition of the playing surface at the St Columb's AstroTurf pitch at Foyle Arena is a concern to both Priorians HC and Foyle HC. Priorians HC note that Ulster Hockey has inspected the Foyle Arena pitch and advised the club to seek an alternative home base due to the condition of the hockey facilities there.
- Schools hockey is an important factor in the development of club hockey. Each of the four clubs has a link with a local hockey playing post primary school from which it draws players. This school-club link in hockey is found elsewhere throughout the Province. This link alongside the unsuitability of shale pitches for hockey training or matches has led increasingly to hockey playing post primary schools looking to develop on-site AstroTurf pitches. Through consultation it's noted that the recently opened Foyle College has a full-size synthetic AstroTurf pitch – the college has a community use policy. In addition, Strabane Academy is currently undergoing redevelopment with a new school build under construction at the Derry Road site in Strabane town – an AstroTurf hockey pitch is included in Phase 1 of the build.
- As the Council thinks about future facility provision for hockey, the growth in the popularity of 3G pitches for large ball sports (mostly for training) needs to be considered. AstroTurf pitches came to be regarded as multi-sport,

however the advent of 3G technology for ATP's has resulted in AstroTurf pitches being replaced by 3G pitches which are more suited to large ball sports. The development of Melvin 3G multi-sport pitch may free up extra slots for hockey training and matches at Castledearg High School

3.44 Rugby – Summary Pitches

Rugby is played on a natural grass pitch which is typically 120m (including in-goal areas) by 70m. There are two rugby clubs in the Council area: Derry City Rugby Football Club (RFC) and Strabane RFC; a third club, YMCA RFC, folded a few years ago. Strabane RFC does not own pitch facilities; currently the club plays home senior matches at Strabane Academy school pitch and Finn Valley pitch in County Donegal. The club also uses Spamount Council pitches for underage tournaments. There are no full-size grass pitches dedicated to rugby under Council ownership. A summary and breakdown of current rugby pitches used for matches and training is:-

| Summary of Rugby Pitches used for matches and training | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Ownership | Full Grass / 3G | Youth Grass | Training (AstroTurf, 3G) |
| Clubs | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Education | 7 | 4 | 1 x AstroTurf |
| DCandSDC | 1 | 0 | 1 x 3G training |
| Total | 13 | 6 | 2 |

The recently developed 3G multi-sports pitch at Melvin Sports Complex can accommodate rugby training and matches if it has been specified in accordance with IRFU guidelines for artificial turf pitches.

3.45 Adequacy of Provision

In accordance with the Sport England model for adequacy of provision the pitch supply for each of three scenarios for adult, youth and mini games is:-

| Pitch Site | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 | Scenario 3 |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Full Grass | Full Grass | Full Grass |
| Clubs | | | |
| All | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Education | | | |
| Secondary | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Council | | | |
| DCandSDC | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 12 | 3 | 0 |

Based on the quantitative analysis, Scenario 2 is put forward as the most realistic picture of adequacy of provision for rugby as follows:-

Mini + 2 pitch
Youth Evens
Adult - 2 pitches

The results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for competitive games for mini and youth age groups but there is a shortfall of 2 pitches in supply for adult games. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for adult male competitive games – currently Strabane RFC does not have a home pitch and play their matches at Strabane Academy and Finn Valley in County Donegal.
- Scenario 2 assumes that rugby pitch capacity is two games on a Saturday, a youth match in the morning and an adult game in the afternoon. A lower pitch capacity will reduce the modelled surplus.
- Scenario 2 does not include use of 3G facilities for adult or youth matches as these were not recorded as used in the club survey. 3G pitches are not widely accepted yet for matches.
- Scenario 2 as presented does not account for training which also takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches. Derry City RFC report that the club growth is being constrained by the lack of training pitch facilities. Strabane RFC is homeless using a number of different venues to deliver training.

3.46 Summary of Rugby

Both clubs highlight the need for additional rugby pitches. Strabane RFC's preference is for the Council to provide / lease a pitch to the club whilst City of Derry RFC has a vision to develop a major rugby / multi-sports complex at its Judges Road site. Key summary points for rugby are:-

- Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. With just two clubs, rugby is a minority sport in the Council area, however a total of 25 teams are fielded across the two clubs involving 569 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 69 players are female. City of Derry RFC has an adult female team. As with association football the under-representation of female players presents an opportunity for future sports development programmes. Both clubs embrace and view an increase in female participation as an area for growth.
- Strabane RFC does not have a home ground and delivers matches and training across a number of venues including: Strabane Academy, Finn Valley Grounds (Co. Donegal), Strabane Cricket Club, Spamount Playing Fields, Meadows Playing Field, Castlederg High School and others.
- There are no dedicated Council owned grass rugby pitches, however the recently developed 3G multi-sports pitch at Melvin Sports Complex is expected to be suitable for rugby training and matches.

3.47 Children's Play Provision in the District

3.48 Children's play contributes to the health, well-being and overall development of children. Outdoor children's play facilities vary from formal equipped children's

playgrounds to kick-about areas, MUGAs and outdoor gyms. Most facilities provided by the Council are located in Derry and Strabane, local towns and villages with lesser provision in the small settlements.

3.49 Summary of Type of Children’s Play Provision in the District

For a full list of children’s play provision see Appendix 10.9.

| Type of Provision | Derry Total (HA) | Strabane (HA) | Remainder of District (HA) | Total |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| District | 4.15 | 0 | 0.03 | 4.18 |
| Neighbourhood | 4.32 | 0.56 | 1.00 | 5.88 |
| Local | 1.67 | 0.48 | 2.21 | 4.36 |
| Total | 10.14 | 1.04 | 3.24 | 14.42 |

| Guide to categorisation - all or some of the below criteria applied |
|--|
| Local |
| Up to 9 pieces of equipment |
| Size 400-1000m ² |
| Located in housing areas attracting only immediate residents |
| Targeted at younger children with little appeal for juniors |
| Catchment is 400m walking distance |
| Neighbourhood |
| 9 plus pieces of equipment |
| Size 1000-1500m ² |
| May include a MUGA, grass area, kickaround space or other facility forming a community hub |
| Targeted at younger children, juniors and possibly including provision for teenagers |
| Catchment is 400-1000m walking distance |
| District |
| Located in key sites in the region |
| Designed to attract family groups for longer visits |
| Play equipment provided for all age groups including more adventure play style equipment |
| May provide car parking facilities |
| May include café / toilets |
| May include MUGAs and other sports facilities forming a community hub |
| Catchment is + 1000m walking distance |

3.40 Children’s Play Provision Projection in the District until 2032.

Within this definition the FIT recognises there is a distinction between sports/active recreation and children’s play, and recommends a minimum standard for each of these broad headings. For children’s playing spaces, between 0.6 and 0.8 hectares per 1000 population is recommended.

| Children's Play Provision | | |
|--|---------|-----------------------|
| | NISRA | Strategic Growth Plan |
| Projected Population 2032 (A) | 149,500 | 160,000 |
| 2011 Census Population (B) | 148,191 | 148,191 |
| Additional Population Growth (A-B) | 859 | 11,809 |
| Projected future need of play provision 0.6 (Ha) /1000 pop | 89.7 | 96 |
| Projected future need of play provision 0.8 (Ha) /1000 pop | 119.6 | 128 |

3.41 Between 89.7 and 119.6 hectares of children's play provision are required until 2032 based on the 149,500 NISRA projection. Between 96 and 128 hectares are required if you based the projection on Council's Strategic Growth Plan projection of 160,000 population. A total of 81 District, Local and neighbourhood Council owned playgrounds have been identified in the District totalling 14.42 hectares and a total of 95 parks and gardens have been identified totalling 495.87 hectares. These do not include calculations for private play parks in housing developments and open space in schools.

3.42 **Distribution of open spaces**

In addition to the quantitative assessment, the FIT standard also addresses the distribution of open spaces. As a general guideline, it recommends that sports pitches should be within 20 minutes travelling time from all homes, using walking as the recommended mode of transport. Parts of Derry City and Strabane District are rural in character and many people use vehicular transport to travel to these facilities. It is therefore reasonable to argue that drive times are more appropriate. The same argument does apply to children's playing space where distance needs to be calculated on the basis of walking time. In considering the distribution of Children's play facilities, the FIT recommends different travel times, dependent upon the nature of the facilities and defines a three tier hierarchy:

- *Local Areas for play (LAP)* - These are unsupervised, small open spaces, without play equipment, specifically designed for young children for play activities close to where they live. LAPs should be within 1 minute walking time from home;
- *A Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)* - These are unsupervised play areas that are equipped with different types of play equipment for children of early school age. These should be located within 5 minutes walking time from home;
- *A Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)* - These are also unsupervised but they are intended to service a substantial residential area. Featuring a significant range of different types of play equipment, these are equipped mainly for older children but with opportunities for play for younger children. These should be located within 15 minutes walking time from home.

3.43 FIT walking distances to children's playing space:

| Type of Space | Distance Criteria (Metres) | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| | Walking Distance | Straight Line Distance |
| LAPS: Local areas for play or 'door-step spaces- for play and informal recreation | 100 | 60 |
| LEAPS: Local equipped, or local landscaped, areas for play- for play & informal recreation | 400 | 240 |
| NEAPS: Neighbourhood equipped areas for play – for play and informal recreation & provision for children and young people | 4000 | 600 |

4.0 Preferred Options Paper Stage

4.1 The Preferred Options Paper identified 2 options for Open Space, sports and outdoor recreation. Option 2 was the preferred option:

| | Option 1 | Option 2 |
|---|--|--|
| E - Open space, sports and recreation (OSR) | Protect the existing and zoned OSR provision as set out in DAP and SAP | Re-evaluate our current OSR provision in terms of role and function and identify and protect any existing land and additional land required for open space, sport and recreation |

4.2 **Responses to POP:** Representations were received in relation to Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (OSR) - from Government Departments, including HED, Forestry Service, DFI, NIHE, Councillors, members of the public and interested parties such as RSBP and Translink.

- 4.4 The following provides a summary of the main points in the representations:
1. DfI refers to SPPS para 6.205 general policy presumption against loss of open space and references Council admission with position paper that they are unclear as to what exactly the existing OS provisions is;
 2. NIHE strongly support the selective but comprehensively-planned redevelopment of portions of open space. LDP should provide an exception clause limited to development that provides a 'substantial community benefit'. Affordable Housing (social and intermediate housing) should be defined within policy as a "substantial community benefit". NW Development Office states that careful consideration needs to be given to open space in 1970/80's housing developments, particularly if it is causing anti-social problems. Supports more recreational space.
 3. RSPB do not accept DCSDCs proposal to only protect suitable and necessary OSR land –this is a significant departure from PPS8 and SPPS;
 4. Note re-evaluation and concerned at term "underutilised" – infers all open space must be used by people;
 5. The LDP should contain proposals for the development of integrated green and blue infrastructure network of green spaces and water features, providing access to amenities for recreation, walking, cycling and wildlife;
 6. Create parks shared by surrounding neighbourhoods. Parks should be close to neighbourhoods and they should be multi-generational. There should also be high standards of open space design in housing developments.
 7. Council should consider the potential use of open space to resolve flooding issues, improve biodiversity and promote health and well-being through the introduction of SuDS.
 8. Create more open amenity space and promote health and well-being through the introduction of SuDS.

9. Need to re-evaluate the current Open Space Requirement position in terms of role and function and identify and protect an existing land. Support re-evaluation of existing land, with sufficient detail to evaluate the open space.
10. The example of formal sporting activities such as the provision for GAA was noted on a number of responses.

4.5 The POP Approach was to re-evaluate our current OSR provision in terms of role and function and identify and protect any existing land and additional land required for open space, sport and recreation. Two divergent views are represented in the comments received on this topic. On the one hand there is a view that the current approach should be taken, which affords protection to all open space regardless of role and function. On the other hand there is an acknowledgement that there are certain open spaces, which create anti-social issues and hold no real value in terms of ecology and visual amenity, which may be best used for other uses.

5.0 Key Considerations:

- 5.1 **Open Space Audit:** The audit of open space for pitches and children's playing space has been considered against quantitative standards namely the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and the more recent Fields in Trust guidance for outdoor sport and play. The most recent Council document Pitches Condition Survey and Strategy published in June 2018 considers 'Towards a Level Playing Field; Playing Pitch Model' developed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Regeneration focused on supply, demand and quality to assess adequacy of provision for training requirement. These figures and a spatial audit of all pitches in the District gives a total of 177.06 hectares of pitches in the District.
- 5.2 **Fit Standard:** The FIT standard calculates that a further 62.14 extra hectares are required. Based on the 1.6 average pitch size a total of 38.8 pitches would be needed in the District until 2032. The FIT standard, whilst the recommended methodology in the SPPS is useful in some respects, it is important to recognise that the Open Space Strategy and the proposed policies will ensure that there is protection of the existing land and the Council's Plan Strategy, Pitches Strategy, Council's Green Infrastructure, Northwest Greenway Plan and Play Plan will be important evidence to ensure that we identify the future needs of the District. The distribution and accessibility of such spaces and facilities together with the amenity value, environmental assets and linkages will also be important considerations along with the quantitative measurements of open space, sport and outdoor recreation in the District. The policies contained in the draft Plan Strategy will ensure protection of existing open space and will ensure that new housing developments have appropriate amounts of well-designed open space linked to existing green infrastructure if applicable.
- 5.3 **Pitches' Strategy:** The Council's Pitches Strategy examined the adequacy of provision of pitches, in all ownerships and indicated whether supply exceeded or there was a shortfall when compared to current demand. The Study indicated that the provision of pitches for community use, excepting youth pitches for soccer barely meets demand and in the case of Gaelic games falls well short of demand. Particular shortfalls were identified in the following sub-areas: Strabane Rural (soccer) Derry City and Strabane Rural (Gaelic games); Council area (adult rugby). The Council is continuing to analyse the Strategic Recommendations arising from the Pitches Strategy so that the LPP will identify the specific lands to be retained and zoned for pitches use. The Council will work with various bodies, organisations and funding streams to deliver the outworkings of the Pitches Strategy.
- 5.4 **Play Plan:** DCSDC is in the process of developing a Play Plan to guide future investment in play and support the Council in meeting the play needs of children and young people. The Play Plan will be aligned to the 8 Local Growth Plans and is an important tool to both enhance access and reduce barriers to play while ensuring decisions are made that best meet play needs.

The aims of the plan are to:

- Establish a set of core underlying principals which will govern the future design and delivery of fixed play areas across the council including setting a standard for play in new housing developments;
- Provide a Play Value Audit score of all our existing play areas and to rank them accordingly with the aim that all play provision in the district should be categorised as 'good';
- Assess the demographic coverage of existing fixed play areas to identify gaps in provision as well as duplication;
- Agree appropriate methodology, rational and development criteria to guide and prioritise future investment of fixed play provision;
- Consider non-fixed play approaches to enhance play delivery, make more effective use of existing fixed play sites and provide a variety of play opportunities throughout communities;
- Embed the Play Plan into Community Planning ensuring a broad collective responsibility for meeting play needs.

5.5 The Play Plan will be an active document which will change over time to reflect the shifting play needs of children and young people and changing demographics patterns across the Council area. The Play Plan is currently in the first phase of community consultation and the first draft of the Play Plan will be available Spring 2020. The second stage of the consultation will look for feedback on the draft Plan with a provisional approval date of Summer / Autumn 2020.

5.6 The Council has undertaken an inventory of Council owned and maintained play areas and this will feed into the Play Plan. This will develop an understanding of current and future required provision at a District, Neighbourhood and Local level and the Council will then decide on the level of provision over the LDP period for existing areas or for play areas proposed as part of new housing developments particularly in relation to District or Neighbourhood provision. Any new Local or Neighbourhood play provision to be brought forward as part of new development schemes will be delivered under policy OS 2 and managed in agreement between the developer and the Council. Currently, a total of 81 Council-owned play areas are located within the District.

5.7 **Zoned Open Space:** Following an initial audit of existing zoned land, there are a limited number of areas that will not be carried forward as existing / zoned open space e.g. where they have been developed for other uses such as social housing or they are occupied by substantial buildings e.g. school buildings that were all zoned in DAP 2011. An initial audit of all Council-owned District, neighbourhood and local open spaces has been undertaken and a more detailed audit will be carried out at the Local Policies Plan Stage.

5.8 **Green and Blue Infrastructure:** The Green Infrastructure Plan's future green and blue infrastructure will be detailed further at the LPP stage. The issues of SuDs, Climate Change and Flooding are also pertinent to the open space, sport and outdoor recreation Chapter.

5.8 **Informal Open Space:** The location-specifics of provision, distribution and accessibility for Open Space in general, including informal open space, will be further examined as and inputted to the LPP. The Council will also utilise a quality assured Land Asset Site Identification (LASI) report from NIHE which will provide further information on the extent of informal open space within their holdings and the potential for their future development.



6.0 Draft Plan Strategy Stage

6.1 Following the Preferred Options Paper (POP), letters were sent to relevant consultees in March 2018 asking for their views relating to Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation and their responses are as follows:

6.2 **DAERA NIEA Natural Environment Division:** need to plan open space including green and blue infrastructure, encourage biodiversity, form linkages with wildlife corridors, pedestrian routes and cycleways.

6.3 DCSDC Environmental Health & DCSDC Parks and Recreation:

- need green infrastructure linkages in housing areas;
- play should be a strategic objective;
- ensure protection of linkages;
- protection of Council green space;
- protect golf courses;
- retain former school site open space linkages;
- develop strategic green corridors aligned to orbital routes;
- suggested sites in Strabane;
- make reference to GI Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan, Northwest Greenways Plan and Children and Young Peoples Strategy;
- Policy OS1 in PPS 8 – important to reference the need to prevent loss of biodiversity;
- Policy OS 2 in PPS 8 – wants the policy to set out the size of open space in housing developments and for it to be of high quality.

6.4 **Sports NI:** A meeting with Sports NI did not raise any policy issues in relation to open space in the District. They provided links to documents such as ‘Young People and Sport in NI, Exploring attitudes to and experiences of sport and physical activity among children and young people in Northern Ireland’; SAPAS; Sports Matters.

6.5 **Derry City and Strabane District Council ‘Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy’:** Derry City and Strabane District Council commissioned this study, which has looked at soccer football, Gaelic games, hockey, rugby and cricket – see Evidence Base 17a, Council’s Pitches Study. This included an audit of all playing pitches in the control of DC&SDC, as well as an inventory of other pitches, and a Playing Pitches Strategy that will allow the Council to make informed planning decisions regarding pitch provision and assist with the targeting of financial investment and the planning of the delivery of sports development programmes.

6.6 **Member’s Response:** Individual Members raised a number of key issues at a Member meeting in April 2018, which included the following issues:

1. Need for quality of facilities and open space in housing developments.
2. Large underused green spaces in some housing areas were suggested by some Members as a possible urban capacity opportunity for new social housing;

3. Other Members said that many of the green spaces in the city are important and that when the Housing Executive tried to build on green space, people objected.

6.7 Planning Pre-Committee Discussion Meeting, Discussion Meeting No.3 - Feb. 2019: The actions / issues raised were:

1. It was felt that all housing developments should be either providing open space or making a payment towards the Council (or other provider) to provide open space and play areas e.g. inner city or waterfront apartment developments will utilise Brooke Park / St Columb's Park, or a new housing development in Lettershandoney will rely on the Council's new play area;
2. LDP PS should firm up Chapter / policy wording to ensure flouting of OS requirements can be minimised / reduced;
3. Need to liaise with Parks and Recreation team on the provision of equipment needed to go into play areas proposed as part of future development;
4. LDP to seek / discuss Council Department's thoughts for adopting all OS schemes and undertaking their management and necessary financial controls to be put in place as part of Planning Agreements.

Overall Strategy and Policy Direction:

- 6.8 The draft Plan Strategy acknowledges that adequate open space is essential for a growing population and in the protection of natural heritage and ecosystems. It is therefore important that the Open Space Strategy and Policies reflect this and ensure that there is protection as well as enhancement of our existing open space and that there is enough land available for future open space as well as attractive greenways and linkages.
- 6.9 The Open Space Strategy provides an overall vision and provides a link to the more-detailed operational policies. It is recognised how important access to open space is and a new draft Green and Blue Infrastructure policy has been proposed. The proposed policies also relate to transport, healthy communities, improving environmental quality, preserving amenity, complementing sustainable design principles and the protection of natural heritage and landscapes.
- 6.10 The LDP strategy approach will be in broad conformity with the regional objectives for open space, sport, and outdoor recreation as set out in the SPPS. The dPS also seeks to ensure good accessibility to existing and new facilities for current and future residents and tourists. The Local Policies Plan will consider site-specific land use implications and will include the protection and designation of land necessary for development, redevelopment or extension of open space, sport and recreation land.
- 6.11 The Open Space Strategy and the open space, sport and recreation policies have evolved from the POP and the POP Consultation responses and policies are founded on a robust evidence base including the POP and responses to it, an open space audit of provision within the District and consultation with

consultees including Council's Parks and Recreation Section, DAERA, Natural Environment Division and Sports NI.

6.12 The evidence base and the regional and local policy context has identified the key considerations which has led to the proposed Open Space Strategy and the open space, sport and recreation policies. The Open Space Strategy has also had regard to the extant development plans within the District and the Council's Green Infrastructure Plan and other Council projects relating to open space. The open space strategy and policies have taken account of the RDS particularly RG7, the Council's Strategic Growth Plan, the SPPS and existing regional planning policies relating to open space and other relevant government initiatives. There has been discussions with the neighbouring councils during preparation of the draft plan strategy to discuss the various approaches and to discuss cross boundary issues.

6.13 **Proposed Policies for Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation:**

The majority of the existing PPS 8 policies have been retained and strengthened, to reflect post-POP liaison with Members, Consultee responses and POP representations and is broadly in line with the SPPS. The overall aim of these policies is to resist the loss of open space to other uses and to support the provision of high quality sustainable open space, sport and recreation spaces and facilities in accordance with the SPPS. The policies also seek to support the provision of new and improved open space, sport and outdoor recreation facilities at appropriate locations throughout the district to serve current and future needs.

6.14 **Policy OS 1 - Protection of Open Space.**

The protection of open space is a key aspect of creating happy and healthy communities. Open space can be a focal point for an area and provides opportunities for physical activity and recreation, which also delivers mental health benefits. The wording has been amended at the start to be more positive. Wording has also been amended from PPS 8, Policy OS1 to include 'presumption against loss of open space irrespective of its physical condition and appearance and public access and ownership'. The 'community benefits' exception has been strengthened, so that there still needs to be an assessment of OS provision and alternative OS provided if necessary. This 'exception' needs to be strongly applied, particularly if considering proposals for housing (social housing or even private). The Council will operate a general presumption against the loss of open space to competing land uses and will permit an exception to the presumption against loss of open space where development would produce such community benefit - if this would decisively outweigh its loss. In such cases, applicants will still need to demonstrate that there remains adequate quality of Open Space. They will also be expected to demonstrate that their proposals are supported by the local community.

6.15 There is a second exception 2 proposed, where it is demonstrated that the loss of open space will have no significant detrimental impact on the amenity, character or biodiversity of an area in the case of an area of open space of 2 hectares or less, or in the case of playing fields and sports pitches within

settlement limits, it is demonstrated by the developer that the retention and enhancement of the facility can only be achieved by the development of a small part of the existing space which is limited to a maximum of 10% of the overall area. Development Management requested a definition or acceptable examples of ‘substantial community benefits’ in Policy OS1 would be very useful. Examples of what would constitute “substantial community benefits” are in the J&A and include:

- the provision of affordable housing, only where there is a verified very severe shortage in that local area and it is demonstrated that there are no viable alternative sites that can meet that housing need and the proposal is part of a wider linked scheme for comprehensive redevelopment in that area including provision of compensatory facilities for community betterment;
- the provision of a substantial community facility that is needed in that area and that is of a scale and value reasonably proportionate to compensate for the loss of that open space.

6.16 The Council's Biodiversity Officer recommended that exception 2 also makes reference to biodiversity value to prevent biodiversity loss and encourage biodiversity net gain.

6.17 The Housing Executive strongly supports the protection and provision of open space as it can provide important physical and mental health benefits, promote well being and increase community cohesion. However, they recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances, where open space could be redeveloped but an exception should only be exercised where there is a substantial community benefit.

6.18 **Policy OS 2 - Public Open Space in New Development.**

The consideration and provision of public open space within all new housing developments will help to establish new shared spaces for communities and provide opportunities for physical activity and recreation, which also delivers mental health benefits. The following details have been included in this policy:

6.19 The policy includes thresholds for residential development:

- (i) At least 10% of the total site area will be required for all housing developments of 5 units or more;
- (ii) A progressively larger percentage of open space to be provided for larger developments, with residential developments of 200 units or more, or for development sites of 10 hectares or more, around 15% of the total site area will be required;
- (iii) Provision at a rate less than the above-mentioned percentages may be acceptable where the residential development:
 - is located within a town or city centre; or
 - is close to and would benefit from ease of access to areas of existing public open space; or
 - provides accommodation for special groups, such as the elderly or people with disabilities.

- 6.18 2 exceptions to these requirements for apartment developments or specialised housing where a reasonable level of private communal open space has been provided. The second exception refers to cases where residential development is designed to integrate with and make use of adjoining public open space and the applicant is be required to demonstrate adequacy of and linkages to, existing / proposed provision and also make an agreed developer contribution towards the provision and maintenance of the referenced public open space / play area – see evidence base G – developer contributions and community benefits.
- 6.20 This policy includes public open space in new developments so that all other new mixed-use, commercial or employment developments should include appropriate provision for open space, including hard and soft landscaped areas and outdoor amenity areas, to serve the needs of the development.
- 6.21 For residential development of 100 units or more, or for development sites of 5 hectares or more, equipped children’s play area(s) will be required as an integral part of the development.
- 6.22 The General Criteria for open space within this policy, has been carried forward from PPS 16 and also includes new wording to state that proposals that create unnecessary fences, walls (including retaining walls) and barriers will be resisted unless overriding reasons for their necessity can be demonstrated to the Council’s satisfaction.
- 6.23 Wording has been included to state ‘all other new development proposals should include appropriate provision for open space, including hard and soft landscaped areas and outdoor amenity areas, to serve the needs of the development’.
- 6.24 New wording also states that developers should ensure that there is green / blue network enhancement as an integral part of the new housing proposals by providing on-site linkages to the wider network. In particular, development on greenfield housing sites should seek to provide opportunities to extend existing green corridors into the wider countryside.
- 6.25 The last part of OS 2 refers to legal agreements required for the management and maintenance of public open space in perpetuity and that ‘developers should ensure that a suitable mechanism is in place to secure the future management and maintenance of open space in new residential developments. Given the experience over the past 15 years when many ‘open space management companies’ have disappeared, ‘gone bust’ or been otherwise ineffective, this policy proposed to make the transfer of land (and funds) to the Council as the default position for developers – unless they can demonstrate otherwise to the Council’s satisfaction.
- 6.26 The requirement for open space provision or payment of Developer Contributions has been introduced and extended, and applied to (almost) all housing developments. There has been further discussion with Legal Services

and Parks and Recreation Departments to get agreement in principle for the additional open spaces.

6.27 Larger developments will require a bespoke and multi-faceted S76 Planning Agreement. It is also clarified that all the ‘thresholds’ are indicative and are to be progressively applied.

6.28 Off-site Open Space Provision has been added to this policy. There may be cases where, due to the nature, scale or location of the proposed development, on-site provision may not be necessary or desirable. Such arrangements for off-site open space will be done by way of a Planning Agreement with the developers, who will normally be required to bear the costs of work required to facilitate their open space proposals.

6.29 **Policy OS 3 - Green and Blue Infrastructure.**

This is a new policy that takes account of the RDS which highlights the need to provide for green and blue infrastructure in cities, towns and neighbourhoods and new developments. This policy recognises the opportunity to plan for a green and blue infrastructure network across the plan area. The establishment of a district-wide network of green and blue infrastructure will help to provide shared space, connect communities and create opportunities for physical activity and active travel, which will also benefit mental health. This links to Policy O2 requiring that development on greenfield housing sites should provide opportunities to extend existing green corridors into the wider network / countryside and is an integral part of new housing proposals. It also states that if SuDs are proposed within areas of open space within new or extensions to housing developments, then the long term management and maintenance of which shall be delivered in accordance to the Policy OS2 and GDPOL 1.

6.30 **Policy OS 4 - Outdoor Sport and Recreation in the Countryside.**

The Council will permit the development of proposals for the provision of new open space facilities, including for sport and outdoor recreation. Policy OS 3 of PPS 8 refers to outdoor recreation in the Countryside. This policy appears to be working well and has been carried over as there was no evidence that it needs to be substantially amended. Wording has been amended in this policy to include sport as well as open space and to consider also if the site would not be better located within the settlement limits or on previously developed land. New wording also includes ‘a use may not be acceptable if floodlighting is likely to be required – for visual, amenity and ‘dark skies’ / light pollution considerations. Wording has also been amended from ‘adverse’ to ‘significant’, as per SPPS.

6.31 **Policy OS 5 - Intensive Sports Facilities.**

Council will only permit the development of intensive sports facilities where these are located at appropriate and accessible locations within settlements. An exception may be permitted in the case of the development of a sports stadium outside a settlement subject to certain criteria. Policy OS 4 of PPS 8 refers to Intensive Sports Facilities and appears to be working well and has been carried over into this policy, as there was no evidence to suggest that it needs to be substantially amended and included a response that that the

proposed policy should follow the existing approach of the SPPS and PPS 8. New wording has been included at the start of the policy to state that ‘The Council will operate a presumption in favour of sport and recreational facilities inside settlement development limits where they meet both policies, GDPOL 1 & 2’.

6.32 Policy OS 6 - Noise-Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Activities.

The Council will only permit the development of sport or outdoor recreational activities that generate high levels of noise, subject to strong criteria. Policy OS 5 of PPS 8 refers to Noise-Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Activities. This policy appears to be working well and has been carried over as there was no evidence that it needs to be substantially amended. The J&A also includes reference to the additional guidance on noise as a material consideration as set out in Annex A of SPPS.

6.33 Policy OS 7 - Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports.

The Council will permit the development of facilities ancillary to water sports adjacent to inland lakes, reservoirs and waterways, subject to criteria. Policy OS 6 of PPS 8 refers to Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports and the wording of this from OS 6 has been retained.

6.34 Policy OS 8 - Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities

The Council will only permit the development of floodlighting associated with sports and outdoor recreational facilities, subject to defined criteria. It is important to recognise biodiversity and protected species. Policy OS 7 of PPS 8 refers to Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities and has been retained with extra wording including criteria referring to natural and built heritage interests.

7.0 Sustainability Appraisal

- 7.1 Throughout their formulation, the policies contained within the OS, S&OR Chapter have been subject to an ongoing internal sustainability appraisal (SA). This is in addition to the wider external SA, conducted by Shared Environmental Service as part of the wider suite of impact assessments / appraisals required under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. The internal appraisal was carried out with the fourteen objectives of the external appraisal in mind (refer to the SA report for more information).
- 7.2 The process of sustainability appraisal aims to ensure that the Council's approach towards Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation is the most sustainable of all reasonable options available i.e. having considered any reasonable alternatives. In the case of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation, it is not considered that any of the alternatives could be considered to be reasonable and that it was always central that the legislative requirements and the commitment to deliver the Council's Vision and Objectives were considered.
- 7.3 With regard to the degree of sustainability of each the resulting proposed policies, this is outlined below:
- 7.4 **OS 1 Protection of Open Space:** Significant positive impacts are indicated for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society. Minor positive effects are also identified for the majority of the economic sustainability objectives, though there is no relationship with material assets. The option acts positively for all of the environmental sustainability objectives though the effect on air quality is not considered to be strong enough to have a perceptible impact. Significant positive impacts can be delivered for maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. The protection of areas of open space will protect the setting of many of the district's natural features and will also help to protect and conserve the setting of several of our historic assets.
- 7.5 **OS 2 Public Open Space in New Developments:** Significant positive impacts are indicated for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society. The option will also deliver a minor positive effect on the delivery of good quality, sustainable housing by enhancing the quality of the housing environment. The effects on the economic sustainability objectives are mainly negligible, although a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth through making the district more attractive and potentially creating some new jobs. The option acts positively on all of the environmental sustainability objectives but the effects are not considered to be strong enough to create a perceptible impact on improving air quality, water resources and the climate change objectives. However, minor positive effects will be delivered for the remaining sustainability objectives.

facilities may be large and may have associated lighting and careful consideration of design and mitigation will be required to minimise effects.

- 7.9 A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has also been undertaken and published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy. It similarly determines possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) as a result of the policies within the LDP. This assessment also includes Ramsar sites under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention.

8.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 8.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires that public authorities have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of a particular religion, political opinion, race, age, marital status, sexual orientation or gender. It also includes people with disabilities or those with primary responsibility for the care of a dependant, such as an elderly person. These are known as 'Section 75' groups. The policies contained within the Open Space, Sport and Countryside Chapter have been subject to an equality impact assessment (EQIA) to ensure no adverse impact on these groups.
- 8.2 The Council aims to protect open space. This will have a positive effect on all groups particularly groups of all ages, the elderly, dependants, and those with disabilities. It protects green spaces within areas that can be used for play and leisure and for those with disabilities who can use areas of open space to improve physical and mental wellbeing. The Council is satisfied that there will be no adverse impact on any Section 75 groups as a result of Open space provision.

9.0 Rural Needs Impact Assessment

- 9.1 The Rural Needs Act 2016, requires District Councils and other Public Authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services.
- 9.2 To 'have due regard' means that a public authority must consciously consider the needs of people in rural areas. How much 'due regard' will depend on the circumstances and, in particular, on the relevance of rural needs to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact for people in rural areas, the greater the regard required by the duty.
- 9.3 Throughout the formulation of the draft Plan Strategy there has been consideration of the impact of each policy approach on the rural area, relative to the urban area and policies have been amended where it was deemed appropriate to do so. In the case of open space, sport and outdoor recreation policies no amendments were considered necessary in respect of rural impacts.
- 9.4 The Chapter is intended to cater for open space, sport and outdoor recreation in both urban and rural areas, recognising that there are areas in and outside settlements where open space, sports and recreation is required. This is balanced against sustainability, accessible location and the locational context of a proposal which has been recognised in specific criteria in the policies.
- 9.5 The District lends itself to accommodating a wide range of recreational activities in the countryside. The policies have to balance and safeguard the fabric of rural areas and at the same time increase opportunities for all to enjoy the benefits of the countryside and so it was important to facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside that do not negatively impact on the amenity of existing residents.

10.0 APPENDIX

10.1 Planning Policy Statement 8 (Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation, PPS 8) provides highlights the broad range of open spaces that are of public value:

- parks and gardens – including urban parks, country parks, forest parks and formal gardens;
- outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) – including tennis courts, bowling greens, sport pitches, golf courses, athletic tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;
- amenity green space (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) – including informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing, and village greens;
- provision for children and teenagers – including play areas, kickabout areas, skateboard parks and outdoor basketball hoops;
- green corridors – including river and canal banks, amenity footpaths and cycleways;
- natural and semi-natural urban green spaces – including woodlands, urban forestry, grasslands (e.g. meadows), wetlands, open and running water, and rock areas (e.g. cliffs);
- allotments and community gardens;
- cemeteries and churchyards; and
- civic spaces, including civic and market squares and other hard surface areas designed for pedestrians.

10.2 Parks and gardens in the District – including urban parks, country parks, forest parks and formal gardens

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.

| | Name | Area (Ha) |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1 | Brooke Park | 8.33 |
| 2 | Bull Park | 1.15 |
| 3 | Oakland Park Pitches and Grounds | 1.42 |
| 4 | Lowry's Lane Park | 4.25 |
| 5 | Bay Road Park | 17.84 |
| 6 | Boomhall Lands | 21.81 |
| 7 | Templemore Sports Complex Lands | 22.11 |
| 8 | Shantallow Community Centre Fields | 2.31 |
| 9 | GNR Lands And Walk | 17.08 |
| 10 | Bishops Field | 3.23 |
| 11 | Greenwalk Urban Park | 1.56 |
| 12 | Steelestown Community Field | 0.97 |
| 13 | Woodburn Urban Park | 2.60 |
| 14 | St Columbs Park | 29.39 |
| 15 | Bonds Hill Neighbourhood Park | 0.56 |
| 16 | Fountain Hill Play Park | 0.41 |
| 17 | Prehen Road Riverside Walk | 21.92 |
| 18 | Top of the Hill Community Park | 16.33 |
| 19 | Creggan Country Park | 34.02 |
| 20 | Strathfoyle Playing Fields | 3.49 |
| 21 | Drumahoe Playing Fields | 5.40 |
| 22 | Tullyalley Playing Fields | 1.87 |
| 23 | Milltownview Play Park | 0.30 |
| 24 | Derryview Park Lands Leased from DRD | 2.19 |
| 25 | Bolies Country Walk | 0.94 |
| 26 | Lisnagelvin Playing Fields | 6.61 |
| 27 | Faughanview Park | 1.04 |
| 28 | Marianus Glen Country Park | 10.69 |
| 29 | Lenamore Park | 3.46 |
| 30 | Ballyarnett Country Park and Racecourse | 50.00 |
| 31 | Kilfennan Valley Park | 18.77 |
| 32 | Waterside Greenway Lands | 19.66 |
| 33 | Riverview Park | 0.38 |
| 34 | St Columb's Wells Park | 2.41 |
| 35 | Foyle Embankment/Harbour Square | 0.21 |
| 36 | Glen Play Park | 0.79 |
| 37 | Hazelbank Park | 1.80 |

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 38 | Creggan Burn Park | 15.99 |
| 39 | Clooney Park West Football Pitches | 6.77 |
| 40 | Lisnagelvin Bowling Green | 1.54 |
| 41 | Irish St | 1.22 |
| 42 | Stevenson's Park | 0.43 |
| 43 | Faughanview Crescent Play Park | 0.23 |
| 44 | Culmore Country Park | 28.23 |
| 45 | Lettershandoney lands | 0.33 |
| 46 | Lettershendoney Pitches | 1.69 |
| 47 | Carmony Play Park | 0.10 |
| 48 | Maydown Park | 0.26 |
| 49 | Ballynagard Lands | 2.77 |
| 50 | St Canice's Park Playing Fields | 2.51 |
| 51 | Eglinton Park | 0.41 |
| 52 | Currynierin Playing Fields | 1.68 |
| 53 | Duncastle Road Landfill Site - Closed | 12.95 |
| 54 | Artigarvan Park | 1.56 |
| 55 | Strabane Canal | 15.28 |
| 56 | Cut Park | 1.31 |
| 57 | Carricklee Landfill Site (Closed) | 6.23 |
| 58 | Beechmount Avenue | 0.50 |
| 59 | Glenmornan Park | 0.51 |
| 60 | Glenabbey Play Park | 0.33 |
| 61 | Gulf Road Pitches | 0.93 |
| 62 | Goshaden Play Park | 0.35 |
| 63 | Faughanview Pitches Claudy | 1.47 |
| 64 | Plumbridge Park | 0.61 |
| 65 | Plumbridge Picnic Area | 0.22 |
| 66 | Vaughan's Holm Sports Complex | 9.26 |
| 67 | Ardstraw Park | 0.14 |
| 68 | Spamount Playing Fields | 4.36 |
| 69 | Mitchell Park | 3.02 |
| 70 | Patrician Villas Play Park | 0.57 |
| 71 | Courtraí Park | 0.76 |
| 72 | Old railway line N of Strabane Bypass | 1.65 |
| 73 | Camus Park | 1.28 |
| 74 | Collon Lane Open Space | 1.18 |
| 75 | Daisyhill Park Open Space | 0.15 |
| 76 | Roulston Avenue Play Park | 0.35 |
| 77 | Lapwing Way Play Park | 0.36 |
| 78 | Clondermott Pitches | 4.44 |
| 79 | Knockwellan Park Open Space | 0.15 |
| 80 | Kildrum Gardens Play Park | 0.36 |
| 81 | Cumber House Claudy Country Park | 9.39 |
| 82 | Pinewood Crescent Pitches | 2.70 |

| | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 83 | Church Square, Sion Mills | 0.40 |
| 84 | Sion Mills Community Association lands | 0.04 |
| 85 | Ballyfatton | 0.55 |
| 86 | Ballymagroarty Play Area | 1.05 |
| 87 | Parkside Gardens | 0.29 |
| 88 | Glebe Park | 1.82 |
| 89 | Lifford Rd/Tinnies Green | 0.36 |
| 90 | Ballyarnett Country Park and Racecourse | 1.58 |
| 91 | Mill Path | 0.64 |
| 92 | Castleberg Castle | 2.20 |
| 93 | Derryview Park Lands Leased from DRD | 0.79 |
| 94 | Derryview/Iskaheen | 0.95 |
| 95 | Derryview/Iskaheen | 1.37 |
| | Total Area (Ha) | 495.87 |

10.3 Sports Pitches in Derry City

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council 'Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy'.

| | Type | Site Name | Surface | Ownership | Area (HA) |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | <u>Basketball</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Basketball | St. Cecelia's college | | | 0.12 |
| | | | | | 0.12 |
| | <u>Cricket</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Cricket | Brigade Cricket Ground | Grass | Council | 1.30 |
| 2 | Cricket | Glendermott Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 0.95 |
| 3 | Cricket | Foyle & Londonderry College | Grass | Education | 5.02 |
| | | | | | 7.27 |
| | <u>Gaelic</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Gaelic | Lisnagelvin Playing field 1 | Grass | Council | 0.87 |
| 2 | Gaelic | Lisnagelvin Playing field 2 | Grass | Council | 0.92 |
| 3 | Gaelic | Lisnagelvin Playing Field 3 | Grass | Council | 0.87 |
| 4 | Gaelic | Doire Colmcille CLG | Grass | Club | 1.41 |
| 5 | Gaelic | Templemore Sports Complex | Grass | Council | 1.30 |
| 6 | Gaelic | Steelstown GAC/ Brian Og's | Grass | Club | 1.12 |
| 7 | Gaelic | Steelstown GAC/ Brian Og's | Grass | Club | 0.79 |
| 8 | Gaelic | Na Magha | Grass | Club | 1.53 |
| 9 | Gaelic | Na Magha | Grass | Club | 0.65 |
| | | | | | 9.47 |
| | <u>Multi Use</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Multi Use | Top of the Hill Pitch 1 | Tarmac | Parish | 0.55 |
| 2 | Multi Use | Top of the Hill Pitch 2 | Tarmac | Parish | 0.47 |
| 3 | Multi Use | Foyle College | Synthetic | Education | 0.14 |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------|--|------------------|-----------|------|
| 4 | Multi Use | Daisyfield Pitch 2 | Grass | Council | 0.65 |
| 5 | Multi Use | Foyle & Londonderry College | Gravel/ Shale | Education | 0.77 |
| 6 | Multi Use | St. Mary's College | Synthetic/ 3G | Education | 0.59 |
| 7 | Multi Use | St. Mary's College | Grass | Education | 1.28 |
| 8 | Multi Use | Ulster University | Synthetic/ 3G | Education | 0.51 |
| 9 | Multi Use | St. Columbs College | Synthetic 3G | Education | 0.61 |
| 10 | Multi Use | St. Columbs College | Synthetic 3G | Education | 0.61 |
| 11 | Multi Use | St. Brigids College | Gravel/ Shale | Education | 0.45 |
| 12 | Multi Use | Templemore Sports Complex | Gravel/ Shale | Council | 0.65 |
| 13 | Multi Use | Templemore Sports Complex | Gravel/ Shale | Council | 0.61 |
| | | | | | 7.89 |
| | Rugby | | | | |
| 1 | Rugby | Foyle College Rugby pitches | Grass | Education | 1.58 |
| 2 | Rugby | Foyle & Londonderry College | Grass | Education | 0.96 |
| 3 | Rugby | St. Columbs College | Grass | Education | 0.90 |
| | | | | | 3.44 |
| | Soccer | | | | |
| 1 | Soccer | Tullyally Pitch | Grass | Council | 1.06 |
| 2 | Soccer | Lisnagelvin Playing Field 4 | Grass | Council | 0.97 |
| 3 | Soccer | Top of the Hill Pitch 3 | Grass | Parish | 0.67 |
| 4 | Soccer | Top of the Hill Pitch 4 | Grass | Parish | 0.61 |
| 5 | Soccer | Prehen Playing fields | Grass | Council | 2.00 |
| 6 | Soccer | Prehen Playing fields | Grass | Council | 2.13 |
| 7 | Soccer | Prehen Playing fields | Grass | Council | 1.66 |
| 8 | Soccer | Caw Playing Field | Grass | Council | 0.72 |
| 9 | Soccer | Wilton Park Pitch 2 | Grass | Council | 0.87 |
| 10 | Soccer | Wilton Park Pitch 1 | Grass | Council | 1.06 |
| 11 | Soccer | Clooney Park West Pitch 1 and 2 | Grass | Council | 3.00 |
| 12 | Soccer | Heron Way | Grass | Council | 1.43 |
| 13 | Soccer | Ebrington Controlled Primary School | Grass | Education | 1.31 |
| 14 | Soccer | Foyle Arena | Synthetic | Council | 0.68 |
| 15 | Soccer | St. Columbs pitches 2 and 3 | Grass | Council | 1.78 |
| 16 | Soccer | St. Columbs stadium/ pitch | Grass | Council | 1.08 |
| 17 | Soccer | Daisyfield Pitch 1 | Grass | Council | 0.52 |
| 18 | Soccer | Brandywell Football Stadium | Grass | Council | 1.37 |
| 19 | Soccer | Brandywell Football Ground | Grass | Council | 0.59 |
| 20 | Soccer | Lumen Christi College | Gravel/ Shale | Education | 0.61 |
| 21 | Soccer | Celtic Park | Grass | Club | 1.34 |
| 22 | Soccer | St. Cecelia's | Grass | Education | 0.71 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 23 | Soccer | Bishopsfield Football Pitch | Synthetic/ 3G | Council | 0.73 |
| 24 | Soccer | Sean Dolan's GAC | Grass | Club | 1.15 |
| 25 | Soccer | Oakland Playing Field | Grass | | 0.58 |
| 26 | Soccer | St. Joseph's Boys School | Grass | Education | 0.50 |
| 27 | Soccer | St. Joseph's Boys School | Gravel | Education | 0.49 |
| 28 | Soccer | Brooke Park Leisure Centre | Grass | Council | 1.17 |
| 29 | Soccer | Foyle & Londonderry College | Grass | Eductaion | 0.92 |
| 30 | Soccer | Ulster University | Synthetic/ 3G | Education | 0.53 |
| 31 | Soccer | St. Columbs College | Grass | Education | 0.55 |
| 32 | Soccer | St. Columbs College | Grass | Education | 0.48 |
| 33 | Soccer | St. Columbs College | Grass | Education | 1.60 |
| 34 | Soccer | Templemore Sports Complex | Grass | Council | 2.37 |
| 35 | Soccer | Templemore Sports Complex | Grass | Council | 2.10 |
| 36 | Soccer | Leafair | Grass | Council | 0.90 |
| | | | | | 40.21 |
| | | | | Total area (HA) | 68.39 |

10.4 Pitches in Strabane Town

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council 'Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy'.

| Strabane Pitches | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Type | Site Name | Surface | Ownership | HA |
| | <u>Cricket</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Cricket | Strabane Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 1.26 |
| | | | | | 1.26 |
| | <u>Gaelic</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Gaelic | Strabane Sigersons GAC | Grass | Club | 4.46 |
| 2 | Gaelic | Melvin Sports Complex | Grass | Council | 0.61 |
| | | | | | 5.08 |
| | <u>Hockey</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Hockey | Strabane Academy (D.R.) | Grass | Education | 0.61 |
| | | | | | 0.61 |
| | <u>Multi Use</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Multi Use | Holy Cross College - Pitch 2 | Grass | Education | 0.73 |
| 2 | Multi Use | Holy Cross College - Pitch 3 | Grass | Education | 1.65 |
| 3 | Multi Use | Strabane Academy Site 2 | Grass | Education | 0.58 |
| 4 | Multi Use | Strabane Academy (D.R.) | 3G | Education | 0.57 |
| | | | | | 3.52 |
| | <u>Soccer</u> | | | | |
| 1 | Soccer | Holy Cross College - Pitch 1 | Grass | Education | 1.26 |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | Soccer | Strabane Academy Site 1 | Grass | Education | 0.63 |
| 3 | Soccer | Melvin Sports Complex | Grass | Council | 1.19 |
| 4 | Soccer | Melvin Sports Complex | Grass | Council | 2.48 |
| 5 | Soccer | Melvin Sports Complex | Grass | Council | 1.27 |
| 6 | Soccer | Strabane Academy (D.R.) | Grass | Education | 0.71 |
| | | | | | 7.54 |
| | | | | Total Area (HA) | 18.01 |

10.5 Remainder of Pitches in District (excluding Derry and Strabane)

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council 'Condition Survey of Council Pitches and Recommendations for a Council Pitches Strategy'.

| Remainder of Pitches in District (excluding Derry and Strabane) | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Type | Site Name | Surface | Ownership | Area (HA) |
| | Athletics | | | | |
| 1 | Athletics | Thornhill College Pitch 1 | Gravel/ Shale | Education | 0.49 |
| | | | | | 0.49 |
| | Cricket | | | | |
| 1 | Cricket | Sion Mills Cricket Club | Grass | Private | 1.19 |
| 2 | Cricket | Fox Lodge Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 1.25 |
| 3 | Cricket | Donemana Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 0.75 |
| 4 | Cricket | Kilclooney Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 2.53 |
| 5 | Cricket | Burdennet Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 0.96 |
| 6 | Cricket | Bonds Glen Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 1.00 |
| 7 | Cricket | Bready Cricket Club Pitch 1 | Grass | Club | 1.71 |
| 8 | Cricket | Bready Cricket Club Pitch 2 | Grass | Club | 1.44 |
| 9 | Cricket | Newbuildings Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 0.52 |
| 10 | Cricket | Creevedonnell Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 3.62 |
| 11 | Cricket | Ardmore Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 1.33 |
| 12 | Cricket | Eglinton Cricket Club | Grass | Club | 1.28 |
| | | | | | 17.57 |
| | Gaelic | | | | |
| 1 | Gaelic | St. Davogs GAC Pitch-1 | | Club | 1.22 |
| 2 | Gaelic | St. Davogs GAC Pitch-2 | | Club | 0.55 |
| 3 | Gaelic | St. Eugenes GAC Pitch-1 | Grass | Club | 1.32 |
| 4 | Gaelic | St. Eugenes GAC Pitch-2 | Grass | Club | 0.52 |
| 5 | Gaelic | Dregish Pearse Ogs GAC. | Grass | Club | 1.25 |
| 6 | Gaelic | St. Eugene's GAC | Grass | Club | 1.49 |
| 7 | Gaelic | Glenelly - St. Joseph's GAC | Grass | Club | 1.18 |
| 8 | Gaelic | Urney GAC | Grass | Club | 1.46 |
| 9 | Gaelic | Urney GAC - Training pitch (unused) | Grass | Club | 1.11 |

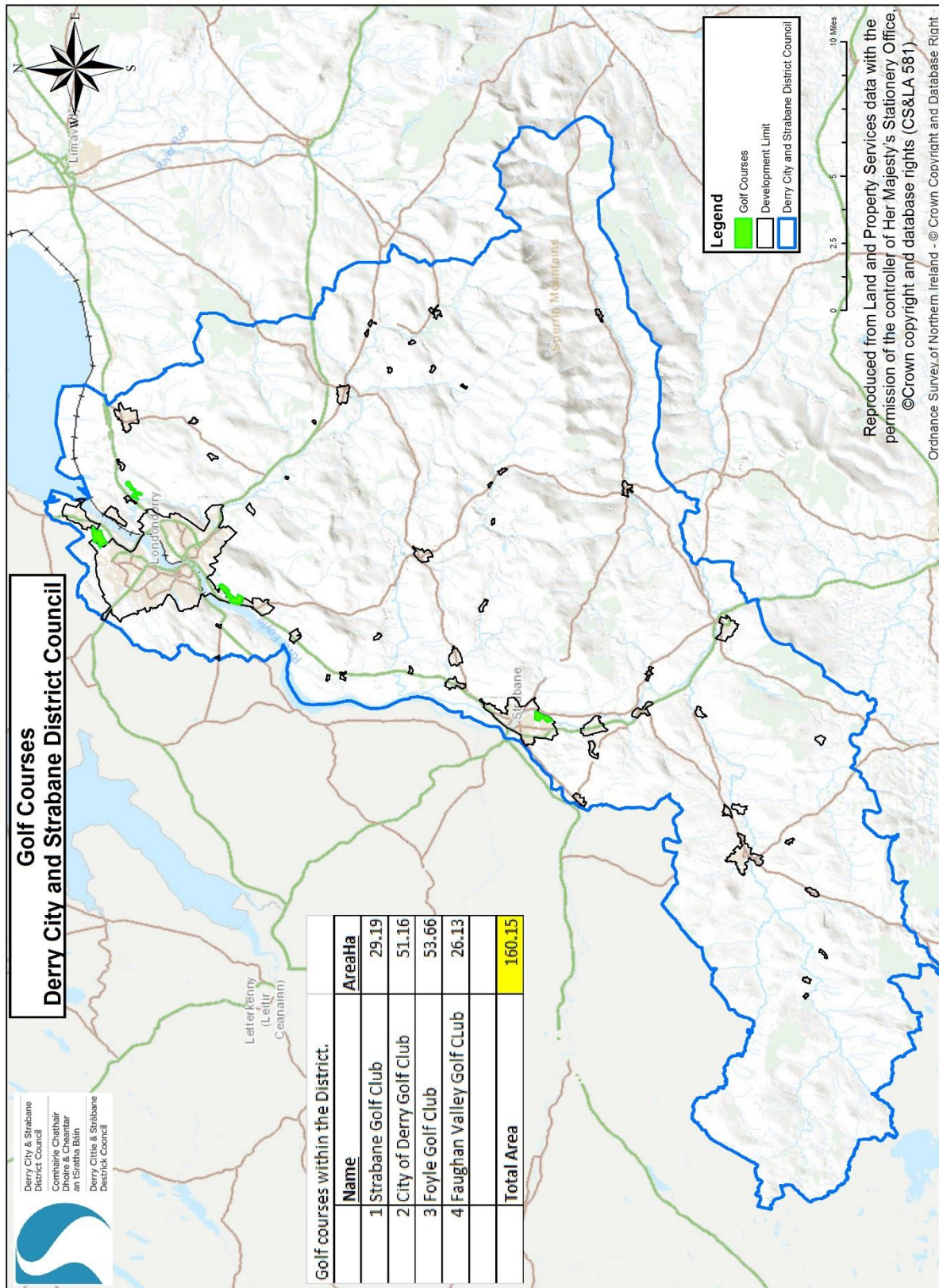
| | | | | | |
|----|------------------|--|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| 10 | Gaelic | Owen Roe O'Neills GAC | Grass | Club | 2.72 |
| 11 | Gaelic | Clann na nGael GAC | Grass | Club | 2.33 |
| 12 | Gaelic | St. Joseph's Craigbane GAC | Grass | Club | 2.23 |
| 13 | Gaelic | Clann na nGael | Grass | Club | 1.39 |
| 14 | Gaelic | O' Neill Park - John Mitchell's | 3G | Club | 1.46 |
| 15 | Gaelic | ST. Mary's GAC/ Mc Courts Fields | Grass | Club | 1.15 |
| 16 | Gaelic | St. Mary's GAC | Grass | Club | 1.37 |
| 17 | Gaelic | St. Mary's GAC | Grass | Club | 0.95 |
| 18 | Gaelic | Thornhill College Pitch 2 | Grass | Education | 1.15 |
| | | | | | 24.89 |
| | Hockey | | | | |
| 1 | Hockey | City of Derry RFC | Grass | Club | 0.58 |
| 2 | Hockey | Thornhill College Pitch 3 | Grass | Education | 1.59 |
| | | | | | 2.17 |
| | Multi Use | | | | |
| 1 | Multi Use | Vaughans Holm Pitch 1 | Grass | Council | 1.25 |
| 2 | Multi Use | St. Brigids and St. Patricks High School | Gravel | Education | 0.45 |
| 3 | Multi Use | O' Neill Park - John Mitchells | 3G | Club | 0.88 |
| 4 | Multi Use | John Mitchell's GAC | Grass | Club | 0.95 |
| 5 | Multi Use | YMCA Sports Hall Pitch 5 | Grass | Club | 0.44 |
| 6 | Multi Use | Lisneal College Pitches 1 and 2 | Grass | Education | 2.02 |
| 7 | Multi Use | Lisneal College Pitch 3 | Synthetic 3G | Education | 0.76 |
| 8 | Multi Use | Oakgrove Integrated College | Synthetic/ gravel | Education | 0.75 |
| 9 | Multi Use | Oakgrove Integrated College | Grass | Education | 0.76 |
| 10 | Multi Use | Thornhill College Pitch 4 | Gravel/ Shale | Education | 0.59 |
| | | | | | 8.86 |
| | Rugby | | | | |
| 1 | Rugby | Castledearg High School | Grass | Education | 0.92 |
| 2 | Rugby | YMCA Sports Hall Pitch 1 | Grass | Club | 0.68 |
| 3 | Rugby | YMCA Sports Hall Pitch 2 | Grass | Club | 0.70 |
| 4 | Rugby | YMCA Sports Hall Pitch 3 | Grass | Club | 0.87 |
| 5 | Rugby | City of Derry RFC | Grass | Club | 0.83 |
| 6 | Rugby | City of Derry RFC | Grass | Club | 0.80 |
| 7 | Rugby | City of Derry RFC | Grass | Club | 1.09 |
| | | | | | 5.88 |
| | Soccer | | | | |
| 1 | Soccer | Killen FC | | Club | 1.06 |
| 2 | Soccer | Mitchell Park | Grass | Club | 1.47 |
| 3 | Soccer | Darragh Park Pitch-2 | Grass | Club | 0.76 |
| 4 | Soccer | Darragh Park Pitch-1 | Grass | Club | 0.52 |
| 5 | Soccer | Castledearg High School | Grass | Soccer | 0.90 |
| 6 | Soccer | Spamount Playing fields | Grass | Soccer | 1.85 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|-----------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 7 | Soccer | Vaughan's Holm Pitch 2 | Grass | Council | 0.68 |
| 8 | Soccer | Ardstraw FC | Grass | Council | 1.57 |
| 9 | Soccer | Camus | Grass | Council | 0.59 |
| 10 | Soccer | Sion Mills Soccer pitches | Grass | Private | 1.35 |
| 11 | Soccer | Glebe Football Pitch | Grass | Council | 0.56 |
| 12 | Soccer | Artigarvan Grass | Grass | Council | 0.98 |
| 13 | Soccer | Park Football Club | Grass | Club | 0.73 |
| 14 | Soccer | Donemana Pitch | Grass | Council | 0.46 |
| 15 | Soccer | Faughanview Park FC | Grass | Club | 0.82 |
| 16 | Soccer | Newbuildings FC | Grass | Council | 0.87 |
| 17 | Soccer | St. Mary's GAC/ Mc Court's Fields | Grass | Club | 0.78 |
| 18 | Soccer | Lettershendoney Football Pitch | Grass | Club | 0.89 |
| 19 | Soccer | St. Canices FC | Grass | Club | 2.18 |
| 20 | Soccer | Riverside Stadium FC | Grass | Club | 1.12 |
| 21 | Soccer | YMCA Sports Hall Pitch 4 | Grass | Club | 0.68 |
| 22 | Soccer | Lisneal College Pitch 4 | Grass | Education | 0.80 |
| 23 | Soccer | Oakgrove Integrated College | Grass | Education | 2.36 |
| 24 | Soccer | Strathfoyle Pitch | Grass | Council | 0.91 |
| 25 | Soccer | Culmore Point Football Club | Grass | Club | 0.59 |
| | | | | | 25.47 |

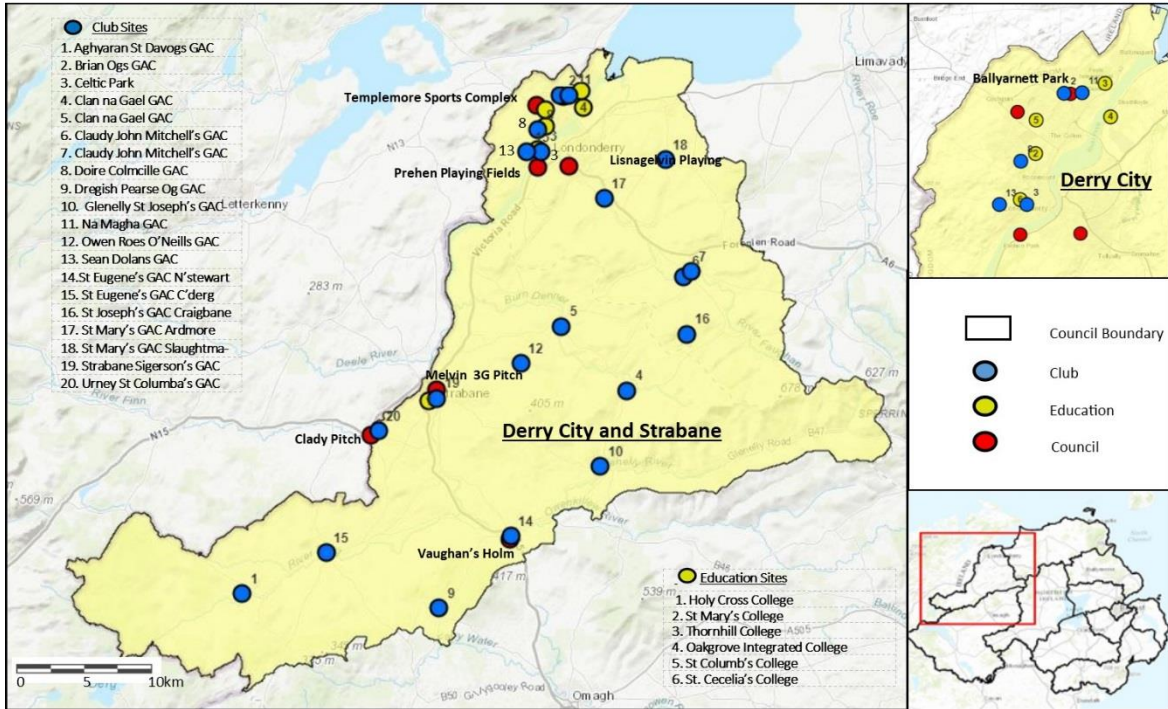
**Total Area
(HA) 85.33**

10.6 Leisure facilities in the District. Derry City and Strabane District Council operate 8 Leisure facilities in the region offering a wide range of both indoor and outdoor sporting activities. These are Foyle Arena, Bishop's Field, Templemore Sports Complex, Brooke Park, Derg Valley Leisure Centre, Melvin Sports Complex and the City Baths.

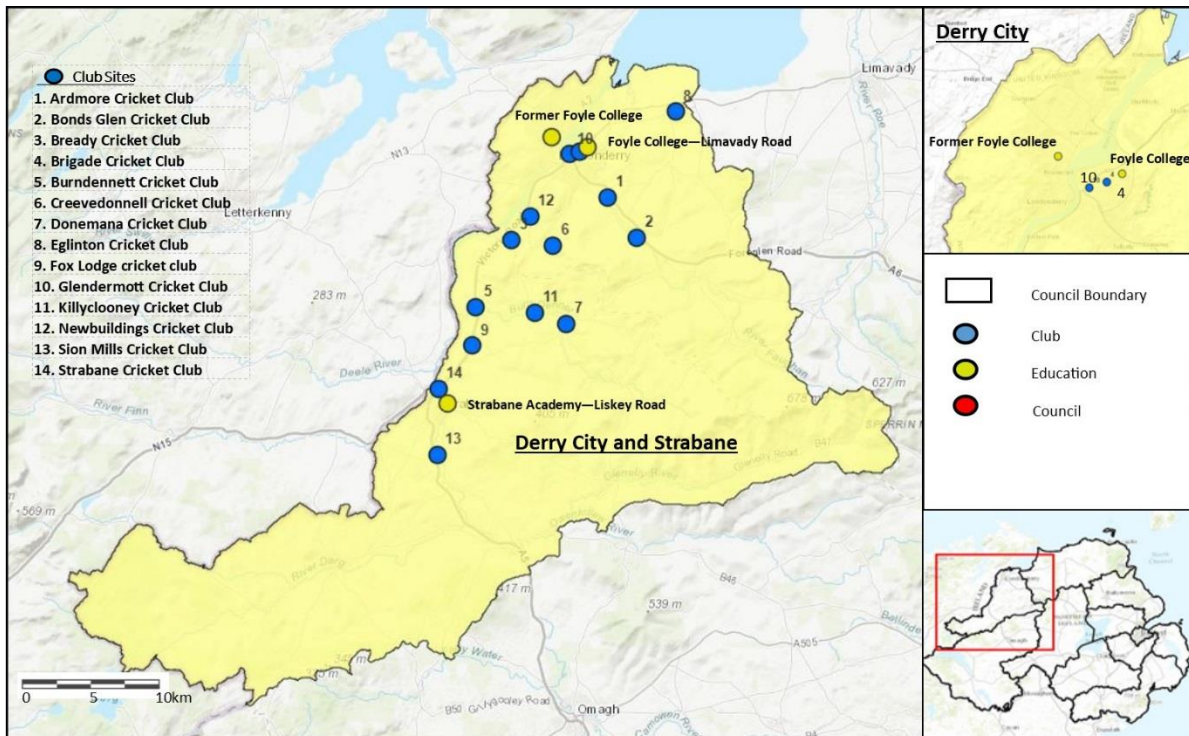
10.7 Golf Courses in the District:



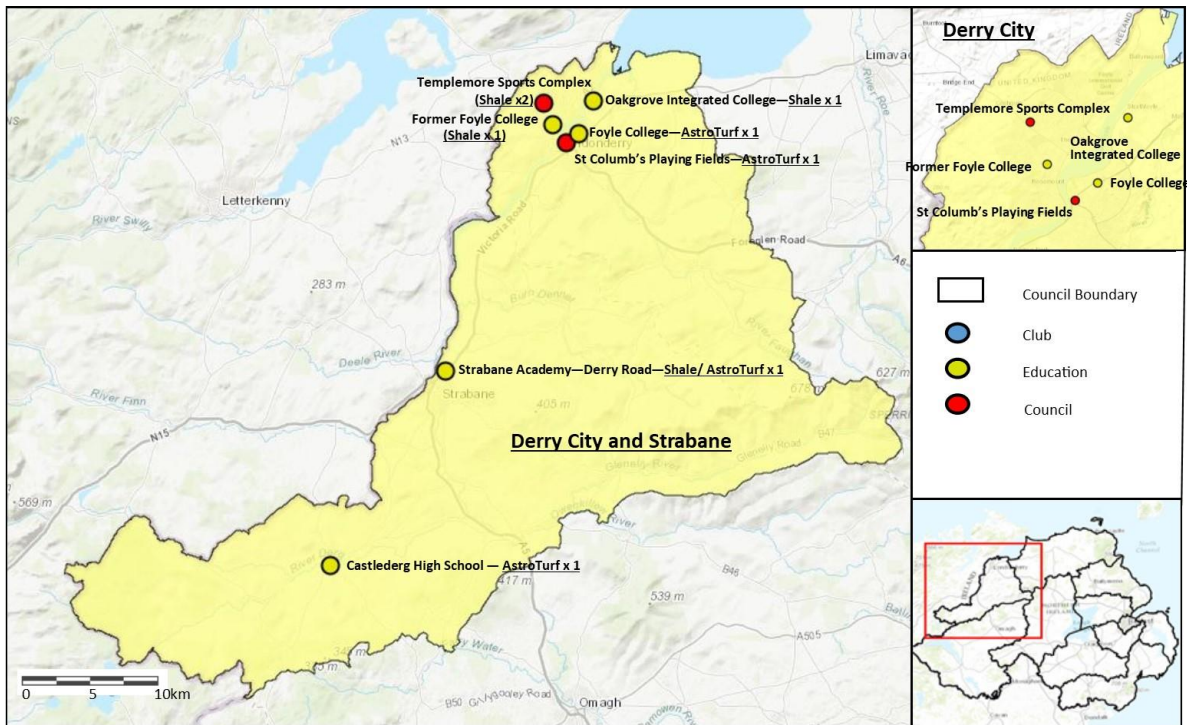
Derry City & Strabane District Council LDP Draft Plan Strategy - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation



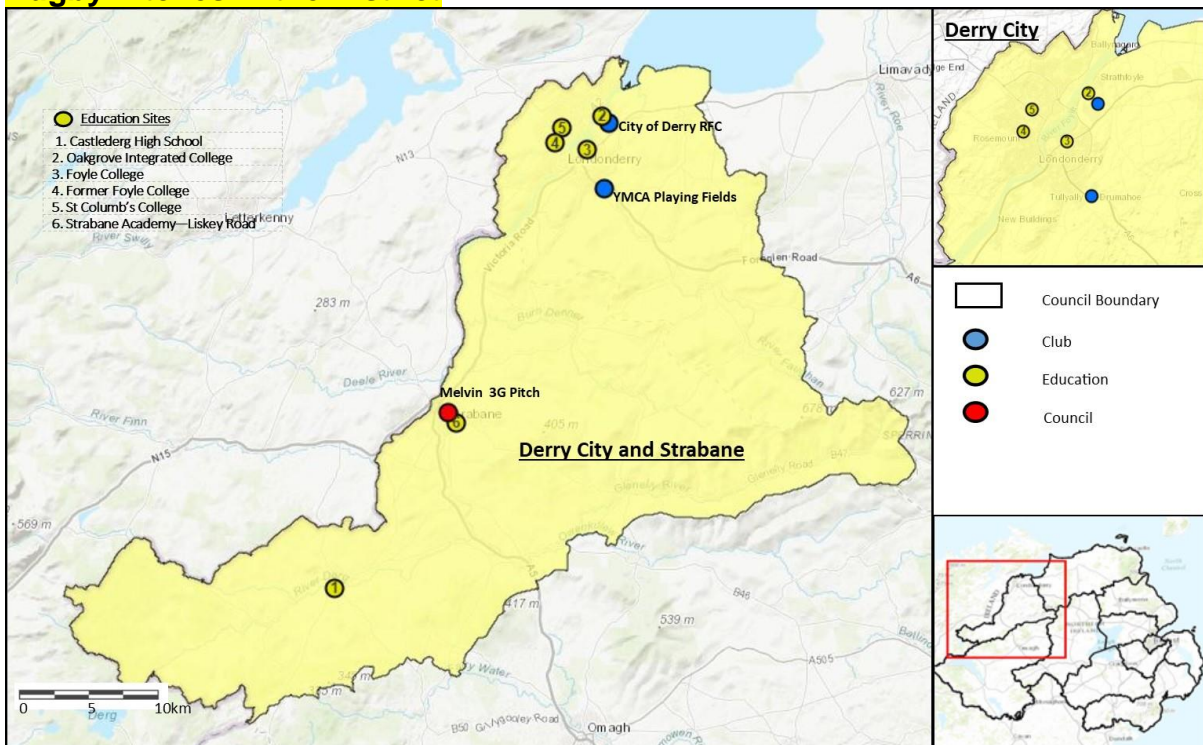
Cricket Clubs in the District:



Hockey Pitches in the District:



Rugby Pitches in the District



10.9 Playground Provision in the District:

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.

District areas of play

| Derry City | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|----------|------|
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Ballyarnett | District | 0.55 |
| 2 | Brooke Park | District | 0.24 |
| 3 | Drumahoe | District | 0.16 |
| 4 | Pennyburn Play Trail | District | 1.15 |
| 5 | St. Columbs Park - APA and Junior | District | 1.65 |
| 6 | St. Columbs Park - Bottom | District | 0.40 |

Total Area 4.15

| Remainder of District | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|------|
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Allen Park Donemana | District | 0.03 |

Total Area 0.03

| <u>Local areas of play</u> | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|------|
| Derry City | | | |
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Curryneirin | Local | 0.12 |
| 2 | Faughan Crescent | Local | 0.04 |
| 3 | Faughan View Church Road | Local | 0.96 |
| 4 | Fountain Hill | Local | 0.06 |
| 5 | Hazelbank | Local | 0.13 |
| 6 | Kidrum Gardens | Local | 0.02 |
| 7 | Miltownview - Tullyalley | Local | 0.02 |
| 8 | Rosstown Drive | Local | 0.13 |
| 9 | Templemore | Local | 0.16 |
| 10 | The Fountain | Local | 0.03 |

Total Area 1.67

| Strabane Town | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------|------|
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Ballycolman (Estate) | Local | 0.27 |
| 2 | Ballycolman Community Centre | Local | 0.03 |
| 3 | Beechmount Avenue | Local | 0.11 |
| 4 | Carlton Drive | Local | 0.03 |
| 5 | Courtrai Park | Local | 0.04 |

Total Area 0.48

| Remainder of District | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Wallace Heights | Local | 0.03 |
| 2 | Donemana Playing Fields | Local | 0.08 |
| 3 | Cluny Gardens | Local | 0.02 |
| 4 | Nicholson Gardens - Ardmore | Local | 0.06 |
| 5 | Gamble Park | Local | 0.07 |
| 6 | Hillview Park | Local | 0.02 |
| 7 | Camus Road | Local | 0.03 |
| 8 | Bells Park Road | Local | 0.02 |
| 9 | Garden Road (Community Centre) | Local | 0.04 |
| 10 | Camus Park | Local | 0.07 |
| 11 | Art Road | Local | 0.03 |
| 12 | Glenmornan (St Joseph's PS) | Local | 0.14 |
| 13 | Goshaden | Local | 0.18 |
| 14 | Pinewood Crescent - Claudy | Local | 0.07 |
| 15 | Strathfoyle | Local | 0.55 |
| 16 | Lettershendoney | Local | 0.11 |
| 17 | Sperrin Heritage Centre | Local | 0.03 |
| 18 | Newtownstewart | Local | 0.02 |
| 19 | Gulf Road | Local | 0.05 |
| 20 | Carnmoney | Local | 0.10 |
| 21 | Plumbridge | Local | 0.00 |
| 22 | Ardstraw | Local | 0.06 |
| 23 | Ballynagard | Local | 0.07 |
| 24 | Cumber House | Local | 0.33 |

Total Area 2.21

| <u>Neighbourhood Areas of play</u> | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Derry City | | | |
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Ballymagroarty | Neighbourhood | 0.34 |
| 2 | Brandywell | Neighbourhood | 0.29 |
| 3 | Bull Park | Neighbourhood | 0.09 |
| 4 | Galliagh | Neighbourhood | 0.47 |
| 5 | Glen | Neighbourhood | 0.21 |
| 6 | Glenabbey | Neighbourhood | 0.12 |
| 7 | Iniscarn Road / Bishops Park | Neighbourhood | 0.37 |
| 8 | Irish Street | Neighbourhood | 0.12 |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------|------|
| 9 | Nelson Drive - Kilfennan | Neighbourhood | 0.14 |
| 10 | Lapwing Way | Neighbourhood | 0.31 |
| 11 | Leafair | Neighbourhood | 0.13 |
| 12 | Oakland | Neighbourhood | 0.15 |
| 13 | Abercorn Road (Riverview) | Neighbourhood | 0.38 |
| 14 | Rose Court | Neighbourhood | 0.22 |
| 15 | Roulstone Avenue - Bond Street | Neighbourhood | 0.30 |
| 16 | Shantallow | Neighbourhood | 0.26 |
| 17 | Stevensons Park - Tullyalley | Neighbourhood | 0.43 |

Total Area 4.32

| Strabane Town | | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Lisnafin | Neighbourhood | 0.04 |
| 2 | Melvin | Neighbourhood | 0.03 |
| 3 | Melvin Sports Centre Outdoor Play Area | Neighbourhood | 0.11 |
| 4 | Patrician Villas | Neighbourhood | 0.34 |
| 5 | Springhill Park | Neighbourhood | 0.03 |

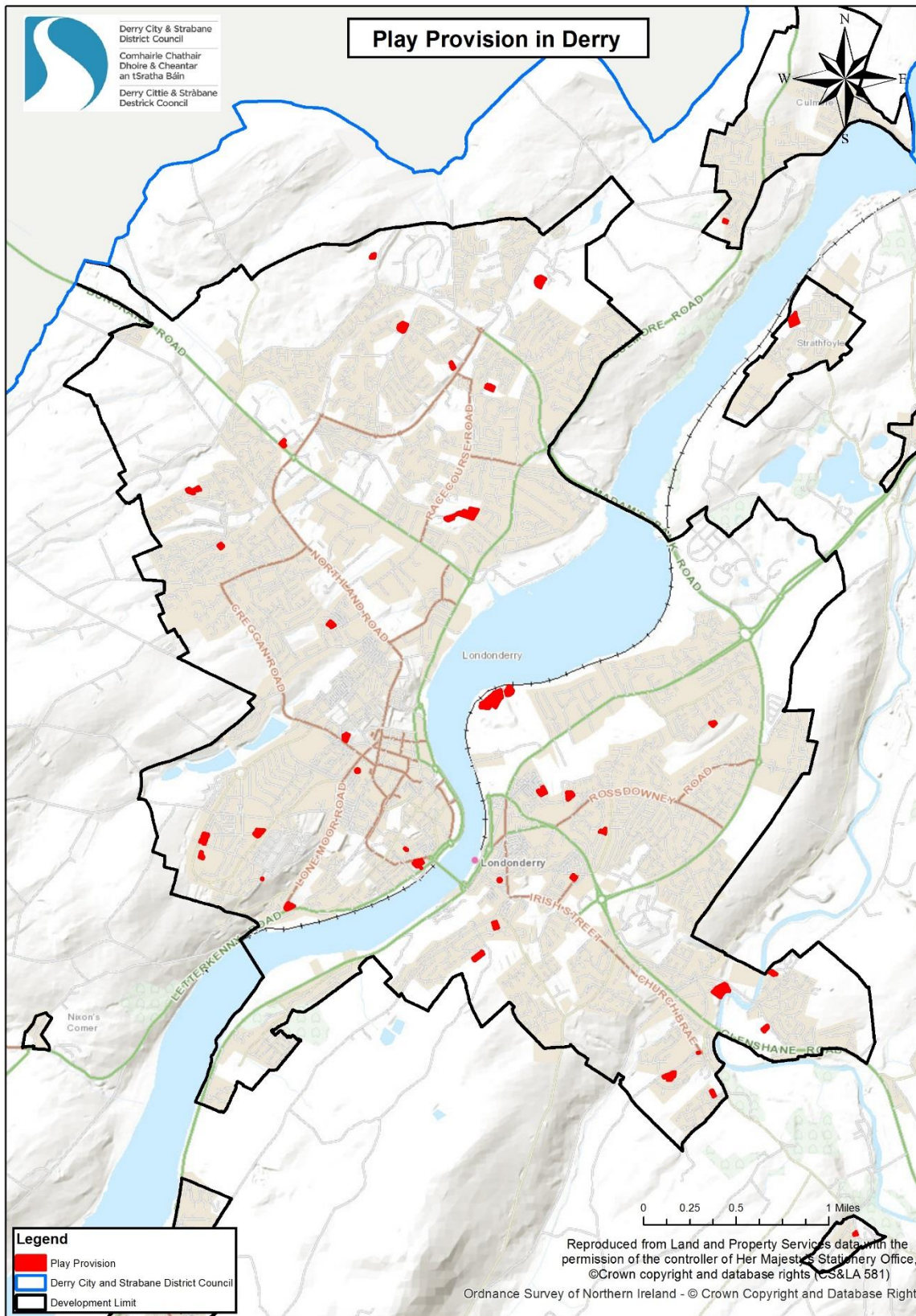
Total Area 0.56

| Remainder of District | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Park Name | Category | HA |
| 1 | Eglinton | Neighbourhood | 0.16 |
| 2 | Enagh Crescent | Neighbourhood | 0.21 |
| 3 | Learmount - Park | Neighbourhood | 0.07 |
| 4 | Primity Crescent - New Buildings | Neighbourhood | 0.16 |
| 5 | Faughan View Claudy | Neighbourhood | 0.10 |
| 6 | Derg Castle Park | Neighbourhood | 0.04 |
| 7 | Listymore Park | Neighbourhood | 0.03 |
| 8 | Mitchel Park | Neighbourhood | 0.10 |
| 9 | Millbrook Gardens | Neighbourhood | 0.03 |
| 10 | Killeter | Neighbourhood | 0.02 |
| 11 | Victoria Bridge | Neighbourhood | 0.04 |
| 12 | Gamble Park | Neighbourhood | 0.03 |
| 13 | Killen Learmore Road | Neighbourhood | 0.03 |

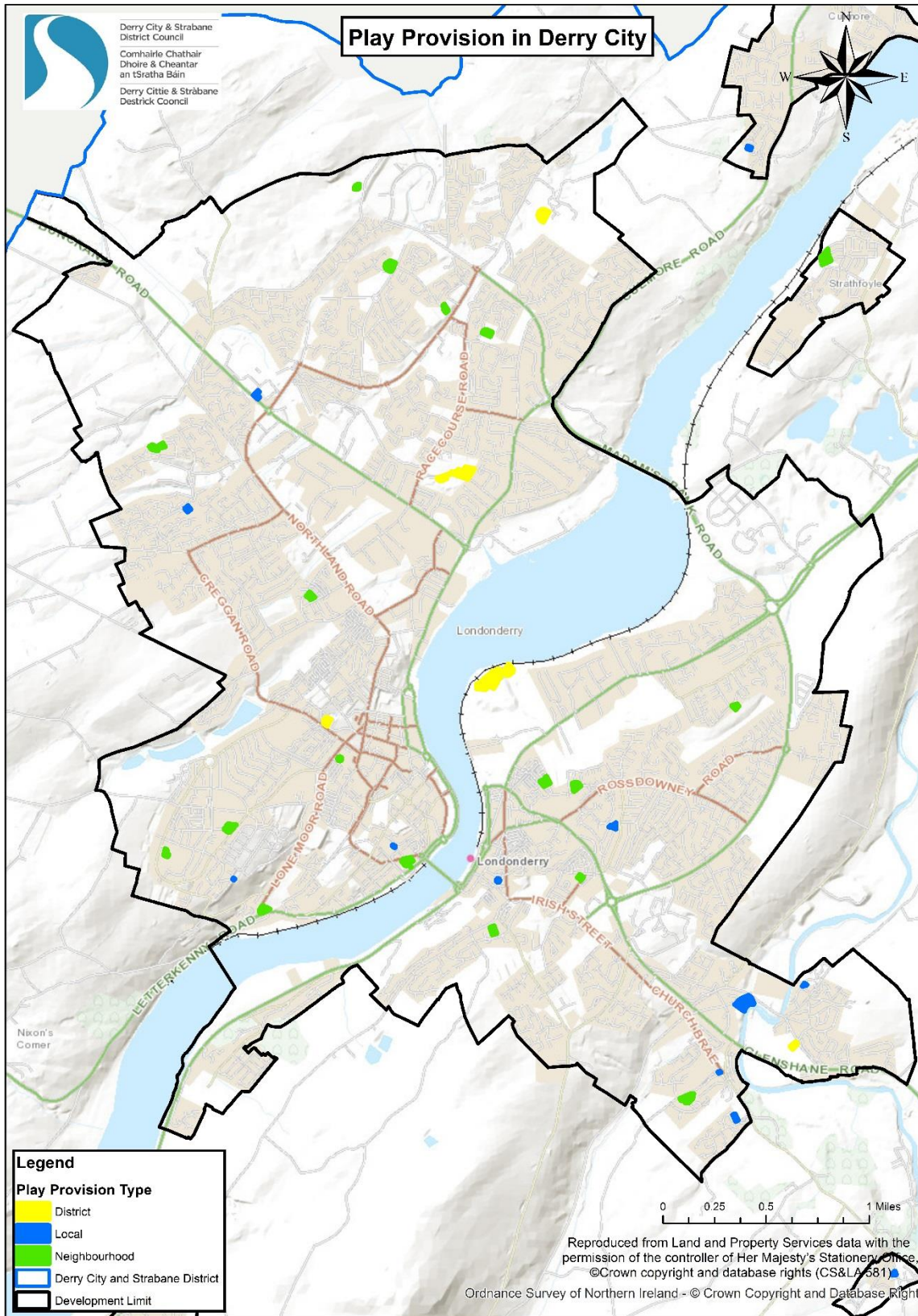
Total Area 1.00

10.10 Play provision in Derry

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.

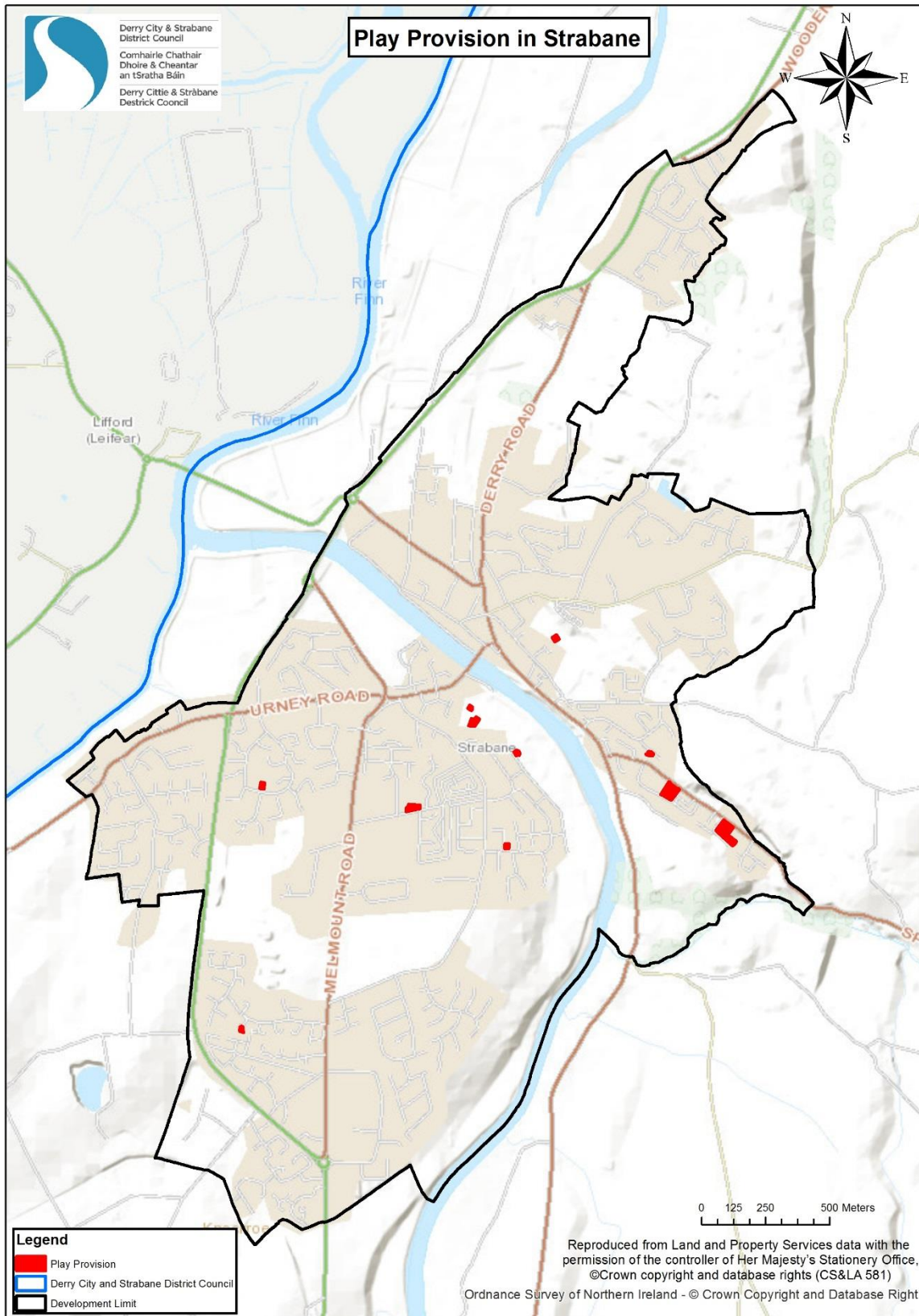


10.10 Play Provision in Derry City by type – District, Local and Neighbourhood
 Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.



10.11 Play Provision in Strabane

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.



10.12 Designated sites within Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Designated Sites Within the Derry City & Strabane District Council

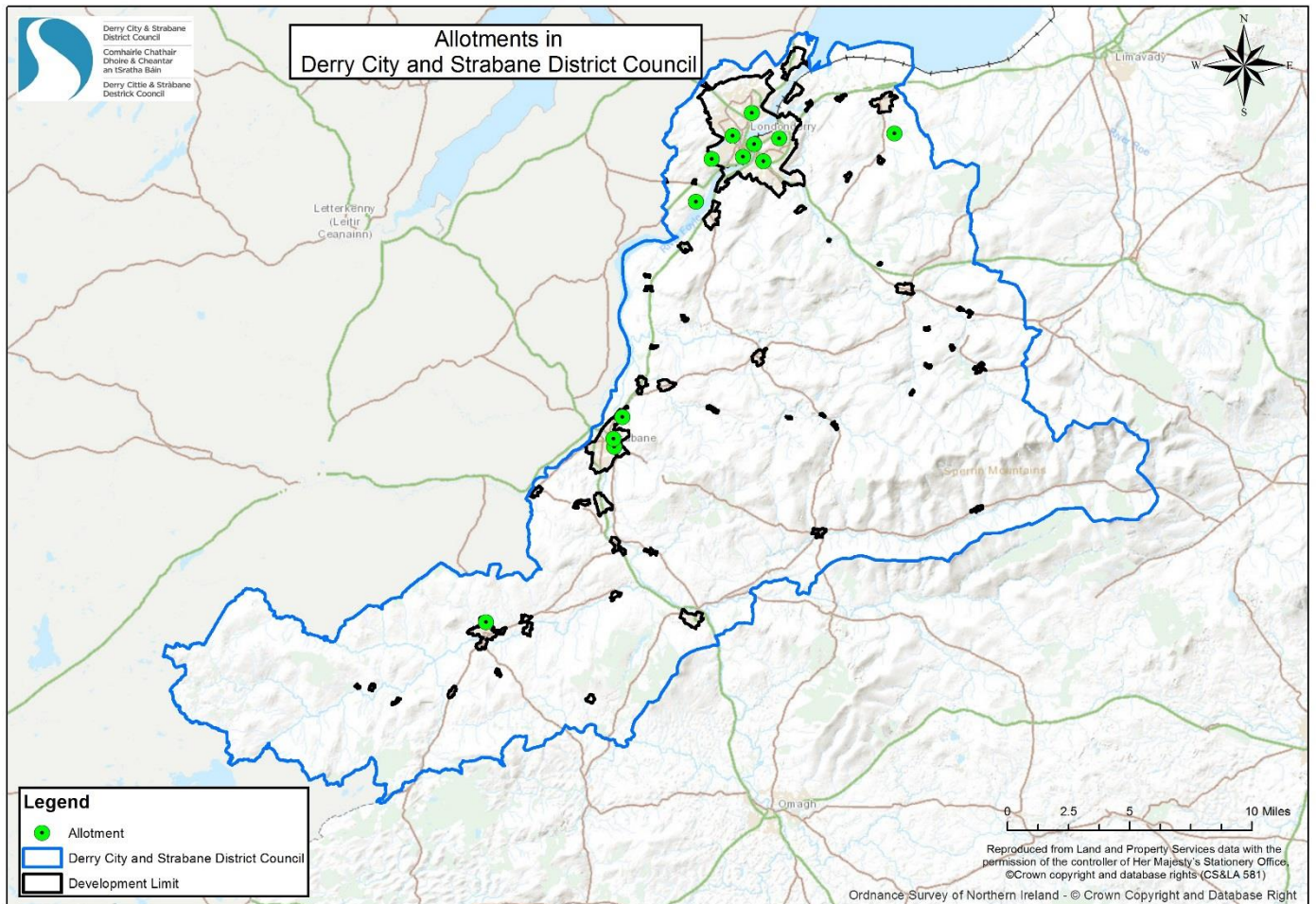
| Site | Ramsar Site: Internationally important wetland site | Special Protection Area (SPA): Internationally important for migratory birds | Special Area of Conservation (SAC): Internationally important for habitats and species | Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI): Sites of high conservation value | National Nature Reserves (NNR): Sites of national importance | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): Landscape designation | Local Nature Reserve (LNR): Locality important for biodiversity |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Lough Foyle | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| River Faughan | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| River Foyle | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Moneygal Bog & Moneygal Bart Part II | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Owenkillew River | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Aghabrack | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Baronscourt | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Bonds Glen | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Butterlope Glen | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Corbylin Wood | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Croagh Bog | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Drummahon | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Ervey Wood | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Essan Burn & Mullifamore | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Grange Wood | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Killeter Forest Bogs & Lakes | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Lisnareagh | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Lough Carr | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Lower Creevagh | | | | ✓ | | | |
| McKeane's Moss & McKeane's Moss Part II | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Ness Wood | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Owenkillew & Glenelly Woods | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Silverbrook Wood | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Strabane Glen | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Killeter Forest | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Sperin Mountains | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Bay Road Park | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Killaloo Wood | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Oaks Wood | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Prehen Wood | | | | | | | ✓ |

10.13 Woodland Trust estates within the District

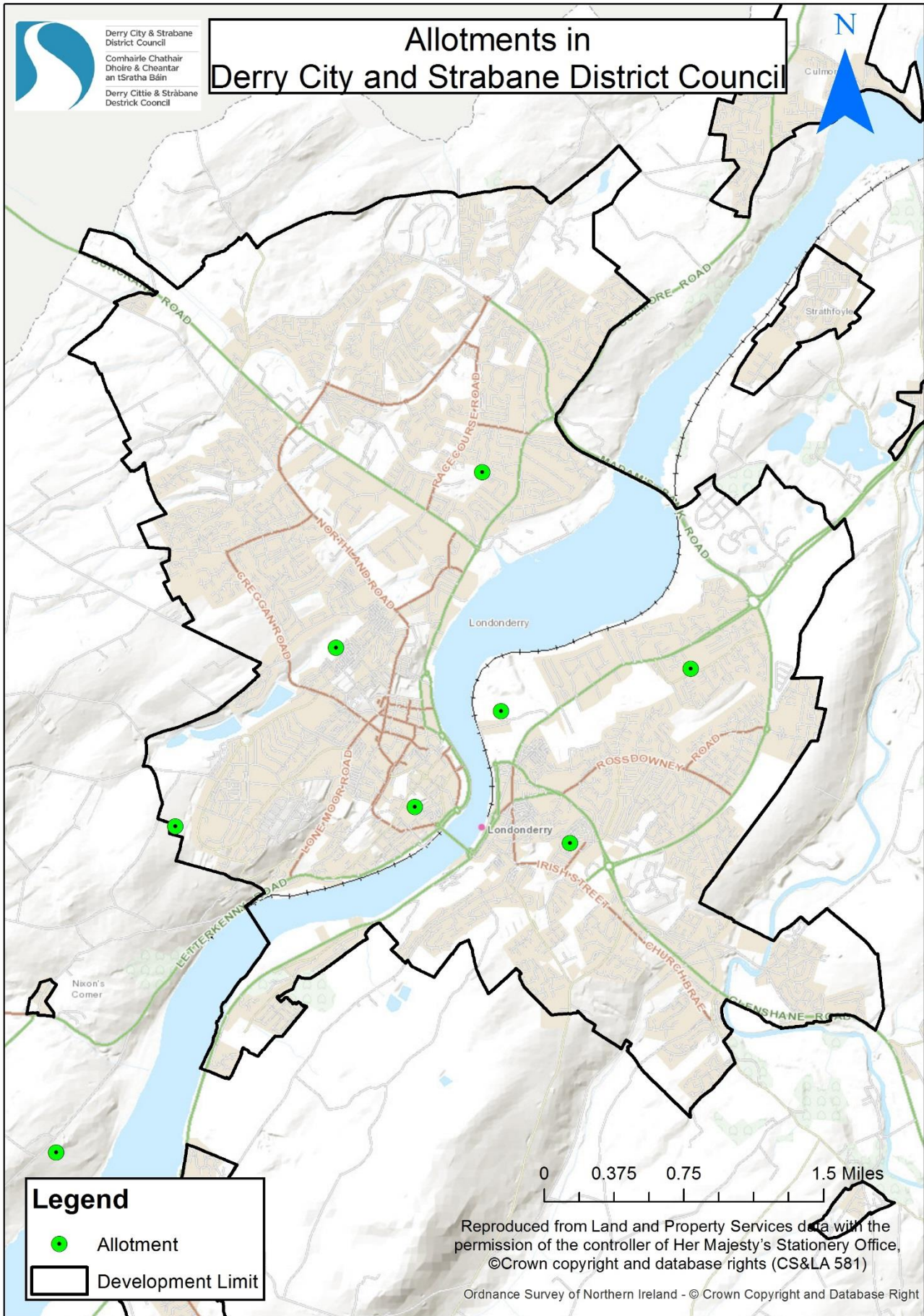
Source: Woodland Trust

| | Forest Name | Area (HA) |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | The Burn Walk | 1.25 |
| 2 | Southway Wood | 5.59 |
| 3 | Ballyarnet Wood | 2.33 |
| 4 | Top of the Hill Wood | 4.09 |
| 5 | Oaks Wood | 5.22 |
| 6 | Killaloo Wood | 7.59 |
| 7 | Prehen Wood | 7.48 |
| 8 | Burntollet Wood | 23.96 |
| 9 | Brackfield Wood | 21.37 |
| | | |
| | Total Area (HA) | 78.88 |

10.14 Allotments and Community Garden in the District:
 Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.



| | Name |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | St Columb's Park Allotments |
| 2 | Ballygudden Rd Allotments |
| 3 | Strabane Community Allotments |
| 4 | Tullacor Allotments |
| 5 | Castlederg Allotments |
| 6 | Playtrail Allotments |
| 7 | Irish St Community Garden |
| 8 | Barrack St. Community garden |
| 9 | Nassau Crescent |
| 10 | Caw Centre |
| 11 | Fountain Community Garden |
| 12 | Balloughry Private Allotments |
| 13 | Apex allotments |

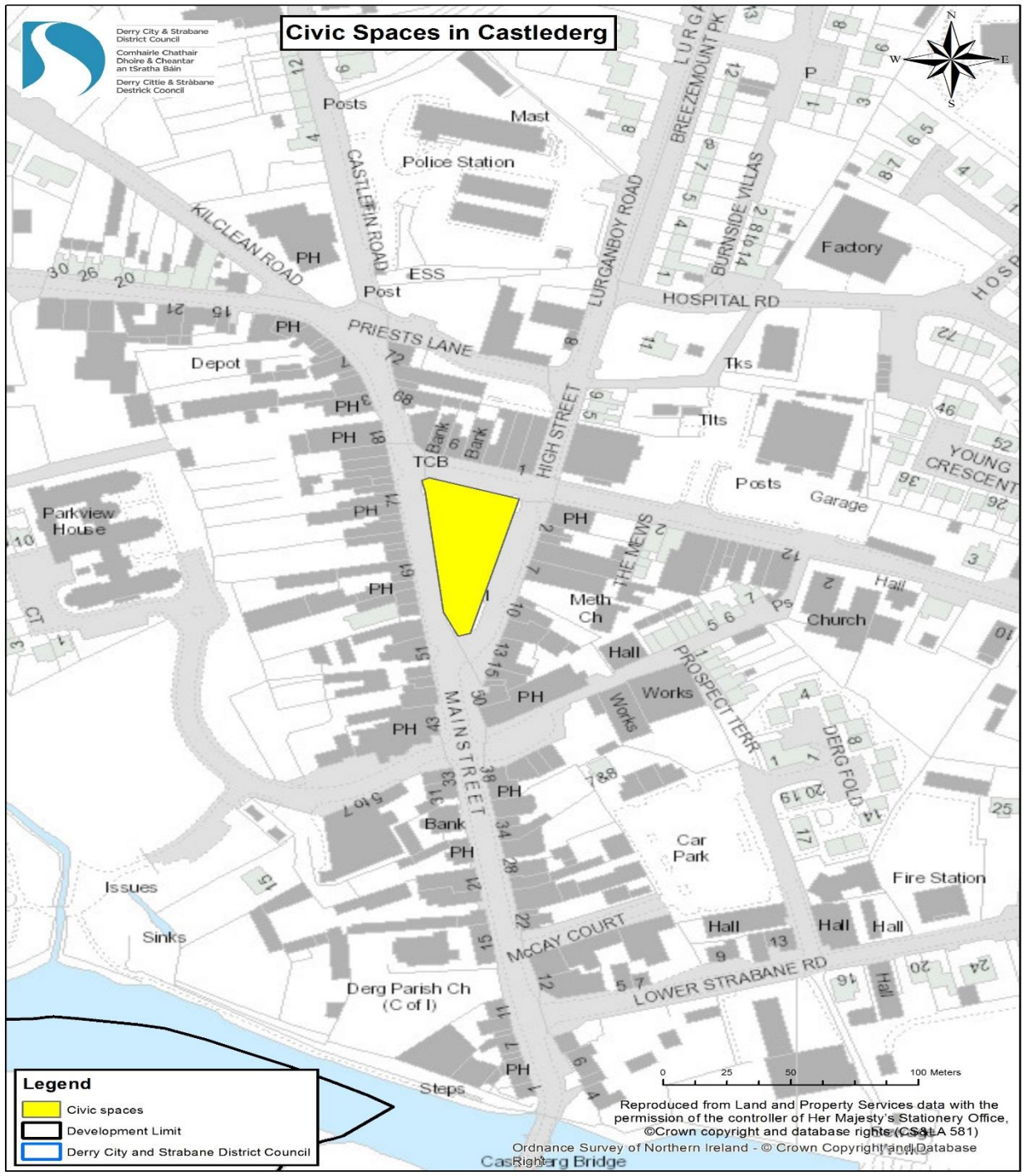


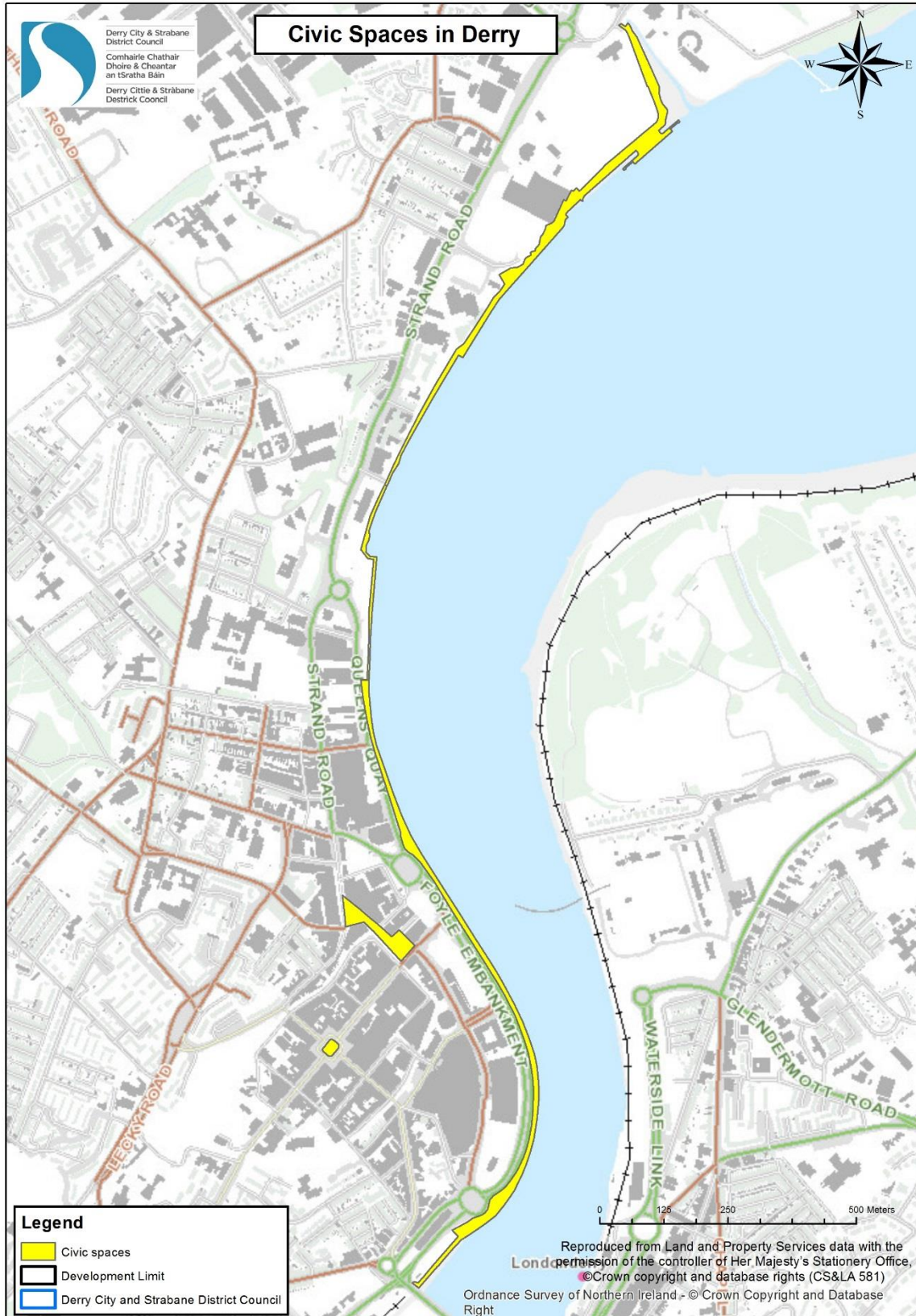
| | Graveyard Name | Address | Area (HA) |
|----|---|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Derry City Cemetery | Lone Moor Road, Derry | 20.09 |
| 2 | St Columbs Cathedral Graveyard | 17 London Street, Derry | 0.02 |
| 3 | Ardmore Old Cemetery | Ardmore Road, Waterside | 0.35 |
| 4 | Ardmore New Cemetery | Ardmore Road, Waterside | 1.15 |
| 5 | Mountcastle Cemetery | Duncastle Road, Donemana | 0.54 |
| 6 | Leckpatrick Cemetery | Victoria Road, Ballymagorry | 0.34 |
| 7 | Ballyoan Cemetery | Rosstown Road, Waterside | 3.02 |
| 8 | Altnagelvin Cemetery | Church Brae, Waterside | 1.56 |
| 9 | Glendermott Church of Ireland Graveyard | Church Brae, Waterside | 0.76 |
| 10 | Claudy Cumber Cemetery | Claudy, Cumber | 0.80 |
| 11 | Patrick Street Graveyard | Church Street, Strabane | 0.35 |
| 12 | Urney Cemetery | Urney Road, Strabane | 0.22 |
| 13 | Aughalane Cemetery | Glenelly Road, Plumbridge | 0.35 |
| 14 | Ardstraw Cemeteries | Urbalreagh Road, Newtonstewart | 0.18 |
| 15 | Scarvagherin Cemetery | Scarvagherin Road, Castlederg | 0.12 |
| 16 | Magherakeel Cemetery | Magherakeel Road, Killeter | 0.07 |
| 17 | Dungiven Parish Church Cemetery | 9 Chapel Road Dungiven | 1.11 |
| 18 | Castlederg Cemetery | Drumquin Road, Castlederg | 1.18 |
| 19 | Church of Ireland Cemetery | Main Street, Castlederg | 0.06 |
| 20 | Corrick Cemetery | Plumbridge Road, Newtonstewart | 0.59 |
| 21 | Cranagh(disused) | Cranagh | 0.21 |
| 22 | St. Patricks RC Church | Cranagh | 0.54 |
| | | | |
| | | Total Area (HA) | 33.62 |

10.15 Civic Spaces in the District:

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.

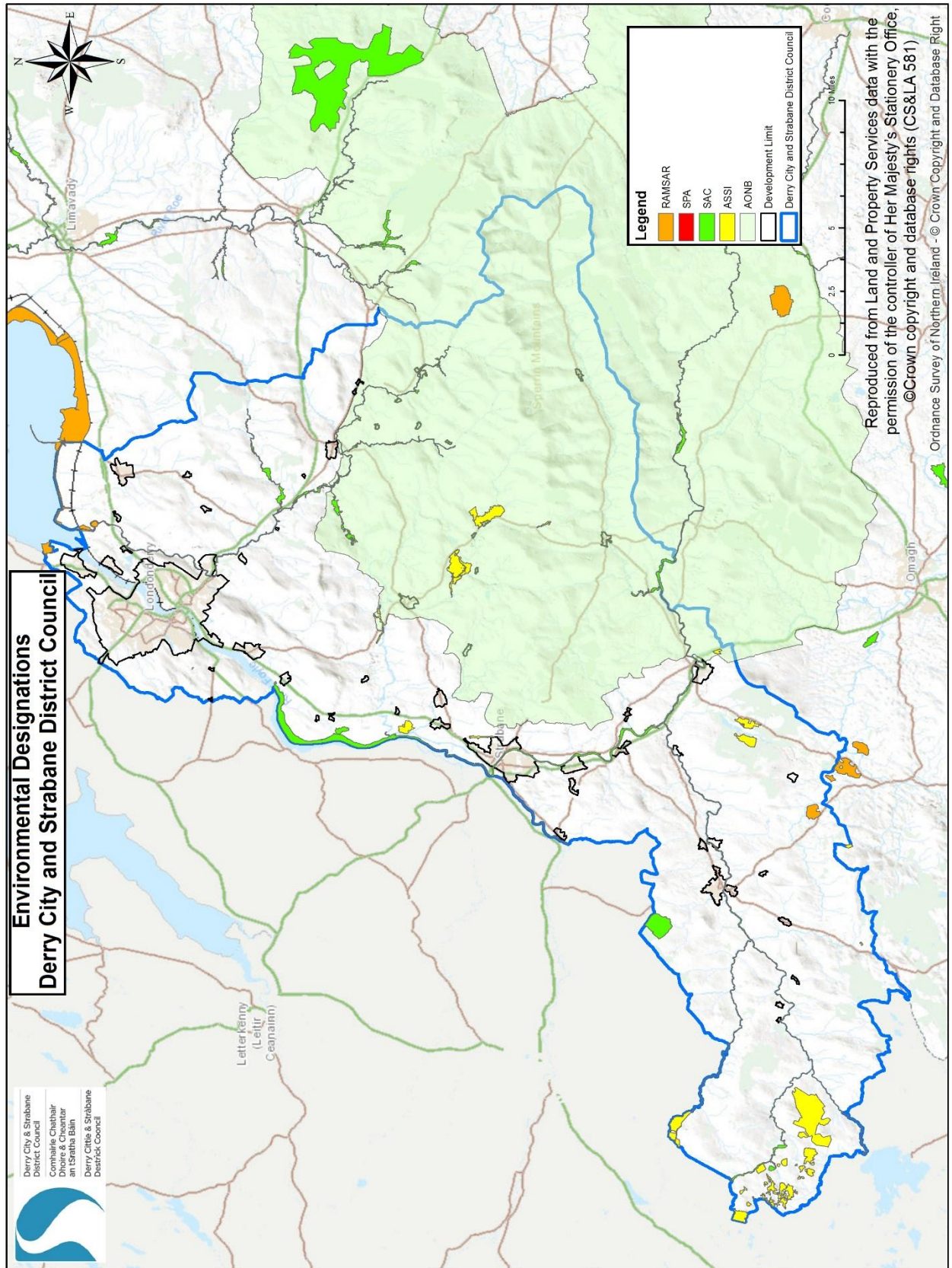
| | Name | Area (Ha) |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Diamond, Derry | 0.07 |
| 2 | Queen's Quay (DCSDC) | 0.22 |
| 3 | Queen's Quay (DfC) | 1.71 |
| 4 | Queen's Quay (DfI) | 1.57 |
| 5 | Guldhall SQ/Waterloo Place | 0.43 |
| 6 | Derg Diamond | 0.17 |
| | Total Area | 4.18 |





10.17 Natural and semi-natural green spaces:

Source: Derry City and Strabane District Council Parks and Recreation Department.



10.18 Quantity of Playing Pitches in District Council Areas - Including Education Synthetic Pitches but excluding Grass Pitches - Source: Sport NI:

| District Council | 2011 Population Projection | Acres Recommended By SAS | Existing Provision | | | | Shortfalls | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | | | Grass | | Synthetic | | Total Acres SNI | SNI Standards | |
| | | | Total Acres | Grass Acres | Existing Acres | SNI by 4 | | Perceived Acres Shortfall | Pitches required |
| Ards/ North Down | 155,882 | 468 | 141 | 17 | 69 | 209 | 258 | 103 | |
| Lisburn City / Castlereagh | 178,544 | 535.632 | 168.97 | 19.03 | 76.12 | 245.09 | 290.54 | 116 | |
| Antrim/ Newtonabbey | 132,389 | 397.167 | 121.05 | 15.44 | 61.76 | 182.81 | 241.36 | 86 | |
| Mid Antrim | 132,378 | 397.134 | 162.1 | 10.83 | 43.32 | 205.42 | 191.71 | 77 | |
| Derry City / Strabane | 150,592 | 451.776 | 206.22 | 11.41 | 45.64 | 251.86 | 199.92 | 80 | |
| Belfast | 263,313 | 789.939 | 377.41 | 49.07 | 196.3 | 573.69 | 216.25 | 86 | |
| Armagh City/ Bann | 190,559 | 571.677 | 331.79 | 23.38 | 93.52 | 425.31 | 146.37 | 59 | |
| Causeway Coast | 140,436 | 421.308 | 316.46 | 14.6 | 58.4 | 374.86 | 46.448 | 19 | |
| Newry City / Down | 164,514 | 493.542 | 370.5 | 15.15 | 60.6 | 431.1 | 62.442 | 25 | |
| Fermanagh / Omagh | 112,400 | 337.2 | 260.36 | 6.61 | 26.44 | 286.8 | 50.4 | 20 | |
| Mid Ulster District Council | 129,915 | 389.745 | 316.93 | 21.97 | 87.88 | 404.81 | -15.07 | -6 | |
| Total | 1,750,922 | 5252.77 | 2772.49 | 204.65 | 818.6 | 3591.09 | 1661.7 | 665 | |

10.19 Quantity of Playing Pitches in District Council Areas - Including Education Synthetic Pitches but including Grass Pitches - Source: Sport NI

| District Council | 2011 Population Projection | Acres Recommended By SAS | Existing Provision | | | | Shortfalls | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | | | Grass | | Synthetic | | Total Acres SNI | SNI Standards | |
| | | | Total Acres | Grass Acres | Existing Acres | SNI by 4 | | Perceived Acres Shortfall | Pitches required |
| Ards/ North Down | 155,882 | 468 | 180 | 17 | 69 | 249 | 219 | 88 | |
| Lisburn City / Castlereagh | 178,544 | 535.632 | 241.57 | 19.03 | 76.12 | 317.69 | 217.94 | 87 | |
| Antrim/ Newtonabbey | 132,389 | 397.167 | 214.25 | 15.44 | 61.76 | 276.01 | 121.16 | 48 | |
| Mid Antrim | 132,378 | 397.134 | 257.79 | 10.83 | 43.32 | 301.11 | 96.024 | 38 | |
| Derry City / Strabane | 150,592 | 451.776 | 293.31 | 11.41 | 45.64 | 339.13 | 112.03 | 43 | |
| Belfast | 263,313 | 789.939 | 520.21 | 49.07 | 196.3 | 716.49 | 73.449 | 29 | |
| Armagh City/ Bann | 190,559 | 571.677 | 460.27 | 23.38 | 93.52 | 553.79 | 17.887 | 7 | |
| Causeway Coast | 140,436 | 421.308 | 498.64 | 14.6 | 58.4 | 557.04 | -135.7 | -54 | |
| Newry City / Down | 164,514 | 493.542 | 546.55 | 15.15 | 60.6 | 607.15 | -113.6 | -45- | |
| Fermanagh / Omagh | 112,400 | 337.2 | 352.45 | 6.61 | 26.44 | 378.89 | -41.69 | -17 | |
| Mid Ulster District Council | 129,915 | 389.745 | 456.19 | 21.97 | 87.88 | 544.07 | -154.3 | -62 | |
| Total | 1,750,922 | 5252.77 | 4021.35 | 204.65 | 818.6 | 4839.95 | 412.82 | 165 | |

*Six Acre Standard (SAS) calculates the value of a synthetic surface to be twice that of a grass surface.

** Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) calculates the value of a synthetic surface to be four times that of a grass surface.