

## **Provision for Children and Young People**

### **Introduction and definition**

- 7.1 PPG17 states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 7.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision, from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity greenspace) to large, multi purpose play areas. PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. Provision of facilities for children does not necessarily negate the need for provision for young people and vice versa.
- 7.3 The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically:
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
  - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
  - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 7.4 In light of the differences between provision for children and young people, this typology has been subdivided and provision for children and facilities for young people have been analysed separately.
- 7.5 Provision for children is taken to include equipped children's play areas and adventure playgrounds that are perceived to cater for children under 12.
- 7.6 Facilities for young people includes the following types of provision:
- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
  - skateparks
  - basketball courts
  - youth shelters
  - informal kickabout areas
  - BMX tracks.
- 7.7 This section of the report sets out the strategic context, key findings emerging from consultation and assessment of current provision for children and young people. Local standards have been derived from the consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs. The application of these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of facilities for children and young people.

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- 7.8 It is complementary to and closely aligned with the Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010 and is designed to support the implementation of key priorities outlined within the play strategy from a planning perspective.

### **Strategic context**

- 7.9 The key issues for children and young people's facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are set out in Table 7.1 overleaf.

**Table 7.1 – Strategic context – regional and local**

<b>Document Reviewed</b>	<b>Summary of key strategic drivers</b>	<b>Links to open space, sport and recreation study</b>
<b>Bromsgrove Local Plan</b>	<p>Policy RAT4 covers the retention of open space, stating that the Council will seek to retain and enhance all public and privately owned open space of recreational and amenity value.</p> <p>Policy RAT5 states that the Council will seek the provision of play space across the District in accordance with its standards of 0.2 – 0.3 hectares per 1000 population of equipped play areas.</p> <p>Policy RAT6 refers to open space within housing developments and identifies that a housing development of over 0.4 hectares or above will be required to meet the minimum standard for children’s play space. Other types of open space should relate to the scale of the development.</p>	<p>This study will assess the current supply and demand for play facilities and facilities for young people and provide an evidence base to enable informed decision making.</p>

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p><b>Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010</b></p>	<p>The values underpinning the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to contribute to the five outcomes for children and young people: being healthy; staying safe; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; achieving economic well being</li> <li>• to recognise the importance of play for children and their families both in its own right and in relation to wider agendas such as health, social inclusion and community safety</li> <li>• to provide facilities and services that meet all children’s needs, encouraging social inclusion and embracing people with disabilities</li> <li>• to be prepared to offer challenge, whilst managing risk</li> <li>• to extend the choice and control that children have over play opportunities. To recognise a child’s need to push boundaries, to be independent and have self esteem</li> <li>• to use play positively to foster respect for and amongst children and young people</li> <li>• to acknowledge that every child needs and has the right to play and that play is an essential part of growing up</li> <li>• to ensure that children and young people have safe and easy access to a range of play opportunities within a reasonable distance of their homes</li> <li>• to strive to achieve the best quality possible for</li> </ul>	<p>This study will provide an understanding of the current opportunities for play across Bromsgrove, enabling the Council and other partners to identify the key priorities to enable the achievement of the principles and values of the Worcestershire Play Strategy.</p>

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>the greatest number of people.</p> <p>The four outcomes of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and young people to have increased opportunity to access and enjoy a variety of play</li> <li>• increased inclusive play opportunities</li> <li>• a greater understanding of the importance of play</li> <li>• children and young people are involved in the design and delivery of play.</li> </ul> <p>A target of the strategy is to ensure that children and young people have safe and easy access to a range of play opportunities within a reasonable distance of their homes.</p>	

**Consultation – Assessing Local Needs**

- 7.10 Consultation undertaken as part of this study highlighted the following key issues relating to provision for children and young people:
- the importance of such facilities not only to give children and young people an opportunity to play but to encourage social interaction and provide educational opportunities
  - the need for improved as well as increased provision for children in the District through, for example, provision a more imaginative and exciting range of play equipment
  - the need for increased facilities for young people coupled with the importance of providing a range of opportunities for this age group, specifically more youth clubs offering varied programmes of activities
  - a lack of opportunities for younger residents being perceived to reduce the quality of other types of open space by generating misuse and anti-social behaviour.
- 7.11 The findings of the survey for children and young people indicate that the most popular activities for children and young people in Bromsgrove include:
- Playing sport (44%)
  - Listening to music (33%)
  - Playing computer games (29%)
  - Using the internet (22%)
  - Playing in the local park (15%)
  - Watching TV (15%)
  - Playing on grass near home (12)
  - Using a skate park (10%)
  - Playing in a big park (8%)
  - Using the local play area (5%)
  - Using a BMX track (3%).
- 7.12 This demonstrates that there are significant opportunities to increase the usage of facilities for children and young people. While 56% usually play at home, 21% visit the local play area.

**Quantity of provision**

- 7.13 The quantity of provision for children and young people across Bromsgrove is summarised in Tables 7.2 and 7.3 overleaf. Facilities are provided by both the District Council and also by a number of Parish Councils.

7.14 It must be noted that this assessment considers only the provision of equipped facilities and does not take into account other activities offered.

**Table 7.2 – Provision for children across Bromsgrove**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Current provision per 1,000 population	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bromsgrove North	0.34	0.030	4	0.04	0.1	12,575	0.027
Bromsgrove West	0.57	0.045	12	0.01	0.16	14,154	0.040
Bromsgrove East	0.29	0.031	5	0.02	0.17	10,429	0.028
Bromsgrove North East	0.16	0.014	5	0.02	0.05	12,706	0.013
Bromsgrove Central	1.03	0.024	29	0.01	0.12	48,192	0.021
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>0.027</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>98,056</b>	<b>0.024</b>

7.15 The key issues emerging from Table 7.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of children’s play areas are summarised below. These findings clearly show a perceived lack of facilities across the District as a strong and consistent theme:

- 58% of household survey respondents consider the current level of provision to be insufficient with 36% and 22% stating that the level is ‘not enough’ or ‘nearly enough’ respectively. In contrast roughly one third of respondents are satisfied with provision considering it to be ‘about right’ (32%) or ‘more than enough’ (4%)
- localised household survey findings generally reflected those for the District overall with a high proportion of respondents (> 55%) in four out of the five analysis areas indicating that current provision is insufficient and named areas of deficiency identified as Wythall (Bromsgrove North East), Alvechurch (Bromsgrove East) and Stoke Heath (Bromsgrove Central)
- there is a direct correlation between levels of satisfaction and current levels of provision:
  - respondents in Bromsgrove North East, which currently has the lowest level of provision per head of population, showing the highest level of dissatisfaction with 66% of respondents considering facilities insufficient

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- respondents in Bromsgrove West, which currently has the highest level of provision per head of population, showing greatest satisfaction with almost half of respondents (48%) considering provision to be 'about right' or 'more than enough'
- the view that not all children are being catered for and a specific lack of facilities for children aged 10 years and over were general comments commonly expressed by household survey respondents
- high levels of dissatisfaction are also clearly evident among young residents:
  - 85% of household survey respondents aged under 16 years indicated that they believe current provision of children's play areas is insufficient
  - 45% of Children's IT Survey respondents stated that although there are some play areas near their home they could do with more and only 8% of identified play areas as their favourite type of open space
- feedback from residents attending 'drop in' sessions supported survey findings by showing that, although provision within larger facilities such as parks and gardens is believed to be good, there is considered to be an overall lack of children's play areas across the District
- similarly respondents to the Elected Members questionnaire also highlighted a need for increased provision with current levels of provision of children's play areas considered inadequate to meet demand.



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7.16 Table 7.3 below summarises the quantity of facilities for young people across Bromsgrove.

**Table 7.3 – Provision for young people across Bromsgrove**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Current provision per 1,000 population	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bromsgrove North	0.17	0.015	4	0.01	0.06	12,575	0.010
Bromsgrove West	0.07	0.006	3	0.01	0.02	14,154	0.005
Bromsgrove East	0.12	0.013	3	0.02	0.06	10,429	0.010
Bromsgrove North East	0.05	0.004	1	0.07	0.07	12,706	0.004
Bromsgrove Central	1.85	0.043	16	0.01	1.25	48,192	0.040
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>0.026</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>98,056</b>	<b>0.020</b>

7.17 The key issues emerging from Table 7.3 above and consultations relating to the quantity of provision for young people are summarised below. These findings indicated that levels of dissatisfaction with provision for young people are by far the highest out of all types of open space in the District:

- a high proportion of household survey respondents (76%) consider current facility provision for young people to be insufficient compared with only 13% who believe it is 'about right' or 'more than enough'
- localised household survey findings mirror those for the District as a whole with over three quarters of respondents in all five analysis areas outlining that current provision does not meet the community need
- respondents showing the greatest dissatisfaction with current provision for young people are resident in the Bromsgrove North East analysis area (84%), which has the lowest level of existing provision per head of population
- general comments made by household survey respondents further reinforced the perceived lack of facilities with:
  - limited opportunities for older children being highlighted as a common theme
  - the need for increased provision being highlighted across the District with named areas of deficiency being Wythall (Bromsgrove North East), Alvechurch (Bromsgrove East) and Hagley (Bromsgrove West)

- dissatisfaction is also clearly evident among younger residents:
  - 77% of household survey respondents under 16 years stated that the current quantity of facilities for young people is poor
  - roughly one in five respondents to the Young People's IT Survey indicated that there are no facilities where they live and a further 30% highlighted that although there are some facilities for young people there is a need for more
  - in terms of new facilities the most popular request from young people was for provision of a skatepark (17%)
- residents attending 'drop in' sessions emphasised the need for both increased and improved provision for young people. The importance of providing a range of activities for this age group and the need for more youth clubs and teen shelters was identified
- a current lack of facilities for young people was further reinforced in Elected Member questionnaire responses with the Parish Council in Hagley Ward, for example, seeking to secure funding to improve existing provision.

### **Setting provision standards – quantity**

- 7.18 The recommended local quantity standards have been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and are summarised overleaf. Full justification for each of the standards is provided within Appendix F.
- 7.19 Both standards require an increase on existing levels of provision in light of the findings of the local needs assessment, which indicate an overwhelming concern that current provision is insufficient to meet local need. These findings were consistent with the Play Strategy, and the recommended standards mirror those set in the strategy.

**Quantity standard – provision for children  
(see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.027 ha per 1,000 population	0.027 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>A high level of dissatisfaction with the current provision of children’s play areas was evident throughout the programme of local consultation. 58% of overall respondents to the household survey, together with 85% of those under 16 years, stated that existing provision was insufficient. In addition 45% of respondents to the Children’s IT Survey highlighted the need for more children’s play facilities.</p> <p>Further research into the reasons behind the dissatisfaction indicated that perceptions on the quantity of provision were mixed with those on the quality. The recent Council policy is to provide larger, higher quality facilities in strategic locations and to move away from low quality, small facilities which experience limited use.</p> <p>In light of this, the standard has been set at the existing level of provision. Setting the standard at this level will still highlight the need for additional facilities in some areas and when combined with the application of the accessibility standard enable identification of localised deficiencies. It was also enable the achievement of the goal of providing higher quality strategically located sites which are of the quality that residents aspire to.</p>	

**Quantity standard – Provision for young people  
(see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.026 ha per 1,000 population	0.03 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The lack of provision for young people was the deficiency most strongly identified across all typologies. 76% of overall household survey respondents and 77% of those under the age of 16 stated that current provision was insufficient. 30% of respondents to the Young People’s IT Survey highlighted the need for increased provision and this was also a recurring theme at community drop in sessions.</p> <p>In light of the above the local quantity standard has been set above the existing level of provision. Setting the standard at this level is reflective of the high level of dissatisfaction expressed throughout the consultation and will allow the Council to focus on increasing provision for young people in the District. It will be essential to ensure that a range of facilities is provided to best meet local need.</p>	

**Current provision - quality**

- 7.20 The quality of provision for children and young people was assessed through site visits. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 7.21 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Cleanliness and maintenance and safety and security were the elements highlighted through consultation as being the most important determinants of quality for children's play areas and young people's provision respectively. As such they have been given the highest weightings to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score achieved by each site. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.
- 7.22 A programme of annual inspections was also undertaken in February 2008 by a Children's Play Safety Adviser.
- 7.23 The quality of provision for children is outlined in Table 7.4 overleaf followed by a summary of the issues arising from the assessment of facilities, annual inspection programme and local consultation.

**Table 7.4 – Quality of provision for children**

<b>Geographical area</b>	<b>Number of sites</b>	<b>Range of quality scores (%)</b>	<b>Average quality scores (%)</b>	<b>Lowest quality sites</b>	<b>Highest quality sites</b>
Bromsgrove North	2	78-89	83.5	Callowbrook Lane Playground (Site ID 134)	Barnt Green Park Play Area (Site ID 418)
Bromsgrove West	7	72-80	75	Cavendish Drive Play Area (Site ID 450) Clent Parish Council Football Pitch Play Area (Site ID 454) The Coppice Play Area (Site ID 452)	Fairfield Villa Football Club Play Area (Site ID 331)
Bromsgrove East	2	71-80	75.5	Wiggin Memorial Play Area (Site ID 310)	Rowney Green Recreation Ground Play Area (Site ID 403)
Bromsgrove North East	2	80-93	86.5	Hollywood Drive Play Area (Site ID 186)	Wythall Park Play Area (Site ID 167)
Bromsgrove Central	7	40-100	71	Long Meadows Road Play Area (Site ID 341)	Cirencester Close Play Area (Site ID 408) Compass Way Play Area (Site ID 301)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40-100</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>Long Meadows Road Play Area (Site ID 341)</b>	<b>Cirencester Close Play Area (Site ID 408)</b> <b>Compass Way Play Area (Site ID 301)</b>

7.24 The key issues emerging in relation to the quality of facilities for children are as follows:

- there is a mixed perception regarding the quality of children’s play areas in Bromsgrove with 36% of household survey respondents rating the quality of these facilities as average, 28% as good and 22% as poor. These results are supported by site assessment findings, which showed significant variation in the quality of facilities with scores ranging from 40% to 100%

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- the quality of children’s play areas was also rated as average and in need of some improvement by Parish Council representatives. Facilities in the Parish of Barnt Green are in the process of being upgraded. The quality of children’s play areas in the Parish of Tutnall and Copley (Bromsgrove East) was perceived to be extremely poor
- regular users of children’s play areas did not express concerns regarding maintenance, safety and age of equipment but one in three did highlight problems relating to site misuse (34%) and vandalism and graffiti (31%)
- however maintenance issues, primarily related to litter problems, were raised at a number of sites during the round of annual inspections carried out in early 2008. Maintenance was rated as unsatisfactory at the following sites:
  - Boleyn Road Playing Field Play Area (Site ID 91)
  - Bournheath Recreation Ground Play Area (Site ID 329)
  - George Road Playing Field Play Area (Site ID 11)
  - Lickey End Recreation Ground Play Area (Site ID 337)
  - Market Street Recreation Ground Play Area (Site ID 212)
- survey results from individual analysis areas are generally consistent with the overall findings; however, almost half of the respondents from Bromsgrove West (48%) perceive the quality of play areas to be good. This would appear to suggest facilities of a better standard in this area than elsewhere in the District however although all seven sites achieved similar and relatively good quality scores, at an average of 75%, higher area averages and individual site scores were recorded in other parts of Bromsgrove
- feedback received from children in the District also showed differences in opinion regarding the quality of facilities with 41% of Children’s IT Survey respondents stating that play areas are clean, safe and nice to use and 38% indicating that children’s play areas are sometimes unclean with litter and could be made better with improved equipment
- general comments expressed by household survey respondents focused mainly on the quantity of children’s play areas but the current range of facilities was also criticised. It was stated that, with the exception of Wythall Park (Site ID 167) and Sanders Park (Site ID 292), the range of equipment available at children’s play areas was limited. The need to introduce greater variation in the types of facilities provided was also reinforced by Parish Councils
- play value scores were assigned to sites as part of the annual inspection programme with some considered good but others limited in the opportunities available for children of different ages. Sites given high value scores were located mainly in Bromsgrove Central whilst those given low value scores were split across Bromsgrove Central and Bromsgrove North East:

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<b>Play value</b>	
<b>High/Good</b>	<b>Low/Limited</b>
<p><b>Bromsgrove Central:</b> King George V Playing Field Play Area (Site ID 198) Laurel Grove Play Area (Site ID 202) Charford Recreation Ground Play Area (Site ID 244) Sanders Park Play Area (Site ID 292)</p> <p><b>Bromsgrove West:</b> Pool Furlong Playing Field Play Area (Site ID 81)</p>	<p><b>Bromsgrove Central:</b> Shelley Close Play Area (Site ID 60) Braces Lane Recreation Ground Play Area (Site 76) Housman Close Play Area (Site ID 265)</p> <p><b>Bromsgrove North East:</b> Forest Way Play Area (Site ID 189) May Farm Close Play Area (Site ID 190) Hollywood Lane Play Area (Site ID 176)</p>

**Table 7.5 – Quality of provision for young people**

Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bromsgrove North	1	76	76	Barnt Green Sports Club Basketball (Site ID 407)	Barnt Green Sports Club Basketball (Site ID 407)
Bromsgrove West	0	-	-	-	-
Bromsgrove East	1	53	53	Wiggin Memorial Playing Field Basketball Court (Site ID 505)	Wiggin Memorial Playing Field Basketball Court (Site ID 505)
Bromsgrove North East	1	96	96	Wythall Park MUGA (Site ID 400)	Wythall Park MUGA (Site ID 400)
Bromsgrove Central	2	40-71	55.5	Stoke Parish Recreation Basketball Court (Site ID 407)	Stoke Prior Parish Playing Field Basketball Court (Site ID 153)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40-96</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>Stoke Parish Recreation Basketball Court (Site ID 407)</b>	<b>Wythall Park MUGA (Site ID 400)</b>

7.25 The key issues emerging from the data presented in Table 7.5 and the consultation relating to the quality of facilities for young people are:

- 44% of household survey respondents overall and a high proportion of respondents in four out of the five analysis areas regard the quality of young people’s provision to be poor and this was a view shared by Parish Council representatives
- however, as with children’s play areas, residents in Bromsgrove West expressed a higher level of satisfaction with 37% considering the quality of young people’s provision to be average



- feedback from young people in the District showed differences in opinion with regard to the quality of provision with 38% of respondents to the Young People's IT Survey indicating that facilities were average and 23% good. These results are supported by site assessment findings, which show significant variation in the quality of facilities with scores ranging from 40% to 96%
- 17% of respondents to the Young People's IT Survey stated that they did not like young people's facilities because they were untidy and contained litter whilst 50% of those that identified young people's facilities as their favourite type of open space stated that the reason they do not like these areas is that they are unsafe.

**Setting provision standards – quality**

- 7.26 The recommended local quality standards for provision for children and young people are summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.
- 7.27 The standards summarise the key aspirations of residents of Bromsgrove with regards provision for children and young people. In particular, the Council are now working towards the provision of appropriate facilities including more risky and challenging play facilities, and natural play facilities.

**Quality Standard (see Appendix G)**

<b>Recommended standard – provision for children</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>		<b>Desirable</b>
Litter bins		Good access
Dog bins		Play equipment
Well kept grass		Clean and litter free
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to play areas for children, the relative importance of key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	21%	2
Cleanliness and maintenance	41%	4
Vegetation	21%	1
Ancillary accommodation	35%	3
Analysis suggests that enhancing the quality of children’s play areas is considered to be as important as increasing the quantity.		
<b>Recommended standard – provision for young people</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>		<b>Desirable</b>
Range of facilities		Footpaths
Clean and litter free		Toilets
Well laid out		
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to facilities for young people, the relative importance of key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>		<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety		4
Cleanliness and maintenance		3
Vegetation		1
Ancillary accommodation		2
Analysis highlights the need for innovative and imaginative provision of facilities for young people.		

### **Setting provision standards – accessibility**

- 7.28 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing opportunities for people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 7.29 Local access to provision for children and young people is particularly important in order to promote use of the site. In some instances, territorial issues prevent young people from using facilities that would appear to be in close proximity to their home. The importance of proximity to the home is echoed throughout consultation with the IT young people and children's survey revealing that children are more likely to use facilities near to their home and that location is a key factor in the choice to use a site.
- 7.30 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general issues were assessed.
- 7.31 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility of provision for children and young people include:
- current and expected travel methods highlight a clear preference for walking to children's play areas, reinforcing the expectation that facilities are provided locally
  - the majority of respondents to the household survey indicated they prefer to walk to a children's play area (80%) and a young people's facility (65%)
  - of the Children's IT Survey respondents who identified play areas as their favourite type of open space 64% travel by foot when visiting these sites. The main stated reason for children liking this type of open space was the fact that it was located close to home
  - 50% of the young people completing the Young People's IT Survey stated that they travel to young people's facilities by skateboard (33%) or on foot (17%)
  - site assessments reveal that access to facilities for both children and young people is generally average to good with scores ranging from 60% to 80% although the perception among Parish Council representatives and Elected Members is that access is currently poor.
- 7.32 The recommended local accessibility standards for children and young people are summarised below. It can be seen that residents expect to travel further to reach facilities for young people than they do for children. Provision of both types of facility is expected to be in close proximity to the home. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.
- 7.33 It is recognised that some facilities may attract users from a wider catchment and this will be discussed in the analysis that follows. While these facilities do not negate the need for local provision, they provide an additional and frequently used District wide resource. Facilities in Sanders Park are perhaps an example of this.

**Accessibility standard (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard – provision for children</b>
<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>86% of current users and 80% of respondents to the household survey travel by foot to access this type of open space. This highlights a clear preference for walking and therefore a walk time standard has been set.</p> <p>A local standard of a 10 minute walk time is recommended in line with the mean and modal response. This is supported by the travel times indicated by current users and respondents to the household survey. Setting a standard at this level will allow the council to focus on increasing access to existing sites and combined with the application of the quantity standards, will enable the increase in provision of children’s play areas in areas of deficiency.</p>

<b>Recommended standard – provision for young people</b>
<b>15 MINUTE WALK TIME</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey identified walking as their preferred mode of travel when accessing a young people’s facility.</p> <p>A 15 minute walk time has been set to ensure that there is a balance between the quantity of facilities for young people and the quality and range of facilities provided. Setting the standard at a lower level may compromise the ability to provide higher quality facilities and consultations do not indicate that residents would not use these sites if they are required to travel further. The 15 minute distance threshold reflects the mean response in addition to the third quartile figure.</p>

**Applying provision standards**

- 7.34 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space, sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 7.35 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of highest importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately. The application of these standards is set out below in Table 7.6. In light of the importance of the proximity of facilities to the home, the application of accessibility standards is particularly important.
- 7.36 The findings of the application of these standards should complement the principles set out in the play strategy and inform future decision making.

**Table 7.6 – Application of local quantity standards**

Analysis areas	Children	Children	Young people	Young people
	Current balanced against local standard - children (0.027 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard - children (0.027 hectares per 1000 population)	Current balanced against local standard – young people (0.03 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard – young people (0.03 hectares per 1000 population)
Bromsgrove North	0.04	0.00	-0.17	-0.21
Bromsgrove West	0.23	0.19	-0.31	-0.35
Bromsgrove East	0.04	0.01	-0.16	-0.19
Bromsgrove North East	-0.15	-0.18	-0.29	-0.33
Bromsgrove Central	-0.14	-0.27	0.55	0.40
<b>Overall</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>-0.26</b>	<b>-0.38</b>	<b>-0.68</b>

7.37 Key issues arising from application of the local quantity standards are as follows:

- application of the local quantity standard for children’s play areas (0.027 ha per 1,000 population) indicates that there is adequate provision to meet current demand within the District as a whole (0.02 ha). However projected future population growth would mean a shortfall of -0.26 ha by 2026
- existing children’s play provision is not sufficient to meet current demand in Bromsgrove North East (-0.15) or Bromsgrove Central (-0.14) and increasing future demand would mean a greater deficiency of provision in these two analysis areas
- Bromsgrove West has by far the highest level of provision per head of population. Application of the recommended quantity standard shows a current surplus of 0.23 ha, which reduces to 0.19 ha in 2026
- in terms of young people’s facilities, application of the local quantity standard of 0.03 ha per 1,000 population shows that there is insufficient provision to meet current and future demand in all areas of the District except Bromsgrove Central (0.40 ha). The total shortfall of young people’s provision across Bromsgrove presently equates to -0.38 ha rising to -0.68 ha in 2026
- Bromsgrove North East is one of the areas of highest deficiency for young people’s provision and children’s play areas

## **SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

- whilst Bromsgrove West shows the greatest shortfall of young people's facilities it has the highest quantity of children's play areas per 1,000 population and shows a surplus of this type of provision.

7.38 In light of the local nature of both facilities for children and facilities for young people, consideration has been given to the application of the quantity standard at a ward level. This further highlights shortfalls and surpluses and is set out in Table 7.7 (children) below and Table 7.8 (young people) overleaf.

**Table 7.7 – Provision of facilities for children by ward**

Ward	Population	Provision for children (hectares)	Local Standard (hectares per 1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Alvechurch	6261	0.270	0.027	0.0431	0.1690	0.100953
Beacon	2145	0.000	0.027	0.0000	0.0579	-0.057915
Catshill	4428	0.080	0.027	0.0181	0.1196	-0.039556
Charford	5174	0.150	0.027	0.0290	0.1397	0.010302
Drakes Cross & Walkers Heath	4838	0.080	0.027	0.0165	0.1306	-0.050628
Furlongs	4119	0.280	0.027	0.0680	0.1112	0.168787
Hagley	4283	0.160	0.027	0.0374	0.1156	0.044359
Hillside	4648	0.100	0.027	0.0215	0.1255	-0.025496
Hollywood & Majors Green	4279	0.080	0.027	0.0187	0.1155	-0.035533
Linthurst	2348	0.030	0.027	0.0128	0.0634	-0.033396
Marbrook	4217	0.060	0.027	0.0142	0.1139	-0.053859
Norton	4529	0.220	0.027	0.0486	0.1223	0.097717
Sidemoor	4971	0.120	0.027	0.0241	0.1342	-0.014217
Sladeslow	3468	0.090	0.027	0.0260	0.0936	-0.003636
St Johns	4474	0.040	0.027	0.0089	0.1208	-0.080798
Stoke Heath	2551	0.010	0.027	0.0039	0.0689	-0.058877
Stoke Prior	2008	0.120	0.027	0.0598	0.0542	0.065784
Tardebigge	3044	0.020	0.027	0.0066	0.0822	-0.062188
Uftown	2275	0.070	0.027	0.0308	0.0614	0.008575
Waseley	4454	0.240	0.027	0.0539	0.1203	0.119742
Whitford	5017	0.110	0.027	0.0219	0.1355	-0.025459
Woodvale	2046	0.060	0.027	0.0293	0.0552	0.004758
Wythall South	2260	0.000	0.027	0.0000	0.0610	-0.061027

7.39 It can be seen that there are 14 out of 23 wards (61%) where the level of provision for children is insufficient to meet the needs of the local population. The greatest shortfalls exist in:

- St Johns – 0.08 ha
- Tardebigge – 0.06 ha
- Wythall South – 0.06 ha
- Stoke Heath – 0.06 ha
- Beacon – 0.06 ha.

**Table 7.8 – Provision for young people by ward**

Ward	Population	Provision for young people (hectares)	Local Standard (hectares per 1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Alvechurch	6261	0.120	0.03	0.0192	0.1878	-0.06783
Beacon	2145	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.0644	-0.06435
Catshill	4428	0.010	0.03	0.0023	0.1328	-0.12284
Charford	5174	0.120	0.03	0.0232	0.1552	-0.03522
Drakes Cross & Walkers Heath	4838	0.070	0.03	0.0145	0.1451	-0.07514
Furlongs	4119	0.030	0.03	0.0073	0.1236	-0.09357
Hagley	4283	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.1285	-0.12849
Hillside	4648	0.010	0.03	0.0022	0.1394	-0.12944
Hollywood & Majors Green	4279	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.1284	-0.12837
Linthurst	2348	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.0704	-0.07044
Marlbrook	4217	0.010	0.03	0.0024	0.1265	-0.11651
Norton	4529	0.020	0.03	0.0044	0.1359	-0.11587
Sidemoor	4971	0.050	0.03	0.0101	0.1491	-0.09913
Slideslow	3468	0.030	0.03	0.0087	0.1040	-0.07404
St Johns	4474	0.110	0.03	0.0246	0.1342	-0.02422
Stoke Heath	2551	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.0765	-0.07653
Stoke Prior	2008	0.070	0.03	0.0349	0.0602	0.00976
Tardebigge	3044	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.0913	-0.09132
Uffdown	2275	0.020	0.03	0.0088	0.0683	-0.04825
Waseley	4454	0.160	0.03	0.0359	0.1336	0.02638
Whitford	5017	1.430	0.03	0.2850	0.1505	1.27949
Woodvale	2046	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.0614	-0.06138
Wythall South	2260	0.000	0.03	0.0000	0.0678	-0.0678

7.40 Table 7.8 shows that there are only 3 wards where the level of provision for young people is sufficient to meet local needs. 87% of wards show a deficiency of facilities with the greatest shortfalls in the following areas:

- Hillside – 0.13 ha
- Hagley – 0.13 ha
- Hollywood and Majors Green – 0.13ha
- Catshill – 0.12 ha
- Marlbrook – 0.12 ha
- Norton – 0.12 ha.

## ***SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE***

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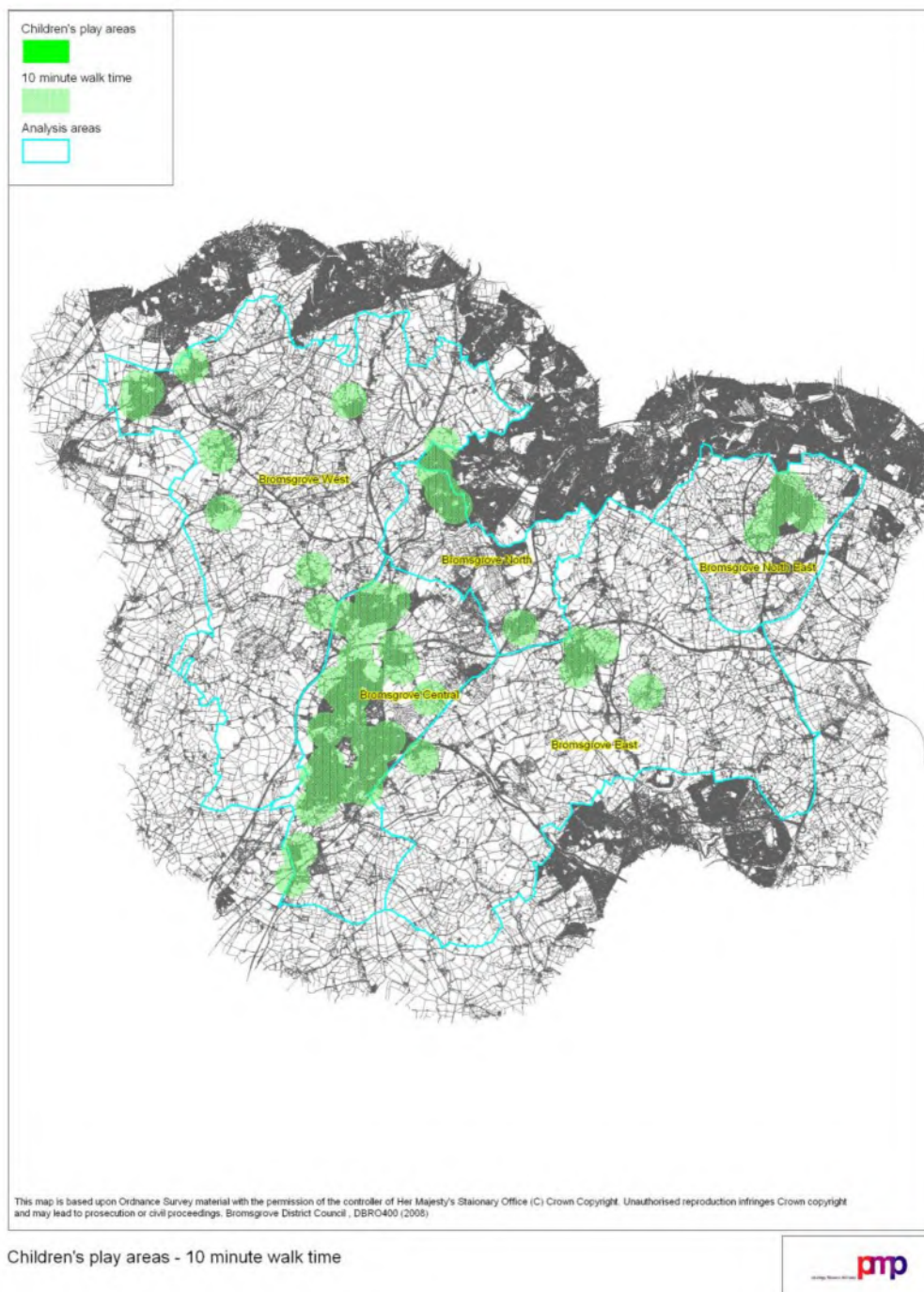
7.41 The application of the local accessibility standards in relation to provision for children is set out in Map 7.1 overleaf and for young people in Map 7.3. Map 7.2 considers the interrelationship between provision for amenity space and facilities for children.

7.42 In addition to facilities in place in Bromsgrove, there are several schemes currently under consideration which will significantly improve the quality of provision in the district. Potential schemes include:

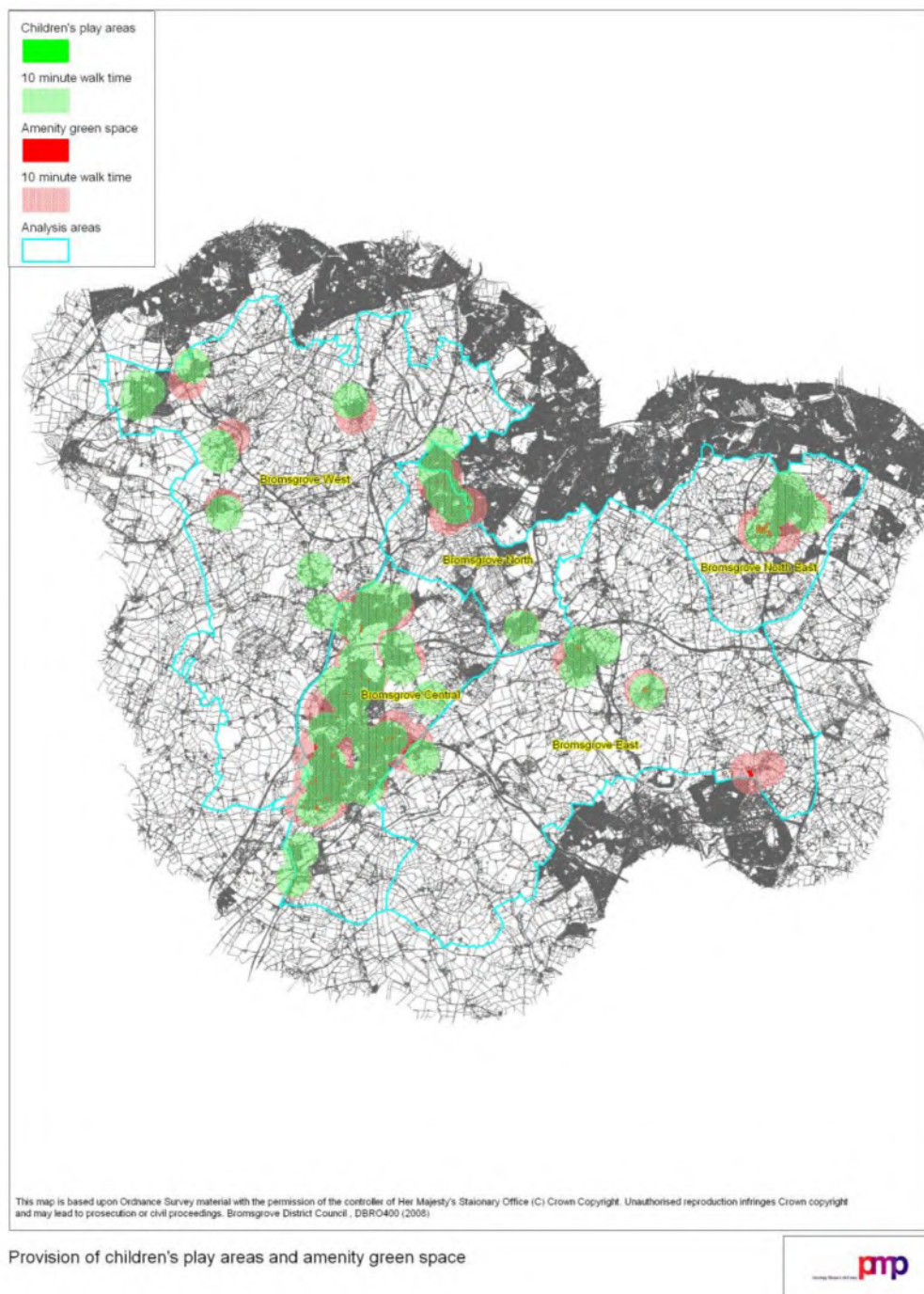
- New facility at Alvechurch
- Ball court and other facilities in Wythall
- MUGA in Rubery.



**Map 7.1 – Provision for children in Bromsgrove**



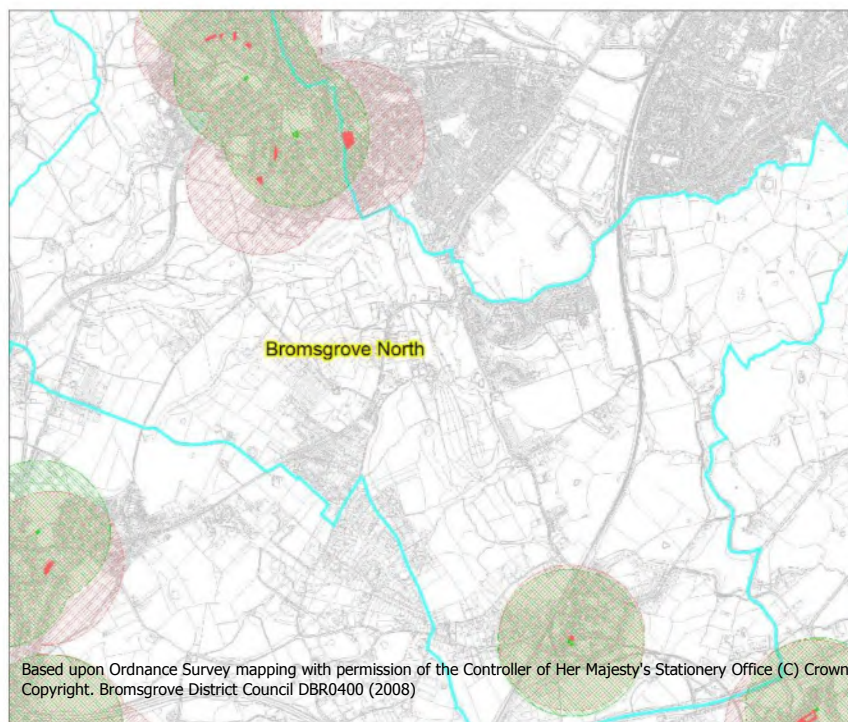
**Map 7.2 – Provision for children and amenity green space in Bromsgrove**



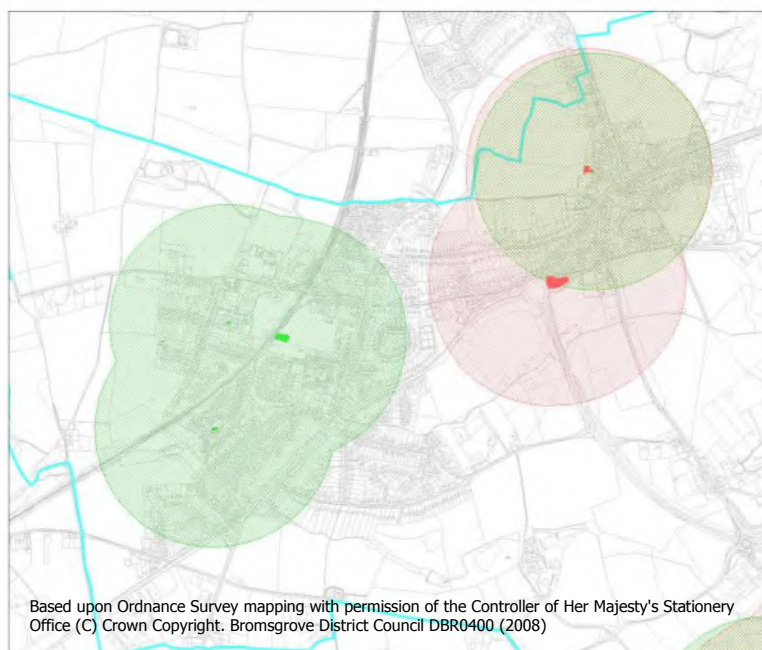
## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 7.43 Map 7.1 shows that there is a good geographical spread of children’s play facilities across the District with a high proportion of residents within the recommended 10 minute walking catchment of a play area.
- 7.44 Despite the relatively even distribution of children’s play facilities the map clearly illustrates pockets of deficiency in each of the analysis areas with the exception of Bromsgrove East. However it is important to note that the map also highlights a number of overlapping catchments, which indicates that there is scope to address some gaps through changing the existing network of provision rather than introducing additional facilities.
- 7.45 Since a number of existing play areas are not serving distinct catchments opportunities to re-profile and rationalise provision should be explored. However it is important to assess the value of each specific site in detail and to give consideration of the level of provision required to meet the local quantity standard.
- 7.46 In the areas where residents do not have access to a children’s play area it is important to consider the provision of other types of open space both to prioritise areas of greatest need as well as to identify opportunities to develop children’s play facilities. It is essential to consider the role that amenity green spaces can play in offsetting the need for provision of facilities for children and young people. Areas deficient in both formal facilities and amenity green space offer a distinct lack of opportunities and should be a particular priority for new provision.
- 7.47 Map 7.2 shows that some of the residents who fall outside of the catchment for a children’s play area are within a 10 minute walk of amenity green space. However it also highlights a clear deficiency of provision in the Parish of Cofton Hackett (Bromsgrove North) as well as areas of need in Bromsgrove West, Bromsgrove Central and Bromsgrove North East as shown below:

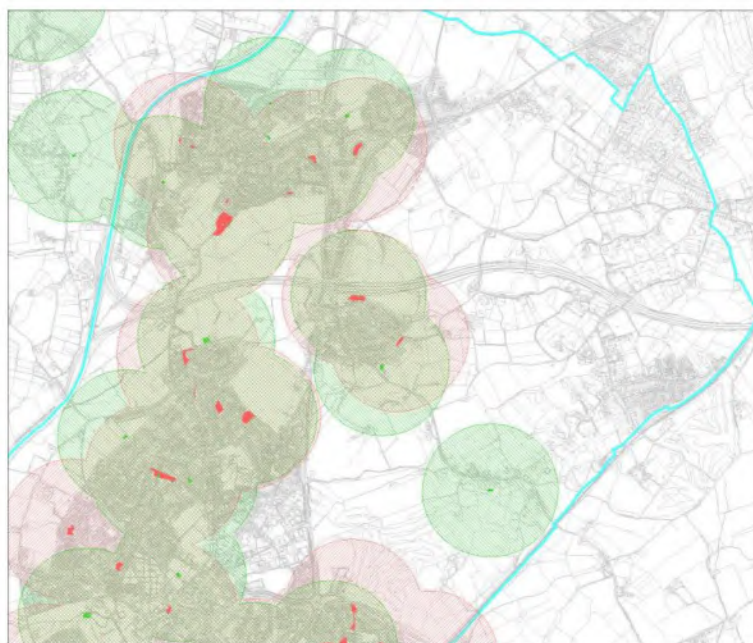
**Figure 7.1 - Bromsgrove North – Parish of Cofton Hackett**



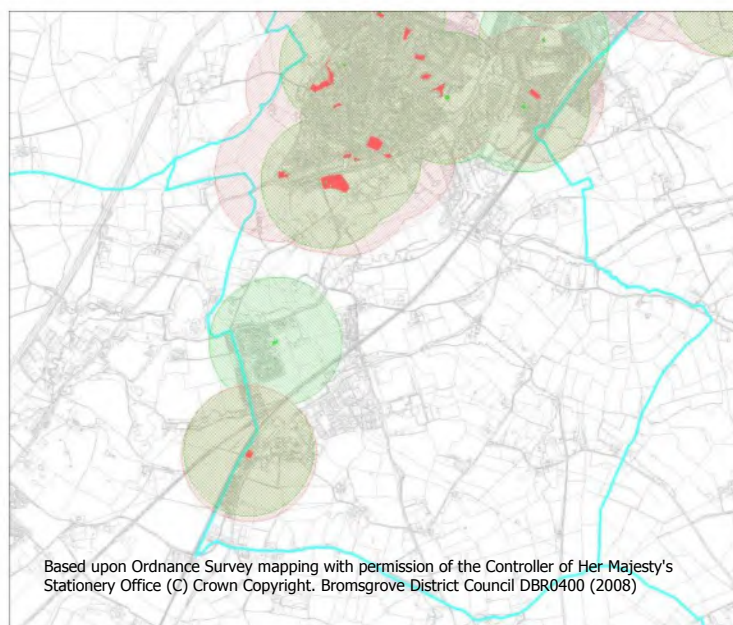
**Figure 7.2 - Bromsgrove West – Parishes of Hagley and Clent**



**Figure 7.3 - Bromsgrove Central**



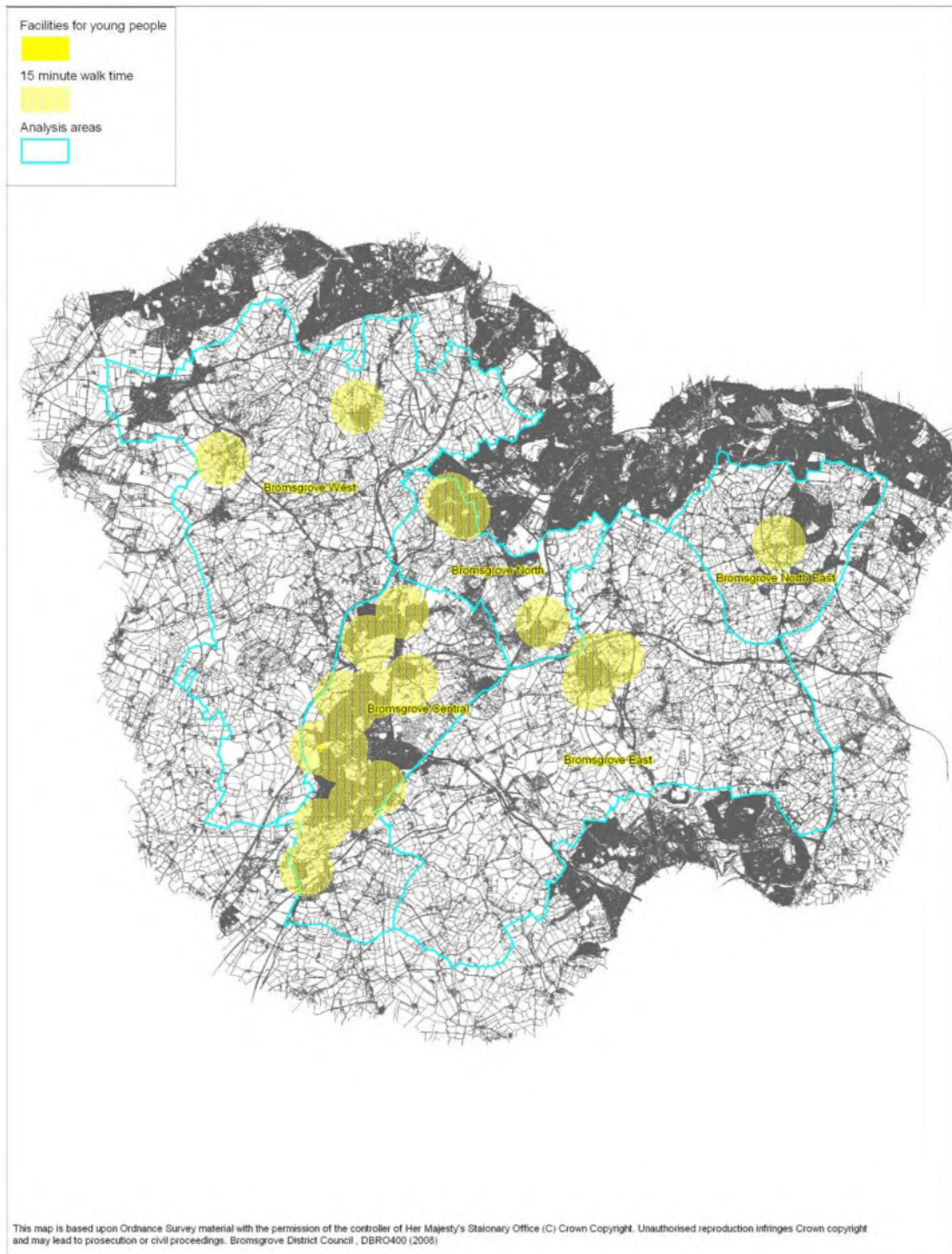
**Figure 7.4 - Bromsgrove Central – Parish of Stoke Prior**



**Figure 7.5 - Bromsgrove North East – Parishes of Majors Green and South Wythall**



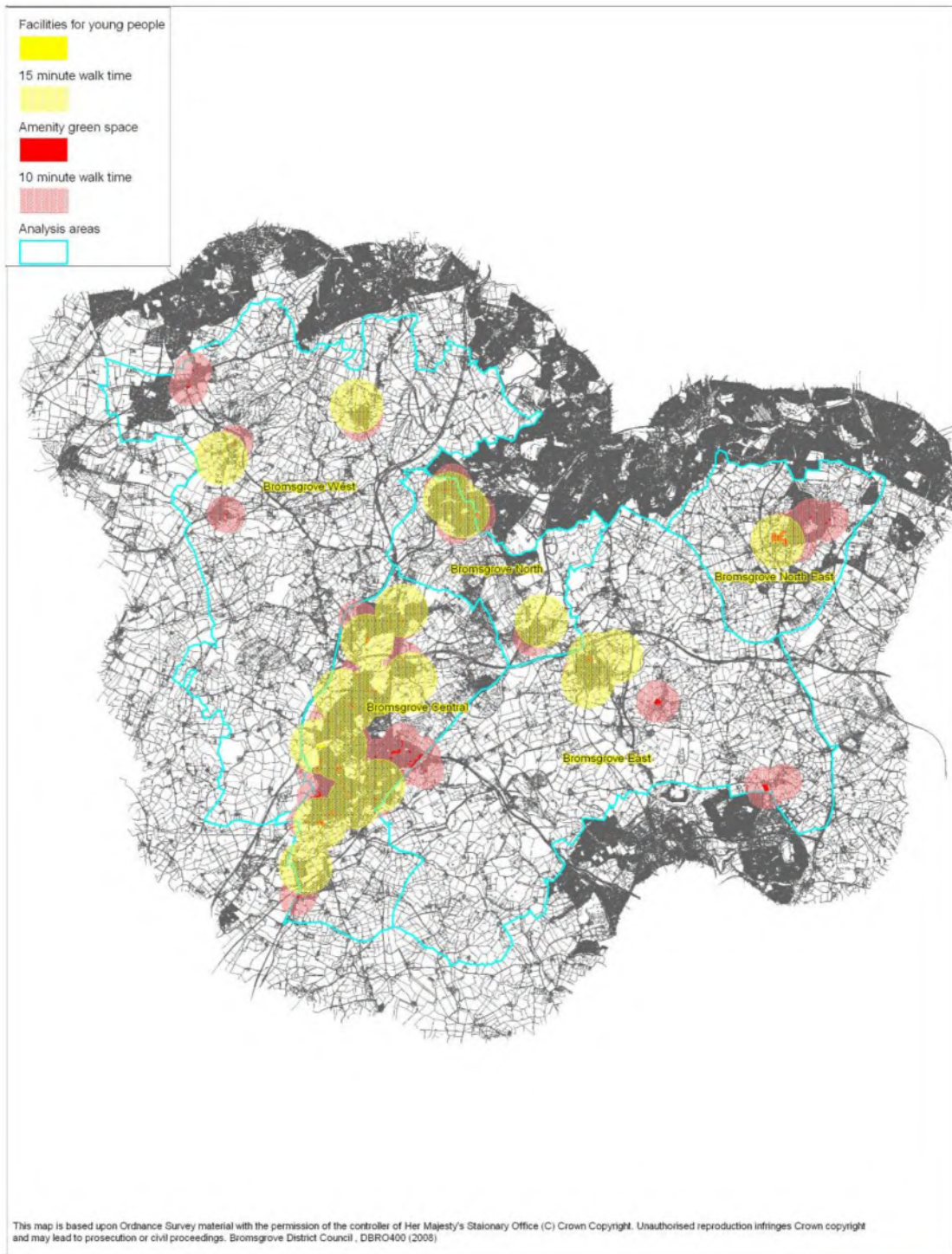
**Map 7.3 - Provision for young people in Bromsgrove**



Provision for young people - 15 minute walk time



**Map 7.4 – Provision for young people and amenity green space in Bromsgrove**



Provision for young people and amenity green space



## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 7.48 Although Map 7.3 shows a relatively good geographical spread of young people's facilities across the District it does illustrate that, due to the identified shortfall in provision, there are residential areas within all analysis areas except Bromsgrove East that fall outside of the recommended 15 walk time of this type of provision.
- 7.49 Within Bromsgrove Central, in which the level of provision per 1,000 population is above the local standard, a number of facilities have overlapping catchments. This suggests that there may be scope to improve access in this area by re-structuring existing provision to achieve a more balanced distribution of facilities.
- 7.50 As outlined above, where residents do not have access to provision for young people it is important to consider the provision of other types of open space both to prioritise areas of greatest need as well as to identify opportunities for facility development. In the first instance it is essential to consider the role that amenity green spaces can play in offsetting the need for provision of facilities for young people. Areas deficient in both formal facilities and amenity green space offer a distinct lack of opportunities and should be a particular priority for new provision. Formal grass pitches also offer facilities for young people, although casual use of these sites should be avoided in order to maintain the overall quality of sites.
- 7.51 Map 7.4 shows that a high proportion of the residents in Bromsgrove Central and Bromsgrove North East who fall outside of the catchment of young people's provision are within a 10 minute walk of amenity green space. However, as illustrated in more detail below, it also highlights that key areas of deficiency remain within all four analysis areas and particularly in the Parishes of Hagley and Clent in Bromsgrove West.

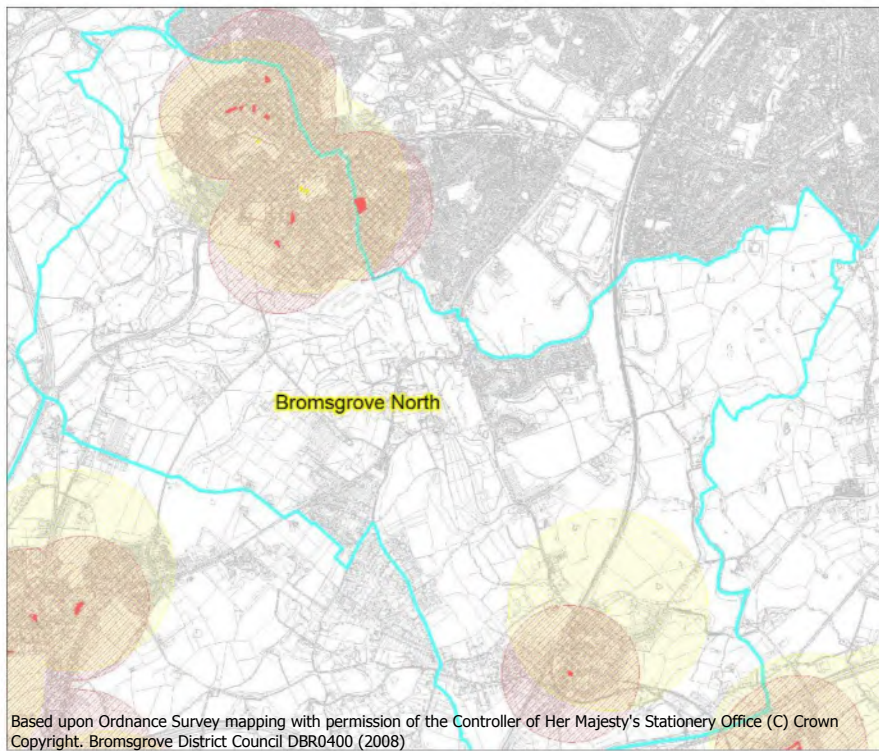
**Figure 7. 6 - Bromsgrove West – Parishes of Hagley and Clent**



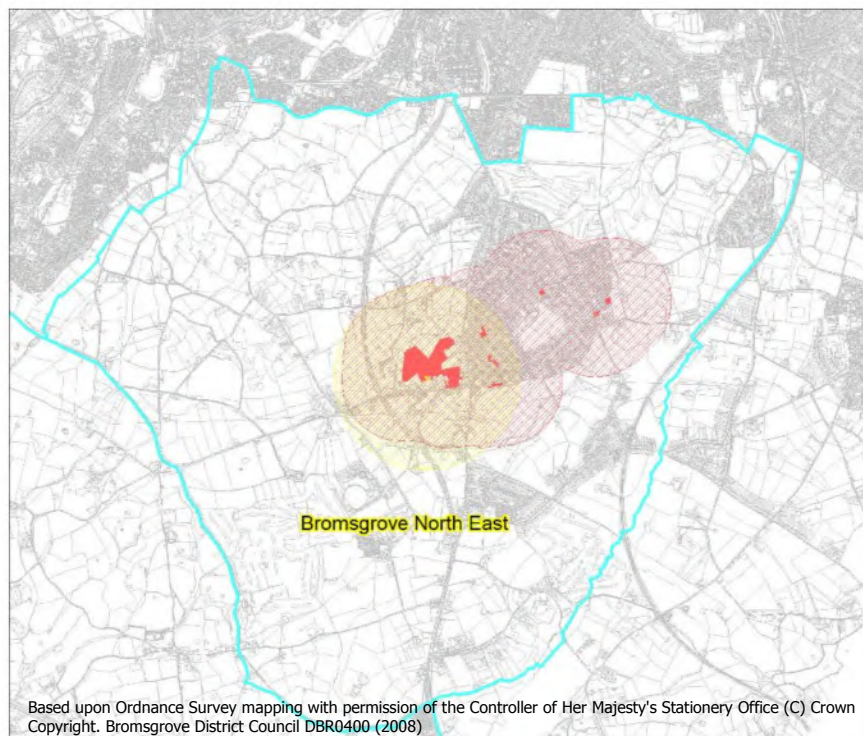
Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. Bromsgrove District Council DBR0400 (2008)



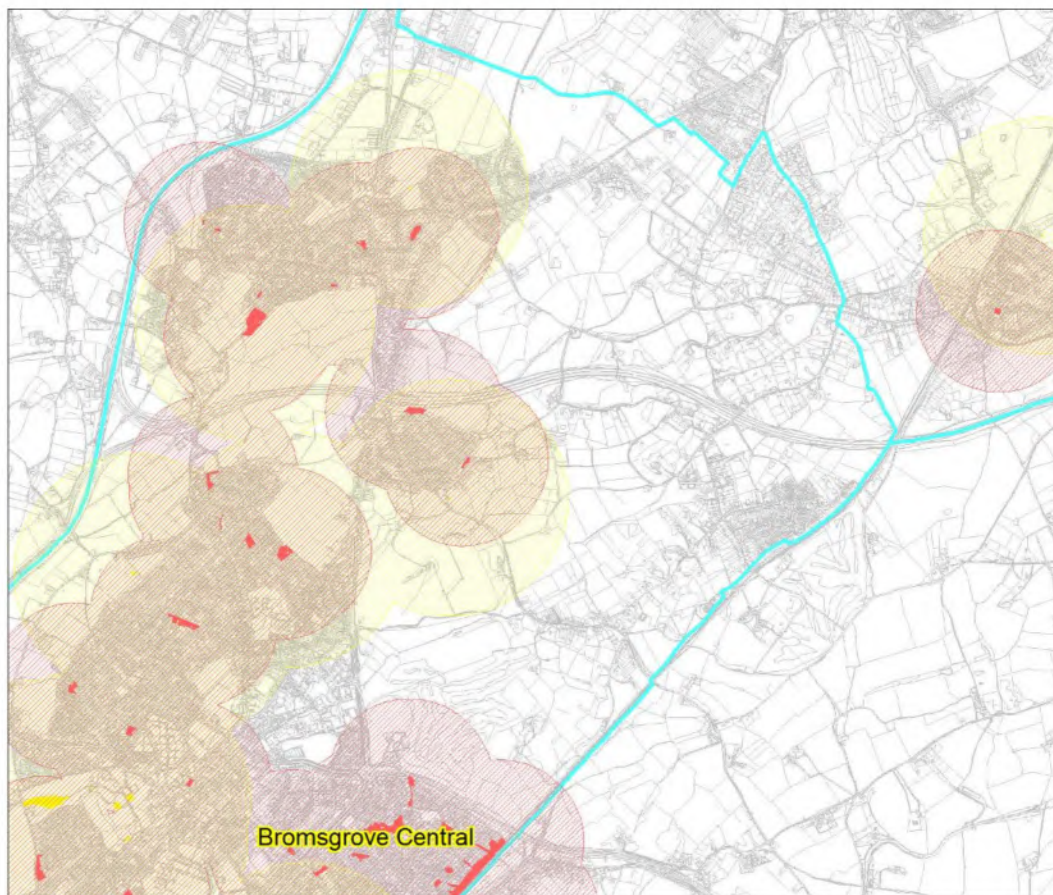
**Figure 7.7 - Bromsgrove North – Parish of Cofton Hackett**



**Figure 7.8 - Bromsgrove North East – Parishes of Hollywood and Majors Green and Wythall South**



**Figure 7.9 - Bromsgrove Central**



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### **Quality of provision**

- 7.52 While the quantity of provision was the overriding theme of consultations, the quality of provision was also considered to be important, and many existing sites were criticised for their range of facilities and lack of innovative and exciting play equipment.
- 7.53 The site assessments and annual inspection reports provide an indication of the quality of existing facilities and it is clear that there is significant variation across the District both in terms of the physical quality and safety of the site but also with regards the overall play value. The quality standard and inspection findings should inform a programme of improvements, highlighting sites in need of upgrading. Sites serving unique catchments that are considered to be of poor quality should be given particular priority. The site assessments highlight sites where play value is particularly poor.

<b>C1</b>	Use quality inspection findings to inform a programme of improvements across facilities for children and young people. Where the opportunity arises, priority should be given to poor quality play areas serving unique catchments. Consideration should be given to the provision of an appropriate variety of facilities and it should be ensured that new provision also meets recommended standards.
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7.54 As well as guiding the enhancement of existing sites, the quality standard should also drive new provision and all new sites should be developed taking into account the identified aspirations of the local residents. Sites should meet with the key principles and priorities set out in the Worcestershire Play Strategy and should offer a diverse range of challenging opportunities.

7.55 In order to maximise the benefits derived from facilities and to maintain the quality of sites, children and young people should be involved in the design and maintenance of facilities. There have been many recent examples of successful involvement of young people which has resulted in high quality facilities which meet the needs of the target audience as well as longer term viability of sites due to a lack of vandalism and disrespect.

<b>C2</b>	Continue to promote community involvement in the design of facilities for children and young people across the district.
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7.56 In light of the localised nature of play provision, consideration has been given to priorities within each analysis area through the interpretation of the quantity, quality and accessibility assessments. In terms of locating priority areas for new facilities, new provision should be targeted at those areas outside the distance threshold where there are sufficient people to justify new provision. This emphasises the importance of access in determining the need for new provision for children and young people.

### **Bromsgrove West analysis area**

#### ***Provision for children***

7.57 Bromsgrove West has by far the highest level of provision per head of population and application of the quantity standard for children’s provision shows a current surplus of 0.23 ha, which reduces to 0.19 ha in 2026.

7.58 Household survey respondents from this area expressed higher levels of satisfaction with children’s play provision with almost half considering the quality of facilities to be good. The annual inspection programme identified the Pool Furlong Playing Field Play Area as having high/good play value but rated maintenance as unsatisfactory at two sites (see C1 above). Site assessments recorded an average quality rating of 75% across seven sites.

7.59 Accessibility mapping highlighted that some residents in the parishes of Hagley and Clent do not live within a 10 minute walk of a children’s play area or amenity green space. It also shows overlapping catchments for existing facilities.

<b>C3</b>	Evaluate the value of existing sites that do not serve distinct catchments to identify opportunities to re-profile provision and provide facilities for children (and young people) in Hagley and Clent wards.
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<b>C4</b>	Identify opportunities to rationalise and/or re-profile provision to provide larger children’s play areas facilities offering a more exciting and challenging range of equipment.
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***Provision for young people***

- 7.60 In contrast Bromsgrove West shows the greatest shortfall of young people’s facilities. An assessment of provision by ward identifies Hagley as one of three wards in the District with the largest deficiency (0.13 ha).
- 7.61 Accessibility mapping further reinforces the inadequacy of current provision with residential areas in the Hagley and Clent wards shown to fall outside of a 15 minute walk time of this type of open space. These areas are also devoid of children’s play areas and amenity green space.

<b>C5</b>	Identify priority areas for the development of new facilities for young people in Bromsgrove West, particularly within the Hagley and Clent wards.
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**Bromsgrove North analysis area**

***Provision for children***

- 7.62 Application of the local quantity standard for children’s play shows that provision in Bromsgrove North is in line with demand both now and in the future up to 2026.
- 7.63 However, assessment of provision by ward shows that there is a deficiency in provision in Beacon ward. Accessibility mapping shows that some residents in this ward, in the Parish of Cofton Hackett specifically, do not live within a 10 minute walk of a children’s play area or amenity green space.
- 7.64 It is evident from the mapping of recommended travel times for children’s play provision and amenity green space that existing facilities are concentrated mainly in the North West of this analysis area with overlapping catchments.

<b>C6</b>	Investigate the need for one or more children’s play facilities in Beacon ward and Cofton Hackett parish. Evaluate the value of existing children’s play areas that do not serve distinct catchments to identify opportunities to re-profile provision to meet this identified deficiency.
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<b>C4</b>	<i>Identify opportunities to rationalise and/or re-profile provision to provide larger children’s play areas facilities offering a more exciting and challenging range of equipment.</i>
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***Provision for young people***

- 7.65 There is currently a shortfall in the quantity of young people’s provision in Bromsgrove North, which worsens with growing demand as future population rises.
- 7.66 Furthermore assessment of provision by ward shows that Hillside is one of the wards with the largest deficiency in provision and accessibility mapping shows that some residents in this area do not live within a 15 minute walk of this type of facility.
- 7.67 Once again the mapping of recommended travel times for provision for young people and amenity green space illustrates that existing facilities are concentrated mainly in the North West of this analysis area with overlapping catchments.

<b>C7</b>	Identify priority areas for the development of new facilities for young people, particularly within the Hillside ward.
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**Bromsgrove North East analysis area**

***Provision for children***

- 7.68 Existing play provision is not sufficient to meet current demand in Bromsgrove North East and increasing future demand will mean a greater deficiency of provision. An assessment of provision by ward also shows that Wythall South is one of the wards with the largest deficiency in provision.
- 7.69 In addition accessibility mapping highlighted that residents in this ward as well as Hollywood and Majors Green do not live within a 10 minute walk of a children’s play area or amenity green space site. Current proposals include the development of a facility for children / young people within Wythall. This may offset some deficiencies in provision.

<b>C8</b>	Investigate the need for one or more children’s play facilities in Wythall South and Hollywood and Majors Green wards. Evaluate the value of existing children’s play areas that do not serve distinct catchments to identify opportunities to re-profile provision to meet this identified deficiency.
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- 7.70 The annual inspection programme identified three sites in this analysis area with a low/limited play value.

<b>C4</b>	<i>Identify opportunities to rationalise and/or re-profile provision to provide larger children’s play areas facilities offering a more exciting and challenging range of equipment.</i>
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***Provision for young people***

- 7.71 Bromsgrove North East is one of the areas of highest deficiency for young people’s provision as well as children’s play provision. An assessment of provision by ward also shows that Hollywood and Majors Green ward has one of the highest shortfalls in provision.
- 7.72 Wythall Park MUGA is the only young people’s facility in this analysis area although it was assessed to be of high quality during the site assessment undertaken.
- 7.73 The mapping of recommended accessibility catchments illustrates that a high proportion of residents who fall outside of the acceptable travel time for young people’s provision are within a 10 minute walk of amenity green space. However, it also highlights that there are residents in areas of Wythall South and Hollywood and Majors Green who do not have access to either. The amenity spaces located in areas of deficiency are likely to be of particular importance to young people.

<b>C9</b>	Investigate the need for one or more young people’s facilities in Wythall South and Hollywood and Majors Green wards.
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**Bromsgrove Central analysis area**

***Provision for children***

- 7.74 Existing children’s play provision in Bromsgrove Central is not sufficient to meet existing demand and future predicted population growth will mean a greater deficiency in provision. An assessment of provision by ward shows particularly that St Johns is the ward with the largest deficiency in provision closely followed by Stoke Heath.
- 7.75 Accessibility mapping highlighted specific areas of geographical need in Bromsgrove Central with residents in parts of Marlbrook and St Johns wards falling outside of the accepted 10 minute walk time of a children’s play area or amenity green space site. It also shows that existing facilities serve overlapping catchments.

<b>C10</b>	Evaluate the value of existing sites that do not serve distinct catchments to identify opportunities to re-profile provision and provide facilities for children in Marlbrook and St Johns wards.
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- 7.76 The annual inspection programme identified four sites as having high/good play value but three with low/limited play value. It also rated maintenance as unsatisfactory at two sites.

<b>C4</b>	<i>Identify opportunities to rationalise and/or re-profile provision to provide larger children’s play areas facilities offering a more exciting and challenging range of equipment.</i>
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- 7.77 Site assessments showed significant variation in the quality of sites with quality scores ranging from 40% to 100%. See C1 above.

***Provision for young people***

- 7.78 Application of the quantity standard for young people’s provision shows that Bromsgrove Central is the only analysis area in which the level of provision meets current and future demand and in which there is a small surplus. There are 16 identified sites, which constitutes 60% of overall provision in the District.
- 7.79 However, some residents are not within the accepted 15 minute walk time for this type of provision or a 10 minute walk time of amenity green space. It is also evident that a number of existing facilities, both young people’s and children’s play provision have overlapping catchments.

<b>C11</b>	Evaluate the value of existing sites that do not serve distinct catchments to identify opportunities to re-profile provision to achieve a more balanced distribution and provide facilities for young people in the central area.
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**Bromsgrove East analysis area**

***Provision for children***

- 7.80 Application of the quantity standard for young people’s provision shows that Bromsgrove East has a level of provision in line with demand both now and in the future. However, an assessment of provision by ward does show that Tardebigge is one of the wards with the second highest deficiency in provision.
- 7.81 Accessibility mapping shows that all residents within Bromsgrove East are within a 10 minute walk of a children’s play area or amenity green space site. It also shows existing facilities with overlapping catchments.

<b>C12</b>	Investigate the need for additional children’s play provision in Tardebigge ward. Evaluate the value of existing children’s play areas that do not serve distinct catchments to identify opportunities to re-profile provision to meet this identified deficiency and to provide more exciting and challenging play opportunities.
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- 7.82 The annual inspection programme rated maintenance as unsatisfactory at one site. In addition, Parish Council consultation highlighted that children’s play areas in Tutnall and Copley are perceived to be extremely poor in quality (see C1 above).

***Provision for young people***

- 7.83 In contrast, Bromsgrove East shows a shortfall in young people’s facilities both now and through to 2026. An assessment of provision by ward shows that Tardebigge has a greater deficiency than Alvechurch.
- 7.84 As with children’s play provision in this area, accessibility mapping shows that all residents within Bromsgrove East are within a 15 minute walk of young person’s provision or within a 10 minute walk of amenity green spaces. It also shows existing facilities with overlapping catchments.

<b>C13</b>	Investigate the need for increased young person's provision in Tardebigge and Alvechurch wards. Evaluate the value of existing children's play areas and young person's facilities that do not serve distinct catchments to identify opportunities to re-profile provision to meet this identified deficiency.
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7.85 In terms of quality, Wiggin Memorial Playing Field Basketball Court only achieved a 53% quality score when a site assessment was undertaken (see C1 above).

### **Summary and recommendations**

7.86 Equipped provision for children and young people was the overriding theme of consultations throughout the study. Residents expressed concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

7.87 The four key outcomes of the Worcestershire Play Strategy are:

- children and young people to have increased opportunity to access and enjoy a variety of play
- increased inclusive play opportunities
- a greater understanding of the importance of play
- children and young people are involved in the design and delivery of play.

7.88 Analysis of existing facilities highlight that there is significant variation in the quality of sites although sites are distributed relatively evenly across the District. In order to improve the overall quality and quantity of play opportunities in Bromsgrove the Council has prioritised the development of larger, strategically located facilities which offer a wider variety of facilities and play value. Improvements to the quality of facilities will be as, if not more important than the quality of provision.

7.89 There are particular priorities for new or re-profiled provision, particularly in the following wards:

- Bromsgrove West: Hagley and Clent
- Bromsgrove North: Beacon and Hillside
- Bromsgrove North East: Wythall South and Hollywood and Majors Green
- Bromsgrove Central: Marlbrook and St Johns
- Bromsgrove East: Tardebigge and Alvechurch

7.90 Since the mapping of accessibility catchments highlights that existing facilities have overlapping catchments, this suggests that scope to re-structure existing provision to achieve an improved and more balanced distribution of facilities should be explored.



## **SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

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7.91 Any new facilities developed should meet the suggested quality criteria and should provide exciting play opportunities for children and young people. Site assessments carried out at existing facilities should also be used to inform decisions on those facilities in need of enhancement.

7.92 The key issues arising for the LDF from the assessment of facilities for children are therefore:

- use the findings of site assessments to facilitate the improvement of facilities for both children and young people across the district in terms of the quality
- encourage the involvement of children and young people in the design of facilities
- promote the development of risky and challenging play facilities as well as more traditional play opportunities
- facilitate the provision of new facilities in the areas identified as devoid in provision
- ensure that new developments contribute towards the provision of large, strategically located sites.