

Chichester Open Space Study 2014 - 2036: Executive Summary

Overview

This Open Space Study was prepared by Ethos Environmental Planning Ltd as part of the overall Open Space, Sports Facility and Recreation Strategy commissioned by Chichester District Council. The aims of the Study are to provide a robust assessment of needs and provision of open spaces in order to establish local provision standards and create an up-to-date evidence base which will be used to inform and support the preparation of the Council's Local Plan Review and the Council's decision-making process in relation to open space up to 2036.

The Study has been carried out in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, in particular *'Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'*.

The Open Space Study consists of 2 parts – Part 1 is the main report which includes six key stages: Strategic context/overview; identifying Local Needs (based on the separate Chichester Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report); an audit of open space provision; setting provision standards; applying provision standards; and draft policies and recommendations. Part 2 of the Study consists of more detailed analysis of quantity, quality, access and future need by three sub areas – The Manhood Peninsula, The East-West Corridor and North of the Plan Area.

The Study covers the Local Plan Area, rather than the whole district i.e. the South Downs National Park is excluded from the assessment.

Consultation and audit of provision

The Study examined local need for a wide range of different types of recreational open space, via questionnaire surveys which included a general household survey (online, with 424 surveys completed), a survey of Town and Parish councils and a local groups and organisations survey.

The audit of open space provision included a comprehensive mapping and audit process to collate data on the current provision and quality of open space across the Study area. Open spaces were mapped onto GIS (ArcView) and categorised into individual typologies. Quality audits (based on the Green Flag assessment criteria) were undertaken at key open spaces and all play spaces across the Study area.

Development of standards

The information from the local needs assessment, along with the audit of provision and review of existing local and national standards were analysed in order to produce new recommended standards for access and quantity. Quality standards have also been recommended, based on Green Flag criteria. The quantity and quality standards set are summarised in the table below:

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population) for analysing existing provision	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population): requirements from new development	Access standard
Allotments	0.30	0.30	600 metres or 12-13 minutes straight line walk time
Amenity Green Space	0.6	See standard for Natural Green Space	600 metres or 12-13 minutes straight line walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	1.2	1.2	600 metres or 12-13 minutes straight line walk time to local facilities 10 minutes drive time for larger multi-functional facilities
Play Space (Children)	0.05	0.05	480 metres or 10 minutes straight line walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.05	0.05	720 metres or 15 minutes straight-line walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt	1.0 to include natural and amenity green space	ANGSt
Total for new provision		2.6 ha/1000	

Application of standards

The standards above (and quality standards) have been used to identify existing deficiencies or surpluses in the quantity, access and quality of open space across the Study area (part 1) and by sub area (part 2). The supply is calculated using the population figures for each sub area, and the quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the quantity standards set. The table below summarises the supply by sub area.

Typology	East-West Corridor		The Peninsula		North of the Plan Area	
	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	-6.21	-0.12	-5.82	-0.22	-0.89	-0.07
Amenity Green Space	-4.22	-0.08	-6.40	-0.24	1.46	0.12
Park and Recreation Grounds	-14.33	-0.28	-6.86	-0.26	3.64	0.30
Play Space (Child)	-1.08	-0.02	-0.45	-0.02	-0.06	-0.01
Play Space (Youth)	-2.1	-0.04	-0.79	-0.03	-0.55	-0.05

Policy recommendations

The strategic options and policy recommendations in section 8 of the main report (part 1) address five key areas:

- Existing provision to be protected;
- Existing provision to be enhanced;
- Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- Identification of areas for new provision;
- Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

This is also considered in more detail within Part 2 by sub area. Section 8 also considers developer contributions, including costs of providing open space and thresholds for on-site provision.