Strategic Context

3.1 This section reviews the strategic context and provides background on the national/regional picture relevant to open space, sport and recreation facilities. Whilst this review is not exhaustive it provides details on the context in which the findings of this study sit and all documents included influence the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the city.

3.2 As highlighted in Sections 1 and 2, this document follows the key principles of PPG17 and its Companion Guide. PPG17 reflects a recognition from the Government of the wider benefits derived from the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities, including:

- supporting an urban renaissance
- supporting a rural renewal
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- health and well being
- promoting sustainable development.

3.3 In addition to PPG17, there are numerous other national documents and agencies that shape the strategic context to open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the country and as such influence the provision of facilities and the findings of this report.

3.4 Appendix D sets out the national strategic context, including Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer Greener which was produced by the Office of the Duty Prime Minister (ODPM) in 2002 and led to the creation of CABE Space, a national government agency which has the overall aim “to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities”. This study takes into account the key principles and priorities that emerge from current national documents.

3.5 Local strategic documents specific to one typology have been reviewed within the individual typology sections and specific strategic objectives that link into this study have been highlighted. The key principles of local documents impacting on the delivery of more than one type of open space have been summarised later in this section.

Regional Documents

The Yorkshire and Humber Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026

3.6 The RSS sets out a vision for the future of the Yorkshire and Humber Region, the key objectives to aim for and strategic themes to indicate how the objectives will be achieved.

3.7 The importance of open spaces is identified within the core approach of the strategy. Specific references include:

“open spaces have a vital role to play. Parks, squares, greens and wildlife areas can all help create a stronger and more attractive identity – with more opportunities for leisure and recreation, increased biodiversity and healthier lifestyles”
SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

“open spaces within settlements all have a strong influence on the character and distinctiveness of many of the Region’s towns” and

“it is important that valuable habitats and open spaces are retained within settlements and that a vibrant mix of land uses is maintained”.

3.8 Policy ENV6 states that the Region will safeguard, manage and enhance its existing tree and woodland resource in line with the Regional Forestry Strategy, and in particular increase the area of woodland under active management and increase the total woodland area by approximately 500 hectares per year. The strategy also documents the importance of maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of the region.

3.9 Policy ENV10 considers the landscape of the region and states that landscape that contributes to the distinctive character of the region will be safeguarded. One of the key outcomes of the policy is high quality accessible open space. High quality parks and public access to the countryside will be key indicators in the achievement of the policy.

3.10 Policy ENV11 within the RSS focuses on Health and Recreation and further supports the importance of sport and recreation with references to:

- providing, safeguarding and enhancing facilities for sports and recreation
- increasing activity rates and opportunities to participate in sport and recreation. Measured by increasing participation by 1% per year.

3.11 Policy YH4 of the plan states that plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should create new and improve existing networks, corridors and areas of green space, including the urban fringe to enhance biodiversity and recreation.

3.12 Policy YH8 indicates that areas and networks of green infrastructure will be identified, protected, created, extended, enhanced, managed and maintained throughout the region to ensure that an improved, accessible and healthy environment is available for the benefit of present and future communities whilst protecting the integrity of internationally important biodiversity sites.

Our Region, Our Health

3.13 The report supports the Yorkshire and Humber regional framework for health, providing recommendations and suggestions for action both to improve health and to reduce inequalities.

3.14 The comparatively poor quality of health of people living within the Yorkshire and Humber region is highlighted, noting particularly the high levels of preventable ill health, long term illness and premature deaths.

3.15 The document identifies the key areas contributing to this poor health including alcohol abuse, smoking, poor diet, sedentary lifestyle and stress and sets specific recommendations to alleviate these issues. Links between housing, education, community safety, economic generation and health are also explored.

3.16 The report and associated recommendations reinforce the importance of physical activity. Recommendations of particular relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study include:
• promote the benefits of physical activity on a regional basis
• create a regional strategic partnership to ensure a co-ordinated approach to attract and retain more public and private sector investment in physical activity
• implement regular monitoring including levels of smoking, diet and physical activity
• focus investment on increasing physical activity in the region
• develop a coordinated approach to attract and retain more public and private investment in physical activity.

**Yorkshire Plan for Sport**

3.17 The Yorkshire Plan for sport sets out the priorities for sport in Yorkshire 2004–2008. The priorities were developed with reference to the Framework for Sport. Several targets were set including:

• 160,000 new adults to take part regularly in sport and active recreation by 2008.
• increase the contribution of sport and active recreation to overall levels of physical activity so that a further 160,000 adults achieve the physical activity guidelines by 2008
• reduce the participation gap between under-participating groups by 25% by 2008 and,
• Yorkshire athletes to make up 10% of the England and Great Britain teams by 2008.
• increase the percentage of school children who spend at least two hours each week on high-quality physical education and school sport within and beyond the curriculum to 75% by 2008
• to increase voluntary and community-sector sport activity, including increasing community involvement, by 5% by 2008
• to maintain the level of sport’s contribution to the regional economy at 1.6% by 2008.

3.18 The recently released Sport England strategy will influence the new targets set for the delivery of sport in the region.

3.19 The key policy priorities for sport in the region include:

• promotion and marketing – to raise the benefits and awareness of sport
• legislation and regulatory change - ensure there is an effective operating environment
• quality accreditation and enhancement to improve - target investments in a coordinated way and focus on the achievement of a common goal
structures and partnerships - create effective partnerships for strategy development, delivery and 'joined-up' working with health, education and other sectors innovation and delivery focus on the needs of customers by:

- providing multi-sport and activity environments;
- using new technology; and
- developing new opportunities for sport and active recreation

strategic planning and evidence – clear, defined and consistent performance indicators with agreed targets and standards are required.

3.20 Sport England's Investment Strategy for Sport in Yorkshire (2006) outlines the framework for investment in sport and active recreation within the region and will be used to guide investment decisions by Sport England Yorkshire. Priorities will be for projects which will help achieve the participation targets set out in the Regional Plan for Sport. Local Community Sport Networks (CSN's) will play a vital role in drawing down funding for community sport and they will be expected to take a "portfolio" approach to investment which encourages looking at some projects which are innovative and maybe risky, but may be effective in growing participation.

3.21 The effective provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities will be central to the achievement of the key objectives. The apparent national and regional ‘bottom up’ approach to sports development requires a general improvement in grass roots and community facilities. It helps young people to succeed in life and develop close links between schools and sports clubs, creating a better and more positive local community.

Regional Economic Strategy (2005)

3.22 As highlighted in the Hull City Council Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2008), Sport and active recreation operates within a wider regional strategic framework and is well positioned to contribute to a number of objectives in the Regional Economic Strategy (Yorkshire Forward, 2005) highlighted below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Economic Strategy Objective</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Policy Area: Yorkshire Plan for Sport links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More Businesses</td>
<td>Recreational amenities are a core element of 'Quality of place', a key factor in attracting and retaining workers and businesses to the region.</td>
<td>• legislation and regulatory change</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• develop new or improved facilities and green spaces</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• innovation and delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• increase and extend the use of community facilities, green spaces and recreation routes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• create new multi-sport environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Businesses</td>
<td>Promote healthy and safe workplaces to boost productivity.</td>
<td>• legislation and regulatory change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• active workplace pilots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• regional physical activity framework</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Regional Economic Strategy Objective | Contribution | Policy Area: Yorkshire Plan for Sport links
--- | --- | ---
Connecting People to Good Jobs | Voluntary sector used to reach local people and improve services and volunteering used to connect people to opportunities. | • innovation and delivery  
• increase the number of well-qualified professionals and volunteers

Transport, Infrastructure and Environment | Walking and cycling contribute to local reductions in reliance on cars. | • promotion and marketing  
• everyday sport  
• innovation and delivery  
• increase and extend the use of community facilities, green spaces and recreation routes.

Stronger Cities, Towns and Rural Communities | Maximise the benefits sport and the London Olympics bring to the regional economy. | • structures and Partnerships  
• talent development plan with associated events programme in place  
• new area of activity, London 2012 decision announced after the production of the Framework for sport and the Yorkshire Plan for Sport.

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**Regional Cultural Strategy ‘Deep Roots, Real Achievements, Lofty Ambitions’**

3.23 The Regional Cultural Strategy (Yorkshire Culture, 2001) priorities are:

- continuity in development;
- creation of opportunity;
- social and economic change;
- supporting sustainability and
- increased understanding.

3.24 The strategy’s action plan identifies a number of key aspirations and objectives for the period to 2010. The provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can be a key vehicle in the achievement of many of these objectives including:

- everyone in the region leads a rich, diverse and fulfilling cultural life, with a strong sense of community and a healthy lifestyle.
- culture and creative industries make a substantial contribution to a thriving regional economy.
• all barriers to participation in the region’s culture are removed – whether due to geography, education, background, ability or income.

• resources are maximised to provide excellent, accessible, well used cultural services and facilities.

**Local Strategic Context**

3.25 In addition to considering the priorities of local strategies, there are several ongoing schemes across the city which will have a key impact on the character of the city in future years. The Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF) is the single largest investment into the school stock in recent years. An emphasis on community use of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities at school sites will ensure that refurbishments and enhancements to the school stock are of significant benefit to the local community.

3.26 Regeneration programmes in the Gateway Pathfinder areas as well as in the city centre also provide the opportunity to shape the character of these areas to ensure that future provision is in line with local need.

3.27 Table 3.1 overleaf summarises the local strategic context, highlighting the key issues emerging and the links with this open space, sport and recreation assessment.
Table 3.1 – Local Strategic Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Name</th>
<th>Document Summary</th>
<th>Links to assessment of open spaces and recreation facilities for Hull</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Hull Local Plan (2000)| Chapter four of the plan considers how to manage the local environment in a sustainable way to improve the quality of life for people and contribute positively to the environment.  
Policy ME1 states that development that is sustainable and respects environmental constraints will be supported.  
Policy ME14 supports the protection and management of trees and woodland.  
Chapter six of the Local Plan covers the natural environment and identifies the protection and enhancement of the natural environment as a key feature of the CityPlan.  
**Policy NE1** protects Urban Greenspace identified on the proposals map (0.25 hectares and above) from development. Development will not be permitted if it results in:  
• a loss of sport and recreation facilities  
• an adverse effect on nature conservation  
• the loss of links between other areas of Urban Greenspace  
• an adverse effect on the amenity and character of the area.  
**Policy NE2** states that development of Urban Greenspace below 0.25 hectares will not be allowed if the development will have an adverse effect on Urban Greenspace value.  
**Policy NE3** identifies that the development of Urban Greenspace will be permitted if there is an overriding justification. In such cases it will require the developer to:  
• replace it within the locality with a site of equivalent community benefit, or | The inclusion of policies relating to the provision and protection of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Hull reinforces the importance of open space in the character of the city.  
This assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities across Hull will provide evidence to inform decisions relating to the application of policies within the local plan. It will also ensure that informed decisions can be taken with regards departures from the local plan policy / meeting of exception criteria.  
The study also provides an evidence base for the Local Development Framework, which will eventually supersede the Hull Local Plan. This evidence base includes an understanding of the local provision of green space as well as needs and aspirations and resulting local standards. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• improve an existing Urban Greenspace within the locality to provide equivalent community benefit.</td>
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<td><strong>Policy NE5</strong> supports new Urban Greenspace which serves the needs of the community. Accessibility guidelines are provided:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• play areas – 250m</td>
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<td>• public playing areas – 500m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Policy NE6</strong> requires developers to provide the following publicly accessible open space within housing developments:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Urban Greenspace – 60m² per unit of accommodation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• children’s play area (including play equipment) – 3m² per child bed space.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If these Urban Greenspace standards cannot be achieved on the existing site, improvements to a nearby Urban Greenspace or the creation an area of new Urban Greenspace related to the development will be required.</td>
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<td><strong>Policy NE7</strong> states if appropriate, Urban Greenspace will also be required in non-housing developments.</td>
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<td><strong>Policy NE8</strong> encourages the provision and enhancement of outdoor sports and recreation facilities and also states development resulting in the loss of outdoor sport and recreation facilities will only be allowed if:</td>
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<td>• there is an oversupply of sport and recreation facilities in the area</td>
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<td>• redeveloping a small part of the site is the best way of retaining or improving the remainder</td>
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<td>• alternative provision of equivalent community benefit is provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy NE11</td>
<td>Protects urban greenspace forming river corridors and other waterside areas from development.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy NE13</td>
<td>Protects the Green Network identified on the proposals map from development.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy NE14</td>
<td>States sites of nature conservation interest identified on the proposals map will be protected from development and new sites will be identified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy NE15</td>
<td>Supports developments that maintain and improve the nature conservation value of a site. Developers will need to demonstrate nature conservation has been considered in developments on land designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy NE16</td>
<td>States sites of nature conservation importance will be identified.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Policy NE17   | States that development that will have an adverse effect on sites designated as or are potential SSSIs, Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas or Areas of Conservation will only be allowed if:  
  - there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, and  
  - there is no other alternative. | |
| Policy NE18   | Forbids any development that results in the loss of or damage to trees of significant amenity value and the Council will make Tree Preservation Orders if appropriate. | |
| Policy NE19   | Supports tree planting initiatives that do not adversely affect the nature conservation value of a site. | |
| Policy NE20   | Supports the management and enhancement of urban greenspace for the benefit of the community and wildlife. | |

Chapter seven of the Local Plan encompasses the built environment.
### Document Name: SPG Note 2 Providing and designing Urban Greenspace and play areas in new housing

- **Document Summary**: The SPG considers the provision of urban green space and facilities for children within areas of new development.

- **Policy NE6**: Requires developers to provide the following publicly accessible open space within housing developments:

### Document Name: Statement of Community Involvement (adopted January 2008)

- **Document Summary**: The document sets out the policy for involving communities and stakeholders in the future planning of the city.

- **Document Summary**: The aim of the SCI is to increase opportunities for people in Hull to participate in the planning system.

### Document Name: Policy BE4

- **Document Summary**: States housing developments will be permitted if associated Urban Greenspace is designed to fulfil specified criteria and that a play area and play equipment should be installed before the occupation of nearby houses.

### Document Name: Policy BE6

- **Document Summary**: Requires developers to provide a good standard of landscape that protects existing natural features.

### Document Name: Policy H1

- **Document Summary**: States that housing developments will be allowed if their location and planning considerations are acceptable. Developers will need to consider the impact on local amenity and the built and natural environment.

### Document Name: Chapter twelve of the Local Plan relates to community development.

- **Policy CF13**: Allows the development of indoor sports facilities and encourages the development of major new sports stadiums.

- **Policy CF17**: States that crematoria and cemetery development will be allowed.

### Links to assessment of open spaces and recreation facilities for Hull:

- In the first instance, the findings of this study will guide the Council in decision making with regards the provision of appropriate open space in new development and in the implementation of the SPG.

- This document also contains new local standards which can be used to update the SPG.

- This study has sought to ensure maximum involvement from both the local community and from key stakeholders across the city.
### SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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<tr>
<td><strong>Urban Greenspace</strong> – 60m² per unit of accommodation</td>
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<td>children’s play area (including play equipment) – 3m² per child bed space.</td>
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</table>

#### City Centre Area Action Plan (Pre-submission draft, June 2006)

The plan puts in place the planning policies required to deliver the City Centre Masterplan and ensures that new developments meet good design and sustainability.

The aim of the Masterplan is, “...to deliver in Hull City Centre the scale, mix and quality of development needed to enable it to offer the unique advantages of a city centre location”.

The strategic objectives of relevance to this study are:

- create a unified and compact city centre
- re-unite the city centre with its River Humber waterfront
- create a lively River Hull corridor within the compact city centre.

The City Centre Area Action Plan contributes to the development and enhancement of open space in the central area. The key changes that will take place as part of the implementation of the plan will impact on the findings of this needs assessment.

#### Hull Housing Strategy 2006 – 2008

The Council’s strategic housing vision is, “housing for a sustainable city, which provides choice for all and meets the needs and aspirations of Hull’s people and those who wish to live here – creating the conditions for population growth in the longer term.”

The five objectives of the strategy are:

- a balanced housing supply
- quality places – homes and neighbourhoods
- social cohesion
- excellent services
- effective partnerships.

The effective provision of open space within areas of residential development will be important to enhance quality of life. The successful integration of open spaces with housing development will be integral to the achievement of the overall strategic housing vision.
The overall outcomes of the objectives of relevance to this study are:
- sustainable mixed neighbourhoods
- increased resident satisfaction with the neighbourhood.

**Corporate Equalities Plan 2005/08**

The plan outlines the actions needed for the city to achieve equality. The City Vision is, "Kingston Upon Hull is a vibrant European city, rich in culture and confidence, where people are proud to live, learn, work and play".

The City Council’s Mission is, “The City Council will strive to secure a positive and sustainable future for the city”.

The plan states that the Council is committed to:
- providing good quality services
- developing the full potential of the city, enhancing its image and building on the pride people have in their communities
- promoting social inclusion
- rejuvenating the city’s economy and environment
- supporting individuals and communities to create safe and healthy environments.

The effective provision of appropriate open space, sport and recreation facilities will be a key vehicle for the achievement of several of the key objectives of this strategy.

**Disability Equality Scheme 2006 – 2009**

The vision of the scheme is, "by 2025 disabled people should have full opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life and will be respected and included as members of society".

The identified priorities of the scheme of relevance to this study are:
- access to the built environment and the concept of inclusive design
- being able to use services
- improved communication.

The provision of open space that is accessible to all sectors of the community will ensure that all potential users are treated equitably and therefore contributes to the aims and objectives of this scheme. The key issues arising from this document will inform design strategies.
### Gender Equality Scheme 2007 – 2010

The scheme outlines the Council’s response to the Equality Act 2006. The vision of the scheme is that diversity is seen as a strength and states the Council will:

- make sure everyone feels valued and treated with respect
- create an environment where residents feel that all parts of the community get on together
- make sure that everyone has similar life opportunities
- make sure that everyone will be able to access and use services and information.

This assessment identifies the key issues in each area of the city and promotes the provision of accessible open space. It therefore contributes to the achievement of the key priorities of this scheme.

### ONE HULL Community Strategy 2006 – 2011

The strategy sets out the vision and priorities for action to transform the city and improve the quality of life for everyone that lives in, works in and visits Hull.

The vision of the strategy is that by 2020, “Hull is a City which is living, learning, working, healthy and proud. To be one of the most important cities in Northern Europe…”

The three core priorities of the Community Strategy are:

- jobs and prosperity
- education, learning and skills
- quality of life.

The objectives of quality of life are:

- to make reduce crime, fear of crime and make Hull a safer place
- to improve the environmental quality of Hull’s neighbourhoods
- to increase life expectancy and avoid ill health and early death
- to empower citizens and communities to participate in managing their own neighbourhoods.

Research undertaken at a national level proves that effective provision of open space can enhance quality of life. The findings of this assessment therefore directly contribute to the achievement of one of the three core priorities.
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hull Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011</td>
<td>The strategy focuses on children and young people aiming to achieve a child friendly city, allowing children to have green spaces.</td>
<td>The provision of local open space, sport and recreation facilities in appropriate locations will reduce the reliance on unsustainable travel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The plan sets out the vision and aims for transport in Hull for the next five years. The four objectives of the transport plan are: • delivering accessibility • better air quality • safer roads • reducing traffic congestion. Objective four of the Local Transport Plan encourages cycling and walking in the city. The plan also seeks to increase sustainable access to public spaces.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and Young People’s Plan 2006 – 2008</td>
<td>The vision of the strategy is, “to make Hull the family friendly city where no child is left behind”. The aim of the plan is for every child and young person in Hull to receive the support they need to: • be healthy • stay safe • enjoy life • achieve • make a positive contribution • achieve economic well being.</td>
<td>This assessment considers the appropriateness of existing facilities for children and young people, as well as an assessment of wider types of open space which may be used by these groups. It considers the views and aspirations of young people and highlights opportunities to improve current provision. The key issues emerging from this assessment will therefore help the Council work towards the priorities outlined in the document.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Document Name

Serious about play – a play policy for Hull's children, young people and their communities

### Document Summary

The priorities for children and young people of relevance to this study are:

- promoting healthy lifestyles
- to promote opportunities for all children and young people to have fun and enjoy life
- to prevent children and young people becoming involved in, or affected by, crime and anti-social behaviour.

The key objective of the Play Policy is to increase the quantity and enhance the quality of children’s play opportunities.

The policy states that the Council will create play opportunities that will allow children and young people to explore, manipulate, experience and affect their environment within challenging but secure settings.

The policy identifies that play provision will work to the ‘Seven Best Play’ objectives. These are as follows:

- provision that extends children’s choice and control over play
- provision that recognises the need for children to test their boundaries
- provision that balances risk and safety
- provision that maximises play opportunities
- provision that encourages independence and self esteem
- provision that fosters respect and offers opportunities for social interaction
- provision that develops a child’s well being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.

This assessment considers the provision of facilities for children and young people in the context of these key objectives. It provides an evidence base to aid the achievement of these key priorities.
**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

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</table>
| Building Our Sporting Future – A strategy for active recreation in Hull 2008 – 2013 (Draft) | The vision of the strategy is, “Hull – where people are healthy, happy and active for life” or “Hull – active, healthy and proud”. The purpose of the strategy is to set a strategic framework for sport that will help realise the full potential of sport and active recreation within the community. The key aims of the strategy are:  
  - to increase levels of physical activity in Hull through increased participation in sport and active recreation  
  - to ‘close the gap’ in participation that currently exists in average participation rates and the rates of women, older people, people with disabilities and low income groups.  
Consultation carried out as part of the study identified the following issues relating to sport and active recreation facilities in Hull:  
  - facilities are perceived to be of good or average quality but in need of refurbishment  
  - a wider range of facilities is needed  
  - facilities need to reach out more to communities  
  - young people identified the need for a ‘different type’ of sports facility in Hull eg adventure/lifestyle sports  
  - young people stated that facilities are difficult to access via public transport  
  - safety concerns when using green spaces and outdoor sports facilities were constantly raised. | The appropriate provision of facilities was considered to be central to increasing participation levels across the city. This assessment outlines the existing open space, sport and recreation facilities and identifies areas which may be deficient. Addressing the priorities highlighted within this report will therefore contribute to the achievement of some of the objectives of the sport and physical activity strategy. |
### Hull Biodiversity Action Plan

The vision of the action plan is, “to improve the nature conservation interest of the Estuary and its associated habitats”.

The vision for gardens and allotments is to share gardens with wildlife and increase the number and variety of creatures that live in gardens.

The vision for parks, golf courses and cemeteries is to improve the wildlife-friendly management of parks, golf courses and cemeteries.

This document considers the recreational function of open space sport and recreation facilities. It highlights the importance of balancing recreational use with biodiversity.

Phase 1 site surveys on SNCI sites have been undertaken. These form a key part of the evidence base for both this assessment of open space and the Biodiversity Action Plan.

### Hull Walking Strategy 2003

Objectives of the council’s Walking Strategy include seeking to increase walking as the main mode of transport and improving access for pedestrians.

The provision of local open space, sport and recreation facilities will ensure that residents have access to facilities that are accessible on foot.

### Hull Cycling Strategy 2003

The strategy recognises the links with and the contribution that cycling can make to the wider urban renaissance agenda.

The objectives of the strategy of relevance to this study are to:

- increase cycle use
- encourage life long cycling
- improve health by more cycling.

Access to green space is of particular importance across this study. Effective cycle links will maximise the accessibility of the green space network to a wide variety of residents.
**Summary and conclusions**

3.28 The provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities contributes to the achievement of wider governmental objectives such as social and community cohesion, urban renaissance and promoting a healthy and enjoyable life. Any development of open spaces (i.e. provision of either new or enhancement of existing spaces) should take into account biodiversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness as well as facilitating the increase needed in participation in sport and active recreation.

3.29 The effective provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities offers multiple benefits to local residents. As well as providing a visual amenity, open spaces can also be central to the local community and provide an alternative opportunity to participate in physical activity. The provision of open spaces can therefore contribute towards the achievement of many regional priorities including those set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy and Economic Strategy.

3.30 Many organisations are willing to work in partnership together to manage and develop existing open spaces and share similar aims and objectives e.g. protecting, enhancing and maximising usage and nature conservation value of open spaces.

3.31 Points emerging from the strategic review that are integral to the development of this open space, sport and recreation assessment in Hull are as follows:

- due to the urban nature of Hull, natural open space can play a key role in providing residents with many visual and recreational opportunities. Protecting this type of open space from development is considered to be important

- housing developments and geographical allocations driven by national planning policies and employment land allocations will have a direct impact on open space, sport and recreation provision and sustainability

- the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities that are accessible to all sectors of the community and meet the needs of all age groups is central to the achievement of many wider objectives

- increasing the use of sustainable forms of transport is a key priority across the city. This emphasises the importance of appropriate access to open space

- the increased focus on improving the health of local residents will raise the profile of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Open space can provide alternative opportunities for physical activity.

3.32 In conclusion, this review of strategic documents highlights the local importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within Hull. This local needs study and resulting strategy will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.