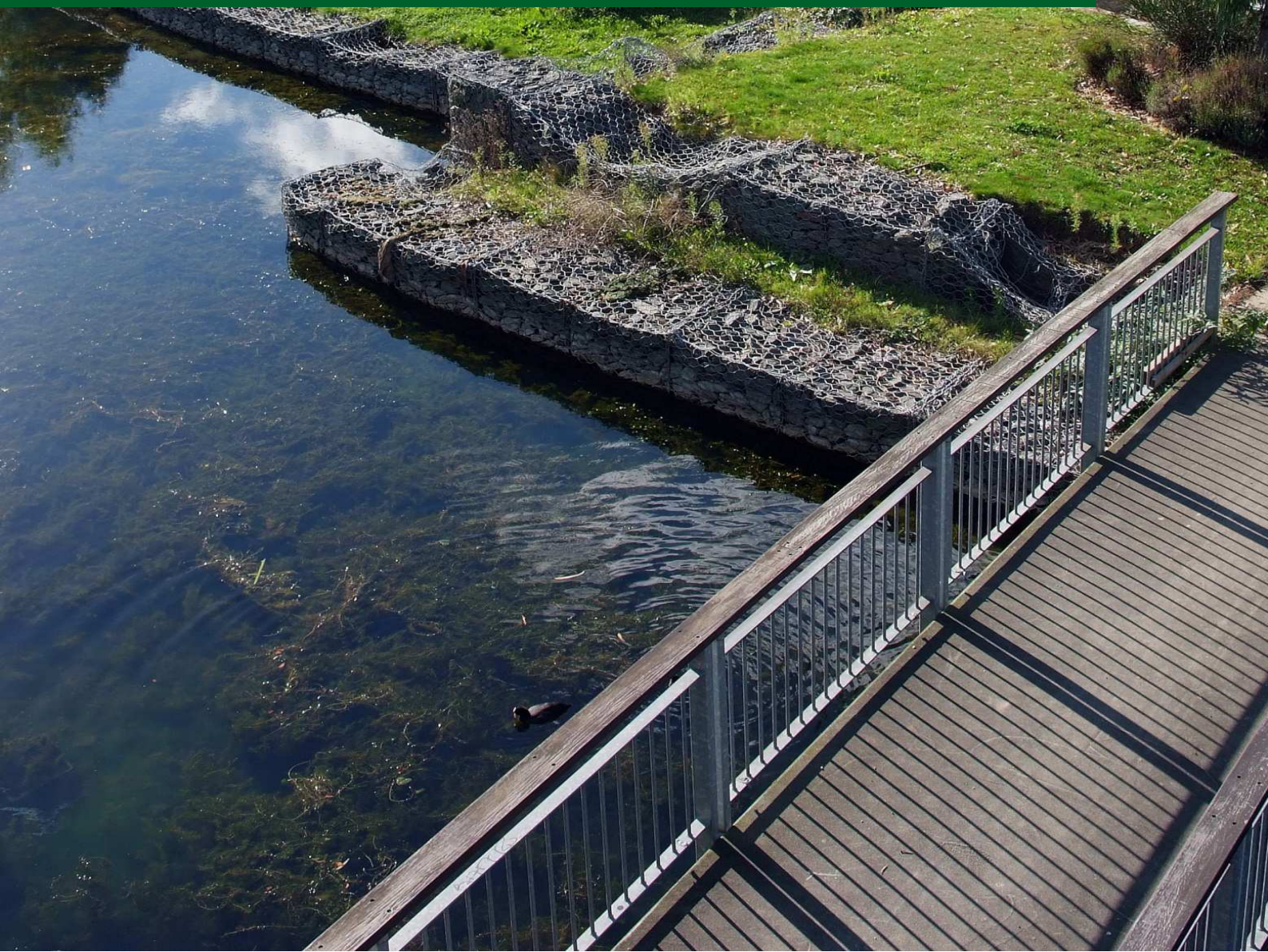




Parks and Open Spaces

An open space strategy for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
2017-2027



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READING GUIDE

Chapter 1 sets out the need for an Open Space Strategy, and links open spaces to council priorities.

Chapter 2 is the open spaces assessment. The assessment is positioned in the context of national and regional guidance and is in five distinct parts. Each part includes a methodology, key findings section and conclusions:

- Part A: desktop audit of open space. This part audits the quantity of open space in Tower Hamlets, in line with National Planning Policy Framework guidance.
- Part B: quantitative assessment of the supply of publicly accessible open space. This part assesses the quantity of publicly accessible open space in order to determine whether there is adequate supply of publicly accessible open space.
- Part C: GIS mapping to determine catchment areas for publicly accessible parks. This part draws on London Plan guidance to map pedestrian accessibility to parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets, in order to identify areas of open space deficiency in the borough.
- Part D: is an external assessment of the quality and value of open spaces, which the Open Space Strategy guidance recommends is carried out.
- Part E: is an external assessment of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Tower Hamlets.

Chapter 3 is an assessment of the views, needs and expectations of residents in relation to open spaces.

Chapter 4 is an analysis of current and future local demand for open space drawing on population and demographic trends for Tower Hamlets.

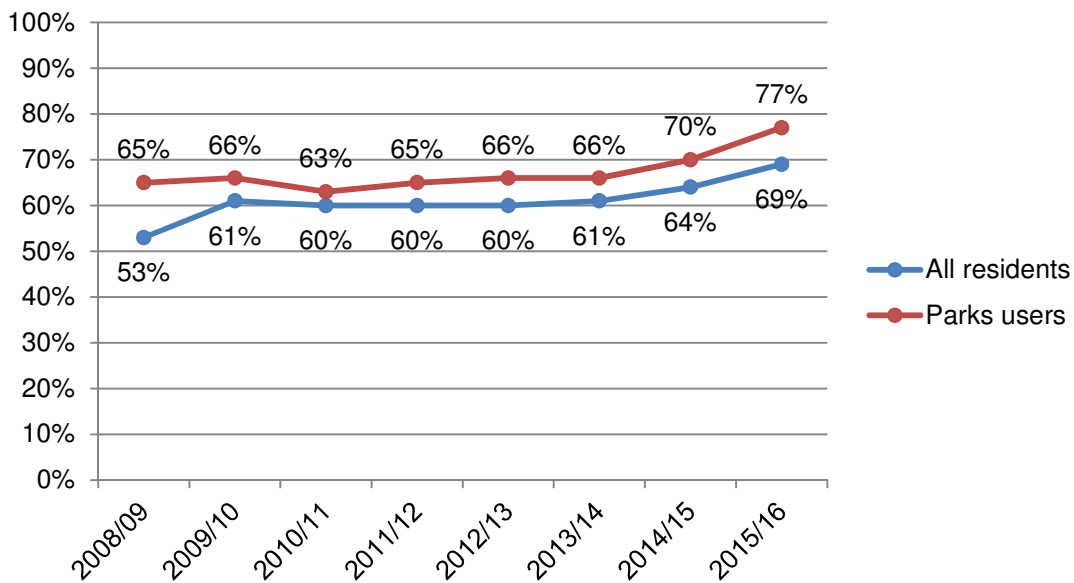
- Part A: demographic change. This part looks at demographic changes that are expected to take place in Tower Hamlets.
- Part B: future demand for open space. This part assesses future demand for open space, including playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Tower Hamlets.
- Part C: considers options for prioritising investment in existing open space and ways of ensuring existing open space can be made more resilient for the future.

Chapter 5 outlines an action plan for parks and open spaces covering the first five years of the strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Tower Hamlets has more than 200 parks and open spaces of which more than 170 are publicly accessible. The majority is owned and managed by the council. Parks and open spaces are popular with local residents and visitors to the borough. Their broad appeal is reflected in high satisfaction ratings from residents, which have been steadily increasing for the past three years. Conversations with residents indicate that parks are valued for a variety of reasons including the positive impact they have on health and wellbeing.

Figure 1: Percentage of residents satisfied* with Parks and Open Spaces, according to the Annual Residents Survey



*'Satisfied' means the service was rated good, very good or excellent.

Tower Hamlets parks also host events which attract visitors from across the country: they have an Olympic Legacy and contain sporting facilities which inspire people of all ages to enjoy physical activity. Tower Hamlets parks provide access to local wildlife, inspiring people from all backgrounds to learn more about nature and the environment. Many of them have a rich historical heritage, and there are memorials and art available to view at parks and open spaces throughout the borough. Parks and open spaces play an important role in helping to address air pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Our parks are free to use and can be equally enjoyed by all. They contribute to physical and mental health, by providing space for residents of all ages and from different circumstances to enjoy. They also play an important environmental role through pollution control and flood management.

The parks and open spaces within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets have a rich history, with the origins of many dating back to the 18th and 19th century as initiatives to combat overpopulation and improve the quality of life

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for those in the community. Of the total number of parks sites within the Borough, five are Registered Historic Parks and Gardens with listed status ranging between Grade II* to Grade II, 16 are protected London Squares and 52 are sites of historic interest, all of which contain a number of listed structures within the parks and open spaces. Some sites, such as the Altab Ali Park, have attained important cultural significance for community cohesion and equalities.

The biodiversity of Tower Hamlets is also rich and includes rare and protected species, such as the Black Poplar (Britain's rarest native timber tree), the nationally scarce Brown-banded Carder Bee, the Streaked Bombardier Beetle (recorded recently from only four UK sites), bats, Great Crested newts and the Black Redstart.

Since the last strategy in 2011, Victoria Park has been the nation's favourite park. Residents have given up their time to volunteer in parks and helped to shape our network of parks and open spaces by participating in consultations. Our open spaces continue to attract investment and develop to meet the needs of the changing population and - new open spaces have been created - despite the pressures on the limited land available for development in Tower Hamlets. The borough's nationally recognised spaces now include English Heritage sites, open spaces with Green Flag Awards and listed buildings, all of which bring crucial investment into the local economy through tourism. Our parks also have a growing network of activities and volunteering groups in parks.

In the coming years, the population of Tower Hamlets is projected to grow and in tandem, the demand for housing and open space will increase. It will become more challenging to meet the demands for new space – particularly in the context of the council's plan to make financial savings. To ensure residents and those visiting the borough continue to have access to high quality open space, creative ways of delivering and maintaining open spaces will need to be championed by the council and robust evidence will be needed to secure decent open space provision wherever possible. This strategy evidences the need for open spaces, and sets out strategic actions in response to that evidence for the next ten years.

CHAPTER 1: THE CASE FOR AN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

1.1. CHAPTER OVERVIEW

This chapter outlines the national and local context in which the Open Space Strategy is being updated.

In the context of population growth and financial pressures the chapter outlines the need for a revised Open Space Strategy for 2017 to 2027:

- To manage the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces
- To attract and guide investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets
- To contribute to sustainable development
- To address competing demands on parks and open spaces
- To mitigate the revenue costs for the council of hosting parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets

The chapter outlines the role of the strategy in delivering council priorities for the next 10 years, with particular regard to development and health and wellbeing.

The chapter also sets out the limitations to the strategy and how the strategy has been developed.

1.2. THE NEED FOR AN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY IN 2017

Substantial investment in open spaces in the last strategy period has resulted in increased resident satisfaction. However, while during the last strategy period open space quantity increased overall, it could not keep pace with population growth. As a result, the amount of open space per resident is reducing.

Providing open space will continue to be a challenge in Tower Hamlets - even with investment, rapid population growth is a challenge for the provision of open space. Tower Hamlets population is set to grow by 26% in the next 10 years rising to an estimated 374,000 by 2026. Further pressure on open space will come from those visiting and working in the borough, with key employment locations expected to see growth. Tower Hamlets will continue to have some of the most deprived areas in the country. Three-quarters of children in the borough currently live in low-income families and overcrowding is higher than the London and national average, creating acute housing need in the borough. Rising demand for housing means there will continue to be limited opportunity to create new, accessible open spaces - despite a growing need for it. Tower Hamlets also plans to make savings of £59 million from the

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council budget by 2020. This savings target is likely to put pressure on council services in the next 5 to 10 years.

There is evidence that the environment, infrastructure such as parks, and access to open spaces has an impact on health and wellbeing. Making better and more creative use of open space, and improving quality and function, can increase opportunities for residents to use them for healthy activities as well as places to meet and socialise. Residents recognise the valuable role of parks and open spaces, seeing them as places that help to bring people of different backgrounds together and as a place to spend time with family and friends.

The purpose of the Open Space Strategy 2017 is:

[A] Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces

If we are to meet the twin demands of a growing population and a drive for budget savings Tower Hamlets must robustly evidence the need to provide new spaces. The 2006 and 2011 Open Space Strategies played a crucial role in securing new, accessible, open space against a backdrop of rapid development. This was achieved, in part, by setting out overarching principles to safeguard open space in our Local Plan. These principles continue to be relevant for the next strategy period and will underpin Local Plan policies.

Figure 2: Principles for Open Space

Protect	Protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss.
Create	Maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space.
Enhance	Improving the quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces.
Connect	Creating new green corridors and enhancing existing ones to connect publicly accessible open spaces to main destination points.

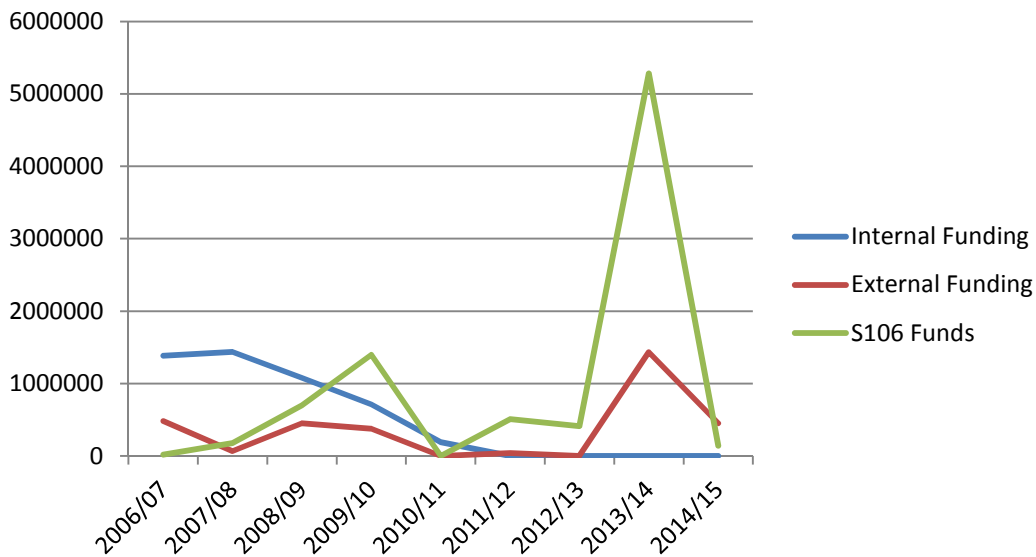
The evidence gathered as part of the Strategy development will inform and underpin planning policies in the emerging Local Plan related to developments which have implications for open space provision in the borough. Producing this strategy ensures consistency with national and regional guidance for the development of planning and open space policies.

[B] Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets

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The council will need to evidence the need for investment in parks and open spaces to feed into any review of the CIL Charging Schedule, ensure this need is reflected on the council's CIL Regulation 123 List, and secure S106 Planning Obligations where necessary. In the last strategy period, funding for parks and open spaces changed significantly. As the Government's austerity measures increased, council capital resource for open space reduced as available resource was increasingly focused to major capital projects to deliver transformational change. The Open Space strategy was instrumental in shaping local planning policy and helping to secure investment in parks and open spaces through Section 106 planning obligations (Tower Hamlets' Planning Obligations SPD, 2016). Between 2006 and 2015 £3.3 million was levered in from external sources. Approximately £8.6 million was secured via Section 106 funding.

Figure 3: Spending by funding streams for parks and open spaces, 2006/7 – 2014/15



Planning contributions are now one of the main sources of capital investment in the borough's parks. Since the adoption of the Tower Hamlets CIL in April 2015, future investment in existing publicly accessible open spaces will generally be met through CIL receipts. It will be increasingly important that the strategy helps secure contributions received from developers through the Infrastructure Delivery Framework by clearly demonstrating the demand on open space, and the priorities for investment. Access to new publicly accessible open space within developments will generally be secured through Section 106 legal agreements, with design, construction and maintenance being the responsibility of the developer.

[C] Contributing to sustainable development

The Strategy was also a key evidence base that functioned practically by informing development management policies and site allocations, through the Tower Hamlets Local Plan. This ensured that open space was given priority in

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new developments, such as in the St Andrews development. Going forward, the strategy will continue to be used by planners to guide their decision making when considering the need for open space in relation to specific sites.

[D] Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces

As the population grows and changes, demand for existing open space will increase and competing demands on Tower Hamlets open spaces will need to be managed. Diversifying existing stock to meet different needs of different residents will be important; however it is unlikely that the borough will be able to fully meet the projected demand for open space, due to the density of the area.

Playing fields are one type of open space in Tower Hamlets. An external assessment of supply and demand data for playing fields has been drawn on in this strategy. Strategic actions to meet unmet demand for playing fields are deliberately considered in this overarching open space strategy, which considers all types of open space, to ensure demand for playing fields is balanced against demand for all types of open space.

[E] Mitigating the revenue costs for the council of providing parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets

The Council needs to consider options for responding to the budget pressures that it will face over the next 5 years, in order to create financial security for Tower Hamlets Parks and open spaces. Meeting the costs of parks, particularly maintenance costs, in the context of rising demand and shrinking budgets, will be particularly challenging and options for managing these costs should be considered.

1.3. SUPPORTING CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Parks and open spaces help deliver the ambition to make Tower Hamlet's a *Great Place To Live*, which is part of the council's Community Plan and Strategic Plan. The priorities for delivering this ambition which are particularly relevant are:

Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018

Improving the local environment and public realm

Parks and open spaces are part of the local infrastructure, services and facilities in Tower Hamlets.

Developing stronger communities

Parks and open spaces play a role in bringing communities together by providing spaces and activities for different parts of the community to take part in.

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Community Plan 2015

Managing new development

The Open Space Strategy is a key evidence base document for the Local Plan in the areas of (i) development management policies and (ii) site allocations. It is used to inform the development of overarching principles which guide decision making, notably the commitment to protect, create and enhance open spaces.

Delivering key regeneration projects around the borough

At a site specific level, the Open Space Strategy influences site allocations through the Tower Hamlets Local Plan. The Open Space Strategy ensures through specific master-plans and supplementary planning documents that the provision and enhancement of publicly accessible open space is prioritised in all new development

Creating good quality community spaces and facilities

By mapping deficiency and auditing quality, the Open Space Strategy helps guide open space investment to where it is most needed.

Making Tower Hamlets 'greener'

Tower Hamlets has a Local Biodiversity Action Plan that sets out how to protect and enhance our important wild plants and animals and their habitats, and how to connect residents with nature. Our wildlife and natural habitats provide a range of environmental benefits. For example, vegetated spaces slow down runoff to help reduce flooding, and trees provide shade and can help reduce air pollution and noise, while bees and other insects are vital for pollinating crops in our food gardens.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017

One of the five health and wellbeing priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is *Creating a healthier place*, part of the focus of this is improving existing open spaces to improve health outcomes.

Open and green spaces are important for promoting health and wellbeing. A recent Faculty of Public Health briefing paper¹ concluded on reviewing the evidence that contact with safe, green spaces can improve a number of aspects of mental and physical health and wellbeing as well as various social and environmental indicators.

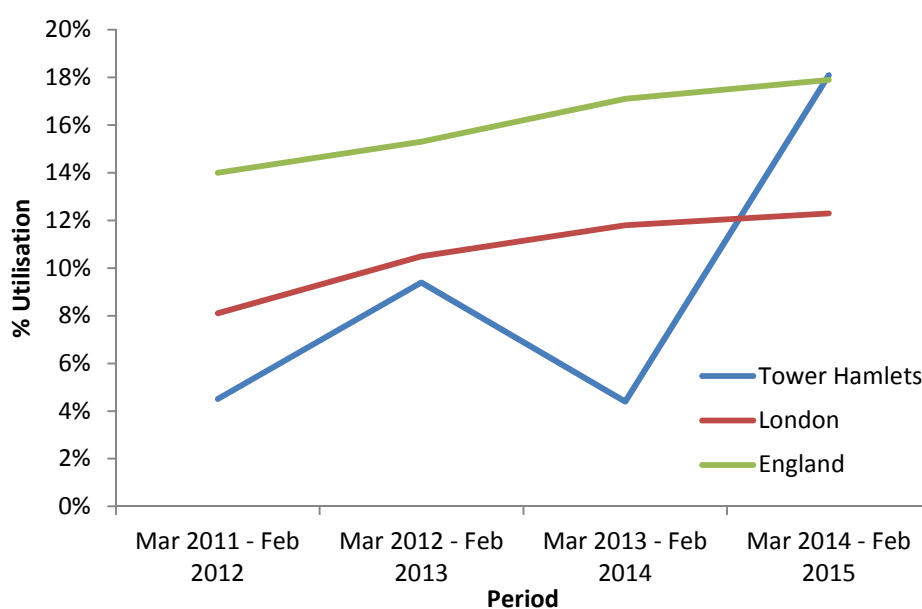
¹ Faculty of Public Health (2010) Great Outdoors: How Our Natural Health Service Uses Green Space To Improve Wellbeing, accessed 12 January 2017 [Online] http://www.fph.org.uk/uploads/bs_great_outdoors.pdf.

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- Contact with green spaces and natural environments can reduce symptoms of poor mental health and stress, and can improve mental wellbeing across all age groups.
- Access to green spaces can increase levels of physical activity for all ages.
- Having green spaces in an area can contribute to reduced health inequalities.
- Safe, green spaces can increase levels of communal activity across different social groups as well as increase residents' satisfaction with their local area.
- Green spaces can help with our response to climate change through their potential to reduce the impacts of heatwaves and reduce flooding and reducing CO2 emissions.
- Green spaces and natural environments can improve air and noise quality and support sustainability through increasing biodiversity, encouraging active transport and community participation.

As the figure below shows, the use of outdoor space for exercise and/or health reasons in Tower Hamlets increased during the period between March 2011 and February 2015. However, data show that there remain significant health gaps between the borough residents and the national average.

Figure 4: Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/health reasons²



² Public Health Outcomes Framework (<http://www.phoutcomes.info/>)

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1.4. APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

The council have undertaken the following activities to devise this strategy:

- A desk top research and review, including performance and financial benchmarking, a best practice literature review, a review of existing consultation findings, and a strategic policy driver review.
- An externally commissioned, independent audit of all parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets.
- In-house analysis of parks and open spaces, including mapping and modelling of open space requirements in the borough using projections taken from the Tower Hamlets Population growth model.
- A telephone consultation with a representative sample of residents to get their views of parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets.
- In-depth focus groups with targeted stakeholder groups, including young people representatives.
- Workshops with internal stakeholders to establish strategic priorities.

1.5. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Inter-related strategies

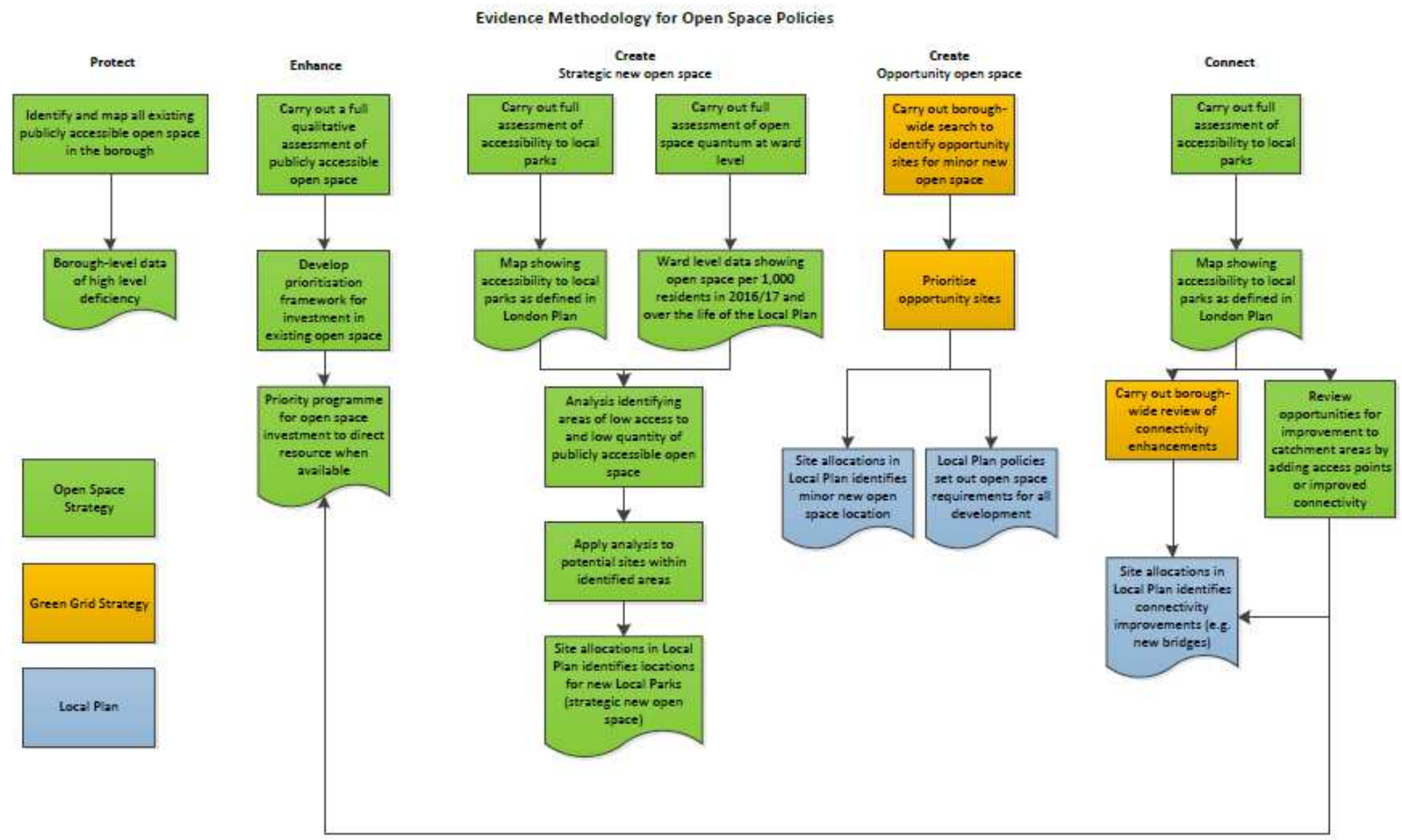
The Open Space Strategy is part of a number of sport and open space related strategy documents that are being developed in parallel and address separate but interrelated issues. This strategy focuses on ensuring that the network of open space and playing fields in the borough will be of sufficient quantity, quality, accessibility and suitability. It sits alongside:

- The Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy which focuses on ensuring that the network of indoor sports facilities in the borough will be of sufficient quantity, quality, accessibility and suitability.
- The Tower Hamlets Green Grid Strategy is an important part of managing open space infrastructure. The green grid approach has been developed in response to the borough's deficiency in open space, and seeks to improve access to existing open spaces and create a network of new, small open spaces and pocket parks. The green grid approach provides the guidance and objectives for improving connections between green spaces to create green corridors across the borough. It informs the justification and allocation of open space contributions to connectivity projects as identified through this particular approach. The diagram below seeks to clarify the relationship between and functions of the green grid approach, the Open Space Strategy and Local Plan policies.
- The Water Space Strategy, which focuses on the borough's canals, rivers and docks, ensuring that they are protected whilst being used to greatest effect for leisure, recreational and transport purposes where appropriate.
- The Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, which will be informed by the strategies mentioned above, will set out a vision for sports and physical

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activity in the borough including the outcomes that we want to improve on, including participation and sports development.

Figure 5: Open space evidence and strategy supporting the Local Plan



Limitations of the Open Space Strategy

It should be noted that the Open Space Strategy has a specific scope and therefore has the following limitations:

- It is not a day-to-day guide to service management and therefore it will not set out policies which are relevant to open space.
- It is not an investment programme and therefore will not set out specific investment projects for the next five to ten years. However, it is envisaged that it will act as a key decision making framework within which investment decisions are made.

The strategy focuses principally on questions of adequate provision and projected demand, and sets the strategic direction for community engagement in relation to improving and maintaining spaces. The strategy does not cover commercial events held in parks and open spaces.

CHAPTER 2: ASSESSMENT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUPPLY

2.1. CHAPTER OVERVIEW

The chapter sets out national and regional guidelines for open space assessments predominantly from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Mayor's London Plan and Open Space Strategy guidance. It then details the approach Tower Hamlets has taken to devising an open space assessment, fit for the local context. The assessment in this chapter focuses on current supply and demand information for open spaces, the quality and value the existing open spaces offer, and projects likely supply and demand for open space in the next fifteen years. The assessment includes all forms of open space, but is particularly focused on publicly accessible open space. On the whole, it is publicly accessible open space which offers *all* residents recreational opportunities. The findings of this assessment will be used to inform local policies on open space. However the open space assessment is not a *definitive* guide to open space in planning policy terms. Planning policy is concerned with all open spaces and therefore has a broader remit than this assessment.

2.2. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GUIDELINES

This section outlines national and regional guidelines for preparing an open space assessment, which informs the assessment.

This section covers the following:

- The National Policy and Planning Framework (NPPF) which sets out the need to assess the quality and quantity of open space.
- The Mayor's London Plan which outlines the need to assess all forms of open space, and to determine whether Londoners are within appropriate walking distances to open spaces.
- The Mayor of London's open space strategy best practice guidance which recommends that all open spaces are identified and categorised, and that an on-site audit of open space is carried out.
- Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance.

The NPPF identifies that Planning Authorities like Tower Hamlets Council should make provision for open space. The NPPF sets out the importance of assessing the quality and quantity of open space to provide evidence for the Local Plan. The NPPF has now replaced the previous national Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), however the PPG notes provide a classification of open space by function which are still useful for open space assessments and are drawn on in the Open Space assessment, as discussed below.

The strategic concern of the Mayor's London Plan is the creation of open space, and the protection of the loss of open space through planning decisions. The London Plan provides guidance for the preparation of the Local Plan including the need to: include policies on protecting open space, identify areas of open space deficiency and plan to meet future open space needs. The guidance requires that local authorities carry out assessments of all forms of open space. The London Plan also focuses on measuring open space provision (and deficiency) by assessing whether people live within the catchment area of open spaces of particular sizes. It provides a classification system for open spaces by size and provides ideal walking distances to those spaces.

The Mayor of London's best practice guidance on producing an open space strategy sets out the need for local authorities to understand the supply and demand of open space and identify open space deficiencies in order to secure new provision and improve existing provision. To understand supply the guidance recommends that local authorities identify all open spaces, categorise all open space by function and size and carry out an on-site audit of open space. It recommends that PPG guidance is followed when looking at the function of open spaces and London Plan is followed when looking at size. Local demand should be established by looking at demographic data and on the basis of local consultation. This chapter will consider demand by looking at population growth. A separate chapter on consultation is being prepared to address local demand in full.

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Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance assists local authorities to plan positively for the provision of outdoor play pitches, an important type of open space. The guidance sets out a step by step approach to developing and delivering playing pitch strategies that cover both grass and artificial provision. The guidance was developed in partnership with the national governing bodies of football, cricket, rugby and hockey. Sport England recommends that local authorities research and evaluate the overall supply of playing pitches, and the overall demand for those facilities that is both realised and latent. Further to this evidence, the guidance recommends local authorities gather the views of local clubs and other facility users in order to inform the quantitative and qualitative analysis. The guidance and its appendices also provide detailed recommendations on best practice for assessing the quality of playing pitches, and the extent to which they are fit for purpose for the sporting disciplines that they serve.

2.3. OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS, CLASSIFICATIONS AND MEASUREMENTS

This section describes the definitions, classifications and measurements used in the assessment, which ensures the strategy meets national and regional guidelines and is appropriate for the local context. It covers:

- A broad definition of open space, used to identify all forms of open spaces, as required by the London Plan, which excludes water space.
- A definition of water space, as required by the London Plan.
- A second definition of open space, to identify publicly accessible open spaces, which form the basis of a quantity and quality assessment.
- The statutory definition of playing fields for the playing pitch element of this strategy.
- Fields in Trust quantity guidelines which have been used to devise a local open space standard to measure open space provision.
- A classification of open spaces by function using the classification set out in the PPG and a classification of open spaces by size using a local typology based on the London Plan hierarchy. Both open space and publicly accessible open space are classified using these typologies.
- London Plan guidelines used to establish catchment areas for parks and identify parts of the borough where residents cannot access open spaces in line with London Plan guidance.

Definition of open space (general)

For the purposes of the Local Plan, open space means *“all land that offers opportunity for play, recreation and sport or is of amenity value, whether in public or private ownership and where public access is unrestricted, partially-restricted or restricted. This includes all open areas consisting of major parks, local parks, gardens, squares, playgrounds, ecological spaces, housing amenity land, playing fields (including playing pitches), allotments and burial grounds, whether or not they are accessible to the public. This definition does not include water bodies.”*

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The Local Plan definition includes spaces whether they are privately or publicly owned, accessible to the public or not with the following exceptions:

- Private residential gardens
- Incidental areas such as shrub beds and verges.

This definition is used when assessing open space. Where an adapted version of this definition is used in the assessment, this is detailed in the methodology sections.

Definition of water space

For the purposes of the Local Plan water space means *“an area of water (permanently or intermittently), and the adjacent land, and includes rivers, canals, docks, basins, ponds and marshland and other water bodies.”*

Definition of publicly accessible open space

The Tower Hamlets Local Plan defines publicly accessible open space as follows: *“Open space will be considered to be publicly accessible, where access for the public is secured by virtue of legal agreements and formal arrangement; whether it is in public or private ownership. Publicly accessible open space will not include areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes, docks or incidental spaces.”*

In contrast to the broader definition of open space, publicly accessible open space only includes open spaces whether they are privately or publicly owned, as long as they are partially or fully accessible to the public.

Therefore, in addition to the exceptions listed in the definition of open spaces, the following types of open space are also excluded:

- Privately owned closed grounds
- Most housing amenity areas. Housing amenity land is mostly excluded because it is not accessible to the wider public. Only housing amenity land which is publicly accessible by virtue of its design and appearance is included.

This definition is used when assessing publicly accessible open space. Where an adapted version of this definition has been used in the assessment, this is detailed in the methodology sections.

Definition of playing fields and playing pitches

Statute and Sport England guidance define playing fields and playing pitches as follows:

Playing pitch – a delineated area which, together with any run off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American

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football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.

Playing field – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch. Sport England's policy is to protect all parts of a playing field, not just those which happen, for the time being, to be laid out as pitches. This is because those other parts of a playing field are a resource which may be needed, now or in the future, and it is important that they be afforded the same protection.

Open Space Standard

Publicly accessible space is assessed against the Open Space Standard devised from the Fields in Trust quantity guidelines for the provision of formal and informal outdoor space. Fields in Trust recommend standards for the amount of open space that should be provided, according to the type of open space.

The Fields in Trust guidance recommends the guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances. The current local open space standard is 1.2 hectares (ha) per 1,000 residents and was initially set in 2005, as part of the development of the first Open Space Strategy. The standard was derived from the existing amount of publicly accessible open space in the borough at the time (2005) and the total resident population. The quantitative assessment of publicly accessible open space and the methodology has remained constant since the first assessment was undertaken in 2005, enabling the Council to monitor open space provision over time.

The local standard is a composite standard that takes into account all types of publicly accessible open space, including publicly accessible play space and space for outdoor sports. This approach reflects the constraints in an inner city high density borough in which all open space needs must be considered in conjunction rather than using separate standards. As set out elsewhere in this document, given the high density and population growth locally, spaces will need to perform a multitude of functions and can not necessarily be delineated in the same way as may be more appropriate for rural or suburban areas.

The Open Space Standard contains provision for play in publicly accessible open space. However, it does not set a play standard for the borough as a whole. While play takes place in publicly accessible spaces, much happens on housing amenity land or other spaces which are not open to the general public.

The Field in Trust guidance recommends the guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances. The current local open space standard is 1.2 hectares (ha) per 1,000 residents and was initially set in 2005, as part of the development of the first Open Space Strategy. The standard was derived from the existing amount of publicly accessible open space in the borough at the

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time (2005) and the total resident population. The quantitative assessment of publicly accessible open space and the methodology has remained constant since the first assessment was undertaken in 2005, enabling the Council to monitor open space provision over time.

Classification of open spaces by function (formerly PPG 17)

The former Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 provides a useful approach to categorising open spaces, based on the primary function of a space. Tower Hamlets use this classification when providing a breakdown of the borough's open spaces. This means the borough's open spaces data is compatible with national data collection and monitoring.

Figure 6: Open Space classification by function, PPG 17 typology

PPG17 Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural green spaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
Outdoor sports facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports.
Amenity green spaces	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
Churchyards and cemeteries	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Civic spaces	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

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Classification of open spaces by size and ideal walking times (London Plan hierarchy and local hierarchy)

The London Plan hierarchy classifies open space by size, as set out in Figure 7 below. As noted in the Mayor of London's open space strategy guidance, in dense urban areas like Tower Hamlets small sites play a vital role in providing access to open spaces. With this in mind, Tower Hamlets has subdivided the small open spaces category to distinguish between small open spaces that are below 1 ha and small open spaces that are above 1 ha. Small open spaces above 1ha are roughly the size of a football pitch and are known as Tower Hamlets local parks. Those below 1ha continue to be known as small open spaces.

The London Plan hierarchy sets out ideal walking distances to open spaces for Londoners. These guidelines can be used to assess whether parts of the borough are not within ideal walking times to open spaces. Tower Hamlets has also set ideal walking times to Tower Hamlets local parks.

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Figure 7: Open space classification by size and expected walking distances: local hierarchy based on the London Plan

Open space classification	Size Guideline	Distances from home
<p>Regional parks Large areas, corridors or networks of open space, the majority of which will be publicly accessible and provide a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. Offer a combination of facilities and features that are unique within London, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.</p>	Over 400 ha	3.2 to 8 km
<p>Metropolitan parks Large areas of open space that provide a similar range of benefits to Regional Parks and offer a combination of facilities at a sub-regional level, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.</p>	60 to 400 ha	3.2 km
<p>District/major parks Large areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits.</p>	20 to 60 ha	1.2 km
<p>Local parks and open spaces Providing for court games, children's play, sitting out areas and nature conservation areas.</p>	2 to 20 ha	400m
<p>Tower Hamlets local park Similar to the small open spaces classification and in addition provides for active recreation. <i>NB: In the original London Plan hierarchy this category is part of the small open spaces category.</i></p>	1 to 2 ha	400m
<p>Small open spaces Gardens, sitting out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas. <i>NB: In the original London Plan hierarchy this category includes open spaces between 0.4 ha to 2 ha.</i></p>	0.4 to 1 ha	Less than 400m
<p>Pocket parks Small areas of open space that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation that sometimes have seating</p>	Under 0.4 ha	Less than 400m

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Open space classification	Size Guideline	Distances from home
and play equipment.		
Linear open spaces Open spaces and towpaths alongside the Thames, canals and other waterways; paths, disused railways; nature conservation areas; and other routes that provide opportunities for informal recreation. Often characterised by features or attractive areas which are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space.	Variable	Wherever feasible

2.4. THE ASSESSMENT

The open space assessment provides the supply analysis of open space in Tower Hamlets and includes some information on demand. The assessment has been organised into four distinct parts with each one assessing a particular aspect of open space provision (and deficiency). A methodology and key findings are provided for each part.

- **Part A is a desktop audit of all open spaces in Tower Hamlets.** This part of the assessment is a comprehensive audit of all open spaces in Tower Hamlets, which is in line with London Plan guidance. It includes new sites which have come forward since the last strategy was prepared.
- **Part B is a quantitative assessment of publicly accessible open spaces.** This part of the assessment identifies the sites in the borough which are publicly accessible and assesses the overall provision of publicly accessible open space against the local open space standard. It is used to identify whether there is a deficiency of publicly accessible open space.
- **Part C maps catchment areas for open spaces in Tower Hamlets.** This part of the assessment identifies the parts of the borough that are within walking distance to parks by drawing catchment areas for parks, based on London Plan guidance. It helps to identify parts of the borough outside of catchment areas, therefore providing further insight into open space deficiency in the borough.
- **Part D is an external assessment of the quality and value of open space sites in Tower Hamlets.** This part of the assessment includes a quality and value assessment, predominantly of publicly accessible open space.

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- **Part E is an external assessment of playing pitches in Tower Hamlets.** This part of the assessment looks specifically at playing pitches, as a type of open space.

PART A: DESKTOP AUDIT OF OPEN SPACE

2.5. METHODOLOGY

A desktop audit has been carried out to identify *open spaces* in the borough, in line with the London Plan definition of open space, set out on page 3, with the following exception: the audit has predominantly focused on publicly accessible housing amenity land because identifying all housing amenity land would be extremely time consuming. The list of housing amenity land included in this audit is therefore not an exhaustive one.

The audit also includes some out of borough spaces that are within a 5 minute walk of the borough boundary, because they provide accessible open spaces to borough residents.

New open spaces delivered in the borough have been identified by thoroughly reviewing the council's planning agreements and other records to identify proposed spaces which have been delivered. Spaces have been identified, reviewed and verified, then plotted on the council's GIS system and then categorised according to their primary function and size.

2.6. FINDINGS

- The Distribution of Open Spaces Map [Map 2] shows all the borough's open space which have been audited.
- 212 open spaces were identified in the audit (both publicly accessible and inaccessible), listed in table 2.3 in the Appendix.
- Maps 3 to 7 show the open spaces in Tower Hamlets and their primary function, according to the former PPG17 typology.
- Figure 8 below provides a breakdown of the 212 open spaces, according to their primary function. It also identifies whether the spaces are owned by Tower Hamlets.

Figure 8: Open spaces by function

Open Space by function (Former PPG17 typology)*³	LBTH owned	Not LBTH owned	Total
Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	1	5	6
Amenity green space	2	21	23
Cemeteries and churchyards	12	8	20
Civic spaces	3	20	23
Green corridors	9	3	12
Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	1	1	2
Outdoor sports facilities	0	7	7
Parks and gardens	82	25	107
Provision for children and teenagers	5	7	12
Total	115	97	212

- Figure 9 below provides a breakdown of the 212 open spaces in Tower Hamlets, according to their size. It also identifies whether the spaces are owned by Tower Hamlets.

³ Sites are categorised by their primary function only. The figures for certain sites, may therefore seem lower than expected. For example, Mudchute Farm is part of the Milwall Park site and has been counted as part of the parks and open spaces category only. It does not appear in the allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms) category, so the number of sites in this category may seem lower than expected.

Figure 9: Open spaces by size

Open Space by size (Local hierarchy based on the London Plan)	LBTH owned	Not LBTH owned	Total
District park	2	0	2
Linear open space	11	19	30
Local park and open space	8	2	10
Metropolitan park	1	0	1
Pocket park	47	50	97
Small open space	31	20	51
Tower Hamlets local park	15	6	21
Total	115	97	212

PART B: QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE SUPPLY OF PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE

2.7. METHODOLOGY

A list of publicly accessible open space in Tower Hamlets has been put together, in line with the definition of publicly accessible open space. The list of publicly accessible open spaces has been sorted to identify their function in line with PPG and size, in line with the local hierarchy.

The total provision of publicly accessible open space has then been calculated by adding up the area of the open spaces in hectares. For the purposes of the open space standard, only publicly accessible open space is included.

2.8. FINDINGS

Current supply of open space

- The provision of publicly accessible open space in Tower Hamlets in 2016/17 is 260.58 ha compared to just under 248ha in 2011. However, it should be noted that while some of this increase has been achieved through new publicly accessible space within development, part of the increase is due to refined methodology. Map 9 identifies the publicly accessible open space in Tower Hamlets.
- As at 2016/17, there was a total of 0.89 ha per 1,000 residents in Tower Hamlets. This is less than the local open space standard of 1.2 ha per 1000 residents.
- A list of all publicly accessible open spaces is provided in table 2.4 in the Appendix. Figure 10 below provides a breakdown of the 172 publicly accessible open spaces identified in the assessment, according to their function. It also identifies the number of sites owned by Tower Hamlets.

Figure 10: Publicly accessible open spaces by function

Publicly accessible open space by function (Former PPG17 typology)	LBTH owned	Not LBTH owned	Total
Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	1	4	5
Amenity green space	2	16	18
Cemeteries and churchyards	12	3	15
Civic spaces	1	8	9
Green corridors	0	1	1
Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	1	1	2
Parks and gardens	82	21	103
Provision for children and teenagers	5	7	12
Grand Total	104	68	172

- Figure 11 below provides a breakdown of the 172 publicly accessible open spaces in Tower Hamlets according to their size, using the London Plan hierarchy with the addition of the Tower Hamlets local park category. It also identifies which are owned and maintained by the council.

Figure 11: Publicly accessible open space by size

Publicly accessible open space (Local hierarchy based on the London Plan)	LBTH owned	Not LBTH owned	Total
District park	2	0	2
Linear open space	0	1	1
Local park and open space	8	1	9
Metropolitan park	1	0	1
Pocket park	47	43	90
Small open space	31	18	49
Tower Hamlets local park	15	5	20
Total	104	68	172

PART C: CATCHMENT AREAS FOR OPEN SPACES IN TOWER HAMLETS

2.9. METHODOLOGY

London Plan guidelines on ideal walking times to open spaces of particular sizes have been used to establish 'catchment areas' for parks above 1ha, parks above 2ha and parks above 20ha in Tower Hamlets.

Catchment areas were mapped in line with London Plan guidelines as follows:

- For parks above 1 ha a catchment area was established by plotting 400 metres or 5 minutes walking distance from each park.
- For parks above 2 ha a catchment area was established by plotting 400 metres or 5 minutes walking distance from each park.
- For parks above 20 ha a catchment area was established by plotting 1.2 kilometre or 15 minutes walking distance from each park.

Parks were mapped in house using GIS software and Ordnance Survey data. Parks were only included if they were publicly accessible. The maps also included parks near to the boroughs boundary in recognition that residents may walk to parks outside of Tower Hamlets. Those within 1.2km of the borough boundary were included, in line with London Plan guidelines.

For each size of park, a map has been created showing catchment areas for 2016 and a separate map showing catchment areas for 2030. The key difference is that the 2030 maps include planned foot bridges, because they can impact on the walking routes pedestrians can take which can change the catchment area of a park.

Catchment areas are shaded pink. Areas outside of the catchment areas (i.e. those not shaded pink) do not have parks within an appropriate walking distance, according to the London Plan.

2.10. FINDINGS

Access to parks 1 ha and above (Tower Hamlets Local Parks)

- Map 10 shows the parts of the borough within the catchment areas of a park above 1 ha, and those outside the catchment area of a park above 1 ha.
- Below are some of the areas of the borough that are within the catchment area of a park above 1 ha:
 - In the western part of the borough, areas such as Wapping, Shadwell and central Bethnal Green.

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- Areas in the central part of the borough such as Stepney Green and Mile End and in the north near Victoria Park.
- In the eastern part of the borough, Poplar.
- In the southern part of the borough, Island Gardens and Milwall.
- Below are some of the areas of the borough outside the catchment area of a park above 1 ha:
 - In the western part of the borough: Whitechapel, Shoreditch, Spitalfields and the northern Bethnal Green area.
 - In the eastern part of the borough, the eastern edge including Bromley by Bow and Blackwall.
 - In the southern part of the borough, the area to the south of Canary Wharf.
- Map 17 shows how catchment areas for existing parks above 1 ha will improve as a result of planned bridges across the borough. The changes are minimal as bridges are mainly proposed along the eastern boundary of the borough, where there is a lack of open space in general and as consequence the impact of bridges is limited.

Access to parks 2 ha and above (Local Parks)

- Map 11 shows the parts of the borough within the catchment area of a park above 2ha, and those outside the catchment area of a park above 2 ha.
- Below are some of the areas within the catchment area of a park above 2ha:
 - In the western part of the borough, the central Bethnal Green area.
 - Areas along the central part of the borough, including Mile End, and in the north near Victoria Park.
 - In the south, the eastern corner of the Isle of Dogs.
- Below are some of the areas outside the catchment area of a park above 2 ha:
 - The western edge of the borough from north to south including Wapping, Whitechapel, Shoreditch, Spitalfields and part of Bethnal Green.
 - The eastern edge of the borough.
 - In the south, Limehouse and the north and south west of the Isle of Dogs.
- Map 18 shows how catchment areas for existing parks above 2 ha will improve as a result of planned bridges across the borough. The changes are minimal as bridges are mainly proposed along the eastern boundary of the borough, where there is a lack of open space in general and as consequence the impact of bridges is limited.

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Access to parks above 20 ha (major parks)

- Map 12 shows the parts of the borough that are within the catchment area of a park above 20ha:
- Below are some of the areas of the borough within the catchment area of a park above 20ha:
 - Areas along the central spine of the borough, particularly the north near Victoria Park.
 - In the south, to the south of the Isle of Dogs.
- Below are some of the areas of the borough outside the catchment area of a park above 20ha:
 - The western quarter of the borough, comprising of areas such as Whitechapel, Shadwell, Wapping, Shoreditch, Spitalfields, northern and western Bethnal Green.
 - A large section in the eastern area around Poplar, Leamouth Peninsula, Aberfeldy, Canary Wharf and west of the Isle of Dogs.
- Map 19 shows how catchment areas for existing parks above 20 ha will improve as a result of planned bridges across the borough. There is only one park in this group in the hierarchy to which access will improve as a result of additional bridges. Residents in Bow will have improved access to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

PART D: EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY AND VALUE

2.11. METHODOLOGY

An external assessment was carried out on sites above 0.2 hectares. Generally, the open space sites that have been assessed for quality and value are publicly accessible open spaces. However, the total number of open spaces assessed for quality and value differs to the number of publicly accessible open spaces identified in the quantitative assessment. This is because:

- There are sites in Tower Hamlets which are not currently publicly accessible, but are expected to become publicly accessible in the future. Some sites of this nature were included in the assessment.
- The contractors were unable to gain access to some sites to carry out an assessment. They were not included in the assessment. For example, outdoor facilities located at schools.
- Finally, for the purposes of carrying out a robust quality and value assessment, the contractors assessed Milwall and Mile End Park in sections which impacts on the total number of sites they recorded in their assessment.

Individual spaces were assessed on eight overarching themes devised from Green Flag criteria (see table 8 below). Against each theme individual spaces were given a score against 'quality' and 'value' criteria. The quality and value criteria used varied according to the type of open space. The Green Flag criteria set a very high benchmark for assessment of open spaces. Sites below this standard may still be of good quality and value but fall short of the "gold standard" set for being awarded a Green Flag.

The scores for quality and value were compared against benchmark standards set for quality and value. Broadly speaking, quality is a measure of the condition of sites and value assesses what is on offer at each site e.g. facilities. Each space was awarded a plus or a minus for quality, depending on whether the space scored above (+) or below (-) the benchmark standard. Each space was also awarded a plus or minus for value, depending on whether the space scored above (+) or below the standard. Benchmarks were set by looking at high quality and high value sites and were designed to be aspirational, yet achievable.

Figure 12: Green Flag criteria: quality and value assessment

<u>Green Flag Theme</u>
A welcoming place: Welcoming, good and safe access, signage, equal access for all
Healthy, safe and secure: Safe equipment and facilities, personal security, dog fouling, appropriate provision of facilities, quality of facilities
Clean and well maintained: Litter and waste management, grounds maintenance and horticulture, building and infrastructure maintenance, equipment maintenance
Sustainability: Environmental sustainability, pesticides, peat use, waste minimisation, arboriculture and woodland management
Conservation and heritage: Conservation of nature features, wild flora and fauna, conservation of landscape features, conservation of buildings and structures
Community involvement: Community involvement in management and development including outreach work, appropriate provision for the community
Marketing: Marketing and promotion, provision of appropriate information, provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information
Management: Implementation of management plan

It should be noted that a comparison cannot be made between the external assessment carried out in 2011 as part of the open space strategy, and the external assessment carried out in 2016. The 2016 audit uses distinct criteria for assessing different types of open space for quality and value. In 2011 all open spaces were assessed using the same criteria for quality and value, regardless of their type. The 2016 approach accounts for the fact that it might be inappropriate to assess whether a range of activities are on offer at a nature reserve as part of assessment of value, but this approach could work for a non-specialist park. The approach taken in 2016 therefore offers a more sophisticated understanding of our parks and open spaces.

192 open spaces in Tower Hamlets were externally assessed to establish the quality and value of each site. Table 2.5 in the Appendix provides a full list of sites that were assessed for their quality and value, and their scores.

2.12. FINDINGS

Quality

- 80 parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets scored above the quality standard, of which 47 are owned by Tower Hamlets, 33 are not owned by Tower Hamlets.

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- 112 parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets scored below the quality standard, of which 73 are owned by Tower Hamlets; 39 are not owned by Tower Hamlets.
- Map 14 identifies parks above and below the quality threshold with their respective catchment areas.
- The table below identifies the sites that scored above the quality standard and below the quality standard, grouped by their function with their owner identified. Of those spaces which were assessed:
 - Most amenity green spaces were not owned by Tower Hamlets, and the majority (13) were considered below standard, with 9 above standard.
 - A high proportion of cemeteries and churchyards were considered below standard (13 out of 18).
 - Most of the civic spaces were not owned by Tower Hamlets, and 7 were above standard and 9 were below standard. .
 - The majority of open spaces were classified as parks and gardens, and the split between those above standard and below standard was roughly 2:3.

Figure 13: Parks and open spaces which are above quality standard (+) and below standard (-), by function

	+	+	+ Total	-	-	- Total	Grand Total
	LBTH owned	Not LBTH owned		LBTH owned	Not LBTH owned		
Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	2	2	4	0	3	3	7
Amenity green space	1	8	9	1	12	13	22
Cemeteries and churchyards	4	1	5	8	5	13	18
Civic spaces	0	7	7	3	6	9	16
Green corridors	5	1	6	4	1	5	11
Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	1	1	2	0	0	0	2
Parks and gardens	32	9	41	54	11	65	106
Provision for children and teenagers	2	4	6	3	1	4	10
Grand Total	47	33	80	73	39	112	192

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- The table below identifies the sites that scored above the quality standard and below the quality standard, grouped by their size with their owner identified.
 - The majority of local parks (7 out of 10) were above standard.
 - The most common size of park and open spaces which were externally assessed were pocket parks. The majority (53 out of 91) were found to be below standard.
 - Just under half of Tower Hamlets Local Parks were above standard (9 out of 19).

Figure 14: Parks and open spaces which are above quality standard (+) and below standard (-) by size

	+		+ Total	-		- Total	Grand Total
	LBTH	Not LBTH owned		LBTH	Not LBTH owned		
District park	2	0	2	5	0	5	7
Linear open space	5	3	8	6	7	13	21
Local park and open space	5	2	7	3	0	3	10
Metropolitan park	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pocket park	17	21	38	30	23	53	91
Small open space	10	5	15	21	7	28	43
Tower Hamlets local park	7	2	9	8	2	10	19
Grand Total	47	33	80	73	39	112	192

Value

- 99 parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets scored above the value standard, of which 55 are owned by Tower Hamlets, 44 are not owned by Tower Hamlets.
- Map 15 identifies parks above and below the value threshold with their respective catchment areas.
- The table below identifies the sites that scored above and below the value standard, grouped by their function with their owner identified:
 - The majority of amenity green spaces that were assessed were not LBTH owned, and scored above the value standard.
 - The majority of cemeteries and churchyards are LBTH owned and scored above standard for value.
 - Around two thirds of parks and open spaces score below standard.

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Figure 15: Parks and open spaces which are above value standard (+) and below value standard (-) by function

	+		+ Total	-		- Total	Grand Total
	LBTH	Not LBTH owned		LBTH	Not LBTH owned		
Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	2	2	4	0	3	3	7
Amenity green space	2	15	17	0	5	5	22
Cemeteries and churchyards	11	3	14	1	3	4	18
Civic spaces	2	13	15	1	0	1	16
Green corridors	6	2	8	3	0	3	11
Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	1	1	2	0	0	0	2
Parks and gardens	30	6	36	56	14	70	106
Provision for children and teenagers	1	2	3	4	3	7	10
Grand Total	55	44	99	65	28	93	192

- The table below identifies the sites that scored above the value standard and below the value standard, grouped by their size with their owner identified.
 - The majority of local parks score above the value standard.
 - Most pocket parks are not owned by LBTH. The majority of pocket parks scored below standard for value.
 - There is roughly an even split between Tower Hamlets local parks which scored above standard and below standard.

Figure 16: Parks and open spaces which are above value standard (+) and below value standard (-) by size

	+		+ Total	-		- Total	Grand Total
	LBTH	Not LBTH owned		LBTH	Not LBTH owned		
District park	4	0	4	3	0	3	7
Linear open space	7	8	15	4	2	6	21
Local park and open space	8	2	10	0	0	0	10
Metropolitan park	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pocket park	10	26	36	37	18	55	91
Small open space	16	6	22	15	6	21	43
Tower Hamlets local park	9	2	11	6	2	8	19
Grand Total	55	44	99	65	28	93	192

PART E: EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF PLAYING PITCHES AND OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

2.13. METHODOLOGY

The Open Space Strategy brings together considerations for open space more generally and outdoor sports facilities specifically in one strategic document. Bringing these aspects together allows different demands on limited open space to be balanced more effectively in a high density borough.

The Strategy is supported by an external assessment of the quality, supply and demand of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities. The assessment has been carried out in partnership with Sport England and relevant sports governing bodies. It follows the principles of stages A to C of Sport England's guidance for the development of playing pitch strategies. These stages relate to the needs assessment only and specifically cover:

- Stage A: prepare and tailor the approach;
- Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision;
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.

Findings, recommendations and actions relating to outdoor sports facilities contained in the Open Space Strategy follow the principles of Stage D of Sport England's guidance (development of the strategy and action plan). This approach is supported by the NPPF and associated guidance which states that planning authorities may refer to Sport England's guidance.

The Strategy covers the following outdoor sports facilities (pitch and non-pitch):

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby union
- Artificial grass pitches (AGP) including use for hockey and third generation (3G) pitches
- Tennis
- Bowls
- Athletics

Tower Hamlets has been split into four distinct areas for the purpose of assessment, aligning to the four sub-areas applied within the Local Plan. Referred to as analysis areas, they are (including current population):

- City Fringe
- Isle of Dogs

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- Lower Lea Valley
- Rest of Borough

The assessment considers three main aspects of the current supply, namely quantity, accessibility and quality. The findings of the current supply assessment are then used, in conjunction with demand information, to determine the extent to which current supply meets demand.

Quantity

All outdoor pitches and sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database and verified using data held by the council and national sports governing bodies.

It is likely there is a level of imported demand and sports teams from outside the study area that use facilities within Tower Hamlets. In addition, it is likely that sports teams from inside Tower Hamlets use facilities outside of the borough. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when producing the assessment, together with any areas close to the borough boundary within 1km where significant sports facilities are present and import/export participation is occurring on a regular basis. The assessment counts individual pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply.

Accessibility

Not all facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of sports facilities also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community access as follows:

- Available for community use and used
- Secured community use
- Available but unused
- No community use
- Disused
- Lapsed

Quality

The capacity for pitches and outdoor sports facilities to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality.

It is not just the quality of the surface itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the surface and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch or facility is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

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The quality of all pitches and facilities has been assessed based on recommended criteria for different facility types. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and facilities, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch or facility. The ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments, users and providers were also consulted with regard to quality.

2.14. FINDINGS

Key Findings

- The majority of sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Tower Hamlets are located in publicly accessible open spaces and cater for matches, training, informal play, and wider use as open space when they are not in sport use. The accessible location of many facilities and their variety of uses as open spaces creates particular challenges when maintaining the quality of playing surfaces.
- Public open space sites that are of the right dimensions to accommodate formal playing pitches or courts whilst retaining space for other open space functions and/or retaining their heritage or biodiversity value already provide at least one pitch.
- There are 22 grass football pitches in adult and youth sizes in the borough. This current supply of football pitches is insufficient to accommodate existing demand for adult and youth football. Pitches are used more intensely than recommended by the Football Association in order to address demand.
- There are 32 third generation artificial grass pitches in the borough, of which one is full sized and FIFA certified, making it suitable for competitive football. The Football Association's training model indicates that the supply of one full sized pitch is insufficient to meet demand.
- There are four non-turf and no natural turf cricket pitches in the borough. This current supply of cricket pitches is insufficient to accommodate existing demand. Pitches are used more intensely than recommended by the England Cricket Board in order to address demand.
- There is only one rugby union pitch in the borough which is insufficient to meet demand. The pitch is subject to more use than recommended by the Rugby Football Union.
- There are three hockey suitable artificial turf pitches in the borough. This current supply is insufficient to meet existing demand from clubs based within the borough.
- Tennis court capacity is sufficient. There are 24 courts currently available for community use.
- There are three bowling greens in Tower Hamlets, which provide more capacity than is currently required. Club numbers at all sites indicate

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that there is spare capacity. At one site the membership is particularly low, indicating that the site may not be sustainable.

- There is one athletics track and field in Tower Hamlets and this is considered sufficient to meet demand.

Football

There are a total of 22 grass football pitches across eight sites in Tower Hamlets, of which all are reported to be available for community use on some level. Seven of the sites are public parks and one is within the boundaries of Mile End Park Leisure Centre. The grass pitch at Mile End Park Leisure Centre also serves as the athletics field. There are no dedicated sites, such as sites owned and managed by clubs. It should be noted that the grass football pitch at Stepney Green Park is only marked during the summer and therefore is unavailable during the traditional winter football season during which the data to inform this section was captured. Although some pitches may not have official recorded training or match use they may serve a wider purpose within the community as public open space.

Figure 17: Grass football pitches by location and size

Analysis Area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
City Fringe	2	-	1	-	-	3
Isle of Dogs	2	3	1	-	2	8
Lower Lea Valley	5	-	1	1	1	8
Rest of Borough	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total	12	3	3	1	3	22

The quality of football pitches has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (as determined by The Football Association) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating of good, standard or poor.

In a densely populated urban area such as Tower Hamlets, open spaces cater for a variety of uses at different times and pitches are predominantly located within parks and open spaces. The dual use as pitches and open recreational space limits the extent to which pitches can be preserved for formal sport use only. This means that the quality of pitches can be adversely affected by casual use. All pitches are frequently used for formal play and demand outstrips supply, meaning pitches can be overused at times. All grass pitches within Tower Hamlets were assessed as being of standard or poor quality. Good ratings are most likely to be achieved at sites, which are dedicated to football only and where access to other users is tightly controlled.

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Figure 18: Grass football pitch quality by pitch size

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	-	5	7
Youth 11v11	-	1	2
Youth 9v9	-	1	2
Mini 7v7	-	-	1
Mini 5v5	-	-	3
Total	-	7	15

Demand for pitches is driven by the number of teams and the number of match equivalent sessions (MES) on a pitch that each team requires to accommodate its competitive play. A total of 110 affiliated teams from 42 clubs are identified as playing matches or training on football pitches within Tower Hamlets. There are ten teams from Tower Hamlets known to be consistently playing home matches on artificial grass pitches, both 3G and sand based.

Figure 19: Breakdown of football teams

Number of teams	Adult		Youth Boys		Youth Girls			Mini Soccer		Total
	Men	Women	11v11	9v9	11v1 1	9v 9	7v7	7v7	5v5	
	41	5	24	17	5	1	-	11	6	110
Total	46		41		6			17		

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be MES but may for example include training sessions and informal use. As a guide, the Football Association has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate.

Figure 20: Football Association guidance for match equivalent sessions

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Total over or under supply of MES is calculated by:

- Establishing the total number of MES required by teams;
- Establishing the total number of MES available based on the number and quality of pitches;

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- Taking into account the number of MES slots which are actually in use against how much they should be used (known as actual spare capacity and overplay).

Figure 21: Current demand for adult 11 v 11 in MES

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total (over) /under supply
City Fringe	(-1)	-	(-1)
Isle of Dogs	-	2	2
Lower Lea Valley	-	10.5	10.5
Rest of Borough	-	1	1
Total	(-1)	12.5	12.5

There is a current adult shortfall totalling 12.5 MES. This equates to seven pitches at standard quality, which would provide 14 MES. MES availability could also be improved by improving the quality of existing pitches, thereby increasing the number of MES they can accommodate per week.

Figure 22: Current demand for youth 11 v 11 in MES

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total (over) /under supply
City Fringe	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	(-2)	2.5	0.5
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	(-2)	2.5	0.5

There is a current youth 11 v 11 shortfall totalling 0.5 MES. This shortfall could be addressed by improving the quality of existing 11 v 11 youth pitches so they can accommodate more MES per week.

Figure 23: Current demand for youth 9 v 9 in MES

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total (over) /under supply
City Fringe	(-0.5)	-	(-0.5)
Isle of Dogs	-	1	1
Lower Lea Valley	-	1	1
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	(-0.5)	2	1.5

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There is a current youth 9 v 9 shortfall totalling 1.5 MES. This shortfall could be addressed by improving the quality of existing 9 v 9 youth pitches so they can accommodate more MES per week.

Mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches in Tower Hamlets are currently played to capacity, with no overplay or actual spare capacity.

Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (3G)

There are 32 third generation artificial grass pitches (AGP) at nine locations in Tower Hamlets. All of these are considered to be accessible for community use. Two are located in schools, 10 in leisure centres, 18 in commercial facilities, one in a youth centre and one in a public park. These 3G pitches are in addition to the sand based artificial pitches identified below in the section relating to hockey.

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are third generation (which is also known as rubber crumb), sand (filled or dressed) and water based. Different artificial surfaces are suitable and mutually exclusive for training and competition for different sports as set out in the table below.

Figure 24: Artificial playing surface suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Third generation (rubber crumb)	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile. Suitable for competitive football play if FIFA certified.
Third generation (rubber crumb)	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for competitive football play if FIFA certified. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Third generation (rubber crumb)	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football at lower league levels if FIFA certified.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey play and football training.
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred competitive hockey surface and suitable for football training.
Water	Water based	Preferred high level competitive hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

Only one of the 3G pitches (at Stepney Green) is full sized and FIFA certified, meaning it is suitable for competitive football match play. There are currently no World Rugby certified 3G surfaces in the borough.

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The quality of 3G pitches has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating of good, standard or poor. The carpet of an AGP is considered to have a recommended lifespan of approximately 10 years. The majority of pitches were assessed as standard quality with only three rated as poor and two as good. Importantly, the full sized pitch suitable for competitive football match play has been assessed as good.

Figure 25: 3G pitch quality by pitch size

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
Short pile 22 x 12	-	1	-	1
Short pile 23 x 18	-	2	-	2
Short pile 24 x 15	-	5	-	5
Short pile 25 x 15	-	8	-	8
Short pile 30 x 20	-	4	1	5
Short pile 33 x 17.5	-	1	-	1
Short pile 36 x 20	-	1	-	1
Short pile 38 x 20	-	1	-	1
Short pile 50 x 30	-	1	2	3
Medium pile 35 x 20	-	2	-	2
Medium pile 40 x 22	-	1	-	1
Medium pile 60 x 40	1	-	-	1
Medium pile 106 x 70 (FIFA certified)	1	-	-	1
Long pile (any size)	-	-	-	0
Total	2	27	3	32

The Football Association considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. 3G pitch use for training can ensure that the use of grass pitches can be reduced to more sustainable levels with an emphasis on match play.

Football Association standards indicate that one full sized AGP can service 42 teams. On the basis there are 110 teams playing competitive football in Tower Hamlets on either natural turf or artificial turf pitches, there is a recommended borough wide need for two to three full sized 3G pitches.

The Football Association model assumes all football teams train on full sized 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand can be accommodated on smaller 3G pitches. Therefore, whilst the model suggests there is a potential shortfall of one to two full sized 3G pitches taking into account existing provision, a more appropriate planning assumption would be a need for one further 3G pitch to meet current demand.

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Cricket

There are four non-turf cricket pitches (NTPs) located across two sites. All NTPs are available for community use with three located at Victoria Park and one at Millwall Park.

There are no natural turf cricket squares in Tower Hamlets. Natural turf pitches are required for competition at higher league levels. Natural turf pitches require higher levels of maintenance and access to them has to be strictly controlled to prevent damage to the playing surface by other casual users. In the context of pitches being located in parks in densely populated areas, this poses particular financial and operational challenges, especially as demand for open space from the wider population continues to grow.

Figure 26: Cricket pitch provision by type and location

Analysis Area	Turf Pitch	Non turf pitch	Total
City Fringe	-	3	3
Isle of Dogs	-	1	1
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	-	4	4

The quality of cricket pitches in Tower Hamlets has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating of good, standard or poor.

In a densely populated urban area such as Tower Hamlets, open spaces cater for a variety of uses at different times and pitches are predominantly located within parks and open spaces, meaning they are subject to official and casual use. The dual use as pitches and open recreational space limits the extent to which pitches can be preserved for formal sport use only. The quality of pitches can be adversely affected by casual use.

The three NTPs at Victoria Park were rated as poor quality and the one at Millwall Park as standard quality. The NTPs at Victoria Park require replacement.

Figure 27: Cricket pitch quality

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Non turf pitch	-	1	3
Total	-	1	3

Demand for pitches is driven by the number of teams and the number of match sessions on a pitch that each team requires to accommodate its play. There are 33 senior men's cricket teams and five junior boys' teams playing

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competitive matches in Tower Hamlets as shown below, totalling 38 affiliated cricket teams. In addition to the above, three senior men's teams are playing their matches outside the borough due to lack of access to a natural turf pitch.

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are traditionally rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square. An NTP is considered able to take 60 matches per season.

Total over or under supply of sessions is calculated by:

- Establishing the total number of sessions required by teams;
- Establishing the total number of sessions available based on the number of pitches;
- Taking into account the number of sessions pitches are actually in use against how much they should be used (known as actual spare capacity and overplay).

Figure 28: Current demand for cricket in match sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total (over) /under supply
City Fringe	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	10	10
Lower Lea Valley	-	108	108
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	-	128	128

There is a current shortfall totalling 128 sessions on NTPs. In addition, a further 23 match sessions per season are exported to natural turf pitches outside the borough. The level of overplay indicates that there is a current shortage of two NTPs.

Rugby Union

There is only one rugby union pitch in Tower Hamlets, located at Millwall Park (Isle of Dogs Analysis Area), which is of senior size and is used by Millwall RFC for all match play. The pitch is also subject to some curricular and extra-curricular use from George Green's School.

The quality of the pitch has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (in line with Rugby Football Union guidance) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating of good, standard or poor.

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In a densely populated urban area such as Tower Hamlets, open spaces cater for a variety of uses at different times and pitches are predominantly located within parks and open spaces. The dual use as pitches and open recreational space limits the extent to which pitches can be preserved for formal sport use only. This means that the quality of pitches can be adversely affected by casual use and wider park use. The pitch quality at Millwall Park is rated as poor.

Demand for pitches is driven by the number of teams and the number of match equivalent sessions (MES) on a pitch that each team requires to accommodate its play. Millwall RFC is the only rugby union club in the borough and has a total of eight teams.

Figure 29: Breakdown of rugby union teams

	Number of rugby union teams				Mini
	Senior		Junior		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	3	1	-	-	4
Total	4		-		4

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. As a guide, the Rugby Football Union has set a standard number of matches that a pitch should be able to accommodate. The number of MES is dependent on a combination of maintenance regime and the drainage system in place. The pitch at Millwall Park is considered to have an MES capacity of 1.5 sessions per week.

Total over or under supply of MES is calculated by:

- Establishing the total number of MES required by teams;
- Establishing the total number of MES available based on the number and quality of pitches;
- Taking into account the number of MES are actually in use against how much they should be used (known as actual spare capacity and overplay).

Figure 30: Current demand for rugby union in MES

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total (over) /under supply
City Fringe	-	-	-
Isle of Dogs	-	7.5	7.5
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	-	-	-
Total	-	7.5	7.5

There is a current shortfall totalling 7.5 MES. This equates to three pitches, assuming a standard level of quality combined with drainage system. MES availability could also be improved by improving the quality of the existing pitch, thereby increasing the number of MES they can accommodate per week. However, overplay would still remain as improvements would only provide an additional 2 MES per week. Additional capacity in the form of more grass or World Rugby compliant 3G pitches would be required to address demand.

Hockey

There are a total of three hockey suitable AGP pitches across three sites in Tower Hamlets, of which all are reported to be available for community use on some level. Two sites are leisure centres and one is a school. Two of the pitches are of a sand dressed surface type and one is of a sand filled type. All of the pitches are floodlit.

Figure 31: Hockey pitches by type and location

Analysis Area	Sand dressed	Sand filled	Total
City Fringe	1	-	1
Isle of Dogs	-	-	-
Lower Lea Valley	-	-	-
Rest of Borough	1	1	2
Total	2	1	3

The quality of hockey pitches has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating of good, standard or poor.

The recently resurfaced pitch at John Orwell Leisure Centre has been graded as standard as has the pitch at St Paul's Way School. The pitch at Mile End Stadium has been graded as poor although this assessment was prior to resurfacing in summer 2017, which will improve its quality rating.

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Demand for pitches is driven by the number of teams and the number of match equivalent sessions (MES) on a pitch that each team requires to accommodate its play. Tower Hamlets has four hockey clubs providing 38 teams using AGPs within the borough.

Figure 32: Breakdown of hockey teams

Name of club	Senior Men	Senior Women	Senior Mixed	Junior Boys	Junior Girls
East London HC	6	7	-	2	2
London Royals HC	-	-	1	-	-
Tower Hamlets HC	1	-	-	-	-
Wapping HC	8	8	2	1	-
Total	15	15	3	3	2

There are a further seven senior men's, four senior women's and two senior mixed teams belonging to clubs in the borough but playing outside the borough, predominantly using the London 2012 legacy facilities at the Lea Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre.

Artificial pitch match equivalent sessions are determined by the times during which league matches take place (peak demand).

Total over or under supply of MES is calculated by:

- Establishing the total number of MES required by teams;
- Establishing the total number of MES available based peak demand periods and the number of pitches;
- Taking into account the number of MES pitches are actually in use against how much they could be used.

Figure 33: Current demand for hockey in MES

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current exported demand	Current total (over) /under supply
City Fringe	-	-	13	13
Isle of Dogs	-	-		
Lower Lea Valley	-	-		
Rest of Borough	-	-		
Total	-	-	13	13

Currently, there is a shortfall of 13 MES, which equates to two pitches, assuming matches are played on both weekend days. Improved weekend access to St Paul's Way School could accommodate some of the displaced demand. In order to meet displaced demand in full, an additional hockey suitable AGP would be required.

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Tennis

There is a total of 47 tennis courts in Tower Hamlets, of which, 23 are unavailable for community use, most of which, are located at school sites. The courts are located across 16 sites including private sports clubs, parks, schools and leisure centres. There are dedicated court sites.

There are 27 floodlit courts in Tower Hamlets (57% of supply) across eight sites. Courts at King Edward VII Memorial Park are currently disused and will be replaced as part of the Thames Tideway Tunnel scheme, which will result in a significant re-design of the entire park.

The majority of courts were assessed as standard quality (34 courts – 72%), whilst the remaining courts were assessed as either good (two courts – 4%) or poor (11 courts – 24%) quality.

Figure 34: Quality of tennis courts

Surface type	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
Macadam	2	23	7	32
Artificial Turf	-	6	-	6
Clay	-	-	-	-
Grass	-	-	-	-
Tarmac	-	5	4	9
Total	2	34	11	47

16 of the 24 courts available for community use are in publicly accessible open spaces. Ten of these are of standard quality, two are of good quality and four are of poor quality. Two of the poor quality courts are subject to replacement as part of the King Edward VII Memorial Park works. Six are located within sports centre. Of these, three are rated poor and the other three as standard. Two are located in a school and are rated as standard.

There are no traditional tennis clubs in Tower Hamlets and as such there is limited competitive tennis. Demand for tennis courts is therefore predominantly focused on casual players and less formal play. There are in excess of 10,000 bookings for tennis courts in parks per year, with further capacity remaining.

Bowls

There are three used natural turf bowling greens in Tower Hamlets. These are located in Victoria Park, Millwall Park and Poplar Recreation Ground. The disused bowling green at King Edward VII Memorial Park will be removed as part of the redesign of the site.

One of the greens was assessed as standard and two as poor quality. Two of the clubs using the greens have reported that maintenance regimes have

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been improved over recent years. All three greens are owned and maintained by the council and clubs pay an annual use fee.

There are four bowling clubs identified in Tower Hamlets, most with multiple teams playing various evenings and afternoons throughout the week. Many clubs, teams and bowlers may play in a number of leagues simultaneously throughout the week and so although there may be a large number of teams many are made up of the same players, thus representing a smaller player base.

Bowling has experienced an overall decline in participation nationally and in most cases the fall in numbers has been attributed to ageing players, with a lack of younger players coming through. Membership numbers for clubs are low and range from 14 to 38.

It is generally considered by Bowls England that a green accommodating fewer than 60 playing members has spare capacity for further play. Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of fewer than 20. Based on current membership numbers of clubs and Bowls England advice, capacity is considered to be in excess of demand.

Athletics

There is one county athletics track with a synthetic surface in Tower Hamlets. It is partially floodlit and located at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium. The track is owned by the council and managed by the council's leisure centre contractor.

The track is rated as standard quality having been refurbished in 2011 in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics and is fully certified by UK Athletics to host high level competition, offering a full range of athletics facilities. The athletics infield also serves as a grass football pitch to meet demand for higher level football league facilities, requiring an enclosed pitch with ancillary stadium facilities. The dual use places limitations on when certain infield sports can take place in order to avoid damage while conversely the use as a football pitch impacts on the quality of the infield for athletics uses.

Victoria Park Harriers and Tower Hamlets Athletics Club is the only club in Tower Hamlets. The club reports to have approximately 270 senior and 310 junior members and has plans to continue to increase these numbers.

Demand for running extends further than athletics tracks and the wider recreational running and fitness market has grown over recent years. A number of new running groups continue to be established. As groups grow, some have begun to offer track training sessions and even branch into track and field competitions.

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England Athletics guidance states that for a running track to be sustainable it should be hosting at least 200 members. The Tower Hamlets track is therefore considered sustainable and capable of meeting current demand, subject to track quality being maintained.

CHAPTER 3: STAKEHOLDER AND RESIDENT CONSULTATION

3.1 CHAPTER OVERVIEW

This chapter presents a summary of resident and stakeholder perspectives on parks and open spaces. It draws on existing consultations, data and intelligence about common issues and complaints, market research and three stakeholder events carried out specifically to help with the development of this strategy. The findings are organised into a section for residents and stakeholders and young people aged 16 and under. Each section lists sources of information and findings. The key findings are summarised below.

3.2 FINDINGS

Adult residents and other stakeholders:

- Resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets is high.
- Parks are frequently used by residents; the most popular reason for visiting parks and open spaces is to spend time with friends and family.
- Residents recognise that parks and open spaces play a valuable role in the lives of Tower Hamlets residents and have a positive impact on the community.
- Some stakeholders would like more open space dedicated to organised sports, while a majority would prefer parks to be primarily a space for relaxation and socialising.
- In addition to the provision of facilities, making parks safe and maintaining parks are viewed as important priorities for adult residents and other stakeholders.

Young people:

- The majority of young people in Tower Hamlets are very satisfied with the parks and open spaces.
- Having places to spend time with friends is a priority for young people in Tower Hamlets. Primary school pupils in Tower Hamlets said having 'more places where I can go to spend time with my friends' would improve their lives more than anything else.
- The top priorities for open spaces for young people were having places for relaxation; sports facilities, and arts and events.
- Safety is a key issue for young people and may impact on whether young people feel able to use parks and open spaces.

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3.3 RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS (AGED 16+)

A range of information has been used to develop a broad understanding of resident and stakeholder perspectives on parks and open spaces. This includes:

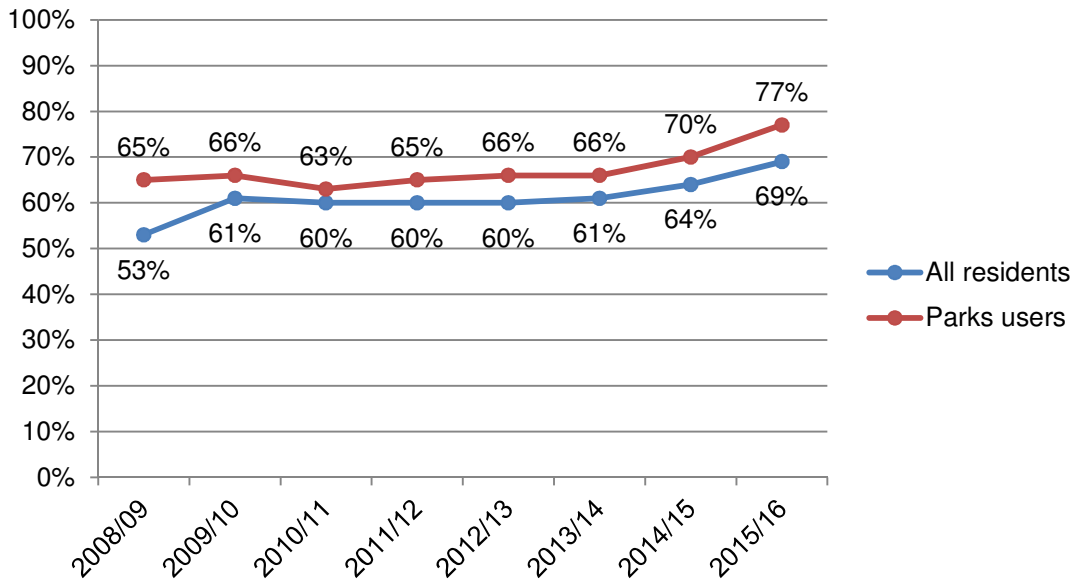
- A representative sample telephone survey of 708 Tower Hamlets residents, weighted to reflect the demographic make up of the population carried out in 2016 to support the development of this strategy (known as the Culture, Leisure and Open Spaces survey (CLOSS), 2016). Detailed results from the survey can be found in the appendix.
- Two park and open spaces stakeholder workshops held in 2016 to support the development of this strategy. Further details can be found in the appendix.
- Enquiries and feedback about parks and open spaces including feedback from 'Find It, Fix It, Love It,' the council's online feedback tool.
- Existing surveys and stakeholder and consultation events:
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation results, January 2016.
 - Local Plan consultation results, December 2016.
 - Community Plan consultation responses, 2015.
 - The Tower Hamlets Annual Resident Survey 2016.
 - Aging Well Strategy Consultation, 2016.
 - Budget consultation 2016 – comprising of a telephone survey of 1065 residents and face-to-face engagement with 200 residents.
 - Individual consultations on parks including the Ford Square / Cavell St redevelopment and the Quietway 6 cycle route consultation.
- A selection of national consultation responses, relevant to parks and open spaces.

In combination, this data shows:

[A] Resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces is high.

Resident satisfaction with parks has been steadily increasing over the last seven years, according to the Tower Hamlets Annual Residents Survey. 69% of residents rated the service as 'good,' 'very good' or 'excellent' in 2015/16, which is an increase of 16 percentage points since 2008/9. Unsurprisingly, residents who are very satisfied with their local open spaces are also frequent users. Satisfaction among users of parks and open spaces was even higher, with 77% of users rating the service as 'good,' 'very good' or 'excellent' in 2015/16.'

Figure 20: Percentage of residents satisfied⁴ with Parks and Open Spaces, according to the Annual Residents Survey



Residents are keen for the positive aspects of parks and open spaces to be recognised. Positive feedback from residents about Tower Hamlets parks and open spaces has been captured via the council’s ‘Find it, Fix it, Love It’ tool with parks and open spaces receiving the highest amount of positive feedback for any category (November 2015 - November 2016). 96 out of the 325 reports for parks and open spaces were giving positive feedback about their features; which equated to 29.5% of the total number of reports. In line with this positive feedback, 88% of residents would recommend a park in Tower Hamlets to a friend (CLOSS, 2016) and Victoria Park, as chosen by the public, has won the People’s Choice Award in 2012, 2014, 2015 and was a joint winner for 2016.

[B] Parks are frequently used by residents, and most often this is to spend time with friends and family.

A significant proportion of residents regularly use parks and open spaces: 71% of residents said they used parks at least once a month and 44% said they use them at least once a week (CLOSS, 2016).

‘Spending time with family and friends’ was the main reason given when residents were asked what their reasons were for visiting parks and open spaces, with the top three reasons among Tower Hamlets residents for visiting parks as follows.

⁴ ‘Satisfied’ means the service was rated good, very good or excellent.

Figure 36: Top three responses to 'Which of the following are your main reasons for visiting a park or open space?' (CLOSS, 2016)

Reason for visiting a park or open space	% of residents
Spending time with family and friends	81%
Relaxation	73%
On route to location / shortcut	70%

[C] Residents recognise that parks and open spaces have a valuable role for individuals and the broader community.

80% of participants in the Budget Consultation 2016 said that they, or a member of their family, used or benefitted from Parks and Open Spaces - the highest response for any of the council services they were asked about.⁵ 70% of residents believe that parks help to bring people of different backgrounds together, according to the culture, leisure and opens spaces survey, 2016.

At the Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation 2016, parks were the second most popular choice for ways residents like to stay healthy.⁶ The results of the Culture, Leisure and Open Spaces survey, 2016 indicate that 83% of residents agree that parks in Tower Hamlets provide them with opportunities to be physically active. 47% actually use it for a fitness activity. These results indicate a gap between the number of residents who recognise that parks provide them with an opportunity to be physically active, and those that take advantage of that opportunity. Accessing parks and open spaces does not appear to be a widespread issue for residents: according to the same survey 93% of residents agree that they can access and use their local park easily.

[D] Residents hold different views on priorities for parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets.

The Culture, Leisure and Open Spaces survey 2016 was used to identify priorities for Tower Hamlets' residents for parks and open spaces:

⁵ Participants were asked "Which of the following, if any, do you or other members of your household use or benefit from?"⁵ Tower Hamlets Budget consultation, 2016.

⁶ Participants were asked "How they would like to stay healthy?" and provided with the following options: Walking; Park; Gym/circuit training; Swimming; Cycling; Yoga/Pilates; Allotment/gardens; Martial arts; Boxing; Indoor golf; Dancing; Jogging; City farms and Hula-hooping. Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation, 2016.

Figure 37: Top three responses to 'Which of the three following are the most important uses of parks and open spaces for you personally?' (CLOSS, 2016)

Priorities for parks and open spaces	% of residents including the topic in their top 3 priorities
Places to sit and relax with friends	74%
Children's play facilities	63%
Making parks safer places	41%
Areas used as sport / playing pitches	36%

Examining segmented groups' responses, a higher ratio of Asian people (76%) responded that children's play facilities are the most important use of the parks (overall 63%, White 56%).

The fourth priority for residents as a whole was using space for sports and playing pitches. Participants in each stakeholder workshop, previous local consultations, the aging well consultation and the youth council consultation were divided over the further development of sports facilities in parks. Some felt that it encouraged anti-social behaviour, whilst others felt it prevented it. There was strong community representation from local cricket clubs at the second parks and open spaces stakeholder event for the creation of a new cricket pitch. There was discussion about finding a successful compromise by limiting the space set asked for sports facilities and ensuring facilities were in keeping with the style of the park'.

Participants at the parks and open spaces workshops said they would welcome more quiet and peaceful areas that allowed them to seek respite away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the park. Play parks were unanimously viewed by participants in each stakeholder workshop, previous local consultations, the aging well consultation and the youth council consultation as being an important facility in any park and felt that it was an important area for further development.

Other high priorities for parks for residents were refreshments and toilets facilities (32%); improving the variety of plants and wildlife (27%) and outdoor gyms (12%) (CLOSS, 2016). The history and culture of parks was considered important by attendees of the parks stakeholder workshops, previous local consultations and especially the aging well consultation. Participants thought more should be done to promote and celebrate this aspect of parks.

[E] Enhancing safety is viewed as a priority for parks and open spaces

Nearly 4 in 10 residents (39%) said that crime was one of their top personal concerns in the Annual Residents Survey 2016, making it the top concern of residents overall. In line with this, the Culture, Leisure and Open Spaces survey identified that 41% of residents think that making parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets safer is a priority. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was

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a prevalent and pervasive concern for participants of each stakeholder workshop, previous local consultations, the aging well consultation and the youth council consultation. Participants at all consultation events thought that ASB led to increases in maintenance costs due to the misuse of play parks and facilities. Limiting opening times in ASB hotspots over the last few years was cited as being a successful measure, but many participants thought that this also hampers the enjoyment of these spaces.

A National study entitled 'Reaping the Rewards of Superdiversity' cited parks as the leading way for people of different backgrounds to integrate more thoroughly; therefore increasing or improving parks and open spaces should lead to more cohesion in the community and reduce the risk of ASB.

Maintenance of parks is viewed as being related to safety, but there are some aspects of maintenance which are distinct from safety so it is considered as a separate point below - the key point from stakeholders was that effective maintenance can help to manage ASB in parks.

Specific issues that arise about safety in parks include cycling. Mixed views were heard at consultation events about recurring operational concerns relating to how parks are managed for different user groups. There was strong advocacy for cycling (because, for example, it's a cost effective way to travel and keep healthy) but also concern that irresponsible cycling endangers the health and safety of others. There was a perception among some in the Aging Well and Youth Council Consultations that dog walking and wildlife habitats in parks could also pose a danger to their health, and some people said that the presence of animals put them off visiting certain areas.

[F] Residents recognise that most open spaces are well maintained

More than three-quarters of residents (78%) think that Tower Hamlets parks and open spaces are well maintained (CLOSS, 2016). However, stakeholder groups identified maintenance as an issue and 32% of the correspondence sent to the Complaints Team is about maintenance of parks (this is the largest category of complaints and enquiries sent to the Complaints Team for Parks – accounting for 72 cases out of a total of 229). Attendees of the stakeholder groups believed that any improvements in parks should accentuate the beauty of it rather than detract from it. Care should be taken in implementing security features that fit in with the overall look of the park. The participants of the stakeholder events and the Ageing well event felt it was important to be involved in the horticultural maintenance parks and open spaces. They felt some decisions around pruning, grass cutting and planting did not consider long term sustainability, the impact on the ecosystem or the growth pattern (such as flowering buds). They wanted to be involved in establishing best practice or undertaking the maintenance themselves.

[G] There is appetite for community management and participation in the development of parks and open spaces

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In general, good communication from the council about parks and open spaces was identified as important by the stakeholder groups. Specific comments from the parks stakeholder groups indicate the importance of the council communicating with residents and other stakeholders in a timely and clear fashion especially regarding decisions impacting parks and open spaces. There was a discussion about the council's transparency regarding income raised from events held in parks, and whether the council could be clearer about how it is re-invested into improving parks. The stakeholder groups thought better transparency in this area could help persuade people of the benefits of holding events in parks.

There is evidence of a wider group of stakeholders wanting a say in council services, and specifically parks. Evidence from the Annual Residents Survey (2016) suggests that there is a mixed view among residents about whether the Council involve residents in decision making (55% felt that the Council does involve residents when making decisions, however 36% disagreed). The results from the Budget Consultation, 2016 found that nearly a third of businesses (31%) would like to be involved in discussions about parks and open spaces.

A popular suggestion for the council to save money, as voted for by residents in the Budget Consultation 2016, was for 'the Council to work with Voluntary and Community Organisations to deliver services'. In line with this appetite, there was support at park stakeholder events for extending the use of 'community management arrangements,' which are understood to be agreements between the Council and community led organisations to undertake tasks within or related to parks and open spaces. This was also a finding from the Community Plan consultation. Feedback from the stakeholder workshops suggested that these arrangements did not have to be overly formal, but they should be clear and appropriate to the group. The top five elements they felt made community arrangements a success were:

- Support from the Council.
- Management Team with the right knowledge and experience.
- A committed team.
- Volunteers with time to give.
- Positive motivation from its members

3.4 YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

A number of sources were drawn on to develop a broad understanding of young people's perspectives on parks and open spaces.

- A stakeholder workshop with members of the Youth Council was held in November 2016 (further details available at the appendix, table 2).
- Existing surveys and local consultation responses were considered:
 - Children and Young People Plan, Needs Assessment
 - Pupil Attitudes Survey, 2013 and 2015

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- National consultation responses were reviewed.

In combination, this data shows:

[A] The majority of young people are satisfied with their parks

Satisfaction with parks and open spaces is relatively high among young people. The majority of pupils (59%) thought that parks and play areas in their local area were 'very good' or 'good.' 15% thought parks and open spaces in their local areas were 'bad' or 'very bad' (Pupil Attitude Survey, 2015). Primary pupils were more likely to say that they thought parks and play areas were 'good' or 'very good' (70%) while secondary pupils were less likely to say so (50%).

[B] And they use them frequently

Young people at school in Tower Hamlets use their local park frequently. 65% of primary school pupils and 59% of secondary school pupils said they had been to a local park or playground in the last four weeks (Pupil Attitude Survey, 2015).

[C] The top priority is to have a free space to socialise

Young people value places where they can socialise. In the Pupil Attitude Survey 2015, almost half (47%) of primary pupils and 43% of secondary pupils said that 'more places where they could go to spend time with their friends' was the thing that would most improve their lives. It was the most common response for primary pupils and the third most common response for secondary pupils.

Parks are likely to be highly valued by young people because they are a place where they can socialise with friends for free. In the 2015 Pupil Attitude Survey, around one in five pupils said that cost was a barrier to taking part in activities. The provision of space to socialise for free is likely to be particularly important for young people who live in urban settings like Tower Hamlets, because of the limited space available. We know from staff feedback that a large number of families in Tower Hamlets live in homes with little or no outside space (The Children and Families Plan, 2016).

Participants in the youth engagement event recognised that there is limited space available in parks and open spaces, and thought the following uses of open spaces were the most important:

- An environment to relax in, benefitting people of all ages
- A space for sports facilities that people can use
- A place for music and arts events

Participants scored the following uses of space as a low priority:

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- Education. Participants commented that they “did not want their park to be a school” and that parks were a place to “relax and get away from it all.”
- Using the space to exercise pets, and to build wildlife habitats were both viewed less positively. Similar objections were put forward for both uses of space. Some participants expressed that they felt intimidated by animals. Others felt that areas should be assigned for both and the limitations be made clear.

The Children and Families Plan states many families have to use public spaces for outside play with children, since space for children to play at home can be limited. It is known that a large number of families live in homes with little or no outside space.

[D] Safety is a significant concern for young people

Safety is a key concern for young people going to school in Tower Hamlets and may be a barrier to play and leisure. 78% of secondary school pupils said they feel quite safe or very safe in the area where they live. However, 16.3% of pupils worry about being a victim of crime (Pupil Attitude Survey, 2015).

Tackling security concerns in parks could help young people feel more able to use parks. Around 1 in 5 (19%) pupils said ‘more help to feel safe at school and in my local area’ was among the top three things that would improve their life (Pupil Attitude survey, 2015). Participants in the youth engagement event noted that security in parks was an issue. The group thought that elements of parks could be abused and that ASB could impact on how much other users of the park were able to enjoy them. The group noted that scooters and bikes could also be a safety hazard.

[E] Anti-social behaviour is an on-going challenge

Groups of young people in Tower Hamlets who socialise in public spaces can face challenges, as staff and resident feedback indicates that some people can perceive groups of young people in a negative light (The Children and Families Plan, 2016).

Participants in the Youth Council discussed feeling intimidated by large groups in parks and recognised that large groups cause problems in parks. As a group they advocated implementing security features to make parks safer.

CHAPTER 4: OPEN SPACE DEMAND IN A CHANGING AND GROWING BOROUGH

PART A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

4.1 METHODOLOGY

For the development of London Plan, the Council uses a bespoke population data set called 'the Local Plan development trajectory and the GLA's online projection model, Witan'. This data set, however, is only available for Tower Hamlets and has limited breakdown by ethnicity, age and other characteristics. In order to gain a wider picture of population make up and change, this chapter also draws on GLA SHLAA and Census 2011 data as well as (for the purpose of the playing pitch needs assessment in particular)

4.2 FINDINGS

- Tower Hamlets has very high population density. The population density of the borough will increase by 25% during the time span of this strategy, making it the most densely populated borough in the country.
- The borough has larger young adult population (20-39 years old, 49%) and relatively smaller over 60 population (7%) compared with the rest of London. The higher proportion of the young adults in the population makeup will continue.
- The borough is, and will continue to be, very diverse. BME groups will continue to make up the majority of the borough residents.
- Deprivation remains an issue in Tower Hamlets: 58% are in the most deprived 20% of LSOAs nationally (*borough rank = 6th highest in England*).
- Health indicators show that there are still gaps between the health of the borough residents and that of the national average. Although that the outdoor physical activities is not the only factor that contribute to the improvement of health, it is widely known that it improves people's physical and mental health. It is also documented that households with the lowest income level are less likely to engage in physical activity.

Population and density profile – now and in the future

Tower Hamlets covers an area of 7.64 square miles (19.78km²), which is one of the smallest among local authorities in England (320th among the 326 districts in England; 28th among 33 London local authorities).

GLA SHLAA-based population projections (2015 round) estimate that the borough's current population in 2016 is 297,805. The population density of the borough in 2016 is 15,056 people/km² which is 2.7 times more than the density of London (5,567 people/km²).

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This highlights the borough's high population density across London, certainly the country. It is projected that the population of Tower Hamlets will have the highest percentage growth (25% increase) in England over 10 years from mid-2014 until mid-2024.

Figure 38: London boroughs population growth, 2016 to 2026⁷

	2016	2026	Projected change over 10 years	Percentage change over 10 years
Tower Hamlets	297,805	364,542	66,737	22%
Barking and Dagenham	205,773	237,246	31,473	15%
Newham	337,378	383,891	46,513	14%
Camden	240,595	257,746	17,151	7%
Islington	228,397	249,273	20,876	9%
Redbridge	301,022	331,290	30,268	10%
Hackney	270,912	306,513	35,601	13%
Kingston upon Thames	173,853	187,901	14,048	8%

The population density of the borough will increase from 15,056 to 18,430 people per km² between today and 2026 (22 %). In 2026, the population density of the borough will be larger than the one of Islington (16,775 people per km²), which suggest that Tower Hamlets is set to become the most densely populated borough across London and the country by 2026.

It is reasonable to assume that the demand for parks and open spaces in the Borough will increase next 10 years and this projected population increase will put further pressure on the parks and open spaces in the borough.

Age profile – now and in the future

Below is the current and future age profile of the Borough's population. The segmented information is useful to analyse the parks and open space demand now and in the future.

The age profile of the borough population indicates that the borough has larger young adult population (20-39 years old, 49%) and relatively smaller over 60 population (7%) compared with London (25%, 16% respectively).

⁷ GLA 2015 round SHLAA-based capped household size model population projections.

Figure 39: Projected population in age in 2016: Tower Hamlets and London⁸

Age	Tower Hamlets	%	London	%
0-9	40,362	14	1,200,875	14
10-19	30,339	10	935,000	11
20-29	77,354	26	1,452,603	17
30-39	69,510	23	1,608,605	18
40-49	34,497	12	1,209,264	14
50-59	21,317	7	979,966	11
60-69	12,679	4	656,919	8
70-79	6,977	2	420,014	5
80-89	4,039	1	229,527	3
90+	732	0	47,979	1
Total	297,805	100	8,750,754	100

The table below shows the projected borough population's age profile in 2016, 2021 and 2026.

Figure 40: Tower Hamlets projected population in age in 2016, 2021 and 2026⁹

Age	2016	%	2021	%	2026	%
0-9	40,362	14	45,011	13	51,295	13
10-19	30,339	10	35,070	10	40,729	11
20-29	77,354	26	80,838	24	85,886	22
30-39	69,510	23	78,968	23	87,749	23
40-49	34,497	12	42,967	13	52,962	14
50-59	21,317	7	25,958	8	31,400	8
60-69	12,679	4	15,418	5	18,960	5
70-79	6,977	2	8,033	2	10,264	3
80-89	4,039	1	4,340	1	4,610	1
90+	732	0	1,097	0	1,485	0
Total	297,805	100	337,701	100	385,339	100

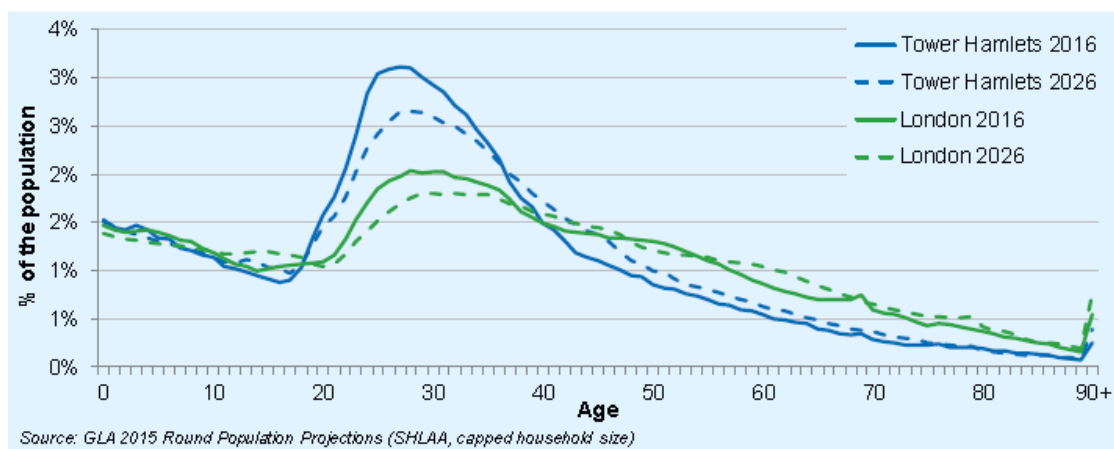
This table suggests that the make-up of these age groups is expected to remain largely unchanged the next 10 years, although the population of each group will increase steadily.

The figure below shows a high proportion of young adults aged 20-40 in the population. It is projected that the higher proportion of the young adults in the population makeup will also continue, although the group would be slightly less dominant in 2026.

⁸ GLA 2015 round SHLAA-based capped household size model population projections.

⁹ Projections were produced using the Local Plan development trajectory and the GLA's online projection model, Witan.

Figure 41: Population projections by single year of age, 2016 and 2026¹⁰



The market research shows that the younger age group use parks and open spaces more (50% of the 16-24 year-old; 46% of 25-34 and 49% of 35-44), compared with the older counterparts. Considering the growing population of the borough, the demand for the parks and open spaces

Ethnicity profile – now and in the future

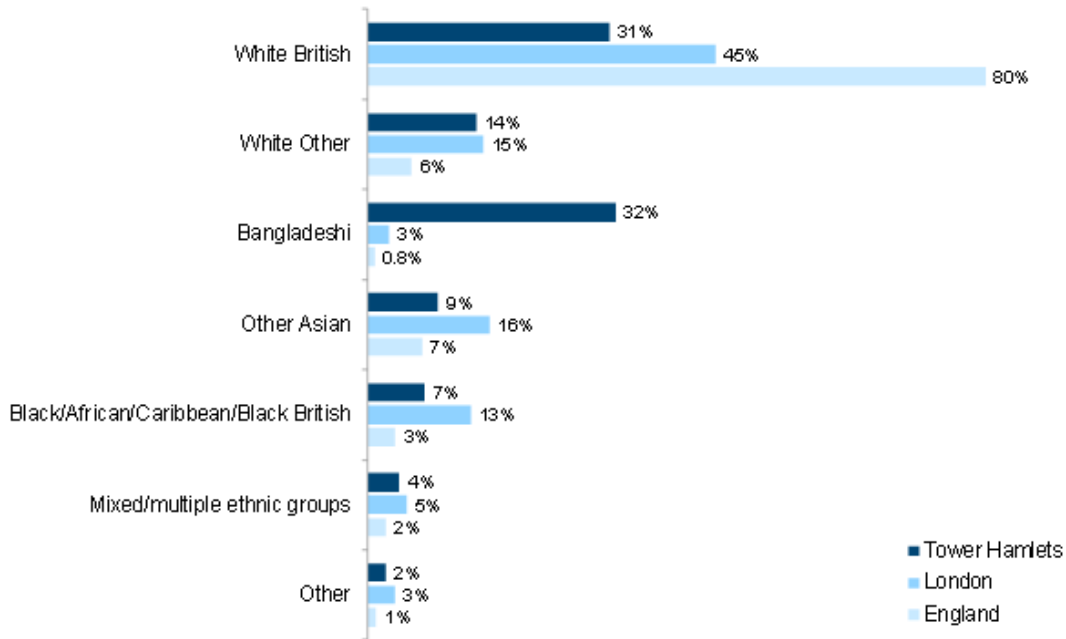
The sections below provide an ethnic breakdown of the borough’s population, now and in the future.

According to the 2011 census, the Bangladeshi community made up 32% of the population of the borough, which was significantly larger than that of London (3%) or England (0.8%). White British comprised 31% of the borough’s population, which was considerably lower than London (45%) and England (80%).

¹⁰ GLA 2015 round SHLAA-based capped household size model population projections.

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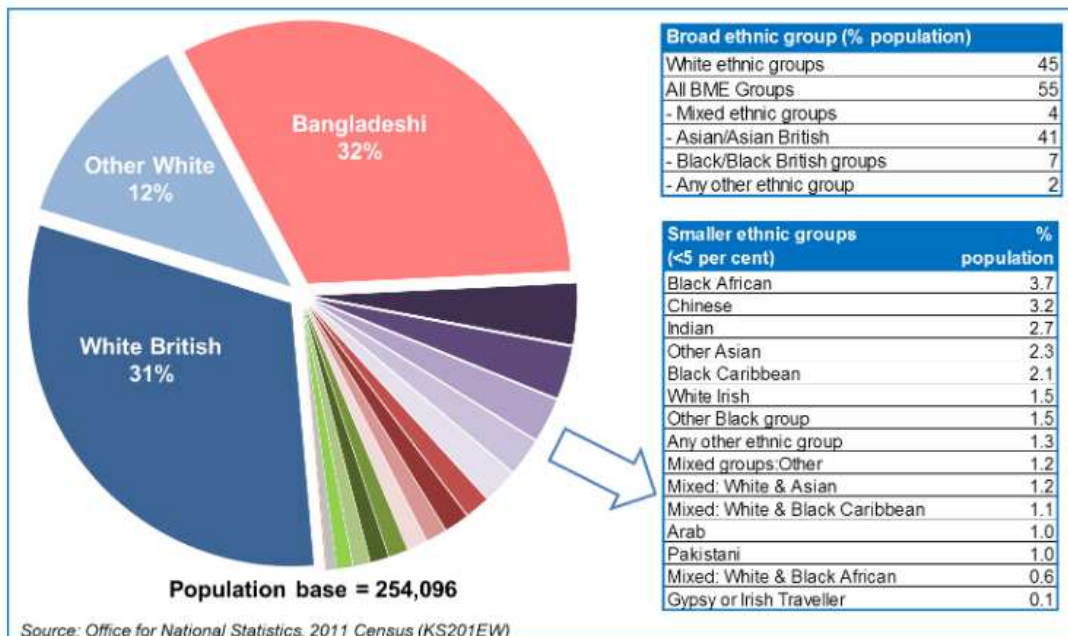
Figure 42: Proportion of the population by ethnic group 2011¹¹



Source: ONS Census 2011

The figure below shows the borough’s diverse population. In addition to the three large groups, in 2011, a number of smaller groups made up about 25% of the population (hyper diversity).

Figure 43: Tower Hamlets population by ethnic group¹²



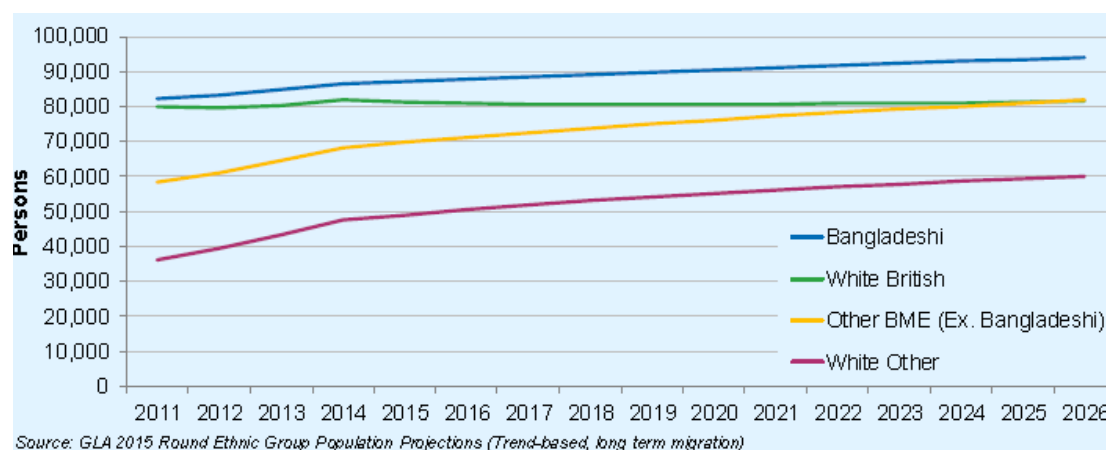
¹¹ Office for National Statistics, Census 2011.

¹² Office for National Statistics, Census 2011.

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GLA projections (illustrated in the figure below) show that the BME groups will continue to make up the majority of the borough residents. The white British population is projected to see the smallest increase, with 1% growth over the period from 2016 until 2026, while the Bangladeshi population is projected to grow by 7%, Other BME (excluding Bangladeshi) will grow by 15%, and the 'white other' by 19%. However, the projections of ethnic groups remain uncertain, partly due to the UK leaving the European Union.

Figure 44: Population projections by ethnic group, 2011 to 2026¹³



Deprivation, health and location

The deprivation level of the borough remains widespread, although it has fewer of the most highly deprived areas in England than earlier.

24% of Tower Hamlets LSOAs¹⁴ are highly deprived and are in the 10% most deprived in England – the borough ranks as 24th highest out of 326 areas in England. However, none of the borough's LSOAs appear in the most severely deprived areas in England (the most deprived 1% of areas) – these areas are all outside London.

Map 1 shows the Index of Multiple Deprivation results in Tower Hamlets by LSOAs. The more deprived areas are shown in darker colour.

¹³ GLA 2015 Round Ethnic Group Population Projections (Trend-based, long term migration)

¹⁴ LSOAs are the small area level within a local authority to measure deprivation across England.

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As the map shows, the most deprived areas – which fall into the most deprived 5% of areas nationally – are mainly clustered in the east of the borough in the Lansbury and Mile End area. The least deprived areas in the borough are mainly in the Isle of Dogs, including the Blackwall and Cubitt Town and Canary Wharf wards, and the riverside areas of St. Katharine's Dock and Wapping.

Green space is linked to greater levels of physical activity and associated health benefits¹⁵. Farrell et al. examined the physical inactivity of England's population by analysing data from the Active People Survey (APS) on over a million individuals. It found that people with the lowest household income were found to be around 30% more likely not to engage in any physical activity whatsoever, whereas those with the highest level of income only had a 10% chance of being completely physically inactive.¹⁶ Panel data also showed inequalities in physical activity levels when measuring local area deprivation.¹⁷ This means that the parks and open spaces contribute to health of the public, but households with the lowest income level are less likely to engage in physical activity, which may lead to poor health.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Summary Document (2015) shows that for 'Healthy life expectancy' (an estimate of how many years residents may live in good health i.e. without disabilities) Tower Hamlets has one of the highest proportion of years spent in disability in the country for both males and females. In 2011-2013, for males, Tower Hamlets ranked lowest (150th of 150) and females 145th across local authorities in England.

Healthy Life expectancy at birth:

- Male: 53.6 years compared to 63.3 years nationally (2011-13)
- Female: 57.1 years compared to 63.9 years nationally (2011-13)

The Census 2011 showed that 13.5% of the Tower Hamlets residents (34,300) stated that they had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day to day activities. This is slightly lower than the regional and national rates (14.1% in London and 17.6% England).

¹⁵ Public Health England (2014) 'Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces', Health Equity Evidence Review 8: September 2014, p. 13.

¹⁶ Farrell L, Hollingsworth B, Propper C, Shields MA. (2013) 'The Socioeconomic Gradient in Physical Inactivity in England. Working Paper No. 13/311': The Centre for Market and Public Organisation, University of Bristol; [Online] <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmppo/publications/papers/2013/wp311.pdf>.

¹⁷ Public Health England (2014) 'Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces', Health Equity Evidence Review 8: September 2014, p. 15.

PART B: FUTURE DEMAND FOR NEW OPEN SPACE, PITCHES AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

4.3 METHODOLOGY

The demographic projections for the borough, together with the extensive catchment area analysis, and an understanding of where in the borough the highest levels of growth are expected has informed Part B of this document. Part B identifies the quantity of open space that will be required and where new open space should be secured as a priority. Part B also uses demand modelling to assess future demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. Finally, Part B sets out some high level principles for the nature and function of future open space based on resident engagement and to harness benefits open for health and well-being.

4.4 FINDINGS

- The greatly increasing demand for land, especially for housing, in recent years has put pressure on the existing parks and open spaces in the borough, which covers a relatively small area.
- Population projections show that more wards will have more pronounced open space deficiency by 2031: only two wards (Mile End and Bow East) are projected to have above 1.2 ha/ 1,000 residents, which is the Tower Hamlets standard.
- Large parts of the borough, where significant population increase is expected, are beyond walking distance (400 m) from parks above 2ha. The following areas will be particularly affected by this: Whitechapel, Fish Island, Bromley-by-Bow, Poplar Riverside and the Isle of Dogs.
- Maps 10 and 11 highlight that some of the most deprived wards, mainly in the Whitechapel area and along the eastern borough boundary, have low levels of accessibility to and quantity of open space whilst also projected to see some of the most intense population growth. These areas also have some of the lowest levels of engagement in physical activity.
- Modelling indicates that existing shortfalls of outdoor provision for football, 3G pitches, cricket, rugby union and hockey will increase as a result of population growth. Existing provision for tennis, bowls and athletics has sufficient capacity to meet future demand.
- Whilst outdoor physical activity is not the only factor that contributes to the improvement of well-being, it is widely known that it improves people's physical and mental health. The provision of parks and open space in the borough can contribute to the improvement of the health of the borough residents. Provision of playing pitches may contribute to this.
- Evidence indicates, that relaxing and spending time with friends and families, including children, are the most important use of the parks and it is likely to remain so.

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Future quantitative demand for publicly accessible open space

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the anticipated demand for publicly accessible open space based on projected population growth, using the local 1.2ha/1,000 residents open space standard. The table shows that based on population growth, the open space deficit will continue to grow if the current amount of open space in the borough stays the same.

There is limited scope to provide additional open space and it will be important to protect existing provision through effective Local Plan policies. The increasing demand on existing space also points to the need for more robust design and management approaches to ensure that higher levels of use can be sustained on sites.

Figure 45: Future demand for open space (2016/17 to 2030/31)

Year	Provision: No. of Hectares	Projected Population	Demand (Hectares)	Deficit / Surplus	Deficit / Surplus (% of Provision)
2016/17	260.58	297.800	357.37	-96.78	-37.14
2020/21	260.58	325.100	390.93	-129.54	-49.71
2025/26	260.58	383.100	459.68	-199.1	-76.4
2030/31	260.58	388.600	466.38	-205.79	-78.97

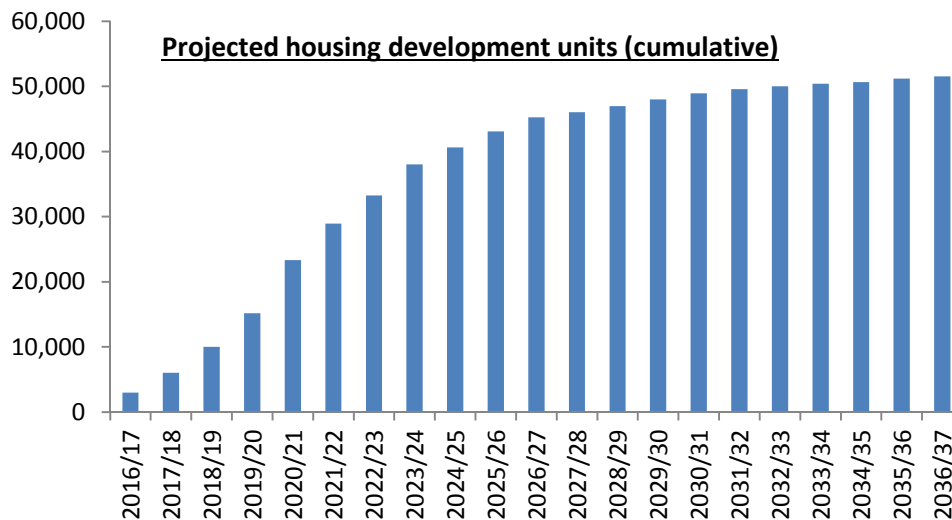
Future locality demand for publicly accessible open space

The projected housing development is expected to be the major driver of the borough's future population increase. As the graph below shows, about 45,000 housing units are planned to be developed in the borough during the period between 2016/17 and 2026/27 and this rises further to 49,000 by 2030/31.

Figure 46: Projected housing development units (cumulative)¹⁸

¹⁸ Projections were produced using the Local Plan development trajectory and the GLA's online projection model, Witan.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

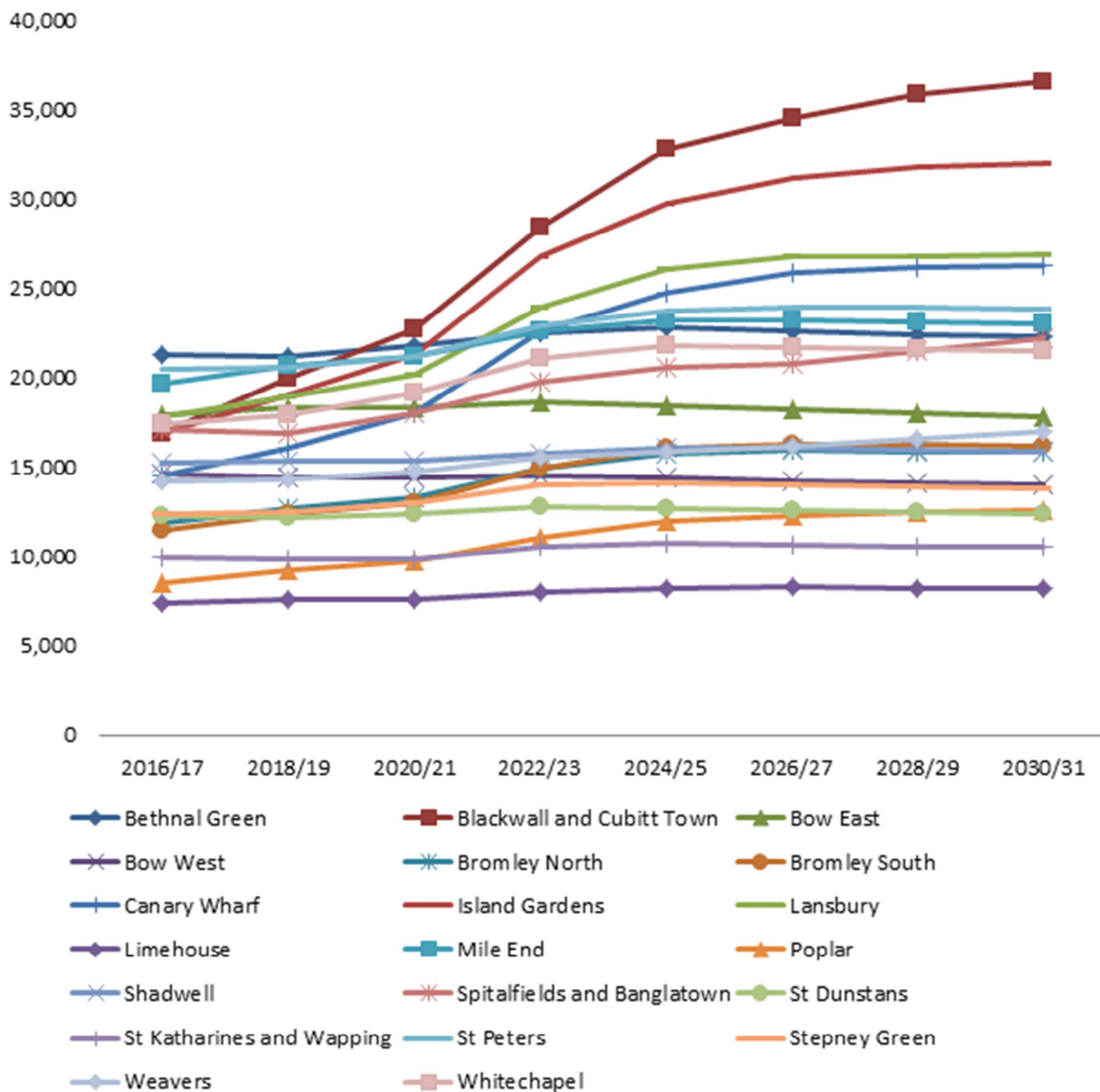


The graph below shows the projected population growth to 2030/31 by ward. The trend, while easing off towards the mid-2020s, is set to continue along the same pattern. It should be noted that projections for Bow East ward do not include projected housing growth in the area covered by the London Legacy Development Corporation. Therefore, the projected population illustrated below is likely to increase in this ward as well. In addition, due to changes to ward boundaries, data for Island Gardens ward is likely to be over-projecting population growth and open space deficiency levels are in reality likely to remain low.

Figure 47: Population projections by wards¹⁹

¹⁹ Projections were produced using the Local Plan development trajectory and the GLA's online projection model, Witan.

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There is no up to date data and information on the resident composition for the new housing development.²⁰ It is therefore not possible to consider how current open space usage by different groups might influence usage patterns in the future as the population changes as well as grows.

Map 11 indicates five minutes walking distance (400m) from all parks above 2 ha in Tower Hamlets. The map shows that the area where a park over 2 ha is located within 400m is fairly limited. The areas that are beyond five minutes distance from parks above 2ha are found in the following localities. Areas shown in bold are expected to see particular high levels of population growth. Smaller parks and open spaces in these wards may have more users too. It is expected that more people in these areas, in particular, need to travel far to access parks over 2ha, unless additional open space between 1ha and 2ha is created.

²⁰ For example, it has been reported that there are many 'buy to leave' (purchase a property, but no one reside) properties in London. See <https://www.ft.com/content/6954f798-cb2c-11e5-a8ef-ea66e967dd44>

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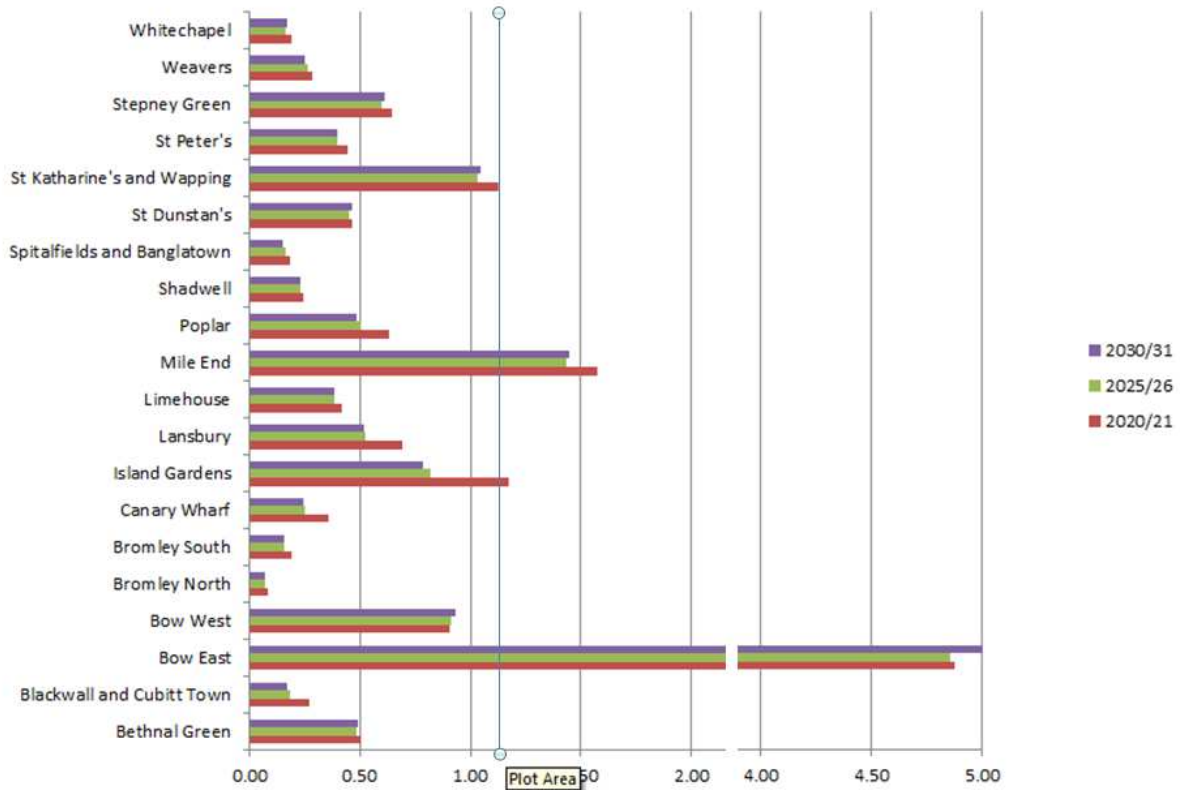
- **Whitechapel**
- Aldgate
- Shadwell
- Shoreditch/Spitalfields
- North Bethnal Green
- **Fish Island**
- Bow
- **Bromley-by-Bow**
- **Poplar Riverside**
- **North and South-West of the Isle of Dogs.**

Map 12 shows 15 minutes walking distance (1.2km) from major marks. It highlights that the west of the borough, including the Whitechapel ward, and large parts of the Blackwall and Cubitt Town and Canary Wharf wards are beyond 15 minutes walking distance from major marks. This also indicates increased strain on the smaller parks and open spaces in these wards.

There is also a possibility that residents are willing to travel more than 5 minutes or 15 minutes to access parks and open spaces using improved transport links, including the bike-sharing scheme and it is impossible to anticipate exact needs for parks in each ward.

Some areas will experience higher levels of population growth than others, many of which already have insufficient access to open space. The graph below shows the current and projected levels of open space deficiency today, in 2020/21, 2025/26 and 2030/31.

Figure 48: Projected levels of open space deficiency by ward



The Tower Hamlets quantity standard for access to open spaces is 1.2 ha/ 1000 people. Wards that are projected to be above this threshold are – for the purpose of this strategy – defined as having ‘no deficiency’ in quantitative terms but may still include areas that are outside catchment areas of an open space. Degrees of future deficiency will vary across the wards and are categorised as follows:

- High level of deficiency between ≤ 0.5 ha/ 1,000 residents
- Moderate level of deficiency between >0.5 ha and ≤ 1 ha/ 1,000 residents
- Low level of deficiency between > 1 ha and ≥ 1.2 ha / 1,000 residents

Priority locations for securing new publicly accessible open space (strategic new open space)

Given the density of the borough and the proposed level of development, there is limited scope to create new publicly accessible open space through direct council delivery. As a consequence, the council will seek new open space through the planning process.

Based on the quantitative projections above together with an analysis of catchment areas and lines of severance, the following table provides an overview of all wards in the borough, their projected level of open space deficiency and proposed measures to mitigate the situation.

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Specifically, the mitigation distinguishes between (a) areas of search for new strategic open space (1ha and above) in the wards of highest need and (b) wider measures to provide a well-connected network of smaller open spaces across the borough. Areas of search for new strategic open space will inform the site allocations element of the emerging Local Plan.

It is expected that new publicly accessible open space will be owned and maintained by the respective land owners, with public access to the space secured through legal agreements as part of the planning process. Such an approach will secure new publicly accessible open space whilst recognising the council's financial position in years to come. Legal agreements will be required to secure the widest possible access to these new spaces.

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Figure 49: Projected open space deficiency, catchment areas and proposed measures (by ward)

Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
Whitechapel	High	Mostly out of catchment area	No	<p>Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy</p> <p>Green spine as part of Whitechapel Vision</p>	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites	<p>Along Green Grid</p> <p>Along green spine identified in Whitechapel Vision</p>	Improved connectivity to existing sites	<p>Green Grid Strategy</p> <p>Whitechapel Vision</p>
Weavers	High	Mostly out of catchment area	No	Tower Hamlets Local Park	Provide active recreation space on border of Spitalfields & Banglatown to	Bishops Gate Goodsyard to provide coverage for Spitalfields & Banglatown and	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Local Plan Site Allocation

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
					overcome lack of access for both Places	Weavers		
Stepney Green	Moderate	Mostly within catchment area	No	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy
St Peter's	High	Northern half of ward out of catchment area	Yes	Tower Hamlets Local Park	Provide active recreation space for residents limited by strong lines of severance	Oval and Marian Place Gasworks site	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Local Plan Site Allocation
St Katharine's & Wapping	Low	Southwest of ward out of catchment area	Yes	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites with the exception	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
					of new pocket parks within London Dock site.			
St Dunstan's	High	Mostly within catchment area	No	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy
Spitalfields & Banglatown	High	South and west of ward out of catchment area	No	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy
Shadwell	High	North of ward out of catchment area	Yes	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
					create new space within development sites.			
Poplar	High	Western and eastern edge of ward out of catchment area	Yes	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy Tower Hamlets Local Park	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites. Provide active recreation space for residents limited by strong lines of severance	Along Green Grid As part of Robin Hood Gardens/ Blackwall Reach regeneration project	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy Local Plan Site Allocation
Mile End	No deficiency	Fully within catchment area	Yes	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
					within development sites.			
Limehouse	High	Mostly within catchment area	Yes	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy
Lansbury	Moderate	Area to the east of the A12 out of catchment area	Yes	Tower Hamlets Local Park	Provide active recreation space for significant new community east of A12	Leven Road gasholder site to provide best coverage for existing and new communities east of the A12 and north of the A13	Improved connectivity north-south as part of the Lea River Park	Local Plan Site Allocation
Island	Low ²¹	West of the	Yes	Pocket park	Provide	Along Green Grid	Improved	Green Grid

²¹ Due to changes to ward boundaries, population information for Island Gardens ward is likely to be over-projecting population growth and open space deficiency levels are likely to remain low.

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
Gardens		ward out of catchment area		through Green Grid Strategy	connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.		connectivity to existing sites	Strategy
Canary Wharf	High	Northwest, central area along Marshwall and southeast out of catchment area. However, northwest is largely commercial.	Yes	Tower Hamlets Local Park Small open space x 1	Provide active recreation space for significant new communities on a site with strong lines of severance.	Tower Hamlets Local Park at Aspen Way site to provide catchment in Canary Wharf ward as well as Blackwall & Cubitt Town ward. Small open space at Westferry Printworks site.	Improved connectivity to existing sites in line with emerging Isle of Dogs Opportunity Area Planning Framework.	Local Plan Site Allocation Local Plan Site Allocation
Bromley South	High	Mostly out of catchment	Yes	Tower Hamlets Local Park	Provide active recreation space for significant new	On the eastern perimeter of the Bow Common	Improved connectivity to existing	Local Plan Site Allocation

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
		area			communities on a site with strong lines of severance.	Lane gasworks site to provide access for communities in the east of the ward	sites across the A12 and into the Lea River Park.	
Bromley North	High	Western and parts of eastern areas of the ward are within catchment area.	Yes	Pocket park through LLDC Local Plan	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.		Improved connectivity to existing sites to the east of the River Lea through new bridges.	LLDC Local Plan
Bow West	Moderate	South-eastern area of the ward is out of catchment area.	Yes	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.	Along Green Grid	improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
Bow East	No deficiency	Eastern area and part of the southern areas is out of catchment area.	Yes	Small open space Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide active recreation space for significant new communities on a site with strong lines of severance. Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.	Fish Island West of the A12	Improved connectivity to existing sites though additional bridges into Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	LLDC Local Plan Green Grid Strategy
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	High	Mostly outside catchment area	Yes	2 x Tower Hamlets Local Park	Provide active recreation space for significant new communities on a site with strong	Tower Hamlets Local Park on eastern end of Wood Wharf site.	Improved connectivity to existing sites in line with	Local Plan Site Allocation

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Ward	Projected open space issues			Strategic response				Delivery mechanism
	Projected deficiency in 2031 (ha per 1,000 people)	Catchment for access to Local Parks as per London Plan	Very strong lines of severance	Proposed typology of new space	Rationale & purpose	Location within ward	Other measures to provide accessibility to open space	
				Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	lines of severance.	Tower Hamlets Local Park near junction of Marshwall and Limeharbour to ensure maximum catchment for area east of the dock. London City Island site	emerging Isle of Dogs Opportunity Area Planning Framework.	Green Grid Strategy
Bethnal Green	High	Area north of A11is outside catchment area.	No	Pocket park through Green Grid Strategy	Provide connectivity to existing spaces, limited ability to create new space within development sites.	Along Green Grid	Improved connectivity to existing sites	Green Grid Strategy

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Future qualitative demand for new publicly accessible open space

New open space will need to be able to meet the demands from a rapidly growing population in a high density urban environment. In the context of an inner London borough as Tower Hamlets, the pressure on land is very high and securing new open space will need to be considered alongside securing other essential infrastructure such as schools or health facilities. The sites and locations identified in the table above have informed the site allocations process in the Local Plan. They provide some mitigation in quantitative terms and ensure that areas which are outside the catchment area of larger parks are considered as a priority for new publicly accessible open space.

As the population rises, these new spaces will need to function more effectively in order to address the needs of people living in a high density area. Levels of physical activity in Tower Hamlets remain comparatively low and some of the areas of greatest open space deficiency (especially in the east of the borough) also have the lowest levels of physical activity.

New open space will need to support physical activity and active play whilst also addressing issues around flood mitigation and air pollution. The design of publicly accessible areas of open space secured through the planning process has tended to focus on piazzas, squares and other spaces that are less likely to encourage active recreation and play. The new Local Plan therefore contains high level principles for the design of on-site publicly accessible open space with a strong emphasis on soft landscaped spaces that encourage play, physical activity and interaction. Specifically, the Local Plan should consider requiring that new on-site publicly accessible open space should:

- a. be of a high quality and provide facilities to promote active recreation and healthy lifestyles;
- b. be well-connected to other open spaces in accordance with the Council's Green Grid Strategy and Open Space Strategy; and
- c. enhance biodiversity, contributing to the objectives identified in the Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Future demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities

The tables and narrative below provide a detailed breakdown of the anticipated demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities based on projected population growth, using demand modelling tools and guidance developed by Sport England and national governing bodies for specific sports.

Based on population growth, existing shortages of pitches and outdoor sports facilities will continue to grow and new shortages will arise if the current amount of provision remains the same and use is not intensified whilst being managed to maintain quality.

There is limited scope to provide additional playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and it will be important to protect existing provision through effective Local Plan policies.

Football

Figure 50: Future demand for adult 11 v 11 in MES

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	(-1)	6.5	5.5	4.5
Isle of Dogs	2			
Lower Lea Valley	10.5			
Rest of Borough	1			
Total	12.5	19	18	17

The current adult shortfall totalling 12.5 MES is projected to rise to 19 MES in 2021 before falling slightly to 17 MES in 2031. This equates to nine pitches at standard quality, which would provide 18 MES. Consideration could be given to the conversion of some existing grass pitch capacity to artificial grass pitches. It may also be appropriate to ensure that pitch provision is taken into account when re-designing and masterplanning existing larger open spaces in the borough.

Figure 51: Future demand for youth 11 v 11 in MES

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	-	8.5	11.5	10
Isle of Dogs	0.5			
Lower Lea Valley	-			
Rest of Borough	-			
Total	0.5	9	12	10.5

The current youth 11 v 11 shortfall totalling 0.5 MES is projected to rise to 9 MES in 2021 before rising to 10.5 MES in 2031. This equates to five standard quality pitches. This shortfall could be addressed in part by improving the quality of existing 11 v 11 youth pitches. In addition, the same considerations as for adult 11 v 11 pitches could be considered.

Figure 52: Future demand for youth 9 v 9 in MES

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	(0.5)	3.5	4	4
Isle of Dogs	1			
Lower Lea Valley	1			
Rest of Borough	-			
Total	1.5	5	5.5	5.5

The current youth 9 v 9 shortfall totalling 1.5 MES is expected to rise to 5 MES in 2021 and 5.5 MES in 2031. Half of this shortfall could be met by improving the quality of existing pitches. In addition, the same considerations as for adult 9 v 9 pitches could be considered.

Figure 53: Future demand for mini 7 v 7 in MES

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	-	1.5	1.5	2
Isle of Dogs	-			
Lower Lea Valley	-			
Rest of Borough	-			
Total	-	1.5	1.5	2

While there is no current shortfall for Mini 7 v 7 pitches, projections indicate a shortfall of 2 MES by 2031. This shortfall could be addressed by improving the quality of the existing Mini 7 v 7 pitch so it can accommodate the additional demand.

Figure 54: Future demand for mini 5 v 5 in MES

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	-	4.5	5	5
Isle of Dogs	-			
Lower Lea Valley	-			
Rest of Borough	-			
Total	-	4.5	5	5

While there is no current shortfall for Mini 5 v 5 pitches, projections indicate a shortfall of 5 MES by 2031. Some of this shortfall could be addressed by improving the quality of the existing Mini 5 v 5 pitch so it can accommodate additional play. In addition, it may be appropriate to consider the provision of a further Mini 5 v 5 pitch at an existing site. The relatively small size of such a pitch may make this a viable option to be considered when re-designing sites.

Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (3G)

The Football Association training model has indicated that there is a current shortfall of one additional full sized FIFA certified 3G pitch to accommodate training demand. Team numbers are expected to rise from 110 teams in 2016 to 128 teams by 2031. As the current shortfall of one pitch assumes that some training can take place on smaller pitches, use of these smaller pitches is also expected to increase meaning that the shortfall of full sized 3G pitches may increase to two by 2013. As outlined above in relation to grass pitches, it may be appropriate to consider the conversion of some grass pitch capacity to 3G in order to provide additional training capacity and reducing pressure on the remaining grass pitches from training use. Importantly, consideration should be given to 3G surface types that can cater for the widest variety of sport at competitive level (i.e. football and rugby). The conversion of existing sand based artificial pitches should be

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avoided as they are required to meet demand for hockey, which cannot be played on 3G surfaces.

Cricket

Figure 55: Future demand for cricket in match sessions

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	-	66	66	88
Isle of Dogs	10			
Lower Lea Valley	-			
Rest of Borough	108			
Total	128	194	194	216

The current shortfall totalling 128 sessions on NTPs is expected to rise to 216 sessions by 2031 based on an additional projected 8 teams requiring 11 sessions each. This indicates a projected shortfall of three to four NTPs by 2031. It may be appropriate to consider potential locations for additional NTPs as part of the re-design of sites. However, given the size requirements for cricket and the small number of larger open spaces in Tower Hamlets, this may prove particularly challenging.

Rugby

Figure 56: Future demand for rugby union in MES

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	-	0.25	0.5	0.5
Isle of Dogs	7.5			
Lower Lea Valley	-			
Rest of Borough	-			
Total	7.5	7.75	8	8

The current shortfall totalling 7.5 MES is expected to remain stable and only rise marginally to 8 MES by 2031. This equates to three pitches, assuming a standard level of quality combined with drainage system. It may be appropriate to consider the conversion of some grass pitch capacity to 3G as set out above in the section dedicated to 3G pitches.

Hockey

Figure 57: Future demand for hockey in MES

Analysis area	Current total demand 2017	Projected total demand 2021	Projected total demand 2026	Projected total demand 2031
City Fringe	13	3	3.5	3.5
Isle of Dogs				
Lower Lea Valley				
Rest of Borough				
Total	13	16	16.5	16.5

The current shortfall of 13 MES, is expected to increase to 16.5 MES by 2031 assuming that projected additional teams require 0.5 MES per week. This equates to two hockey suitable artificial grass pitches. Some of this shortfall could be addressed by significantly improving access to St Paul’s Way School on weekend for match play.

Given the current shortfall of hockey suitable pitches to accommodate current and future hockey demand, all three full sized sand based pitches should be protected and retained as hockey suitable surfaces as conversion of one or more to 3G would have a detrimental impact on hockey in the borough.

Tennis

Tennis court provision currently exceeds demand and has spare capacity at present. Should demand increase such that additional capacity beyond that already planned as part of the redevelopment of King Edward VII Memorial Park is required, consideration should primarily be given to improving access to the substantial number of courts currently not available for community use.

Bowls

All three bowling greens have current substantial spare capacity. Given the national trend of declining participation in bowling alongside the demographic makeup of the population, there is no expected future shortfall. Based on Bowls England’s guidance on the sustainability of bowling greens when membership falls below certain levels, it may be appropriate to consider reconfiguring existing provision in order to improve sustainability and free up limited open space land for other outdoor sports uses with rapidly rising demand.

Athletics

It is likely that demand for use of athletics tracks may increase in the future, either through an increase in participation at athletics clubs or a continued increase in the number of increasingly popular running clubs and groups which may seek track time for more structured sessions. However, based on current usage levels and UK Athletics’ strategy, it is expected that current capacity at Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium is sufficient

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to meet future demand. The track should therefore be retained and protected, with priority focused on ensuring that quality is sustained and improved to continue accommodating demand.

PART C: NEW APPROACHES TO IMPROVING EXISTING OPEN SPACE

4.5 THE NEED FOR NEW APPROACHES

Periods of rapid change and financial restraints, such as now, present challenges as well as opportunities. A good starting point for understanding the implications of the analysis above is to recognise the strong foundations on which the council can shape future open space priorities. The residents of Tower Hamlets overwhelmingly appreciate their open spaces. They are used for a multitude of activities such as socialisation, family time, active recreation and cultural events – all activities that contribute to healthy and productive communities.

Pressure for more residential development continues to be high and there is limited scope to provide new open space in the borough. Therefore, in addition to securing new open space through the planning process, it becomes increasingly important to make sure that existing spaces can accommodate increased usage and investment is targeted to achieve the greatest impact.

4.6 PRIORITISING RESOURCES

As outlined in Part D of Chapter 2, the quality and value of open space varies across the borough. Value, in simple terms, refers to how much there is to do at a site, i.e. the variety of activities a site supports through its design and facilities.

Quality, in simple terms, refers to the how good the facilities and design are. If a site has a high value score but a lower quality score, the site already has the capability to support a wide variety of activities but could work better with investment to improve the quality. If a site has a lower value score, it is likely to be more expensive to increase the score as entirely new facilities would need to be created. It may also not always be appropriate or possible to provide additional facilities. For example, a site may be very small, or have historic or biodiversity value.

Resources for capital investment in parks and open spaces will continue to be limited and it will be important to invest strategically to achieve the greatest level of return on investment from available resource.

The Strategy is therefore setting high level principles for making future investment decisions. These principles will need to be developed into a more prioritisation process.

The following principles should be applied in sequence as a two stage process to prioritise investment in open spaces in Tower Hamlets. The principles associated with the first stage are designed to focus investment on areas of greatest need in the borough. The principles associated with the second stage are designed to select specific sites for investment within the areas identified at the first stage.

However, the principles can be used separately where it is not possible to apply both stages. For example, in cases where investment is already earmarked for a specific area, only the site test may be relevant. This could apply if legal agreements associated with

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developer contributions restrict expenditure to certain locations or if a masterplan requires specific infrastructure.

The principles cannot be applied in isolation and all investment decisions, whilst driven by the principles, will also need to consider the wider context of investment. It may, for example, be necessary to invest in a site which does not meet all the criteria but which may offer significant revenue savings from capital investment. Similarly, it may be beneficial for the council to invest in a site if doing so levers significant external investment into the site.

Stage 1: Identifying areas of the borough which would benefit from investment in open space	
<i>Principle</i>	<i>Rationale</i>
1a. Does the area have poor access to open space, specifically, is pedestrian access to open spaces poor? (catchment)	In a dense urban setting like Tower Hamlets small areas of open space play an important role in providing access to open space. Tackling poor access (through investment in smaller sites to provide high quality neighbourhood sites and through investment in connectivity) will need to take place alongside efforts to secure new space in areas of deficiency. Part B of Chapter 4 identifies the areas that have poor catchment area coverage.
1b. Is the area projected to have high population growth resulting in a high level of quantitative open space deficiency?	If the population in areas of existing deficiency is expected to grow, it is reasonable to expect that more people will require open space. The impact of the existing deficiency is therefore likely to worsen and be felt by more people in areas of high growth, compared to an area of deficiency without high growth. Part B of Chapter 4 identifies the areas that are projected to have the highest level of open space deficiency due to increased population growth.
1c. Is the area considered to be in the most deprived in the borough and have low levels of physical activity?	The impact of open space deficiency and population growth will be acutely felt in areas with deprivation where it is reasonable to expect that more people rely on publicly accessible open space for physical activity and play. This is underpinned by findings of the engagement survey carried out as part of the research underpinning the Strategy. Furthermore, more

	deprived areas also overlap significantly with area of low levels of physical activity as measured by Sport England. The latest of the regularly updated Indices of Multiple Deprivation and Sport England physical activity level mapping should be used.
Stage 2: Identifying specific sites in the borough which would benefit from investment	
2a. Is the site of lower quality, but already supporting a range of activities (i.e. higher value)?	It is reasonable to assume that sites that have a range of functions appeal to a wider range of residents; by virtue of the fact they have more on offer. Increasing the quality of those sites could drive up the number of users, and crucially, increase the number of users across a diverse range of residents due to the broad appeal of the space.
2b. Is the site of lower value, but with the potential to offer a wider range of functions? Sites meeting 2a should be prioritised over 2b.	As demand for open space grows doing more with existing sites so they cater for as wide range of residents as possible will be crucial. Hence resources should go towards diversifying what is on offer, where diversification is an option.

4.7 DESIGNING FOR GROWTH

With limited scope to create new publicly accessible open space, existing spaces will need to become more resilient to increased usage and offer more to more people with different interests. This requires a rethink in the way publicly accessible open space is designed in a high density inner city location. Being more creative about how open space is used, connected and enhanced can help to ensure that growing demand can be accommodated. Increasing the value of smaller sites by making them more flexible and varied can be especially beneficial in areas of high demand. However, such smaller sites can also suffer from possible overuse that can be mitigated to an extent through different approaches to design.

Sites in areas of deficiency also have an important role as habitats. As human pressure and adverse consequences from climate change affect open space, it is essential to protect habitats and habitat linkages. Opportunities should be sought to increase the nature conservation values of open spaces.



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Open space can enhance soundscapes and provide refuge from busy and noisy streets, especially if the site is protected by vegetation.




Selective planting of vegetation can also contribute to absorb air pollution and help manage the visual impact of traffic.

These competing factors make designing open space improvements in an area like Tower Hamlets a particular challenge. The council should therefore develop new design guidance for its spaces which seeks to balance the needs of a growing population with diverse demands with the need for open space to contribute positively to biodiversity and environmental mitigation.


CHAPTER 5: ACTION PLAN

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Inform Local Plan site allocations to ensure sites are identified to bring forward new strategic open space of 1 ha and over which can cater for a range of uses including physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space • Protect – protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan reflects deficiency and protects existing open spaces • Local Plan policies set principles for the design of on-site publicly accessible open space, to ensure it supports physical activity, including inclusive play, and healthy lifestyles. • New open spaces are secured on sites as identified in the Local Plan and Open Space Strategy. 	<p>Short term: 2017 – 2018</p> <p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p> <p>Medium term: 2019 – 2022 to Long term: 2023 - 2027</p>
	<p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Inform Local Plan policies to ensure existing playing field sites are protected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect – protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan reflects deficiency and protects existing playing fields and playing pitches 	<p>Short term: 2017 – 2018</p>

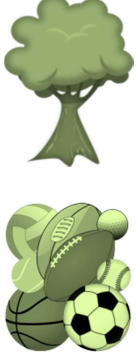
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
 	<p>Contributing to sustainable development</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Ensure the Local Plan requires certain new developments to have health impact assessments as part of the planning application process.</p>	<p>Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tower Hamlets Local Plan sets out health impact assessment requirements for developers in regard to access and use of open space. • Health impact assessments are in place for developments that require them. 	<p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Contributing to sustainable development</p>	<p>Secure access to open space within new developments in perpetuity through the use of legal agreements as part of the planning permission process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal agreements are robust and contain measures to ensure that public access to on-site open space is maintained in perpetuity. • Robust enforcement action is taken if access to land is restricted to the public beyond limitations agreed as part of the legal agreement. 	<p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Ensure that parks and open space investment need, as identified in this strategy, is considered alongside other infrastructure requirements as part of the Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Capital Strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space • Connect – creating new green corridors and enhancing existing ones to connect publicly accessible open spaces to main destination points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space investment need is included in the Infrastructure Delivery Framework and updated regularly. • Infrastructure Delivery Framework and Capital Strategy underpin decision-making about infrastructure investment. 	<p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p>	<p>Implement an investment prioritisation framework for parks and open spaces, including playing pitches, to ensure that investment is made in areas of need and achieves the greatest level of impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space • Connect – creating new green corridors and enhancing existing ones to connect publicly accessible open spaces to main destination points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed prioritisation process based on the principles set out in the strategy is in place. • Use of investment prioritisation process is evidenced in decisions made and outcomes achieved. • Delivery of improvements is planned annually alongside the budget setting process. • A cyclical programme of reviews of sites and condition of assets is in place. 	<p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Ensure improvements to existing open spaces and highways consider the findings of the Green Grid Strategy to maximise access to open space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space • Connect – creating new green corridors and enhancing existing ones to connect publicly accessible open spaces to main destination points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Grid Strategy update focuses on deliverability of projects • Green Grid implementation governance brings together key delivery services to enable integrated and joined up working 	<p>Short term: 2017 – 2018</p> <p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p>
	<p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p> <p>Contributing to sustainable development</p>	<p>Develop new design guidance for council open space to ensure spaces can be more resilient when experiencing increased use whilst helping to mitigate climate change and air pollution and support physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New inclusive design guidance sets out how resilience of parks and open space can be improved and how they can contribute to mitigating climate change and air pollution as well as support physical activity. 	<p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p>



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p>	<p>Ensure that detailed design development priorities for open space sites consider playing pitches and ancillary facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open spaces • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces • Protect – protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply, demand and quality of playing pitches is considered when open spaces are developed or re-developed • Playing pitch considerations are incorporated in new open space design to be developed 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short term: 2017 - 2018</p>
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Review all existing grass pitch locations to determine the extent to which these could be converted to 3G, ensuring that conversion does not result in loss for sports requiring specific surface types.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open spaces • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass pitch sites are identified for potential conversion to 3G 	<p>Medium term: 2019 - 2022</p>




PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Review all artificial pitch locations to determine the extent to which these could be upgraded, ensuring that conversion does not result in loss for sports requiring specific surface types.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open spaces • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites for potential upgrade are identified 	<p>Medium term: 2019 - 2022</p>
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Continue to promote the use of innovative ways of providing access to artificial pitches, including on the roofs of new developments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan promotes innovative approaches to provision of outdoor sports facilities • Development incorporates rooftop pitch provision 	<p>Short term: 2017 – 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Work with the Football Association to review all grass pitch locations and determine the extent to which the use of fibre injections or other similar systems may improve the quality of existing pitches and consider application to the Pitch Improvement Programme fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites for potential improvement are identified 	<p>Short term: 2017 -2018</p>
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Consider the reuse of sections of replaced AGP carpets for patching together into smaller MUGA sized AGPs on housing estates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of sections of carpets assessed for reuse prior to replacement of carpets 	<p>Ongoing</p>


PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	Work with national and regional cricket governing bodies to feed into the wider regional development strategy for cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open spaces • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local cricket picture is reflected and considered in the regional strategy 	Ongoing
	Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces	Investigate the option of meeting demand for cricket through non-traditional formats (e.g. cage cricket on housing estates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options for non-traditional formats developed 	Medium-term: 2019 - 2022
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	Work with national and regional cricket governing bodies to develop a business plan for a fine turf pitch, including an assessment of financial and operational viability of a placing a pitch in a publicly accessible open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business plan and financial/operational viability considerations completed 	Short term: 2017 - 2018



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p> <p>Managing the impact of population growth on the provision of open spaces</p>	<p>Review the condition of existing tennis courts and bowling greens to determine the extent to which upgrade is required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open spaces • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites for potential upgrade are identified 	<p>Medium term: 2019 - 2022</p>
	<p>Attracting and guiding investment in parks and open spaces to the best effect for Tower Hamlets</p>	<p>Update condition and suitability surveys of all changing facilities to inform future investment decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment prioritisation process is evidenced by completed surveys to guide decisions 	<p>Medium term: 2019 - 2022</p>




PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	<p>Mitigating the revenue costs for the council of providing parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets</p>	<p>Improve management of the longer term costs of creation, management and maintenance of open spaces and parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect – protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A whole life costing approach is taken to all capital investment in parks and open space. • New design guidance sets out how resilience of parks and open space can be improved. • Local Plan policies require the ongoing maintenance of new publicly accessible open space within developments to be borne by developers. 	<p>Short term: 2017 – 2018</p> <p>Short term: 2017 – 2018</p> <p>Short term: 2017 – 2018</p>



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	Contributing to sustainable development	Assess the effectiveness of air quality mitigation measures in the area of the Millwall and Victoria Park permanent monitoring site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to run the Millwall and Victoria Park permanent monitoring site (alongside the borough's other 3 sites) monitoring pollutants of concern to ensure air quality objectives are being met and to assess the effectiveness of local and regional policies. All pollution monitoring data is made available to the public and the website is kept up to date. 	Ongoing Short term: 2017 - 2018
	Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces	Develop an approach to engage with communities about the issues that matter to them around the use of parks and open spaces in the borough and how they can be addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect – protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	Formal engagement processes are set up to receive customer feedback.	Short term: 2017 - 2018




PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces Contributing to sustainable development	Work alongside the Active Travel Team to develop an effective approach to cycling in council open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space Connect – creating new green corridors and enhancing existing ones to connect publicly accessible open spaces to main destination points 	Delivery of cycling initiatives in the borough which successfully meet the needs, and address the concerns, of those wishing to cycle in parks and other park users.	Ongoing
	Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces	Review the council approach to dogs in parks to ensure the needs of all park users are balanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing approaches (borough wide and at specific sites) is concluded and options for balancing competing demands are considered by Members. 	Short term: 2017 - 2018
	Mitigating the revenue costs for the council of providing parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets	Carry out a review of all buildings in parks to ensure they are in line with the council's asset strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing tenancies and lettings concluded to establish if they meet the council's Best Value duty. 	Medium term: 2019 – 2022

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	Mitigating the revenue costs for the council of providing parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets	Develop an effective approach to managing commercial activities in parks ensuring there are robust arrangements in place for licensing and payment and increased awareness of requirements amongst those affected. This includes festivals and events which are covered by an existing policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect – protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clear policy for charging for use of open space which considers the commercial nature of activities and the impact this may have on other users. 	Short term: 2017 - 2018
	<p>Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces</p> <p>Mitigating the revenue costs for the council of providing parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets</p>	Review opportunities, and existing arrangements, for community management which maximise the potential benefits that such arrangements offer whilst ensuring that spaces remain accessible to all residents equally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect – protecting and safeguarding all existing open space such that there is no net loss • Create – maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space • Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing community management arrangements are consistent with the council's approach to community asset letting and grants. • Effective approach developed for co-production and community management for open spaces up to 1ha (meaning small open spaces and pocket parks as per the strategy classifications) 	<p>Medium term: 2019 – 2022</p> <p>Medium term: 2019 – 2022</p>

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017 - 2027

Action focus	Aim	Activity	Local Plan Policy Principles	Success factor	Implementation phase
	Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces	Improve communication and engagement opportunities for residents around the use of, and all issues related to, parks and open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications on local park improvements are targeted to residents within catchment areas to ensure that those most impacted can be heard. Events, activities and news about parks and open spaces are effectively embedded in the council's new communication tools. 	Ongoing Short term: 2017 – 2018
	Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces	Produce a summary of the Open Space Strategy which highlights the council's vision for open space and outdoor sports facilities in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary document completed and published 	Short term: 2017 – 2018
	Addressing competing demands on parks and open spaces	Work with schools to maximise community access to school pitch facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance – improving quality, usability and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to school pitches is maximised 	Short term: 2017 - 2018

APPENDICES

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CHAPTER 2

- 2.1 Open spaces in Tower Hamlets
- 2.2 Publicly accessible open spaces in Tower Hamlets
- 2.3 Quality and value ratings for audited open space sites

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CHAPTER 3

- 3.1 Culture, leisure and open spaces telephone survey 2016 summary results

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CHAPTER 2

2.1 Open spaces in Tower Hamlets

The table below lists the site names for open spaces in Tower Hamlets and categorises them according to their function and size.

SITE NAME	FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY	LOCAL HIERARCHY
120-132 Chrisp Ctreet	Amenity green space	Linear open space
21 Wapping Lane	Amenity green space	Linear open space
22-28 Marsh Wall	Green corridors	Linear open space
25 Churchill Place	Amenity green space	Linear open space
303-305 Burdett Road	Amenity green space	Linear open space
Abbott Road Gardens	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Aberfeldy Millennium Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Aberfeldy Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Ackroyd Drive Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park
Ackroyd Drive Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Albert Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Aldgate Park, Braham St	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
All Saints Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
Allen Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Allen Gardens Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Altab Ali Park	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
Alton Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Arbour Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

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Archibald Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Bancroft Road Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Bancroft Road Nature Garden	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Bartlett Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Baxendale Street Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Beaumont Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Belgrave Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Bethnal Green Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Bigland Green Open Space	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Blackwall Basin and Poplar Dock	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Boundary Gardens (Arnold Circus)	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Boundary Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Bow Common Lane Gas Works	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Braithwaite Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Bromley Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Burial Ground Alderney Road	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Cable Street Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Small open space
Cabot Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Caledonian Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space
Canada Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Canary Riverside	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Carlton Square and Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Carlton Square Extension	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Carron Continental Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space
Caspian Wharf	Amenity green space	Pocket park

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Castle Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space
Cavell Street Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Cephas Street Square	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Chicksand Ghat	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Chiltern Green	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Chrisp Street Market Area 1	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Chrisp Street Market Area 2	Civic spaces	Small open space
Christchurch Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Claredale Street / Sheldon Place	Amenity green space	Linear open space
Compass Point	Green corridors	Linear open space
Cotton Street/Bazely Street	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Cubitt Town Junior and Infants School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Dockers Tanner Road	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
East India Dock Basin	Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Local park and open space
East India Dock Square	Civic spaces	Small open space
Fern Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Ford Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Four Seasons Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Furze Green Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Garrison Road/Legion Terrace	Amenity green space	Pocket park
George Green School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Gladstone Place	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Glamis Adventure Playground	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Globe Road Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Gosling Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

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Grand Union Canal/Regent's Canal	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Great Eastern Slipway	Civic spaces	Small open space
Grove Hall Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Harley Grove	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Harley Square	Amenity green space	Small open space
Hellings Street Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Hermitage Basin	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Hermitage Riverside Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Hertford Union Canal	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Ion Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Island Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Isle of Dogs Wharves	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Jesus Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Jewish Burial Ground Brady Street	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park
Johnson's Draw Dock	Green corridors	Linear open space
Jolly's Green	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Jubilee Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Jubilee Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
King Edward Memorial Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Kings Wharf	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Langdon Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Langdon Park School	Outdoor sports facilities	Tower Hamlets local park
Leven Road Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Lighterman's Garden	Amenity green space	Small open space
Limehouse Basin	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Limehouse Cut	Civic spaces	Linear open space

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Limehouse Fields	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
London Wall Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
London Yard	Green corridors	Linear open space
Maconochies Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space
Mallon Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Mansford Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Masthouse Terrace Play Area	Green corridors	Linear open space
Meath Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Meath Gardens Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park
Mercers Burial Ground	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Middleton Green	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Mile End Park	Parks and gardens	District park
Mile End Road Waste	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Millwall Dock	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Millwall Dock Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Millwall Outer Dock Slipway	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Millwall Park	Parks and gardens	District park
Ming Street Open Space	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Morpeth Secondary School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Museum Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
New Brunswick Wharf	Amenity green space	Small open space
Newcastle Draw Dock	Green corridors	Linear open space
Old Railway at Fairfoot Road	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Paradise Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Pennyfields Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space

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Pollard Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Pomell Way	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Poplar Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Prospect Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Queen Mary College Burial Ground 1 (NOVO)	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Queen Mary College Burial Ground 2	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Queen Mother's Garden	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Raines Mansions	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Ravenscroft Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Rectory Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Reeves Road Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park
Rhoda Street Open Space	Amenity green space	Pocket park
River Lea	Civic spaces	Linear open space
River Lea Navigation/Hackney Cut	Civic spaces	Linear open space
River Thames	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Robin Hood Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Roman Road Market Square	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Ropemakers Fields	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Ropewalk Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Rounton Road Public Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Royal Mint Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Salmon Lane Canalside	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Schoolhouse Kickabout Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Selwyn Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

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Shacklewell Street Ball Games Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Shacklewell Street Community Garden	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Shadwell Basin	Civic spaces	Linear open space
Shandy Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Sidney Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Sir John Cass's C of E Secondary School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Sir John McDougall Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Spitalfields Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park
St Andrew's Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
St George's in the East	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park
St Jude's Nature Reserve	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
St Katharine's Dock	Civic spaces	Linear open space
St Leonard's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
St Paul's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
St Paul's Way Secondary School	Outdoor sports facilities	Tower Hamlets local park
St Stephen's Road	Amenity green space	Pocket park
St. Andrews Wharf Youth Project	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
St. Anne's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Bartholomew's Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Dunstan's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park
St. James Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
St. John's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
St. John's Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
St. Mary Bow	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park

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St. Matthew's Church Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Matthias Old Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Peter's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Stepney Clock Tower Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Stepney Green Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Stepney Green Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Stepping Stones Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Tower Hamlets local park
Stonebridge Wharf	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Stoneyard Lane	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Strafford Street Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Swedenborg Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
The Attlee Foundation Adventure Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
The Blessed John Roche Catholic School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
The Greenway	Green corridors	Linear open space
The Oval	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Three Colts Street / Mitre Street	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Tobacco Dock	Green corridors	Linear open space
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Local park and open space
Tower Hill Terrace	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Tower of London (Inner)	Civic spaces	Local park and open space
Tower of London (Outer)	Civic spaces	Tower Hamlets local park
Tower of London Gardens	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Trafalgar Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

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Tredegar Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Trinity Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Trinity Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Twelve Trees Crescent	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Vallance Road Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Victoria Park	Parks and gardens	Metropolitan park
Virginia Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Virginia Quay	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Wakefield Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Wapping Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Wapping Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Wapping Rose Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Wapping Woods	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Warner Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Waterside Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Weavers Adventure Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Small open space
Weavers Fields	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Wellclose Street Rough	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Westferry Circus	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Whitehorse Road Park	Amenity green space	Tower Hamlets local park
Wyvis Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
York Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

2.2 Publicly accessible open spaces in Tower Hamlets

The table below lists the site names for publicly accessible open spaces in Tower Hamlets and categorises them according to their function and size.

SITE NAME	FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY	LOCAL HIERARCHY
22-28 Marsh Wall	Green corridors	Linear open space
Abbott Road Gardens	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Aberfeldy Millennium Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Aberfeldy Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Ackroyd Drive Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park
Ackroyd Drive Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Albert Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Aldgate Park, Braham St	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
All Saints Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
Allen Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Allen Gardens Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Altab Ali Park	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
Alton Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Arbour Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Archibald Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Bancroft Road Nature Garden	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Bartlett Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Baxendale Street Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

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Beaumont Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Belgrave Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Bethnal Green Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Bigland Green Open Space	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Boundary Gardens (Arnold Circus)	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Boundary Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Braithwaite Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Bromley Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Cable Street Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Small open space
Cabot Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Canada Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Canary Riverside	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Carlton Square and Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Carlton Square Extension	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Caspian Wharf	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Cavell Street Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Cephas Street Square	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Chicksand Ghat	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Chiltern Green	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Chrip Street Market Area 1	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Chrip Street Market Area 2	Civic spaces	Small open space
Christchurch Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park

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Cotton Street/Bazely Street	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Cubitt Town Junior and Infants School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Dockers Tanner Road	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
East India Dock Basin	Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Local park and open space
East India Dock Square	Civic spaces	Small open space
Fern Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Ford Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Four Seasons Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Furze Green Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Garrison Road/Legion Terrace	Amenity green space	Pocket park
George Green School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Gladstone Place	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Glamis Adventure Playground	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Globe Road Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Gosling Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Great Eastern Slipway	Civic spaces	Small open space
Grove Hall Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Harley Grove	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Harley Square	Amenity green space	Small open space
Hellings Street Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Hermitage Riverside Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Ion Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Island Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Jesus Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

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Jolly's Green	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Jubilee Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Jubilee Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
King Edward Memorial Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Kings Wharf	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Langdon Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Langdon Park School	Outdoor sports facilities	Tower Hamlets local park
Leven Road Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Lighterman's Garden	Amenity green space	Small open space
Limehouse Fields	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
London Wall Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Mallon Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Mansford Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Meath Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Mercers Burial Ground	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Middleton Green	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Mile End Park	Parks and gardens	District park
Mile End Road Waste	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Millwall Dock Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Millwall Outer Dock Slipway	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Millwall Park	Parks and gardens	District park
Ming Street Open Space	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Morpeth Secondary School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Museum Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
New Brunswick Wharf	Amenity green space	Small open space
Paradise Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

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Pennyfields Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Pollard Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Poplar Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Prospect Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Queen Mother's Garden	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Raines Mansions	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Ravenscroft Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Rectory Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Reeves Road Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park
Rhoda Street Open Space	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Robin Hood Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Roman Road Market Square	Civic spaces	Pocket park
Ropemakers Fields	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Ropewalk Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Rounton Road Public Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Royal Mint Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Salmon Lane Canalside	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Schoolhouse Kickabout Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Selwyn Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Shacklewell Street Ball Games Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Shacklewell Street Community Garden	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Shandy Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park

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Sidney Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Sir John Cass's C of E Secondary School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
Sir John McDougall Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Spitalfields Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park
St Andrew's Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space
St George's in the East	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park
St Jude's Nature Reserve	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
St Leonard's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
St Paul's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
St Paul's Way Secondary School	Outdoor sports facilities	Tower Hamlets local park
St Stephen's Road	Amenity green space	Pocket park
St. Andrews Wharf Youth Project	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
St. Anne's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Bartholomew's Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Dunstan's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park
St. James Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
St. John's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
St. John's Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space
St. Mary Bow	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
St. Matthew's Church Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Matthias Old Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space
St. Peter's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park
Stepney Clock Tower Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Stepney Green Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Stepney Green Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space

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Stepping Stones Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Tower Hamlets local park
Stonebridge Wharf	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Stoneyard Lane	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Strafford Street Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
Swedenborg Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
The Attlee Foundation Adventure Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park
The Blessed John Roche Catholic School	Outdoor sports facilities	Small open space
The Oval	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Three Colts Street / Mitre Street	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Local park and open space
Tower Hill Terrace	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Tower of London (Outer)	Civic spaces	Tower Hamlets local park
Tower of London Gardens	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Trafalgar Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Tredegar Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Trinity Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Trinity Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Twelve Trees Crescent	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Vallance Road Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Victoria Park	Parks and gardens	Metropolitan park
Virginia Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Virginia Quay	Amenity green space	Pocket park

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Wakefield Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Wapping Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Wapping Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Wapping Rose Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space
Wapping Woods	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park
Warner Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Waterside Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
Weavers Adventure Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Small open space
Weavers Fields	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space
Westferry Circus	Amenity green space	Pocket park
Whitehorse Road Park	Amenity green space	Tower Hamlets local park
Wyvis Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park
York Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park

2.3 Quality and value ratings for audited open space sites

The table below lists the quality and value ratings for sites in Tower Hamlets and identifies their function, size and ownership category.

SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
120-132 Chrisp Ctreet	Amenity green space	Linear open space	Other	-	+
21 Wapping Lane	Amenity green space	Linear open space	Other	-	+
25 Churchill Place	Amenity green space	Linear open space	Other	-	-
Abbott Road Gardens	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Aberfeldy Millennium Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	+	-
Aberfeldy Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Ackroyd Drive Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Ackroyd Drive Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Albert Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Aldgate Park, Braham St	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	-	-
All Saints Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space	LBTH	+	+
Allen Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	+
Allen Gardens Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Altab Ali Park	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
Alton Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	+	-
Arbour Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Archibald Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	+

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Bancroft Road Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Bancroft Road Nature Garden	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Bartlett Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space	LBTH	-	+
Baxendale Street Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Beaumont Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
Belgrave Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Bethnal Green Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space	LBTH	+	+
Bigland Green Open Space	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	Other	+	-
Blackwall Basin and Poplar Dock	Civic spaces	Linear open space	Other	-	+
Boundary Gardens (Arnold Circus)	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Boundary Playground	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Braithwaite Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Bromley Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	+	+
Cable Street Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Small open space	Other	-	+
Cabot Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space	Other	+	-
Caledonian Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	-	-
Canada Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space	Other	+	-
Canary Riverside	Civic spaces	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Carlton Square and Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Carlton Square Extension	Parks and gardens	Small open space	Other	-	-
Carron Continental Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	+	+
Caspian Wharf	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Castle Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space	Other	-	+
Cavell Street Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Cephas Street Square	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Chicksand Ghat	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Chiltern Green	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Chrisp Street Market Area 1	Civic spaces	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Chrisp Street Market Area 2	Civic spaces	Small open space	Other	+	+
Christchurch Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	LBTH	-	+
Claredale Street / Sheldon Place	Amenity green space	Linear open space	Other	-	-
Compass Point	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	+	-
Cotton Street/Bazely Street	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Dockers Tanner Road	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
East India Dock Basin	Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Local park and open space	Other	+	+
East India Dock Square	Civic spaces	Small open space	Other	-	+
Fern Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Ford Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	+
Four Seasons Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Furze Green Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Garrison Road/Legion Terrace	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	+	+

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Gladstone Place	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Glamis Adventure Playground	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	+
Globe Road Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Gosling Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Great Eastern Slipway	Civic spaces	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
Grove Hall Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	+
Harley Grove	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Harley Square	Amenity green space	Small open space	Other	-	+
Hellings Street Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	LBTH	+	+
Hermitage Basin	Civic spaces	Linear open space	LBTH	-	-
Hermitage Riverside Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Ion Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	+
Island Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	+	-
Jesus Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Jewish Burial Ground Brady Street	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park	Other	-	-
Johnson's Draw Dock	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	-	-
Jolly's Green	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Jubilee Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Jubilee Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	Other	-	-

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
King Edward Memorial Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space	LBTH	+	+
Kings Wharf	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Langdon Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	+	-
Leven Road Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	+	-
Lighterman's Garden	Amenity green space	Small open space	Other	+	-
Limehouse Basin	Civic spaces	Linear open space	Other	+	+
London Wall Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	-	+
London Yard	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	+	+
Maconochies Wharf	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	+	+
Mallon Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Mansford Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Masthouse Terrace Play Area	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	-	+
Meath Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space	LBTH	+	+
Meath Gardens Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park	Other	+	-
Mercers Burial Ground	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Middleton Green	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
Mile End Park	Parks and gardens	District park	LBTH	-	+
Mile End Park	Parks and gardens	District park	LBTH	-	-
Mile End Park	Parks and gardens	District park	LBTH	+	+
Mile End Park	Parks and gardens	District park	LBTH	-	-

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Mile End Park	Parks and gardens	District park	LBTH	-	-
Mile End Road Waste	Civic spaces	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Millwall Dock	Civic spaces	Linear open space	Other	-	+
Millwall Dock Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space	Other	-	-
Millwall Outer Dock Slipway	Civic spaces	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Millwall Park	Parks and gardens	District park	LBTH	-	+
Ming Street Open Space	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Mudchute Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	District park	LBTH	+	+
Museum Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	-
New Brunswick Wharf	Amenity green space	Small open space	Other	+	+
Newcastle Draw Dock	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	-	+
Old Railway at Fairfoot Road	Parks and gardens	Small open space	Other	-	-
Paradise Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Pennyfields Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	+	-
Pollard Square	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Poplar Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	+	+
Prospect Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Queen Mary College Burial Ground 1 (NOVO)	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Queen Mother's Garden	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	+	-

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Raines Mansions	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Ravenscroft Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
Rectory Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Reeves Road Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Rhoda Street Open Space	Amenity green space	Pocket park	LBTH	-	+
Robin Hood Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	Other	-	+
Roman Road Market Square	Civic spaces	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Ropemakers Fields	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	+	+
Ropewalk Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
Rounton Road Public Open Space	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Royal Mint Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Salmon Lane Canalside	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Schoolhouse Kickabout Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Selwyn Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Shacklewell Street Ball Games Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Shacklewell Street Community Garden	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Shadwell Basin	Civic spaces	Linear open space	LBTH	-	+
Shandy Park	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	-

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Sidney Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Sir John McDougall Gardens	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space	LBTH	-	+
Spitalfields Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Pocket park	LBTH	+	+
St George's in the East	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	+
St Jude's Nature Reserve	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	-	-
St Katharine's Dock	Civic spaces	Linear open space	Other	+	+
St Leonard's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	Other	-	+
St Paul's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	Other	-	+
St Stepehen's Road	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	+	+
St. Andrews Wharf Youth Project	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	+	-
St. Anne's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
St. Bartholomew's Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space	LBTH	+	+
St. Dunstan's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	+	+
St. James Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
St. John's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	LBTH	-	+
St. John's Park	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
St. Mary Bow	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	LBTH	-	+
St. Matthew's Church Gardens	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
St. Matthias Old Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	Small open space	LBTH	+	+
St. Peter's Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	Pocket park	Other	+	+

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Stepney Clock Tower Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Stepney Green Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Stepney Green Park	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space	LBTH	-	+
Stepping Stones Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban farms)	Tower Hamlets local park	Other	+	+
Stonebridge Wharf	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Stoneyard Lane	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Strafford Street Play Area	Provision for children and teenagers	Pocket park	Other	+	-
Swedenborg Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	-
The Greenway	Green corridors	Linear open space	LBTH	+	+
The Oval	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Three Colts Street / Mitre Street	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Tobacco Dock	Green corridors	Linear open space	Other	+	+
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Local park and open space	LBTH	+	+
Tower Hill Terrace	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Tower of London (Inner)	Civic spaces	Local park and open space	Other	+	+
Tower of London (Outer)	Civic spaces	Tower Hamlets local park	Other	+	+
Tower of London Gardens	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Trafalgar Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	+

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SITE NAME	FUNCTION (FORMER PPG 17 TYPOLOGY)	SIZE (LOCAL HIERARCHY)	OWNER	QUALITY RATING	VALUE RATING
Tredegar Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	+	-
Trinity Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	+	-
Trinity Square Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	+	+
Twelve Trees Crescent	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Vallance Road Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	+
Victoria Park	Parks and gardens	Metropolitan park	LBTH	+	+
Virginia Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
Virginia Quay	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	-	+
Wakefield Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	Other	-	-
Wapping Gardens	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	+	+
Wapping Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Wapping Rose Gardens	Parks and gardens	Small open space	LBTH	-	-
Wapping Woods	Parks and gardens	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	-	-
Warner Green	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Waterside Gardens	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	+	-
Weavers Fields	Parks and gardens	Local park and open space	LBTH	+	+
Westferry Circus	Amenity green space	Pocket park	Other	+	+
Whitehorse Road Park	Amenity green space	Tower Hamlets local park	LBTH	+	+
Wyvis Street Open Space	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-
York Square	Parks and gardens	Pocket park	LBTH	-	-

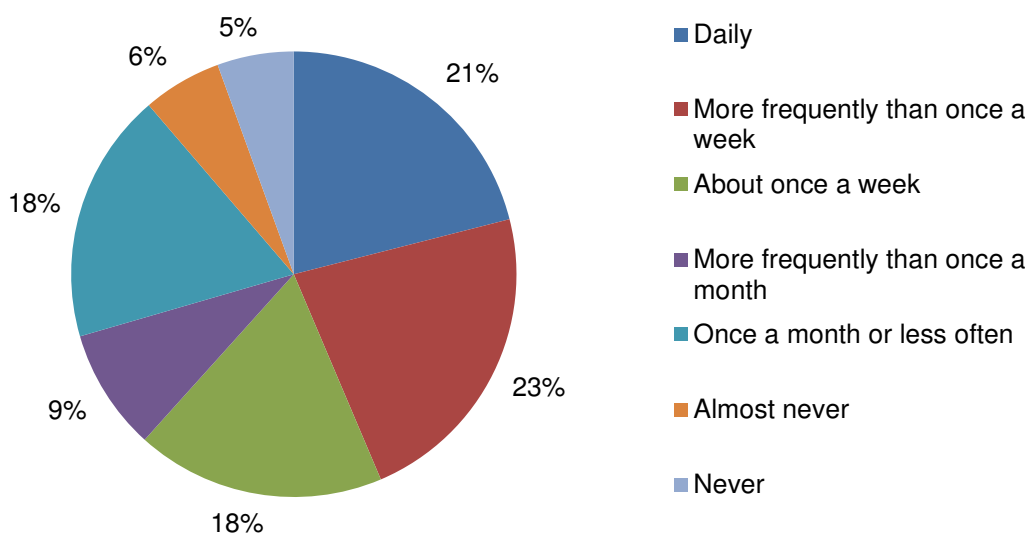
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CHAPTER 3

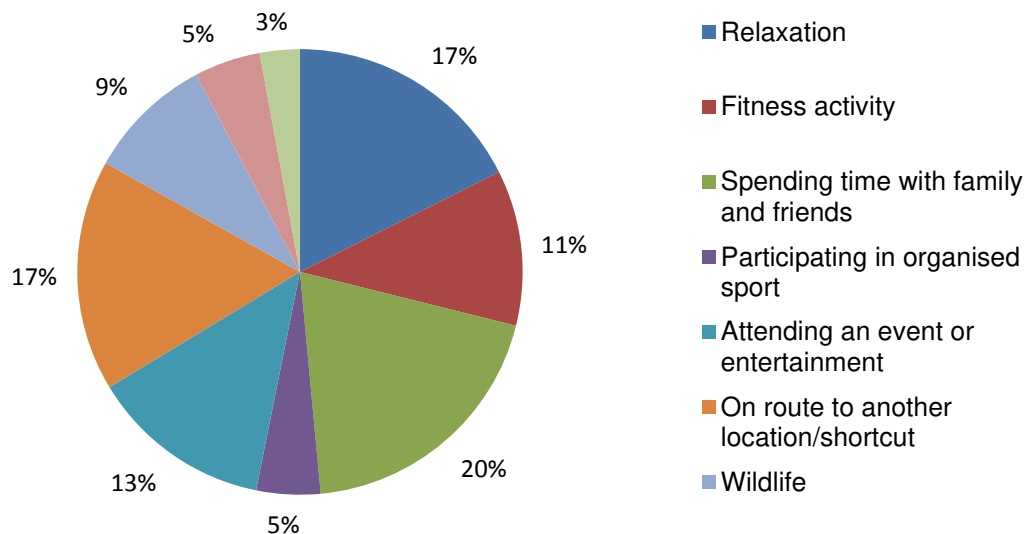
3.1 Culture, leisure and open spaces telephone survey 2016 summary results

The Council provides a variety of parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets. The most well-known is Victoria Park, however, there are over 100 other parks and open spaces the Council provides and maintains for those who live here, work here, study here or who are just visiting the area.

How frequently, if ever, do you visit or use open spaces in the borough?

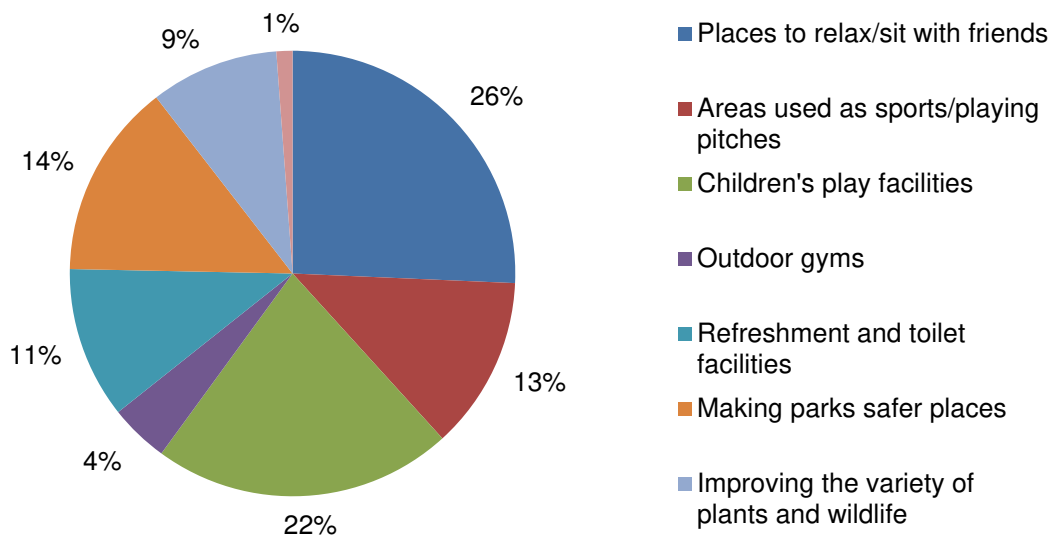


Which of the following are your main reasons for visiting a park or open space?



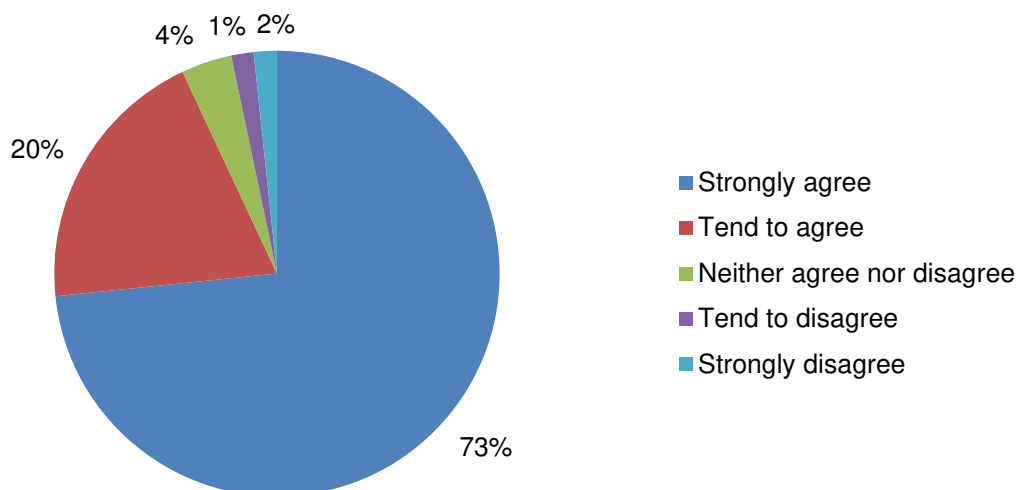
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As the number of people in Tower Hamlets grows, more people will use the parks and open spaces. The Council want to make sure that parks and open spaces meet the needs of residents. However, the demand on the limited space in the borough means that decisions have to be made about how the open space is best used. Bearing in mind that if space is set aside for one specific purpose, it may be instead of another activity, which three of the following are the most important uses of space for you personally?

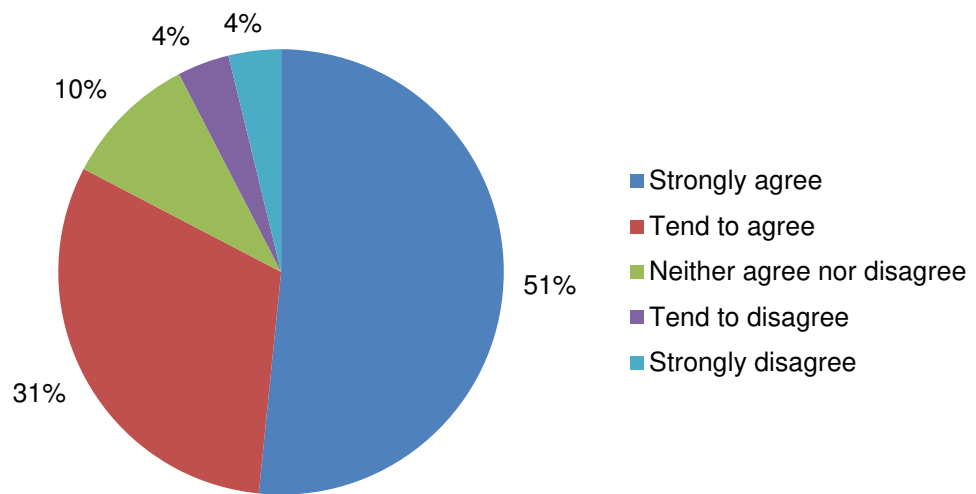


To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

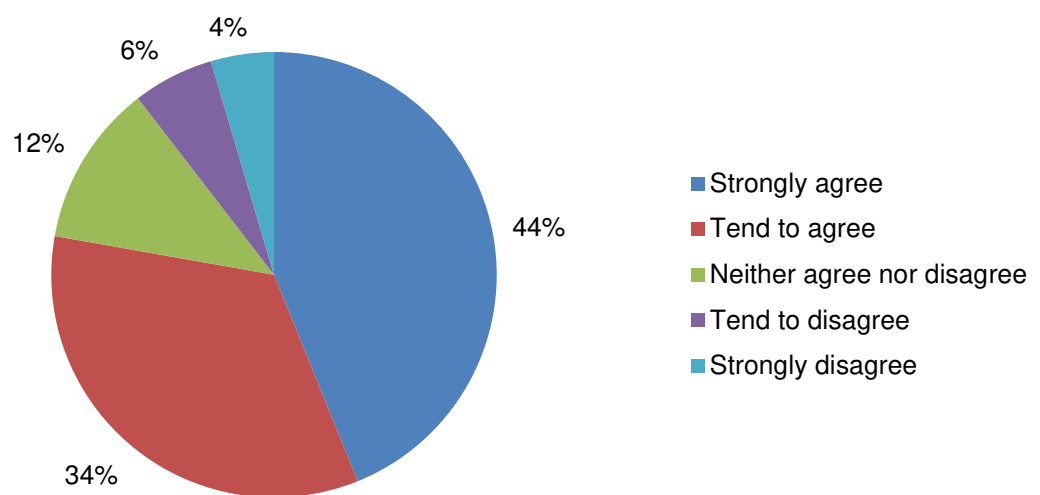
a) I can access and use my local park easily



b) Parks in Tower Hamlets provide me with opportunities to be physically active

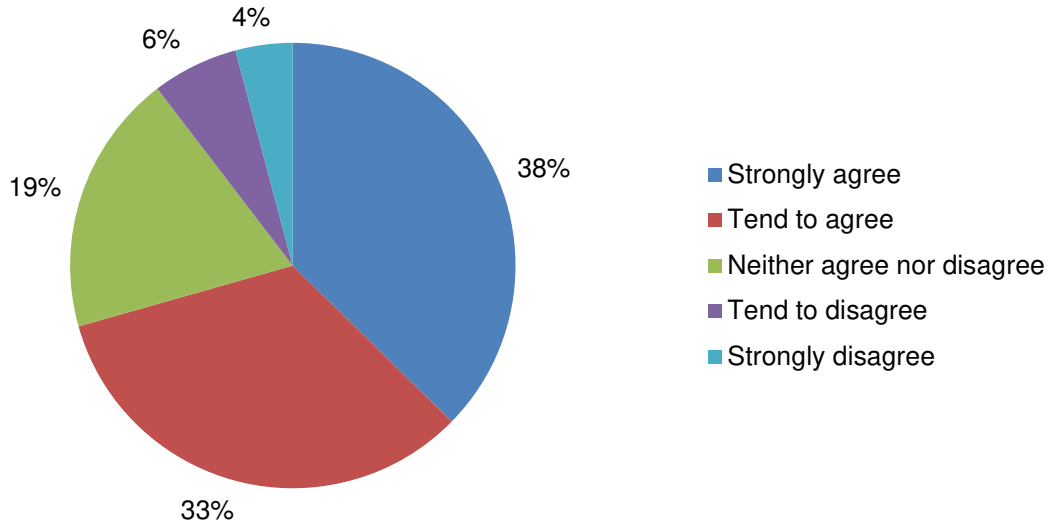


c) Tower Hamlet's parks and open spaces are well maintained



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Thinking about the role of parks and open spaces in the community – to what extent do you agree or disagree that they help bring people of different backgrounds together?



How likely or unlikely would you be to recommend Tower Hamlets parks and open spaces to a friend or family member?

