

# Play Strategy



Cheshire West  
and Chester

## Locality Play Improvement Framework 2016 – 2030

Incorporating First Annual Review  
(December 2017):

Chester

Tier 2 (Part 2 of 2)



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# CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4-8</b>
1.1	Prioritisation Framework	
1.2	Geographical area	
1.3	Population	
1.4	Overview of area	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Existing provision of Play Space</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Analysis of existing quantity of play space</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Analysis of existing access to play space</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Quality Assessment</b>	<b>13-26</b>
5.1	Audit methodology	
5.2	Summary of quality audit results	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Consultation</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Prioritisation of play space methodology</b>	<b>28-32</b>
7.1	Priority Factors/criteria	
7.2	Scoring play areas	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Results of prioritisation process</b>	<b>33-66</b>
8.1	High priority sites	
8.2	Medium Priority sites	
8.3	Low Priority sites	
8.4	Sites with potential for alternative open space use	
8.5	Potential for new provision	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Requirements from new development</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Key Issues, challenges and aspirations</b>	<b>68-69</b>

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## Overview and key points of Locality Play Improvement Frameworks

Each of the four Locality Play Improvement Frameworks provide an evidence base that can be used by all partners/stakeholders with an interest in play and youth facilities. It is called a **framework** document rather than a plan because it does not aim to produce a prescriptive play area delivery plan that partners must follow; rather it provides evidence that partners can use in reviewing, developing and implementing their own individual delivery plans.

It is important to note that the frameworks are 'live' documents which will be the subject of continuing updates and review. There is need for the Play Strategy to be managed by a partnership/monitoring structure, and one of the key recommendations from the initial stakeholder workshop in December 2015 was to set up a 'Play Partnership', which is being pursued by Cheshire West and Chester Council as a priority.

The Play Strategy framework documents cover all publicly accessible outdoor children's play spaces and youth facilities (they do not cover outdoor/green gyms, which are included within the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study), and provide a strategic play profile for each Locality. They include recommendations for prioritising sites for improvements, sites with potential for alternative open space use, and areas where new provision would reduce gaps in accessing these facilities.

These recommendations (for improvements, alternative open space use, or areas for new provision) have been based on a clear process of prioritisation that has been consistently applied to all sites. The factors used in prioritisation of sites for improvement were agreed by the Play Strategy Steering Group following a number of stakeholder workshop sessions, and are based on: the current quality of sites and their potential for improvement; proximity to other play spaces and schools; child population; child health (excess weight); levels of child/youth deprivation and geographical barriers to services (i.e. rurality).

A number of play spaces have been recommended to have potential for alternative open space use (because they have poor play value/are of poor quality and their removal would not result in a gap in access). It is important to recognise that these spaces are only considered to have **potential** for alternative open space use – it is not the final recommendation of the report that alternative open space use is sought, but rather that further investigation and/or public consultation is required. It should also be noted that if any play spaces recommended for alternative open space use have funds secured for improvements e.g. S106 funds or parish council funding, then they would not be considered suitable for alternative open space use.

Scope for the provision of new play space has also been considered where this would reduce gaps in access (and shortfalls in provision). It should be emphasised that the decision to install a new children's or youth play space on a site will depend on the availability of funding (the council do not currently have funding for the installation and maintenance of

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new play areas) and the needs of the local community. It is important to note that open spaces listed are those with **potential** for new provision – it is not the final recommendation of this framework that they are implemented, but that they could be pursued further if and when new funding becomes available.

It should be noted that any site assessments undertaken to formulate this framework take account of site conditions at that particular time and understandably sites may be subject to additional improvements/review taking account of site aspirations and the availability of funding.

## **Locality Framework and First Annual Review (December 2017)**

This Locality Framework incorporates the first annual review of the Tier 2 Locality Play Improvement Framework for Chester and covers the period 2016/2017. It provides updated quality audit information for play spaces that have had capital investment and includes newly mapped play spaces that have been identified since the previous report/audit.

Since the draft play strategy was produced in 2016/17 there have also been changes to the Cheshire West and Chester parish boundaries. The new parish boundaries have been used for the updated analysis within the Rural Communities and Winsford and Northwich Play Improvement Frameworks, which use parish boundaries for the analysis. The population figures used in the analysis have also been updated to the 2015 mid-year population estimates<sup>1</sup>.

Generally speaking, the contextual information remains largely unchanged (apart from where the updated parish information is used, along with the 2015 mid-year population estimates which may also result in changes to supply figures, or where maps have been updated). The main changes are to the quality tables in section 5 of each framework document and also the results of the prioritisation process and recommendations where relevant (section 8).

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<sup>1</sup> These population estimates were provided by CWAC. It should be noted that in some cases the Output Area boundaries do not fit neatly with parish boundaries, but these were the most accurate figures for the new parish boundaries at the time of writing.

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# Locality Play Improvement Framework: Chester

## 1.0 Introduction

The Cheshire West and Chester Play Strategy is a two tier strategy and is presented in two parts. Tier 1 (part 1 of 2) sets out relevant policy, standards and good practice guidance around design, risk and challenge, inclusion and sustainability. Tier 2 (part 2 of 2) comprises four Locality Framework Plans which provide localised information, applying the tier 1 policy and strategy and identifying priorities, issues, challenges and aspirations.

Cheshire West and Chester Council provide many local community services within a Locality Area framework. The four Locality Areas are:

- Chester
- Ellesmere Port
- Northwich & Winsford
- Rural Communities

The Locality Frameworks should be read in conjunction with the main Play Strategy report (tier 1 - part 1 of 1). Each Locality Framework includes the following information:

- A description of the area
- Maps showing the provision of play areas and youth provision
- Quantitative analysis of current provision of play space (children and youth)
- Analysis of access to children's play areas and youth provision
- Summary of quality issues (Ethos Audit)
- Summary of consultation undertaken
- Prioritisation methodology
- Results of prioritisation process (play spaces with high, medium and low potential for improvement, those sites with potential for alternative use if appropriate, and open spaces with potential for new play space provision); and
- Key issues, challenges, aspirations and priorities.

The Framework documents provide a valuable evidence based resource that can be used by all partners with an interest in play and youth facilities. The Frameworks list all designated play spaces and youth facilities within the locality i.e. those managed by the borough council, town and parish councils, housing associations, recreation trusts etc. In addition, they provide a strategic play profile for the locality; and a guide to making prioritising choices in relation to potential improvement works.

## 1.1 Prioritisation Framework

**Planning for Play** suggests that prioritisation for play space improvements should be based on an objective assessment to determine where improvements are most needed. The

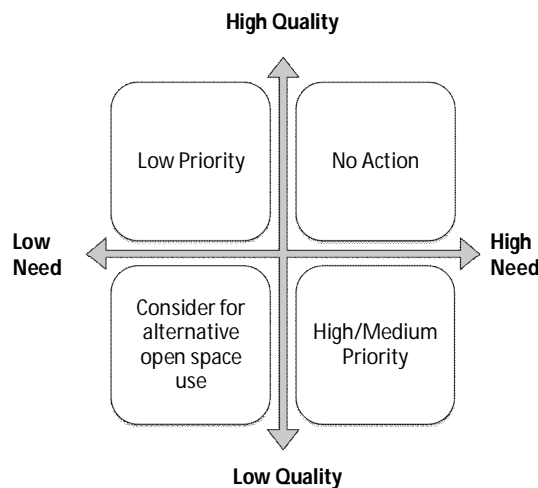
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strategy follows this guidance by applying needs criteria to all sites (the criteria were developed following consultation via four locality area play workshops)<sup>2</sup>.

The criteria are based on:

- Current quality of sites and their potential for improvement
- Proximity/access to other play areas; and proximity to community facilities
- Demographics e.g. numbers of children and young people in the area/catchment
- Child health and wellbeing
- Levels of child/youth deprivation
- Geographical barriers to play – rurality

The principle behind the prioritisation approach is illustrated by the diagram below.



As a result of this process the Framework categorises all sites in the locality under four broad headings:

- High priority for improvement
- Medium priority for improvement
- Low priority – no significant improvement action needed
- Consider alternative open space use

It is important to understand that in the latter option refers to the specific designation as a play area meaning that the space could be considered for other uses or be adapted as unequipped playable space where it may well provide useful 'doorstep' type provision.

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<sup>2</sup> Full details of the criteria and the rationale for their selection can be found in section 7 of this report.

## **Why a Framework?**

It is called a framework document rather than a plan because it does not aim to produce a prescriptive play area delivery plan that partners must follow; rather it provides evidence that partners can use in reviewing, developing and implementing their own individual delivery plans.

The Framework simply provides an overview of all sites in the locality area and applies objective needs based criteria to all those sites - to arrive at the strategically determined site categorisation classifications.

## **How can it be used?**

Some examples are provided below:

- As a reference in relation to developing or reviewing individual partners' delivery plans
- Reference to the Framework can help partners to decide which of many potential improvement projects could be most effectively targeted in relation to need and external funding bids
- Where sites are identified as priorities in the Framework this identification, along with providing details of the objective means by which they were highlighted, will add significant weight to any potential funding bids
- It can help partners to decide which projects to focus resources on in terms of further investigation and in relation to providing advice and guidance to local community play space initiatives
- If there are a high number of small poor quality sites in an urban area, say, the Framework's identification of potential sites for alternative open space use can help in deciding options for the future e.g. to consider the viability of some sites and consider the option of providing a smaller number of accessible higher quality sites

The Play Strategy recognises that in terms of the different partners' own delivery plans there are key additional practical factors that need to be considered, most notably in relation to the availability of capital funding and management/maintenance sustainability<sup>3</sup>.

In practice this may mean that in certain circumstances the strategic priority classification will take second place to practical achievability. To illustrate by way of some examples:

- A site that is identified as a medium strategic priority may in practice have attracted capital or S106 funding and demonstrable sustainability that makes its improvement

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<sup>3</sup> This relates primarily to the need to be able to show that there is sufficient capital funding to implement the scheme; and that there is also a clear and robust plan to demonstrate how the play area will be maintained in the future e.g. is there confirmed revenue funding sufficient to maintain the site long term; a long term commuted sum from a developer ongoing community commitment to manage the site etc.

achievable. This project is therefore included in the partner's delivery plan

- A strategically identified high priority site is able to secure capital/S106 funding but cannot demonstrate ongoing sustainability. This project is not included in the partner's delivery plan (until the sustainability issue is overcome)
- A site that is identified as a medium priority has strong active community support including a commitment to raise capital funds and to demonstrate long-term sustainability. This project is added to the partner's delivery plan.

## 1.2 Geographical area

The Chester Locality Area consists of the wards of Chester City, Garden Quarter, Blacon, Upton, Newton, Hoole, Boughton, Great Boughton, Handbridge Park and Lache.

## 1.3 Population

The total population for the Chester Locality Area is 81,469 (2015 mid year estimate). The breakdown by ward (including the child population by ward) is shown in the table below.

Table 1 Ward population statistics (2015 mid year estimates)

Ward	Child population (Age 0-19)	Total population
Blacon	3,492	13,627
Boughton	787	5,610
Chester City	523	4,245
Garden Quarter	940	5,752
Great Boughton	1,978	8,962
Handbridge Park	1,654	8,786
Hoole	1,945	9,404
Lache	1,601	5,939
Newton	2,012	9,943
Upton	2,291	9,201

## 1.4 Overview of the area

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies sets out the profile of the area as follows:

The city of Chester is the borough's largest settlement with over 81,000 residents and is a key centre for employment, retail, education and tourism as well as being a main transport interchange and gateway, with direct routes to London, Manchester, Merseyside and North Wales. The city is internationally renowned as a historic city with unique heritage assets, particularly Roman remains, the City Walls and medieval Rows. The role of the city as a destination for shoppers has weakened due to increased competition not only from larger centres such as Liverpool but at a local level from the significant expansion and changing retail offer from out of centre retail parks and out of town shopping centres, in particular Cheshire Oaks.



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Chester is the only part of the borough with a significant level of in-commuting which reflects the job opportunities available in the city particularly at the successful Chester Business Park. There is a strong financial service sector in the city as well as a high level of service sector jobs linked to leisure and tourism. However, many of the higher earning Chester residents in higher managerial and professional occupations commute to jobs outside Cheshire West and Chester.

The city has a successful university and Further Education establishment at the University of Chester and West Cheshire College. Both establishments provide both learning and employment opportunities, although accommodating and integrating student accommodation in the city has presented challenges.

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## 2.0 Existing provision of play space

There are a total of 50 children's play areas and 23 youth facilities (excluding teen shelters) within the Locality Area.

The breakdown for youth facilities is as follows:

Type of youth facility	Number
MUGA	14
BMX	3
Basketball	2
Skate park	3
5v5 hardstanding football	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

Large scale maps showing the geographical locations of the play and youth facility sites and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the Borough Council and can be made available to all partners.

The section below provides an analysis of the existing quantity of play space within the Chester Locality Area.

### 3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of play space

Table 2 shows the existing provision of play space across the Chester Locality. The second column 'Existing Provision Ha' shows the total amount of play space for each typology in hectares. The third column 'Existing Provision Ha/1000' shows hectares of play space per 1000 of the population (using 2015 mid year population estimates).

Table 2 Existing provision of play space across the Chester Locality Area

Typology	Existing provision (ha)	Existing provision (ha/1000)
Play Space (Children)	3.78	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	1.50	0.02

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of play space within the Chester locality area. It uses the quantity standards for play space from the Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Open Space Study, and summarised in table 3.

Table 3 Quantity standards for play space (from Cheshire west and Chester Open Space Study)

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.03

The following tables show the existing supply of play space within the locality area. Figures are given for the overall locality area, and for individual wards. Where there is insufficient supply of play space, the minus number is highlighted red to make this stand out.

Table 4 Existing Supply of children's and youth play space across the Chester Locality Area

Typology	Existing Provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)	Required Provision (Ha)	Required Provision (Ha/1000)	Supply (Ha)	Supply (Ha/1000)
Play Space (Children)	3.78	0.05	4.07	0.05	-0.29	0
Play Space (Youth)	1.5	0.02	2.44	0.03	-0.94	-0.01

Table 5 Supply of children's and youth play space (hectares) by ward

Ward	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)
Blacon	0.44	-0.15
Boughton	-0.19	-0.15
Chester City	-0.07	-0.11
Garden Quarter	-0.01	-0.06
Great Boughton	0.16	0
Handbridge Park	0.23	0.04
Hoole	-0.05	-0.22
Lache	-0.24	-0.09
Newton	-0.37	0.04
Upton	-0.2	-0.25

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As can be seen from Table 4, there is an under-supply of both children's play space and youth play space across the Chester Locality Area. Table 5 shows how the provision varies within individual wards. Only Blacon, Great Boughton and Handbridge Park wards meet the quantity standard for children's play space, and only Great Boughton, Handbridge Park and Newton wards meet the quantity standard for youth play space.

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## 4.0 Analysis of existing access to play space

This section considers geographical access to children’s play space and youth play space across the Chester Locality Area using the CWAC access standards developed as part of the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study (as summarised in table 6).

Large scale maps showing the locations and catchments of the play and youth facility sites have been provided to the Borough Council and can be made available to all partners.

Table 6 Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study - Access Standards for children and youth play space

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Access standard</b>
Play Space (Children)	480 metres or 10 minutes’ walk time
Play Space (Youth)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time

There is relatively good access to children’s play space across the Chester Locality Area, the main gaps in access are in the wards of Upton, Blacon and Handbridge Park.

The provision of youth play space is more sporadic, with gaps in access across all wards, with the exception of Hoole. There are large gaps in access in the wards of Blacon, Upton, Great Boughton, Boughton and Handbridge Park.

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## 5.0 Quality Assessment

This section provides a summary of the quality audit for play areas that was undertaken as part of the Open Space Study/Play Strategy. The audits were undertaken in September/October 2015. It also includes updated quality audits undertaken in October 2017 in order to inform this annual review.

The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snapshot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites' existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit.

### 5.1 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with a description of the site and recommendations for improvements. An assessment of the quality of the site was undertaken using the following criteria:

- Play value
- Management and maintenance
- Accessibility
- Safety

For each of the criteria a score of 1 - 5 is given, where 1 is very poor and 5 is very good. These scores are added together to provide an overall existing score for the site. Using these scores, each site is then ranked for its existing quality and its potential to improve, as follows:

#### Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

- The existing quality score of the site is totalled
- This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score
- The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank 'A' are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank 'D' are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. **sites with rank 'A' have the best existing quality, and sites with rank 'D' have the poorest quality**
- The breakdown of scoring into the different rank scores for the existing quality is as follows:
  - A: 16-20
  - B: 12-15
  - C: 8-11
  - D: 4-7

#### Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

- The potential quality score of the site is totalled
- This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score
- The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank 'A' are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank 'D' are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. **sites with rank 'A' have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank 'D' have the poorest potential to improve**
- The breakdown of scoring into the different rank scores for the potential quality is as follows:
  - A: 10-14
  - B: 7-9
  - C: 4-6
  - D: 0-3

## 5.2 Summary of quality audit results

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database provided to the council as part of the Open Space Study. A summary of the play areas included within the quality audit for the Chester Locality Area is shown in Tables 7 and 8 below. Audits were undertaken in September/October 2015 as part of the Open Space Study and in October 2017 as part of the annual review. The year the audit was undertaken is provided within the table below.

Table 7 Ethos quality audit of children's play spaces within Chester Locality Area

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1748	Alexandra Park Play Area	Hoole	Recently refurbished, large play space with a mix of wooden (recently installed bespoke climbing frame) and metal equipment. All equipment is in good condition and the site appears to be well used. Bins and benches are provided around the site and decent footpaths link the facilities.	B	C	Play isn't fenced, surface is muddy in places.	2017

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1749	Allington Place Play Area	Handbridge Park	Play area with an obstacle course and a slide, decent wooden equipment.	B	D	Add signage showing safety etc.	2017
1615	Alma Street Play Area	Boughton	Small play space with limited value equipment. Only contains equipment for toddlers. Signage and bin present.	B	D	No provision for junior children, only infants.	2017
1632	Appleyards Lane Play Area	Handbridge Park	Small play space with basic dated equipment.	C	C	Replace equipment.	2015
1988	Blacon Parade Play Area	Blacon	Small play space in new shopping area. Seems well used, swing missing from equipment.	B	D	Replace missing swing.	2017
1640	Blacon Youth Village	Blacon	Adventure space for children, wooden equipment, staff on site running tuck shop, private, had to sign in.	B	D	Decent condition, no issues	2015
2030	Cairns Crescent Play Area	Blacon	Poor play space with dated apparatus.	C	B	Replace equipment	2015
1624	Caldy Valley Neighbourhood Centre	Great Boughton	Play space with rocking horse, seesaw, climbing frame and junior and toddler swings, benches bins and fence, seesaw looks rusted and both the swings and seesaw are outdated, the rest looks like	C	D	Swings and seesaw needs replacing, cut grass	2015



ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			new equipment, surface needs better maintenance.				
1642	Canterbury Road Play Area	Blacon	Small poor dated play space with old apparatus and small open top bins. Play space needs more modern equipment and better facilities.	D	B	Dated equipment, needs replacement	2015
1613	Cherry Grove Play Area	Boughton	Small play space with limited equipment. The signage on site is damaged.	B	D	Room for more equipment. Fix signage damage.	2017
1631	Chesteron court	Newton	Small play space with limited play facilities, basic apparatus.	C	D	Replace some old equipment like swings.	2015
2049	Cheyney Road Play Area	Garden Quarter	Recently installed (2017) natural play area with good signage, bins and benches. Clever use of nature to provide play.	B	D	None	2017
1643	Dicksons Drive Play Area	Newton	Small play space with small opportunity for play.	C	D	Decent facility, opportunity for additional provision	2015
1649	Dryersfield Play Area	Great Boughton	Toddler play space with rocking horses, very small, bins benches and fencing perimeter, no issues, just low amount of equipment.	B	D	Possible addition of new apparatus.	2015

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1618	Duchess Place Play Area 1	Newton	Play space with climbing frame, rocking horse and other toddler equipment, bins, benches, perimeter, in decent condition just very little equipment.	C	D	No issues.	2015
1619	Duchess Place Play Area 2	Newton	Play space with rope tower, cycle rack, fenced, very small play space.	C	D	No issues.	2015
1766	Edgar Park Play Area	Handbridge Park	Play space with swings, 2 climbing frames, slide and stationary rocking horses, wooden structure, bins and benches, in good condition, well maintained.	B	D	Grass growing through impact flooring.	2015
1622	Francis Street Park Play Area	Boughton	Play space with climbing frame, slide and rocking horses, bins, benches, perimeter, all modern equipment in good condition, no issues.	B	D	No issues	2015
1593	Graham Road Play Area	Blacon	Play space with rocking horses, swings, seesaw, climbing frames and basket swing, bins, benches and fencing, decent condition, no issues except	C	C	Needs resurfacing, dated and some damaged equipment	2015

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			for surface, very muddy and wet.				
1991	Greenfields	Upton	New toddler play space, mini seesaw, balance beams, other toddler equipment, good condition	B	D	No issues	2015
1855	Grosvenor Park Play Area	Chester City	Good play space with multiple wooden climbing frame and equipment.	A	D	No improvement	2015
1627	Hoole Lane Play Area	Hoole	Basic play space adjacent to school. Amenity next to it is private with no access to the public. Apparatus is old but due to the location would benefit more from better maintenance.	C	D	Better maintenance of site	2015
1620	Hop Pole Paddock Play Area	Chester City	Fenced play area with a climbing frame, see saw, junior and toddler swings, seems outdated, but in good condition.	C	B	Some equipment could be updated	2015
1591	King George V Playing Field Play area (Blacon)	Blacon	Poor vandalised play space with slide and swings,	D	A	Replace equipment	2015
1629	Lime Wood Fields - By kingsway shops	Newton	Small children's play space with dated apparatus not encouraging play.	B	D	Replace equipment in the play space with modern facilities.	2015

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1596	Melrose Park - Pentland Close Play Area	Great Boughton	Small dated play space within a cycle path.	C	D	Replace equipment.	2015
1594	Neville Road Play Area	Boughton	Decent site with good quality, wooden and metal equipment. Bins and benches are scattered throughout. There is no signage at the site entrance. Also, the grassland needs to have better management as it considerably overgrown during the audit.	B	C	Grass management, add signage.	2017
1595	Pipers Court Play Area	Hoole	Amenity grass with two goal nets basketball hoop and play space. Space consists of two swings and is poor for play. some surface damage to tarmac due to play.	C	D	Replace play equipment with modern equipment.	2015
1592	Poets Park - Meynell Place Play Area	Blacon	Small play space on an amenity green strip	C	C	Replace dated equipment	2015
1602	Prenton Place Play Area	Handbridge Park	Small play space with basic equipment behind houses. Equipment recently re painted but still dated apparatus.	B	C	Update equipment	2015

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1611	Queens Road Play Area	Great Boughton	Small play space with dated apparatus.	C	D	Enhance site with modern climbing frame.	2015
1626	Sandy Lane Play Area	Great Boughton	Flagship play area with diverse and modern equipment. Good signage at the site entrance along with good bins and benches throughout.	A	D	Hedge and grass management, litter picking.	2017
1614	Saxon Way Play Area	Blacon	Basic play space with limited opportunity for play	C	C	Site needs new equipment.	2015
1616	St Annes Play Area	Chester City	Good open play space with a wide variety of apparatus. All modern and well maintained	B	D	No issues.	2015
1641	Stanley Park - Thurston Road Play Area	Lache	Recently refurbished small play space with modern equipment. Good signage at the entrance and good facilities throughout.	A	D	No issues found with this space.	2017
1950	Sycamore Field Junior Climbing frame	Lache	Single climbing frame	C	C	Opportunity for extending play provision, providing additional equipment	2015
1604	Sycamore Field Play Area	Lache	Small dated play space with old worn equipment.	C	C	Update equipment	2015
1625	Thackeray Drive Playing Fields	Great Boughton	Small play space with 4 pieces of equipment. Site is basic with swings slides and a	C	D	Install climbing frame and any other enhancements.	2015

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			modern obstacle course. Would benefit from a multi-purpose climbing frame.				
1630	The Acorns Play Area	Upton	Play space with swings, climbing frame and other toddler apparatus, large area of water in the play area, rained just before audit	C	D	Needs improved drainage, otherwise good play space	2015
1623	The Cop Play Area	Garden Quarter	Outdated play space with worn equipment and surfacing. Lots of space for new equipment etc.	B	D	Space for new equipment.	2017
1617	The Heywoods - Dukes Manor Play Area	Newton	Small play space with limited play equipment. Site is in good condition with no issues.	A	D	Limited play value.	2017
1803	The Holkham play area 1	Great Boughton	Play space with toddler swing and wooden animals, bins benches perimeter, in good condition just very small	C	D	No issues	2015
1804	The Holkham Play area 2	Great Boughton	Play space with toddler swing and wooden animals, bins benches and perimeter also, in good condition just very small	C	D	No issues	2015
1805	Treborth Lane Play area	Blacon	Good play space with 2 climbing frames and	A	D	No issues	2015

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			swings, bins benches and perimeter, overall a good modern play space with no issues				
1599	Vaughans Lane	Great Boughton	Play space with multiple climbing frames, tire walk, swings and toddler play equipment, bins benches and fenced perimeter, in good condition, some equipment is newer than others, small signs of graffiti	B	D	Decent condition, some equipment is outdated	2015
1628	Walker Street Play Area	Hoole	Play space containing a fixed wooden train, in decent condition just hardly any equipment	C	D	More equipment	2015
1621	Water Tower Gardens Play Area	Garden Quarter	Small play space with swings and climbing frame. Basic dated equipment.	C	C	Replace dated equipment <sup>4</sup>	2015
1588	Wealstone Lane Play Area	Upton	Flagship park, old bins with open tops which is accessible by vermin. Broken spring toy and disabled roundabout. Good quality equipment but with dis led	B	D	Replace old bins on site. play space has signs of vandalism and wear on the impact flooring. site was being managed during audit.	2015

<sup>4</sup> This play area was upgraded in 2017 with a new bespoke climbing frame via CWAC capital spend. This site will therefore need an updated quality audit for the next annual review.

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			school next door could do with some specialist equipment.				
1646	Western Avenue Play Area	Blacon	Poor play space which has been locked. Apparatus old and broken.	D	A	Replace equipment	2015
1607	Westminster Park Play Area	Handbridge Park	Good play space with variety of apparatus. Most equipment modern but some are considerably dated.	B	D	Some equipment could be updated	2015

Table 8 Ethos quality audit of youth play spaces/facilities within Chester Locality Area

ID	Site Name	Ward	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1633	Sycamore Field MUGA	Lache	Fenced MUGA.	B	D	In ok condition but can be improved in the future.	2015
1688	Queen Elizabeth MUGA	Blacon	MUGA and teen shelter with trim trail towards north of site. trim trail missed during audit but MUGA was audited.	C	C	MUGA fencing is low.	2015
1690	Wealstone Lane MUGA	Upton	Flag ship park for uptown by open sided MUGA with teen shelter directly adjacent.	B	D	Replace old bins on site. play space has signs of vandalism and wear on the impact flooring. site was being managed during audit.	2015
1692	Canterbury Road 5v5	Blacon	Full basketball court in good condition, no real issues, could be better maintained better.	B	D	No recommendations.	2015



1693	The Cop Skate park	Garden Quarter	Average skate park with numerous ramps and grind bars. Teen shelter adjacent.	B	D	Good facilities with some signs of vandalism. No issues	2015
1695	Lime Wood Fields - by live building	Newton	Full MUGA with perimeter fencing, basketball hoops, markings and goals.	B	D	Good for now, but has potential for future improvement.	2015
1696	Dicksons Drive MUGA	Newton	Half MUGA seems outdated compared to other equipment.	C	D	Decent facility, potential for improvement in the future.	2015
1697	New Scene Youth Centre MUGA	Newton	New and modern MUGA.	A	D	No recommendations.	2015
1698	Pipers Court MUGA/Basketball	Hoole	Amenity grass with two goal nets basketball hoop and play space. Space consists of two swings and is poor for play. some surface damage to tarmac due to play.	C	D	Replace play equipment with modern equipment.	2015
1699	Water Tower Gardens MUGA	Garden Quarter	Recently refurbished MUGA with basketball hoops and goals. Surface is in good condition with excellent markings. Boundary fencing is also good.	A	D	No issues with the site.	2017
1700	Queens Road MUGA	Great Boughton	MUGA with basketball hoops and a perimeter fencing.	B	D	In good condition for now, but has potential for improvements in the future.	2015
1701	St Annes MUGA	Chester City	Fenced MUGA, good markings.	B	D	Good MUGA, no real issues, potentially improve	2015

						maintenance as there is litter in the space.	
1702	Thackeray Drive MUGA	Great Boughton	Open MUGA with Basketball hoops. Site has no perimeter fencing and currently has no other provisions for other sports apart from basketball.	C	C	Site MUGA needs perimeter fencing and could be improved with other sports provision.	2015
1729	Westminster Park BMX Track	Handbridge Park	Good BMX Track mainly consisting of mud jumps but some of the Sharper corners and banks have tarmac on them to reinforce them.	B	D	Good facilities with great opportunity for play. site could have more bins to discourage littering	2015
1734	Canterbury Road Basketball Court	Blacon	5v5 hard standing football court, perimeter fencing with low goals.	B	D	Goals could be improved, potential for future improvement.	2015
1753	Alexandra Park MUGA	Hoole	Recently added goal areas to MUGA, excellent quality basketball court with good surface.	A	D	Could have boundary fencing.	2017
1933	Poets Park - Meynell Place Kickwall	Blacon	Wooden kickwall with basketball hoop.	C	C	Could be improved, could have hard surface.	2015
1937	Queens Road BMX	Great Boughton	BMX circuit, made of hard standing material.	B	D	Room to expand the site, could introduce skate ramps.	2015
1951	Sycamore Field BMX Ramps	Lache	Skate ramps adjacent to a MUGA and a teen shelter.	C	C	Skate ramps are of poor quality and are limited in play value.	2015
1966	Graham Road MUGA	Blacon	MUGA in decent condition apart from some	C	D	Possible graffiti removal. leaves in corner of MUGA need to be cleared	2015

			graffiti.			out.	
1794	Limewood Fields Skate Park	Newton	BMX Track and teen shelter.	C	C	In decent condition but ramps aren't of great quality. Install larger and sturdier ramps.	2015
2050	Queen Elizabeth Pump Track	Blacon	Recently installed BMX Pump track with excellent surface, in use during audit.	A	D	No issues with the site.	2017
2052	Neville Road Half MUGA	Boughton	Excellent half MUGA with a football goal and basketball hoop. fencing around the site, along with the excellent signage and floor markings make this an exceptional site.	A	D	None, new facility with excellent equipment.	2017

As can be seen from tables 7 and 8, there is a huge variation in the quality of play space within Chester Locality. Sites with the lowest existing quality scores (scoring C or D), and with the most potential to be improved (scoring A or B) are:

- Cairns Crescent Play Area (Blacon)
- Canterbury Road Play Area (Blacon)
- King George V Playing Field Play area (Blacon)
- Hop Pole Paddock Play Area (Chester City)
- Western Avenue Play Area (Blacon)

## 6.0 Consultation

As part of the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study, consultation was undertaken during 2015 which included surveys of households, local groups and organisations (including play and youth organisations) and town and parish councils.

The key headline findings regarding children's play space and youth play space are as follows:

- Significant numbers of stakeholders highlighted facilities for teenagers including multi-use games areas as being of poor quality
- The majority of respondents would not expect to travel more than 10 minutes on foot to access children's play areas. Respondents would be prepared to travel further if safe access to sites was improved, and the facilities were more interesting/varied
- A majority of respondents suggest a need for more facilities for teenagers, however for children's play areas, the majority of respondents suggest that that are enough play areas, and the priority is for improvements to existing play areas.

Further consultation was also undertaken to inform the Play Strategy including a stakeholder workshop, four locality area workshops and further consultation with town and parish councils (details are included in section 6).

The Chester Locality Area includes the parish of Great Boughton who provided the following comments (verbatim): "Our surveys and consultation have shown the need to increase and improve facilities particularly for teenagers and children's play was highlighted".

Locality managers were also contacted to provide input on known play and youth facility issues. The Chester Locality Manager comments (verbatim) are included in table 9 below.

Table 9 Locality Managers' comments regarding Chester

Facility/Aspect	Issues/comment/observations
Children's play areas	Sandy Lane Aqua Park/Play area, Great Boughton & Boughton Wards – an options appraisal has been commissioned to investigate the potential future management arrangements of the space.
Teenage facilities (e.g. skateparks)	Young People are extremely keen to have a designated City Centre Skatepark as they feel that 'The Cop' skatepark (located in the Garden Quarter Ward) is inadequate and is out of sight from the road etc.
General	It was also noted that generally, local residents often feedback about the poor condition of open spaces and play areas.

## 7.0 Prioritisation of play space methodology

### 7.1 Priority factors/criteria

Following a series of four Locality Area Workshops with key stakeholders, eight criteria for prioritising play areas for improvement were agreed by the steering group. These are set out within table 10 below.

Table 10 Priority factors and how they have been measured

Priority Factor	Statistics used/ how measured
1. Demographics (% of 0-19 year olds within each ward)	Office for National Statistics (ONS) Population of 0-19 year olds at ward level (mid-year 2015 estimates)
2. Child excess weight (overweight and obese combined)	Excess weight in reception and year six children - 2013/14 to 2014/15 pooled by ward and compared to England levels (Cheshire West and Chester JSNA)
3. Proximity to schools	Mapping
4. Proximity to other play areas	Mapping
5. Child/youth deprivation	Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) – Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) (2015)
6. Rural deprivation to services	Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - Geographical Barriers (subset of the Barriers to Services domain) by LSOA (2015)
7. Existing quality	Ethos quality audit rank scores (from Open Space Study/Play Strategy)
8. Potential quality	Ethos quality audit rank scores (from Open Space Study/Play Strategy)

#### 7.1.1 Demographics

Table 11 below shows the child population within each ward compared to the total ward population, and for the locality area as a whole. The last column shows the percentage of the population within each ward (and the total for the Chester Locality Area) that is between age 0-19 (i.e. the child population).

The child population within Chester is 25,470 which is 20.98% of the total population of 121,407. Some wards have a significantly higher percentage of children, notably Blacon (25.63%), and Lache (26.96%). Play spaces within these wards with the highest percentages of child population (25-30%) have scored more highly compared to play space in other wards, as there is likely to be more demand for play facilities in these areas (see table 12 for detailed scoring and weighting).

Table 11 Population of 0-19 year olds at ward level (mid-year 2015 estimates)

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Population Aged 0-19</b>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>% Population Under 19</b>
Blacon	3,492	13,627	25.63
Boughton	787	5,610	14.03
Chester City	523	4,245	12.32
Garden Quarter	940	5,752	16.34
Great Boughton	1,978	8,962	22.07
Handbridge Park	1,654	8,786	18.83
Hoole	1,945	9,404	20.68
Lache	1,601	5,939	26.96
Newton	2,012	9,943	20.24
Upton	2,291	9,201	24.90
<b>Total for Chester Locality Area</b>	<b>25,470</b>	<b>121,407</b>	<b>20.98</b>

### 7.1.2 Excess weight in reception and year 6 children

Play areas that are within wards with significantly higher levels of excess weight in reception and year six children (compared to England) are given the highest score, as good quality and engaging play facilities that meet local needs within these areas will be important in encouraging children to play outdoors, leading more active and healthy lifestyles. Reducing childhood obesity is a key target for public health in Cheshire West and Chester.

Chester Locality Area has no significant difference to England of excess weight rates in both reception and year six children compared to England. Only Blacon and Lache (reception children only) wards are significantly higher in child excess weight compared to England.

### 7.1.3 Proximity to schools

This was measured using ArcView GIS, using the education sites data collected as part of the CWAC Open Space Study. The closer a play area is to a school, the higher it scores.

### 7.1.4 Proximity to other play areas

This was measured using ArcView GIS. The further away a play area is to another play area, the higher it scores.

### 7.1.5 Child/youth deprivation (IDACI)

The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) is an index of deprivation used in the United Kingdom. It measures in a local area (called a lower super output area (LSOA), which is a small fixed geographic area encompassing a population of approximately 1,000 people) the proportion of children under the age of 16 that live in families that are income

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deprived i.e. in receipt of income support, income based jobseeker's allowance or pension credit, or those not in receipt of these benefits but in receipt of Child Tax Credit with an equivalised income (excluding housing benefits) below 60% of the national median before housing costs. The LSOA with a rank of 1 is the most deprived. Play space within the areas with the lowest ranks i.e. the most deprived areas (with a rank of between 1 and 3) are given the highest score.

The wards with the highest levels of child/youth deprivation are Blacon and Lache, with smaller areas of Chester City, Newton, Hoole and Upton.

#### **7.1.6 Rural deprivation to services - geographical barriers**

Geographical Barriers to Services is a sub-domain of the Barriers to Housing and Services domain, which is one of the domains that make up the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). It measures physical proximity to essential services and assigns each local area (LSOA) a deprivation score based on the road distance to a GP, shop, primary school and post office. The LSOA with a rank of 1 is the most deprived.

The most deprived wards are Handbridge Park, Lache, Blacon, Great Boughton, Garden Quarter and the most northern part of Upton.

#### **7.1.7 Existing quality and potential quality**

The methodology for the Ethos quality audit which ranks play spaces for their existing quality and potential to improve is explained under section 5. A summary of the play areas included within the Chester Locality quality audit, with their rank scores is provided in tables 7 and 8.

### **7.2 Scoring play areas**

For each of these criteria/priority factors listed in table 10, a scoring and weighted rank has been applied as set out in table 12 below, in order to prioritise each play area.

Table 12 Desktop assessment criteria for prioritising sites

Priority Factor	Scoring	Weighted Ranking
1. Demographics	12-20% of ward population is between 0-19 years old: <b>score 1</b> 20-25% of ward population is between 0-19 years old: <b>score 2</b> 25-30% of ward population is between 0-19 years old: <b>score 3</b>	4
2. Child weight excess	Significantly higher than England: <b>score 2</b> No significant difference to England: <b>score 1</b> Significantly lower than England: <b>score 0</b>	1
3. Proximity to schools	<100 metres: <b>score 3</b> 100-300 metres: <b>score 2</b> 300-500 metres: <b>score 1</b> >500 metres: <b>score 0</b>	3
4. Proximity to other play areas	<b>Children's play space:</b> <80 metres: <b>score 0</b> 80-280 metres: <b>score 1</b> 280-480 metres: <b>score 2</b> >480 metres: <b>score 3</b> <b>Youth play space</b> <200 metres: <b>score 0</b> 200-400 metres: <b>score 1</b> 400-600 metres: <b>score 2</b> >600 metres: <b>score 3</b>	3
5. Child/youth deprivation (Rank 1 = most deprived 10% and Rank 10 = least deprived)	Ranked between 1-3: <b>score 3</b> Ranked between 4-6: <b>score 2</b> Ranked between 7-9: <b>score 1</b> Ranked 10: <b>score 0</b>	2
6. Rural Deprivation to services (Rank 1= highest barriers/most deprived and Rank 10= least deprived)	Ranked between 1-3: <b>score 3</b> Ranked between 4-6: <b>score 2</b> Ranked between 7-9: <b>score 1</b> Ranked 10: <b>score 0</b>	2
7. Existing Quality	Rank A (excellent quality site): <b>score 0</b> Rank B: <b>score 1</b> Rank C: <b>score 2</b> Rank D (Poor quality site): <b>score 3</b>	5
8. Potential Quality	Rank A (high potential to improve): <b>score 3</b> Rank B: <b>score 2</b> Rank C: <b>score 1</b> Rank D (no/limited potential to improve): <b>score 0</b>	5



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### 7.2.1 Priority scores

The total score for each play area is calculated by multiplying the score by the weighted ranking and then adding the weighted rankings for each of the criteria/priority factors to give an overall score. The range of total scores (from 15 to 62) for each site has been used to group the play areas into 3 priority categories, as follows:

- **Total score between 15 and 30: Low priority for improvement**
- **Total score between 31 and 46: Medium priority for improvement**
- **Total score between 47 and 62: High priority for improvement.**

Sites have also been considered for their potential for alternative open space use where their removal would not result in any gaps in access (i.e. there is a cluster of sites in close proximity).

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## **8.0 Results of prioritisation process**

This section sets out the results of the prioritisation process explained in section 7.

### **8.1 High priority sites**

There are nine play spaces that have been identified as a high priority for improvement within the Chester Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 47 and 62). Seven of these are children's play spaces and two are youth spaces, and all are located within Blacon. These high priority play areas are shown in table 13 below.

The 'Ethos recommendations' column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis (columns 5 to 10) and recommends if sites should be retained, retained and improved, or if they have potential for alternative open space use (which feeds into section 8.4).

Table 13 Play areas that are a high priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward Supply (ha)	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
2030	Cairns Crescent Play Area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	C	B	49	0.44	0.03	13.91	Poor quality play space with dated equipment. Its removal would result in a gap in access and it has been assessed as being high priority for improvement. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained and invested in/improved.
1642	Canterbury Road Play Area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	D	B	57	0.44	0.05	2.92	Poor quality play area with dated equipment in area of high need/high priority for improvement. Although its removal would not result in a gap in access or an undersupply of children's play space within the ward, it has funding identified for improvements, and therefore it is not considered to have potential for alternative open space use. Avenue Services are planning improvements for this site.
1593	Graham Road Play Area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	C	C	50	0.44	0.05	31.62	Average quality play space with high priority for improvement. Its loss would not result in an undersupply or a gap in access (as the gap in access created if it were removed is over an area of open space/unpopulated area). However, there is funding secured for this play space, and therefore it is considered that it does not have potential for alternative open space use. Avenue Services are planning improvements for this site.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward Supply (ha)	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1591	King George V Playing Field Play area (Blacon)	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	D	A	62	0.44	0.03	4.7	Very poor quality play space with low play value. Although it is a high priority for improvement, it's removal would not result in a gap in access (as the gap created would be over an area of open space) or a shortfall in supply. However, the site has funding identified for its improvement and therefore it is not considered to have potential for alternative open space use. Avenue Services are planning improvements for this site.
1933	Poets Park - Meynell Place Kickwall	Blacon	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	48	-0.15	0.01	44.53	Average quality kickwall with basketball hoop, high priority for improvement. There is a shortfall of youth provision in the ward, and its removal would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained and improved. Avenue Services are planning improvements for this site.
1592	Poets Park - Meynell Place Play Area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	C	C	47	0.44	0.02	23.09	Average quality play space with low play value. Its removal would not result in an undersupply within the ward or a gap in access (as the access gap created is over open space). However, there is funding identified for improving this play space, and therefore it is not considered to have potential for alternative open space use. Avenue Services are planning improvements for this site.
1688	Queen Elizabeth MUGA	Blacon	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	48	-0.15	0.03	1.8	Average quality MUGA with potential to improve, in area of high need/high priority for improvement. There is a shortfall of youth provision within the ward, and therefore it is recommended that the facility is retained and improved.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward Supply (ha)	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1614	Saxon Way Play Area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	C	C	47	0.44	0.03	33.85	Average quality play area with low play value. Its loss would not result in a shortfall, however it would result in a small gap in access (the majority of the access gap would fall over open space/a non-populated area). However, the site has funding identified for its improvement and therefore it is not considered to have potential for alternative open space use.
1646	Western Avenue Play Area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	D	A	59	0.44	0.08	0.1	Poor quality play space with low play value. Although in an area of need/high priority for improvement, its loss would not result in a shortfall in supply or a gap in access. Therefore, it is considered that this play space has potential for alternative open space use.

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## **8.2 Medium priority sites**

There are 40 play spaces that have been identified as a medium priority for improvement within the Chester Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 31 and 46) – 29 children’s play spaces and 11 youth facilities, as shown in table 14 below.

The ‘Ethos recommendations’ column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis (columns 5 to 10) and recommends if sites should be retained, retained and improved, or if they have potential for alternative open space use (which feeds into section 8.4).

Table 14 Play areas that are a medium priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1632	Appleyards Lane Play Area	Handbridge Park	Play Space (Children)	C	C	39	0.23	0.06	4.24	Average quality play space with dated equipment (although CWAC noted that the play space has been improved since the initial audit). Due to the recent investment in this play space, it is considered that it does not have potential for alternative open space use, and it should be retained. Needs quality audit for 2018 review.
1988	Blacon Parade Play Area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	B	D	39	0.44	0.02	3.41	Good quality new play space for toddlers. Although its removal would not result in a gap in access or a shortfall in the ward supply, due to the quality of the site it is recommended that it is retained. There was a missing swing at the time of the quality audit, but this was a maintenance issue rather than the play space requiring investment to improve.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1640	Blacon Youth Village	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	B	D	39	0.44	0.67	2.78	Good quality, large children's play space with good play value. Due to the quality of the site, and the fact that its loss would result in a shortfall in supply within the ward, it is recommended that it is retained.
1624	Caldy Valley Neighbourhood Centre	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	33	0.16	0.03	26.99	Average quality toddler play space with low play value. There is sufficient supply of children's play space within the ward, and on closer inspection, the loss of this play space would only result in a very small gap in access, as the large majority of the gap that would be created falls over a non-populated area (retail park and open space on the other side of a busy road). Therefore, it is considered that this play space may have potential for alternative open space use.



ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1692	Canterbury Road 5v5	Blacon	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	36	-0.15	0.02	0.88	Good quality hard standing football court. Although its removal would not result in any gap in access, there is a shortfall of youth provision in the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that this facility is retained. This is now a medium priority for improvement (previously low). Avenue Services are planning improvements for this site.
1734	Canterbury Road Basketball Court	Blacon	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	36	-0.15	0.07	0	As above.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1631	Chesteron court	Newton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	33	-0.37	0.02	6.17	Average play space with low play value in a ward where there is a shortfall in the supply of children's play space. Its removal would also result in a small gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained and improved.
1696	Dicksons Drive MUGA	Newton	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	35	0.04	0.12	60.4	Average half MUGA. Its removal would result in a shortfall in the ward supply, and would create a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained, and could be improved e.g. upgraded to a full MUGA.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1643	Dicksons Drive Play Area	Newton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	32	-0.37	0.02	21.25	Average quality play space. There is a shortfall of children's play space in the ward, and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained and improved.
1649	Dryersfield Play Area	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	0.16	0.01	0	Very small toddler play space with low play value. Although the equipment is decent quality, there are so few items, and the loss of this play space would not result in any gap in access or a shortfall in supply. Therefore, it is considered that this play space may have potential for alternative open space use.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1618	Duchess Place Play Area 1	Newton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	-0.37	0.02	0	This play space has low priority for improvement, and is very small with low play value. Therefore, it may have potential for alternative open space use, provided a nearby play area e.g. The Heywoods is extended by at least the same area (so that the shortfall within the ward is not made worse). This would need to be considered along with Duchess Place Play Area 2.
1619	Duchess Place Play Area 2	Newton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	-0.37	0.01	0.48	As above (Duchess Place Play Area 1)

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1966	Graham Road MUGA	Blacon	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	44	-0.15	0.07	64.55	Average quality MUGA. There is a shortfall of youth provision within the ward, and its removal would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that this facility is retained and improved.
1991	Greenfields	Upton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	-0.2	0.01	53.98	Good quality play space, there is an existing shortfall within the ward, and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations	
1627	Hoole Lane Play Area	Hoole	Play Space (Children)	C	D	33	-0.05	0.19	0	Average quality, large play area in a ward with a shortfall in children's play provision. Its loss would also result in a gap in access due to the railway line acting as a barrier. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained and improved.	
1620	Hop Paddock Area	Pole Play	Chester City	Play Space (Children)	C	B	40	-0.07	0.02	13.28	Average/good play space with potential to improve. There is a shortfall in children's play space in the ward, and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained and invested in. Small scale surfacing improvements are planned for 2018.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1629	Lime Wood Fields - By kingsway shops	Newton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	35	-0.37	0.05	55.63	Good quality play space in a ward where there is a shortfall in children's provision and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained.
1695	Lime Wood Fields - by live building	Newton	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	32	0.04	0.05	0.84	Average quality MUGA. Its loss would result in a shortfall in supply of youth provision within the ward, and it provides a different type of facility to the adjacent skate park. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained and improved.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1794	Limefields Skate Park	Newton	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	42	0.04	0.04	0.19	Good quality skate park. There is only one other skate park in the Chester Locality, and good quality facilities of this type are generally in high demand. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained. Consideration is currently being given to updating skate facilities at this site.
1596	Melrose Park - Pentland Close Play Area	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	0.16	0.01	0	Small, dated play space with low play value. Its loss would not result in a shortfall in the ward supply, or a gap in access, and therefore it is considered that this play space has potential for alternative open space use.



ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1594	Neville Road Play Area	Boughton	Play Space (Children)	B	C	31	-0.19	0.04	0	Good quality play area with good play value, with new wooden trim trail. Although its loss would not result in a gap in access, there is an undersupply of children's play space within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended the play space is retained.
1698	Pipers Court MUGA/Basketball	Hoole	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	37	-0.22	0.03	37.86	Average quality MUGA in a ward where there is a shortfall in youth provision and its loss would also result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that this facility is retained and improved.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1595	Pipers Court Play Area	Hoole	Play Space (Children)	C	D	38	-0.05	0.01	45.43	Average play space in a ward where there is a shortfall in children's play provision, and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained and improved.
1602	Prenton Place Play Area	Handbridge Park	Play Space (Children)	B	C	34	0.23	0.02	0	Good quality play space with good play value. Therefore, it is considered that this play space should be retained.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
2050	Queen Elizabeth Pump Track	Blacon	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	32	-0.15	0.06	0.66	Very good quality bike ramps. There is also a shortfall of youth provision within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained.
1611	Queens Road Play Area	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	33	0.16	0.06	3.26	Previously low, now just falls into the medium category. Average quality play space with low play value - large fenced off area, but only a few items of play equipment. As there is sufficient supply of children's play space within the ward, and its removal would result in only a very small gap in access, it is considered that this play space may have potential for alternative open space use.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1641	Stanley Park - Thurston Road Play Area	Lache	Play Space (Children)	A	D	33	-0.24	0.03	48.49	Very good quality play space, recently improved (redesigned infant and junior play space), in a ward where there is a shortfall in children's play provision and where its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore the facility should be retained.
1951	Sycamore Field BMX Ramps	Lache	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	45	-0.09	0.02	1.31	Good quality BMX ramps in a ward where there is a shortfall in youth provision. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained. Small scale improvements being undertaken in 2017/18.
1950	Sycamore Field Junior Climbing frame	Lache	Play Space (Children)	C	C	46	-0.24	0	6.7	Previously scored C for existing quality - not sure why it has come out as B, when the scoring looks quite low. Sycamore field contains a range of children's play equipment suitable for toddlers and juniors. Although the Junior climbing equipment is over 100m from the other children's equipment and has been audited separately, it is considered as part of

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
										the same provision as it provides equipment for an older age group of children. As removal of play space at Sycamore Field would result in a large gap in access (and there is also a shortfall in supply of children's play space within the ward) and would reduce the play value of the site, it is considered that this play space does not have potential for alternative open space use. Small scale improvements being undertaken in 2017/18.
1633	Sycamore Field MUGA	Lache	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	35	-0.09	0.06	2.19	Good quality MUGA in a ward where there is a shortfall in youth provision. It provides a different facility to the nearby BMX ramps and therefore it is recommended that the MUGA is retained.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1604	Sycamore Field Play Area	Lache	Play Space (Children)	C	C	46	-0.24	0.02	10.72	Sycamore Field contains a range of children's play equipment suitable for toddlers and juniors. As removal of play space at Sycamore Field would result in a large gap in access (and there is also a shortfall in supply of children's play space within the ward), it is considered that this play space does not have potential for alternative open space use. Small scale improvements being undertaken in 2017/18.
1702	Thackeray Drive MUGA	Great Boughton	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	41	0	0.09	62.39	Average quality MUGA. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and a shortfall in supply of youth provision within the ward, therefore it is recommended that this facility is retained and improved.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1625	Thackeray Drive Playing Fields	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	36	0.16	0.23	54	Average quality play area, medium priority for improvement. Its loss would result in a gap in access and a shortfall in supply within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained and improved.
1630	The Acorns Play Area	Upton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	36	-0.2	0.01	53.72	Average quality play space, there is an existing shortfall within the ward, and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1803	The Holkham play area 1	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	32	0.16	0.01	0	Small play space with low play value. Its loss would not result in a gap in access or a shortfall in supply, therefore it is considered that this play space has potential for alternative open space use.
1804	The Holkham Play area 2	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	32	0.16	0.01	12.75	Small play space with low play value. Its loss would result in a very small gap in access and no shortfall in supply, therefore it is considered that this play space may have potential for alternative open space use. However, this needs to be considered alongside The Holkham Play Area 1.



ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1805	Treborth Lane Play area	Blacon	Play Space (Children)	A	D	33	0.44	0.14	65.24	Good quality play area with good play value. Its loss would also result in a large gap in access and therefore it should be retained.
1599	Vaughans Lane	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	34	0.16	0.09	12.97	Good play space with good play value. Its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1628	Walker Street Play Area	Hoole	Play Space (Children)	C	D	32	-0.05	0.08	2.31	This is not a formal equipped play area, consisting of a wooden train within a small amenity space. There is a shortfall of children's play space within the ward and due to the nature of the facility (likely to have low maintenance costs etc.) and the visual amenity that it adds to the space, it is considered that it should be retained.
1621	Water Tower Gardens Area	Garden Quarter	Play Space (Children)	C	C	38	-0.01	0.05	21.61	Good quality play area <sup>5</sup> in an area of medium need/medium priority for improvement. There is a shortfall of children's play space within the ward, and its loss would result in a small gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained.

<sup>5</sup> CWAC have noted that this play space has been improved in 2017. Therefore, it will need an updated quality audit for the next annual review.

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### **8.3 Low priority sites**

There are 24 play spaces that have been identified as a low priority for improvement within the Chester Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 15 and 30) – 14 children’s play spaces and 10 youth facilities, as shown in table 15 below.

The ‘Ethos recommendations’ column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis (columns 5 to 10) and recommends if sites should be retained, retained and improved, or if they have potential for alternative open space use (which feeds into section 8.4).

Even though these play areas have come out of the framework as being low priority for improvement, local consultation will be needed to identify local issues and priorities.

Table 15 Play areas that are a low priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1753	Alexandra Park MUGA	Hoole	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	22	-0.22	0.04	20.65	Very good quality MUGA (recent improvements include a new goal end) in a ward where there is a shortfall in youth provision. Therefore, it is recommended that this facility is retained.
1748	Alexandra Park Play Area	Hoole	Play Space (Children)	B	C	30	-0.05	0.15	3.18	Good quality, large play space with excellent play value. Has had recent improvement works (new junior integrated climbing feature). There is also a shortfall in children's play space within the ward. Therefore, this play space should be retained.
1749	Allington Place Play Area	Handbridge Park	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	0.23	0.06	11.36	Good quality play space with recent improvement works carried out including new wooden balancing logs. Its loss would also result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained.
1615	Alma Street Play Area	Boughton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	26	-0.19	0.01	0	Decent toddler play space with average play value. Recent improvement works have been undertaken (including repainting and resurfacing), and there is a shortfall of children's play space within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained and does not have potential for alternative open space use.
1613	Cherry Grove Play Area	Boughton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	26	-0.19	0.03	0	Decent play space with average play value. Recent improvement works have been undertaken (including repainting and resurfacing) and there is a shortfall of children's play space within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
2049	Cheyney Road Play Area	Garden Quarter	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	-0.01	0.1	52.76	Newly mapped? Good natural play area in a ward where there is a shortfall in children's play space and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained.
1766	Edgar Park Play Area	Handbridge Park	Play Space (Children)	B	D	28	0.23	0.08	43.16	Good quality, large play space with good play value - variety of modern (wooden) equipment. Its removal would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, this play space should be retained. Small scale improvements planned in 2018.
1622	Francis Street Park Play Area	Boughton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	25	-0.19	0.02	0	Good quality, modern play space in Boughton where there is a shortfall in supply of children's play space. Therefore, it is recommended that this play space is retained.
1855	Grosvenor Park Play Area	Chester City	Play Space (Children)	A	D	22	-0.07	0.07	17.69	Very good quality play space with good play value in a ward where there is a shortfall in supply, and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained.
2052	Neville Road Half MUGA	Boughton	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	23	-0.15	0.02	114.06	Good quality MUGA, there is a shortfall in youth provision within the ward, and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, this facility should be retained.
1697	New Scene Youth Centre MUGA	Newton	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	28	0.04	0.13	0.52	Good quality MUGA. Its loss would result in a shortfall in youth provision within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained.
1937	Queens Road BMX	Great Boughton	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	27	0	0.13	1.13	Good quality BMX area. Its loss would result in a shortfall in youth provision within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1700	Queens Road MUGA	Great Boughton	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	27	0	0.05	0.19	Good quality MUGA. Its loss would result in a shortfall in youth provision within the ward. Therefore, it is recommended that the facility is retained.
1626	Sandy Lane Play Area	Great Boughton	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	0.16	0.16	7.64	Good quality, large play space with good play value. Has had recent improvement works (including fence painting and wet pour installation). Therefore, this play space should be retained.
1701	St Annes MUGA	Chester City	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	27	-0.11	0.02	94.35	Good quality MUGA. Its loss would worsen the ward shortfall and create a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1616	St Annes Play Area	Chester City	Play Space (Children)	B	D	25	-0.07	0.06	0	Good quality play space in a ward where there is a shortfall in supply. Therefore, it should be retained.
1623	The Cop Play Area	Garden Quarter	Play Space (Children)	B	D	26	-0.01	0.13	23.57	Good play space. Recent improvements include painting of equipment and new safety gates. There is a shortfall of children's play space within the ward, and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
1693	The Cop Skate park	Garden Quarter	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	26	-0.06	0.05	45.38	Good quality skate park. There is a shortfall of youth provision in the ward, and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended the facility is retained.
1617	The Heywoods - Dukes Manor Play Area	Newton	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	-0.37	0.01	5.61	Good quality play space (recent improvements have been completed which include a new swing and new surfacing). There is an existing shortfall of children's play space within the ward, and therefore it is recommended it is

ID	Site Name	Typology	Ward	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Ward supply (ha)	Area of site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
										retained.
1699	Water Tower Gardens MUGA	Garden Quarter	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	23	-0.06	0.07	39.12	Good quality MUGA in a ward where there is an undersupply in youth provision. Therefore, it is recommended the MUGA is retained.
1690	Wealstone Lane MUGA	Upton	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	30	-0.25	0.03	78.46	Good quality MUGA in a ward where there is a shortfall in youth provision and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the MUGA is retained.
1588	Wealstone Lane Play Area	Upton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	-0.2	0.24	73.79	Good quality play space in a ward where there is a shortfall in children's provision and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained.
1729	Westminster Park BMX Track	Handbridge Park	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	25	0.04	0.3	120.93	Good quality BMX track. Its removal would result in a large gap in access and a shortfall in supply. Therefore, this facility should be retained.
1607	Westminster Park Play Area	Handbridge Park	Play Space (Children)	B	D	26	0.23	0.45	84.76	Good quality, large play area with good play value. Its loss would result in an undersupply and a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.

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#### 8.4 Play space with potential for alternative open space use

Some play spaces are limited in the play value that they can offer due to their size/location and/or may be of average/poor quality. Where these sites are overlapping in access (i.e. if they were removed, would not result in a gap in access), **and do not have funds secured for improvements/replacement**, they may be suitable for alternative open space use (e.g. informal play space), especially where other existing high quality play areas or high potential play areas are located in close proximity. This is irrespective of a sites priority for improvement.

Options to improve the sites' visual amenity and biodiversity value could also be sought e.g. by native hedge/tree planting.

The decision if a site is suitable for alternative open space use will of course depend on the needs of the local community (who will be consulted before such a decision is made), and it is important to note that sites below are those with **potential** for alternative open space use – it is not the final recommendation of this framework that they are secured for alternative open space use, but rather that further investigation is needed.

The following sites have potential for alternative open space use (the decision making for each of these sites is included within the 'Ethos recommendations' column of tables 14 to 16):

- Western Avenue Play Area (High Priority for Improvement – Table 13), Blacon
- Caldly Valley Neighbourhood Centre (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- Dryersfield Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- Melrose Park – Pentland Close Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- Queens Road Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- The Holkham Play Area 1 or 2 (Low Priority for Improvement – Table 15), Great Boughton
- Duchess Place Play Area 1 or 2 (Low Priority for Improvement – Table 15), Newton

#### 8.5 Potential for new provision

Open spaces where there is currently no provision of children's or youth play space have been considered for their potential to accommodate new provision where they would reduce gaps in access, enabling more areas of the Locality to meet the access standards for play space as set out within the CWAC Open Space Study and section 4 of this Framework. Open spaces with **potential** for new provision are highlighted **bold** in the table below.

The decision to install a new children's or youth play space on a site **will depend on the availability of funding** (Cheshire West and Chester Council is not currently committing to the installation and maintenance of new play areas, just consolidating existing provision)



and the needs of the local community. It is important to note that sites below are those with potential for new provision – it is not the final recommendation of this framework that they are implemented, but that they could be pursued further if and when new funding becomes available.

Ward	Comments
Blacon	<p><b>Children’s play space</b>            There is relatively limited potential for new provision within existing open space that does not currently accommodate play facilities. Although there is sufficient supply of children’s play space in Blacon, there are gaps in access. Options for new provision to reduce gaps in access include <b>Cranleigh Crescent</b> amenity green space which would remove the access gap in the east of the ward, and <b>Willow Drive</b> amenity green space which would reduce the access gap to the north west of the ward (although this green space is relatively small at 0.18ha).</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b>            Green space with potential for new youth facilities are limited and it is recommended that existing facilities are improved and extended (due to the existing under supply of youth play space in Blacon). <b>Saxon Way</b> is a relatively large amenity green space (0.8ha) which currently has an informal kickabout which could be converted into a MUGA (or alternative youth provision), or the site may be large enough to incorporate youth facilities in addition. This would reduce the access gap in the north west of the ward and help reduce the under supply of youth play space in Blacon.</p>
Boughton	<p><b>Children’s play space</b>            There are no gaps in access across this ward, therefore it is recommended that existing play areas are improved and extended due to the under supply of children’s play space in Boughton e.g. Cherry Grove Play Area (medium priority for improvement) has £10,000 S106 funding secured and there is space to extend the play area.</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b>            There is currently no youth provision within Boughton and very limited suitable space for new youth provision, although <b>Cherry Grove Park and Rec</b> may have potential to accommodate such facilities which would reduce the access gap and help reduce the under supply of youth play space in Boughton.</p>
Chester City	<p><b>Children’s play space</b>            There is very limited potential for new provision within open space that does not currently accommodate play space. Therefore, it is recommended that existing facilities are improved and extended to reduce the current under supply.</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b>            Very limited potential for new provision to reduce gaps in access. Provision at Grosvenor Park would reduce access gaps within the ward, but it is unlikely that youth provision within this formal park</p>

Ward	Comments
	<p>would be appropriate/suitable. Youth provision at St Anne's Playing Field in the north of the ward (where there is currently a MUGA) could be extended to reduce the under supply of youth play space in this ward.</p>
Garden Quarter	<p><b>Children's play space</b>  <b>Cheyney Road Pocket Park</b> (in the north west of Garden Quarter) now has a natural play area which removes the access gap in the north of the ward. It should be noted that if new play space were installed at Cranleigh Crescent (Blacon), then this would also reduce the access gap in the north of Garden Quarter (and vice versa), so the best approach may be to select the most suitable site out of these two open spaces for new children's play space (but would need safe access across the A5480).</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b>  There are no suitable open spaces for new youth provision within the ward in order to reduce access gaps towards the north of the ward (unless there are any suitable facilities at Education sites that could be made available for public use). Existing facilities at Water Tower Park or The Cop could be extended and improved to reduce the under supply of youth play space within the ward.</p>
Great Boughton	<p><b>Children's play space</b>  Although there is sufficient supply of children's play space within Great Boughton, there is a small gap in access in the south of the ward. This could be removed by the provision of a play space at <b>Robinsons Croft</b> amenity green space (the nearest play space from here being over 600m away).</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b>  Although there is sufficient supply of youth play space, the ward does not meet the access standard across the whole middle/southern part. There is very limited potential for new provision within this part of the ward, unless the schools (Bishops Blue Coat C of E or Boughton Heath Academy) had a suitable facility that could be made available for public use. The amenity green spaces within the south of the ward are unlikely to be suitable due to their relatively small size.</p>
Handbridge Park	<p><b>Children's play space</b>  Although there is sufficient supply of children's play space within Handbridge Park, there are a number of gaps in access. There may be potential to install new play space at <b>Mount Pleasant Playing Fields</b> to reduce the access gap in the west of the ward, and/or install natural play within the woodland (<b>The Dingle or Dukes Drive Woodland</b>) running through the centre of the ward where there is also an access gap.</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b>  Although there is sufficient supply of youth play space within Handbridge Park, there are large gaps in access across the whole eastern part of the ward. There is very limited potential for new</p>

Ward	Comments
	provision within this part of the ward, unless a school had a facility that could be made available for public use e.g. the basketball court at The Catholic High School.
Hoole	<p><b>Children’s play space</b> There are no gaps in access across this ward, and as there is sufficient supply of play space, no new provision is currently required.</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b> There are no gaps in access across this ward, and as there is sufficient supply of play space, no new provision is currently required.</p>
Lache	<p><b>Children’s play space</b> There is very limited potential for new provision to reduce gaps in access. However, the existing play area at Sycamore Field could be improved and extended to reduce the under supply of play space. The play area currently has £5000 of S106 funds secured.</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b> There is very limited potential for new provision to reduce gaps in access. However, the existing youth facilities at Sycamore Field could be improved and extended to reduce the under supply of play space.</p>
Newton	<p><b>Children’s play space</b> There are small gaps in access to children’s play space within this ward, and an existing under supply. <b>Plas Newton Lane and Newhall Road</b> amenity green space to the north of the ward (and crosses the boundary with Upton) could potentially accommodate new play space which would reduce the gap in access in this area and reduce the under supply. Existing play areas could also be improved expanded to reduce the shortfall e.g. Lime Wood Fields Play Space.</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b> There is currently sufficient supply of youth play space within the ward and good access, with only a small gap in the west of the ward. There is no suitable open space within the ward for new provision to fill this access gap, however, if any of the education sites within the north of Garden Quarter had suitable facilities that could be made available to public use, this would remove the access gap here.</p>
Upton	<p><b>Children’s play space</b> There is limited potential for new provision, although <b>Plas Newton Lane and Newhall Road</b> amenity green space or <b>Bolesworth Road</b> amenity green space in the south of the ward could potentially accommodate new play space which would reduce the gap in access in this area (including Newton Ward), and reduce the under supply of children’s play space within this ward.</p> <p><b>Youth play space</b> Although there is sufficient supply of youth play space, there are gaps in access. <b>Upton Chemistry Pits</b> may have potential to accommodate new facilities, or if education sites had suitable facilities that could be made available for public use, this would reduce gaps in access.</p>

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## 9.0 Requirements from new development

The Local Plan (Part One) in Section 3.3.1.2 outlines the projected housing growth for the Borough which aims to deliver 22,000 new dwellings with 'the majority of new development to be located within or on the edge of the city of Chester and towns of Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford'.

For Chester the projected housing growth is at least 5,200 new dwellings.

This would result in the following requirements for new play space based on the quantity standards in table 3, and assuming a population increase of 11,960 people (5,200 x 2.3):

Play Space (Children): **0.60ha**

Play Space (Youth): **0.36ha**

Due to the overall identified shortfall of play space identified within the Chester Locality Area, it would be expected that this provision be provided on site.

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## **10.0 Key issues, challenges and aspirations for Chester Locality Area**

### **10.1 Quantity**

- There are a total of 50 children's play areas and 23 youth facilities/play areas (excluding teen shelters) within the Locality Area
- There is an overall under-supply of children's and youth play space within the Locality
- Blacon, Great Boughton, Handbridge Park and Handbridge Park wards meet the quantity standard for children's play space, and Great Boughton, Handbridge Park and Newton wards meet the quantity standard for youth play space
- Great Boughton Parish Council noted that their surveys and consultation have shown the need to increase facilities, particularly for teenagers and children's play
- Consultation with the Chester Locality Manager revealed that young People are extremely keen to have a designated City Centre Skatepark as they feel that 'The Cop' skatepark (located in the Garden Quarter Ward) is inadequate and is out of sight from the road etc.

### **10.2 Access**

- There is relatively good access to children's play space across the Chester Locality Area, the main gaps in access are in the wards of Upton, Blacon and Handbridge Park.
- The provision of youth play space is more sporadic, with gaps in access across all wards, with the exception of Hoole. There are large gaps in access in the wards of Blacon, Upton, Great Boughton, Boughton and Handbridge Park.

### **10.3 Quality**

- There is a large variation in the quality of play space within the Chester Locality, ranging from good quality sites offering excellent play value e.g. Grosvenor Park (Chester City) to very poor sites e.g. Graham Road Play area and King George Playing Field Play Area (both in Blacon)
- From consultation with the Chester Locality Officer, it was noted that generally, local residents often feedback about the poor condition of open spaces and play areas
- Great Boughton Parish Council noted that their surveys and consultation have shown the need to improve facilities, particularly for teenagers and children's play.

### **10.4 Priorities for the area**

- There are nine play spaces (seven children's and two youth) that have been identified as a high priority for improvement within the Chester Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 47 and 62) – see table 13 for high priority sites
- 40 play spaces (29 children's and 11 youth) have been identified as a medium priority for improvement (i.e. those sites which scored between 31 and 46), as shown in table 14.

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## 10.5 Sites with potential for alternative open space use

The following children's play areas may have potential for alternative open space use:

- Western Avenue Play Area (High Priority for Improvement – Table 13), Blacon
- Caldby Valley Neighbourhood Centre (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- Dryersfield Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- Melrose Park – Pentland Close Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- Queens Road Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement – Table 14), Great Boughton
- The Holkham Play Area 1 or 2 (Low Priority for Improvement – Table 15), Great Boughton
- Duchess Place Play Area 1 or 2 (Low Priority for Improvement – Table 15), Newton

There are no youth play spaces that were considered to have potential for alternative open space use.

## 10.6 Potential sites for new play provision

A number of open spaces have been identified as having potential to accommodate new provision of place space (where none currently exists) to reduce gaps in access (subject to funding and community need). These are:

- Cranleigh Crescent and Willow Drive (for children's play space in Blacon)
- Saxon Way (for youth play space in Blacon)
- Cherry Grove Park and Rec (for youth play space in Boughton)
- Cheyney Road Pocket Park (for children's natural play space in Garden Quarter)
- Robinsons Croft amenity green space (for children's play space in Great Boughton)
- Mount Pleasant Playing Fields and The Dingle or Dukes Woodland (for children's play space (natural play only for woodland areas) in Handbridge Park)
- Plas Newton Lane and Newhall Road (for children's play space in Newton and also Upton)
- Bolesworth Road (for children's play space in Upton as an alternative to Plas Newton Lane and Newhall Road)
- Upton Chemistry Pits (for youth play space in Upton)

## 10.7 Requirements from new development

- The projected housing growth for Chester is 5,200 new dwellings which would result in a requirement of 0.60ha of new children's play space and 0.36ha of youth play space within the Locality
- Housing development in areas where there are existing gaps in access would require on-site provision of play space. Where there is good access in a ward, but an under-supply of play space, then extending and improving existing play areas can be considered.