

## Play Strategy



Cheshire West  
and Chester

### Locality Play Improvement Framework

2016 to 2030

Incorporating First Annual Review  
(December 2017):

Northwich and Winsford

Tier 2 (Part 2 of 2)



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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 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

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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 Northwich and Winsford for the period 2016/17. 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 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: Northwich and Winsford

## 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 open space use if appropriate, and open spaces with potential for new play space provision); and
- Key issues, challenges, aspirations and priorities.

The Locality Frameworks are intended to provide an evidence base that partners can use in reviewing, developing and implementing their own individual delivery plans. The Framework 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. 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. In practice this may mean that in certain circumstances the strategic priority classification will take second place to practical achievability.

## 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

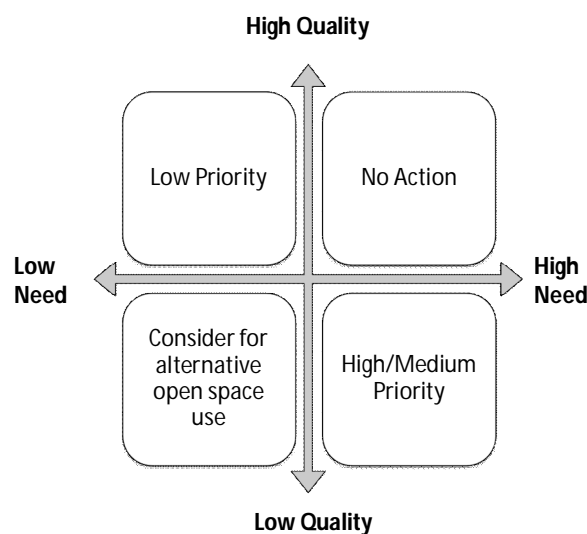
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strategy follows this guidance by applying needs criteria to all sites (the criteria were developed following consultation via four locality area play workshops)<sup>2</sup>. The Prioritisation play space (child and youth) for improvement has been carried out using ward and lower super output area (LSOA) data (see section 7).

The criteria are based on:

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

The principal 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

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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.

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It is important to understand that 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.

### **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>.

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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

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 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 Northwich and Winsford Locality Area consists of the wards of Davenham and Moulton, Hartford and Greenbank, Marbury, Shakerley, Weaver and Cuddington, Winnington and Castle, Winsford Over and Verdin, Winsford Swanlow and Dene, Winsford Wharton and Witton and Rudheath.

The wards (and LSOA data) have been used as the basis for prioritising play areas for improvement, however the quantity analysis is by parish.

## 1.3 Population

Table 1 Ward population statistics (2015 mid year estimates)

Ward	Child Population (Age 0-19)	Total population
Davenham and Moulton	3,333	13,476
Hartford and Greenbank	1,870	8,340
Marbury	2,502	11,867
Shakerley	922	4,365
Weaver and Cuddington	2,782	12,823
Winnington and Castle	2,373	9,840
Winsford Over and Verdin	3,635	13,668
Winsford Swanlow and Dene	2,089	8,960
Winsford Wharton	2,442	9,804
Witton and Rudheath	1,935	8,279

Table 2 Parish population statistics (2015 mid year estimates)

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.



<b>Parish</b>	<b>Population</b>
Acton Bridge	601
Allostock	812
Anderton with Marbury	606
Antrobus	776
Barnton	5541
Bostock	225
Byley	212
Comberbach	892
Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington) <sup>4</sup>	5424
Darnhall	219
Davenham	2803
Dutton	448
Great Budworth	328
Hartford	5542
Kingsmead	4847
Lach Dennis	575
Little Leigh	541
Lostock Gralam	2132
Marston	520
Moulton	2318
Nether Peover	411
Northwich	20451
Rudheath	3749
Sproston	223
Stanthorne and Wimboldsley	295
Weaverham	6350
Whitegate and Marton	1143
Whitley	503
Wincham	2160
Winsford	30775

#### **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:

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<sup>4</sup> This Parish is defined as one of 10 key service centres within the Local Plan

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## **Northwich**

The town of Northwich and adjoining settlements of Anderton, Barnton, Davenham, Hartford, Lostock Gralam, Lower Marston, Lower Wincham, Rudheath and Weaverham combine to form the third biggest urban area in Cheshire West and Chester. The area has benefited from the stabilisation of former salt mines that had prevented large areas of the town coming forward for redevelopment. In particular, land stabilisation has enabled proposals to come forward that will significantly improve the town centre of Northwich and help enhance the town's role as a major retail and leisure destination.

Northwich has good links to the wider countryside and significant heritage assets, including the distinctive black and white buildings of the town centre. The waterways of Northwich are a particular asset although parts of the town have flooding issues. The presence of chemical industries in the town has reduced, leaving a significant brownfield land resource. There are however, a high proportion of service sector jobs. Northwich has net out-commuting which reflects its central location to other urban areas and access to the mid-Cheshire railway line that serves Greater Manchester and Chester.

## **Winsford**

The smallest of the four key urban areas with a population of 30,000, Winsford is nationally renowned for the mining of rock salt. Winsford was expanded as an 'overspill' town in the 1960s, with new residents arriving from Manchester and Liverpool. More recently, Winsford and the surrounding area has seen new housing development and dedicated employment sites being created in the town, including Winsford Industrial Estate and Woodford Park, which have attracted new industry and business to the area. Whilst the town has a good supply of industrial and distribution land, there is no established office market, reducing the range of employment opportunities available.

The town faces challenges associated with a declining town centre and poor transport links between employment and residential areas as well as between the railway station and the rest of the town. There are pockets of deprivation in the town where average household incomes are amongst the lowest in the borough. There are relatively high unemployment rates which has led to the town having a poorer perception than other areas. House prices are generally more affordable for first time buyers and the town has the potential to improve on access and links to the River Weaver, the Flashes and surrounding countryside.

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## 2.0 Existing provision of play space

There are a total of 79 children’s play areas and 28 youth facilities (excluding teen shelters) within the Locality Area.

The breakdown for youth facilities is as follows:

Type of youth facility	Number
MUGA	17
BMX	1
Basketball	3
Skate park/ skate equipment	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

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

### 3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of play space

Table 3 shows the existing provision of play space across the Northwich and Winsford 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 3 Existing provision of play space across the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area

Typology	Existing provision (ha)	Existing provision (ha/1000)
Play Space (Children)	5.90	0.06
Play Space (Youth)	1.35	0.01

For the urban/part urban parishes (as set out in the Local Plan (see section 1.4)) of Northwich, Winsford, Anderton, Barton, Davenham, Hartford, Kingsmead, Lostock Gralam, Marston, Wincham, Rudheath and Weaverham, the quantity standards for play space from the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study (summarised in table 4) can be applied. For the rural parishes, the standards in table 4 are applicable only for new provision of play space as part of new development within this Locality (see section 9), but are not used for analysis of existing provision.

Rural parishes need to be treated differently as many simply do not have the required population for the application of the standards in table 4 to meet children and young people's need for local play space. However, children and young people within these areas still need access to play space. Therefore, different levels of provision are recommended for rural parishes (these are **not** spatial standards, but a means of identifying how provision could be prioritised), as set out in table 5 below.

Table 4 Quantity standards for play space in urban areas (from Cheshire west and Chester Open Space Study)

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

Table 5 Recommended levels of provision for play space in rural parishes

Rural parish population	Rural play quantity/access recommendations
Over 500 people	There should be at least 1 play space plus a small outdoor youth facility/meeting place.
250-500 people	There should be at least 1 appropriately scaled down multi-use space for play to accommodate use by accompanied toddlers, children and teenagers. This may be sited on a single community green space area e.g. Village Green.
Less than 250 people	There should be access (at least) to some "playable" space i.e. public open space with potential for play.

Within the rural area of the borough there are ten key service centres which provide a good range of facilities and services for surrounding areas. Within the Northwich and Winsford

Locality, there is one service centre (Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)). **It is also recommended that all rural service centres provide play space for both children and youth.**

The following tables show the existing supply of play space within the locality area based on the population within each parish and the standards set out in table 4. Figures are given for the overall locality area, and for individual parishes (the rural parishes are greyed out as the recommended levels of provision outlined in table 5 apply to these areas instead). Where there is insufficient supply of play space, the minus number is highlighted red to make this stand out.

Table 6 Existing supply of children's and youth play space across the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area

Typology	Existing Provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)	Required Provision (Ha)	Required Provision (Ha/1000)	Supply (Ha)	Supply (Ha/1000)	Overall Supply
Play Space (Children)	5.90	0.06	5.07	0.05	0.83	0.01	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Play Space (Youth)	1.35	0.01	3.02	0.03	-1.67	-0.02	UNDER SUPPLY

Table 7 Supply of children's and youth play space (hectares) by parish (rural parishes are greyed out)

Parish	Youth Supply (ha)	Child Supply (ha)
Acton Bridge	-0.02	0.01
Allstock	-0.02	-0.03
Anderton with Marbury	-0.02	0.20
Antrobus	-0.02	0.01
Barnton	-0.07	-0.09
Bostock	-0.01	-0.01
Byley	-0.01	-0.01
Comberbach	0.00	0.15
Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	-0.12	0.02
Darnhall	-0.01	-0.01
Davenham	-0.08	-0.05
Dutton	-0.01	-0.02
Great Budworth	-0.01	-0.02
Hartford	-0.17	0.09
Kingsmead	-0.14	-0.10
Lach Dennis	-0.02	0.02
Little Leigh	-0.02	0.05
Lostock Gralam	-0.06	0.31
Marston	0.02	0.12
Moulton	0.01	-0.05
Nether Peover	-0.01	0.08
Northwich	-0.46	0.05

Rudheath	-0.11	-0.02
Sproston	-0.01	-0.01
Stanthorne and Wimboldsley	-0.01	-0.01
Weaverham	-0.05	-0.26
Whitegate and Marton	-0.03	-0.06
Whitley	-0.02	-0.03
Wincham	-0.04	-0.04
Winsford	-0.18	0.52

As can be seen from Table 6, overall there is sufficient supply of children's play space and an under-supply of youth play space across the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area.

Table 7 shows how the supply varies by parish. Out of the urban/part-urban parishes, Anderton with Marbury, Hartford, Lostock Gralam, Marston, Northwich, and Winsford have sufficient supply of children's play space. Barton, Davenham, Rudheath, Kingsmead, Weaverham and Wincham have an under-supply. For youth provision, all urban parishes or part-urban parishes (with the exception of Marston) have a shortfall.

Table 8 below shows the quantity of play areas by parish and the parish population for the analysis of quantity/access in rural parishes. The urban parishes have also been included for completeness.

Table 8 Quantity of play areas by parish

Parish	Population	Number of children's play areas	Number of youth facilities	Total (children's and youth)
Acton Bridge	601	1	0	1
Allostock	812	1	0	1
Anderton with Marbury	606	1	0	1
Antrobus	776	1	0	1
Barnton	5541	4	2	6
Bostock	225	0	0	0
Byley	212	0	0	0
Comberbach	892	1	1	2
Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	5424	3	1	4
Darnhall	219	0	0	0
Davenham	2803	2	0	2
Dutton	448	0	0	0
Great Budworth	328	0	0	0
Hartford	5542	4	0	4

Parish	Population	Number of children's play areas	Number of youth facilities	Total (children's and youth)
Kingsmead	4847	9	1	10
Lach Dennis	575	1	0	1
Little Leigh	541	1	0	1
Lostock Gralam	2132	2	0	2
Marston	520	2	1	3
Moulton	2318	1	1	2
Nether Peover	411	1	0	1
Northwich	20451	13	7	20
Rudheath	3749	3	0	3
Sproston	223	1	0	1
Stanthorne and Wimboldsley	295	0	0	0
Weaverham	6350	2	2	4
Whitegate and Marton	1143	0	0	0
Whitley	503	0	0	0
Wincham	2160	2	1	3
Winsford	30775	23	11	34
Marston	520	2	1	3

## Analysis of quantity in rural parishes

### Parishes with over 500 people

There are 22 rural parishes with over 500 people.

The rural parishes of Whitley and Whitegate and Marton do not meet the recommended levels of provision for children's play set out in table 5 (they have no children's play area).

Twelve parishes do not have any youth provision. These are a mixture of rural and urban parishes. There is no youth provision in the rural parishes of Whitley, Antrobus, Little Leigh, Acton Bridge, Whitegate and Marton and Allostock and therefore these rural parishes do not meet the recommended levels of provision for youth provision set out in table 5.

### Parishes with between 250-500 people

There are four rural parishes (Dutton, Great Budworth, Stanthorne and Wimboldsley and Nether Peover) with between 250-500 people.

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Only Nether Peover meets the recommended level of provision for children's play. However, Great Budworth Parish Council noted that there is a play area in the grounds of Great Budworth Primary school for use by the community, which means that Great Budworth also meets the recommended levels of provision set out in table 5. None of these parishes provide youth facilities and therefore none of them meet the recommended levels of provision for youth.

**Parishes with less than 250 people**

The parishes of Bostock, Byley, Darnhall, and Sproston have less than 250 people.

Darnhall does not have any parks, amenity green space or accessible natural green space (public open space) mapped as part of the CWAC open space study, and therefore it appears this parish does not meet the recommended levels of provision for parishes with less than 250 people having some form 'playable' space.

Bostock, Byley and Sproston all have at least one area of amenity green space (public open space) which is 'playable', meeting the recommended levels of provision in table 5.



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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 Northwich and Winsford Locality Area using the CWAC access standards developed as part of the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study (as summarised in table 9).

These access standards can be applied to the urban/part-urban parishes, however, as already discussed, rural parishes need to be treated differently (see table 5 for quantity/access recommendations for rural parishes), and quantity/access to play space within rural parishes has been considered within section 3.

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 9 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 generally good access to children’s play space across the urban areas of the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area, with relatively small gaps in access in Hartford, Davenham, Northwich Barnton, Anderton with Marbury and Winsford.

The provision of youth play space is more sporadic, with larger gaps in access across the majority of urban/ part-urban parishes.

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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 snap-shot 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 results from quality audit

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 Northwich and Winsford Locality Area is shown in Tables 10 and 11 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 10 Ethos quality audit of children's play spaces within Northwich and Winsford Locality

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
2027	Bakers Lane	Winsford	Small play space with infant play. Good welcoming sign and well managed bins with seating.	C	D	Average quality, play value could be improved by upgrading equipment or installing additional items.	2017
824	Basford Way Play Area	Winsford	Children's play space with multiple facilities. Some modern equipment and genuinely in good condition.	B	D	No recommendations.	2015
828	Belmont Grange Play Area	Northwich	Good play space with plenty of facilities. All equipment modern and well maintained.	B	D	No perimeter fencing.	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
878	Birches Lane Play Area	Lach Dennis	Good modern play space with apparatus for all ages. Site consists of junior and toddler play and informal football.	B	D	No recommendations.	2015
1866	Boundary Lane Play Area	Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	Play space with slide, swings, climbing frame, good modern equipment, benches and bins.	B	D	No issues	2015
766	Bradburns Lane Play	Hartford	Fenced play area, modern equipment, cradle, springs, climb/slide, see saw, bins, benches. Good new facility.	A	D	No issues	2015
1987	Bradbury Road Play Area	Winsford	Average play space with facilities for junior and teen facilities. Litter wide spread through play space, only one litter bin present.	B	D	More bins on site. Signs deterring littering	2015
754	Brecon Way Play Area	Winsford	Good modern play space.	B	D	Some surface water under play.	2015
760	Burnside Way Play Area	Northwich	Small play space surrounded by amenity grassland. Play space is basic with apparatus targeted for infant play.	C	D	Site could be expanded into amenity.	2017
830	Burwardsley Way Play Area	Kingsmead	Small play space with single climbing frame in community garden.	C	D	Signs and bins on entrance	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
744	Butchers Stiles Field Play Area	Davenham	Open play area, swing, climber, very poor.	C	B	Update equipment	2015
769	Campbell Close Play Area	Kingsmead	Fenced play area, bark surface in poor condition, toddler swing, spring and climb/slide. Dated poor facility.	C	B	Replace old equipment. Re surface area.	2015
749	Capesthorpe Close (Kingsmead) Play Area	Kingsmead	Small toddler play area with large portion being amenity green space and the play area consisting of 3 wooden obstacles.	B	D	Signage on entrance too small, play space ok	2015
764	Chapel Street Play Area	Wincham	Average play space with junior play equipment and informal football posts.	C	D	Better signage on entrance. Some dated equipment. Modern equipment has no impact flooring around it.	2015
725	Church Walk Play Area	Northwich	Fenced play area, access unclear as surrounded by palisade fencing. This makes site unwelcoming. Swings, balance, see saw, roundabout, club/slide. Generally good condition.	B	D	Good site no recommendations.	2015
741	Comberbach Play Area	Comberbach	Play space with park benches, picnic benches, litter bins and a metal fencing perimeter, equipment includes a MUGA, a zip line, a slide,	A	D	Good play space, no issues	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			swings and climbing frame, the site is set in the memorial hall grounds.				
728	Coniston Grange (Hawks Head Way play area)	Winsford	Basic play space with dated equipment.	C	D	Replace the equipment.	2015
724	Danefield Road Play Area 2	Northwich	Play space with new play equipment and impact. Site was prone to vandalism.	B	D	Allow access onto site	2017
709	Denehurst Park Way	Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	Play space includes climbing frames and swings, wooden in structure, seems in good condition and well maintained.	B	D	No issues	2015
841	Drillfield road play space	Northwich	Good sized amenity with apparatus for children's play. Amenity has space for additional equipment.	C	D	Additional equipment and better signage	2015
748	Dukes Way 2 Play Area	Kingsmead	Wooden climber with rope bridge, fenced, bark surfacing, bench, bin	C	C	Dated equipment which could be updated, little scope for extending play area	2015
819	Dukes Way Play Area	Kingsmead	Small play area with toddler climb/slide, spring, bark.	C	C	Better equipment on site. Perimeter fencing around play space. Bins on entrance to play space.	2015
743	Elizabethan Way Play Area	Rudheath	Small play space on small estate. Site is basic with dated apparatus.	C	D	Better equipment and management.	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
759	Fairways Play Area	Winsford	Amenity green space with climbing frame.	C	C	No signage on entrance.	2015
834	Finsbury Walk Play Area	Winsford	Good play space making good use of the ground and sand.	B	D	Good site no recommendations.	2015
742	Gadbrook Park	Rudheath	Good play space with average equipment.	C	D	Entrance flooded. No signage	2015
722	Grange Avenue Play Area	Barnton	Play space with climbing frame, roundabout and toddler and junior swings, there is also benches, bins and a perimeter fence.	C	B	Dated equipment, limited play value generally poor site <sup>5</sup> .	2015
798	Griffiths Park Play Area	Rudheath	Poor play space, basic equipment with zip line being broke.	C	D	Zip line needs repairing. New equipment	2015
1911	Helmdon Close Play Area	Winsford	Fenced play area, large slide, swings, fenced, bin, bench, nice surroundings	B	C	Opportunity for additional play equipment	2015
735	James Street Play Area	Northwich	Good play space with modern equipment for junior and infant play. Some minor vandalism on sign but overall site is well managed and maintained.	B	D	No recommendations.	2015
825	Kensington Way Play Area	Kingsmead	Fenced play area, new climber, slide, generally	A	D	Balance rail dated and need updating.	2015

<sup>5</sup> CWAC note that some small scale improvements were undertaken in 2016/17 (basketball hoop and roundabout).

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			good. Also balance trail and basketball which are dated.				
836	King George VI Playground	Winsford	Small play space with informal mini football. Average play space with small selection of apparatus. Litter present despite two bins being on site.	C	D	No Issues	2015
771	Knights Grange Sports Complex Play Area	Winsford	Modern play space with lots of different apparatus. All equipment is modern and was being used during audit	B	D	No issues	2015
2034	Knightsbridge Park/St James Way	Hartford	Small play space in cul-de-sac. Site is targeted towards younger play with small variety of equipment. No welcoming sign on entrance and the site is covered with leaf litter.	B	D	Install welcoming sign and manage leaf litter.	2017
763	Knutsford Road Play Area	Antrobus	Play space includes slide, swings, climbing frame and roundabout, also includes benches, litter bins and perimeter	B	D	Decent play space, no issues	2015
821	Laburnam Road Play Area	Davenham	Two play areas, one unfenced with wooden	B	D	Install perimeter fencing around wooden apparatus.	2015



ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			balance trail, fenced has swings, spring, climb/slide. Generally good				
734	Leaf Lane Play Area	Winsford	Average equipment. Swings had blanket of moss on impact flooring.	C	C	Enhance play value.	2017
844	Lifestyle Centre Play area	Winsford	Small play space with equipment aimed at older children. Site had an interactive play, rock climbing boxes and a small skate park.	B	D	No priorities	2015
839	Linnards Lane Play Area	Wincham	Play space includes swings, multiple climbing frames, slide, table tennis table, multiple sitting areas, a MUGA, a playing pitch with goals and litter bins. Good MUGA with low sides.	A	D	Good play space with a mix of modern and outdated	2015
1990	Lion Saltworks Play Area	Marston	Good modern play space within lion salt works. Site is well managed with good equipment targeted at younger children	B	D	Good site with no issues	2017
762	Little Leigh Play Area	Little Leigh	Good small play space with modern wooden play equipment. Good entrance	A	D	No issues	2017

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			with signage and bins.				
818	Long Meadow Play Area	Weaverham	Poor play space with a single slide.	C	C	More apparatus. Encouraging play <sup>6</sup>	2015
745	Main Road Play Area	Moulton	Small play space with infant play fenced the n and junior play open. Site has average equipment with a varied selection	B	D	Some additional equipment.	2015
765	Manor Avenue Play Area	Marston	Play space with swings, climbing frames, swings and a slide. Also includes litter bins and half MUGA	B	D	Modern play space, needs fenced perimeter	2015
768	Marbury Park Play Area	Anderton with Marbury	Play space includes climbing frame and slide, also includes benches and litter bins	B	D	Good play space within country park, needs perimeter <sup>7</sup>	2015
727	Marlborough Avenue Play Area	Winsford	Poor play space with only a single toddler climbing frame	C	B	Very poor site offering very poor play value.	2015
758	Meadowbank Play Area	Winsford	Average play space average selection of equipment, with some areas boggy.	C	D	Better drainage entering the site	2015
837	Mereworth Drive Play Area 3	Kingsmead	Fenced play, wooden climb trail, net climb, good new facility	B	D	No recommendations.	2015
731	Minster Close Play Area	Winsford	Small play space with small variety of	C	D	No issues	2015

<sup>6</sup> CWAC note that surfacing improvements are due to take place in 2017/18

<sup>7</sup> CWAC note that this play space has recently been downgraded following ROSPA inspection and may need new equipment.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			equipment. Everything is modern and well maintained.				
756	Monarch Drive Play Area	Kingsmead	Children's play space	C	D	Bins and signs on entrance	2015
842	Moss Farm Playing Fields	Northwich	Good well managed sand based play space with modern wooden apparatus. Site has litter bins, seating, paths and signage. Site is located within moss farm leisure centre.	A	D	No issues	2017
739	Norley Road Play Area 2	Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	Large play space with wide range of equipment. Most of the equipment was out dated and needed management. Good seating with bins.	B	D	Re paint apparatus.	2017
755	Normandy Avenue Play Area	Winsford	Large amenity with junior play space (4 apparatus). Limited play. could be enhanced.	C	D	Site can be enhanced with more equipment. more bins around the site.	2015
730	Nursery Road Play Area	Barnton	Play space includes 2 climbing frames, a rope pyramid, slides, swings, benches, litter bins and metal perimeter, all seems in good condition apart from graffiti on the skate ramps	A	D	Good play space with modern equipment	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
857	Old Hall Road Play Area	Northwich	Play area with swings, climb/slide, round, see saw, bin, bench. Aimed at toddlers. Separate basketball and teen shelter. Generally ok but lacks new equipment	B	C	Update some equipment <sup>8</sup>	2015
750	Orchard Avenue Play Area	Acton Bridge	Open play space its three pieces of equipment. Two of which don't have impact flooring.	C	B	Impact flooring around apparatus. Better equipment <sup>9</sup>	2015
737	Over Recreation Ground Play Area	Winsford	Large play space with modern out door gym, infants play and zip line. Gym is in good condition however play equipment's old and dated.	C	D	Play equipment needs replacing	2017
740	Parker Avenue Play Area	Hartford	Small play space with amenity grassland. Play space has small range of equipment aimed at youth play. Bin was full at time of audit. No welcoming sign	C	D	Empty bins and install signage.	2017
752	Princess Road Play Area	Allstock	Basic play area with dated apparatus focuses on infant play	C	D	Equipment basic and could be improved	2015

<sup>8</sup> CWAC note that there are plans to implement some small scale improvements in 2018.

<sup>9</sup> CWAC note that there are plans for small scale site improvements in 2017/18.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
845	Pulford Close Play area	Kingsmead	Small play space with basic infant's equipment. No signage nor bins	C	D	Bins and signage on entrance	2015
860	Radcliffe Road Play Area	Winsford	Average small play space with basic equipment	B	C	Amenity around site unmanaged	2015
757	Rookery Rise Play Area	Winsford	Poor play space with stepping stones and spring toy. No fencing around equipment.	D	C	Whole site needs redoing with better equipment and repairing. balancing beam missing, and play space doesn't promote play.	2015
859	Rosewood Drive	Winsford	Poor play space with dated equipment.	C	C	Sign on entrance. Better equipment.	2015
761	Rowan Rise Play Area	Barnton	Rowan rise play area, small site with signs bins and two play spaces.	C	B	Only small space but apparatus is dated	2015
772	Runcorn Road Play Area	Barnton	Play space is poor with three equipment, not encouraging play. Equipment old and Impact flooring is slippery when wet.	D	B	Play space needs improving but access is difficult	2015
753	Russet Road Play Area	Weaverham	climbing frame with slide, rope climbing apparatus, swings, toddler and junior play equipment	B	D	Decent condition, no issues	2015
767	Saxons Lane Play Area	Northwich	Fenced children's area, dated, swing, slide, climber - needs updating.	C	B	Update equipment <sup>10</sup>	2015

<sup>10</sup> CWAC note that there are plans to improve site via wider play and open space masterplan from 2017/18

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			Skate ramp and half MUGA also dated				
770	Stanthorne (Clive Park) Play Area	Winsford	Good play space with variety of apparatus. Modern equipment for junior and infant play. No fencing	B	D	No Issues	2015
729	Stones Manor Lane Play Area	Hartford	Small amenity green space with a single swing set	C	C	Poor swing set. Not fenced. Dated	2015
751	Stubbs Lane Play Area	Lostock Gralam	Good modern site behind community centre. Equipment all modern and in good condition.	A	D	No issues	2017
873	Swan Grove	Nether Peover	Fenced play area, climb/slide, see saw, roundabout, springs, grass areas, bins, bench	C	C	Play equipment is OK, could do with better maintenance, and there could be opportunity for further updating of equipment	2015
733	Townshend Road Play Area	Lostock Gralam	Good modern play space with new wooden apparatus.	B	D	Some puddles under two pieces of the equipment.	2015
808	Vauxhall Way Play Area	Winsford	Small play space with a variety of equipment. Play space used during audit. Site had some modern equipment for junior play, but children play was dated. Bins were overflowing.	C	D	No issues	2015
822	Verdin Park Play Area	Northwich	Open play area, swings, see saw,	B	C	Replace equipment with modern apparatus.	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			shelter, skate ramp. Dated equipment could be improved.				
736	Vickers Way Play Area	Northwich	Open play area, some modern equipment, see saw, multi climb, see saw, swings, slide.	A	D	Some equipment could be updated	2015
726	Victoria Street Play Area	Northwich	Average play space with few playing equipment. Most equipment is balancing beams and tree trunk.	B	D	Trunk slippery when wet.	2015
738	Wharton Play Area	Winsford	Two play spaces. One infant other junior. Both with dated and damaged apparatus. No perimeter fencing and bins on site over flowing.	C	D	Enhance site with additional equipment.	2015
858	Wren Avenue AGS	Sproston	Poor play space with single swing set	C	B	Very poor site, needs refurbishment	2015
746	Yarwood Close Play Area	Northwich	Small play space with swings and climbing frame.	C	C	Improve equipment <sup>11</sup> .	2015

Table 11 Ethos quality audit of youth play spaces/facilities within Northwich and Winsford Locality

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
786	Basford Way MUGA	Winsford	Half MUGA, has some graffiti, in decent condition.	B	D	Surface could be improved, but suitable for now.	2015

<sup>11</sup> Plans by Northwich Town Council to improve site in 2018.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
2032	Beeston St MUGA	Northwich	Half MUGA with caging and garage walls. Caging looks a bit worn and although is fully enclosed it only has one goal mouth and basketball hoop. Drain is located in the middle of playing surface which would be slippery when wet.	C	D		2017
776	Blake Lane MUGA	Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	Outdated MUGA with a high fence, surface is decent.	B	D	Could be improved but ok for now.	2015
1986	Bradbury Road and Skate Basketball	Winsford	Basketball, BMX area and Teen Shelter, all in decent condition but could be improved.	B	D	Could have designated teen area with further equipment	2015
1920	Clive Park Basketball	Winsford	Very poor condition basketball hoop with unsuitable surface, needs removing or replacing.	D	A	Currently unusable, needs new surface and new hoop, or just needs to be removed.	2015
779	Comberbach MUGA	Comberbach	Decent MUGA within a large park, in good condition but could be updated in the future.	B	D	Could be updated in the future.	2015
773	Danefield Road MUGA	Northwich	Small grass MUGA within small park and rec. site is well used with some surface damage to the grass and ground around	B	D	Some surface damage but ok.	2015



ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			the goal mouth.				
1972	Esk Road MUGA	Winsford	Esk road MUGA adjacent to library. Good quality MUGA but lot of litter present.	C	D	More bins present on entrance to site.	2015
780	Kensington Close Basketball	Kingsmead	Single Basketball hoop with hard standing area.	C	C	Equipment is outdated and needs replacing or removing.	2015
783	Knights Grange Sports Complex Skateboard Park	Winsford	Half Pipe skate ramp.	C	C	Poor condition and outdated, potential for new equipment or could just be removed.	2015
867	Leigh's Brow half -MUGA	Barnton	Half MUGA with basketball hoop.	D	B	Unsuitable surface and outdated equipment, needs replacing or removing.	2015
1863	Leyland Walk MUGA	Winsford	MUGA with modern equipment. Some signs of vandalism but no serious damage. Poor surface markings.	C	C	Install bins on entrance to MUGA, improve surface markings.	2015
869	Lifestyle Centre Skate Park	Winsford	Multiple half pipes, skating ramps.	B	D	introduce more equipment, or a teenage shelter.	2015
792	Linnards Lane MUGA	Wincham	Modern MUGA, seems new.	A	D	No recommendations.	2015
784	Main Road Multi Use Games Area	Moulton	MUGA and teen shelter. Site has several signs of vandalism like bin and scorch marks on the floor. CCTV present on site.	B	D	Possible space for BMX facilities.	2015
1870	Manor Avenue MUGA	Marston	Play space with swings, climbing frames, swings	B	D	Modern play space, needs fenced perimeter	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			and a slide. Also includes litter bins and half MUGA				
874	Meadowbank Basketball	Winsford	Single Basketball Hoop.	C	C	Seems outdated, needs replacing or removing.	2015
777	Mount Pleasant Drive BMX Track	Winsford	BMX circuit, make of dirt rather than hard surface.	B	D	Could be resurfaced, or enhanced.	2015
778	Mount Pleasant Drive Skate Park	Winsford	Skate ramps adjacent to BMX track.	B	D	Space to enlarge equipment amount.	2015
1858	Nursery Road and MUGA Skatepark	Barnton	Good modern skate park with flood lighting, good range of ramps. MUGA is poor quality and could provide additional space for more ramps. Locals request lights to be on for later.	B	D	Extend duration of lights. Refurbish MUGA.	2017
789	Old Hall Road Basketball Hoop	Northwich	Play area with swings, climb/slide, round, see saw, bin, bench. Aimed at toddlers. Separate basketball and teen shelter. Generally ok but lacks new equipment	B	C	Update some equipment <sup>12</sup>	2015
1860	Russet Road MUGA	Weaverham	Half MUGA with hard surface.	B	D	Could be extended to a full MUGA, or hard surface could be extended.	2015
775	Saxons Lane Basketball Hoop / MUGA	Northwich	Half MUGA with a hard surface.	C	C	Could be extended to a full MUGA, looks outdated, could be renewed <sup>13</sup> .	2015

<sup>12</sup> There are plans to update the basketball area in 2018.

<sup>13</sup> Plans to improve site via wider play and open space masterplan from 2017/18.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
781	Saxons Lane Skate Park	Northwich	Half Pipe and teen shelter.	C	C	Very outdated equipment, potentially unsafe, needs replacing or removing <sup>14</sup> .	2015
782	Verdin Park Skate Ramp	Northwich	Open play area, swings, see saw, shelter, skate ramp. Dated equipment could be improved. Basic dated Half pipe with rust and no steps leading up to the top to drop in.	B	C	Replace equipment with modern apparatus.	2015
1931	Vickers Way MUGA	Northwich	Skate Park with modern apparatus.	B	D	good site with no additional requirements.	2015
558	Weaverham Community Centre MUGA	Weaverham	Poorly managed muga with basketball hoop. Panels have been ripped off and surface have moss growing over it.	D	B	Site needs refurbishing with permanent goal posts	2017
605	Wharton Recreation Ground MUGA	Winsford	MUGA, poor surface with grass growing through and debris all over court. Doors into Muga missing.	D	B	Better maintenance to muga fixing the broken door and fencing.	2015

As can be seen from tables 10 and 11, there is a large variation in the quality of play space within the Northwich and Winsford 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:

- Orchard Avenue Play Area (Acton Bridge)
- Grange Avenue Play Area (Barnton)
- Rowan Rise Play Area (Barnton)
- Runcorn Road Play Area (Barnton)
- Butchers Stiles Field Play Area (Davenham)

<sup>14</sup> CWAC note plans to improve site via wider play and open space masterplan from 2017/18.

- 
- Campbell Close Play Area (Kingsmead)
  - Saxon's Lane Play Area (Northwich)
  - Wren Avenue Play Area (Sproston)
  - Marlborough Avenue Play Area (Winsford)
  - Leigh's Brow MUGA (Barnton)
  - Wharton MUGA (Winsford)
  - Clive Park Basketball (Winsford)

## 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, 4 locality area workshops and further consultation with town and parish councils (details are included in section 6).

Comments were received from a number of parishes within the Northwich and Winsford Locality area as set out in the table below (verbatim).

Table 12 Parish council comments (as at 2015/16)

Parish	Comment
Anderton with Marbury	<i>Play Spaces:</i> We would like CW&C to provide and manage a play area. Neighbourhood Plan currently under production.
Antrobus	<i>Play Spaces:</i> Looking at an extension of provision at the existing play area. <i>Youth facilities:</i> The Parish Council has an aspiration to extend the current play area to accommodate wider age groups, including adults e.g. outdoor gym.
Barnton	<i>Youth facilities:</i> currently planning to replace our skatepark. Also need adult sport equipment to complement child based equipment.
Cuddington	<i>Play Spaces:</i> Play area improvements particularly needed at Norley Road Playing Fields <i>Youth facilities:</i> The Parish Council is currently trying to fund a skate park. Cuddington Parish Council would request that CW&C consider to financially (under S106) enhance a tired and dated play area at Norley Road Playing Fields Cuddington CW8 2LA. The playing field is owned by Cuddington Parish Council, and leased to Cuddington and Sandiway Parish Playing Fields Association Ltd who maintain it from an annual grant they receive from the Parish Council. This is a popular space amongst the local community and is used regularly. The Parish Council held an initial public consultation as part of the Village Plan, this included consultation with pupils at the village Primary schools.

	<p>This showed high levels of use and satisfaction with the current facilities, but with a number of suggestions for new facilities. The play area caters for children of all ages. Existing play equipment needs replacing and further play equipment is required to create a more pleasant area for children to play.</p> <p>In view of the Parish Council and Playing Field Association's commitment to high quality play provision within the village at Norley Road, Boundary Lane Green, and Weaverham Road and acknowledging the absence of any new sites for play or public open space we would propose that the 106 funding is identified to enable the Parish Council and the PFA to undertake a planned programme of improvement and renewal of the existing facilities which are: Installation of gate and metal fencing to prevent small children from running into the car parking area. Sand pit improvements, creation of a barrier including seating at the edge of the sandpit/play area. Creation of a paved areas around the sandpit and Wendy House area to improve disabled access. Five further seats would be provided around the Play area/ safety matting renewal to meet requirements of the inspection regime.</p>
Darnhall	<p><i>Parks/recreation grounds:</i> Restoration of site of Darnhall for public use to include tennis courts/MUGA</p> <p>No open play space in parish for either young or old</p>
Dutton	<p><i>Play Spaces:</i> new play area needed. Potential for children's play / recreation area on land owned by the parish council.</p>
Great Budworth	<p>There is a play area in the grounds of Great Budworth Primary School for use by the community.</p>
Lach Dennis	<p>Due to a very recent boundary change, the neighbouring village (Lostock Green) has now become part of our Parish. It is in this village the play area and football pitch is sited. I am unsure as yet if there are any aspirations relating to this among residents.</p>
Little Leigh	<p><i>MUGA/tennis:</i> New facilities needed.</p> <p><i>Play spaces:</i> CW&amp;C manage a modern one in Shutley Lane.</p> <p><i>Youth facilities:</i> Grass area needed.</p> <p>Older young people need an open space / playing field. This is an aspiration in our parish plan and village design statement.</p>
Moulton	<p><i>Play spaces:</i> Needs updating.</p> <p><i>Youth facilities:</i> Needs updating.</p> <p><i>Parks/recreation grounds:</i> In need of refurbishment.</p> <p>Our aim is to provide high class facilities for all.</p>
Nether Peover	<p><i>Play spaces:</i> Local people would love to see the play area on Swan Green extended and seating areas created.</p> <p><i>Youth facilities:</i> Nothing in the area for young teenagers.</p>
Northwich Town Council	<p><i>General:</i> See Draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><i>Specific:</i> Need for new play areas in Winnington, Lostock, and Leftwich.</p> <p>Need for refurbishment in Danefields.</p>
Weaverham	<p><i>Multi Use Games Areas:</i> Requires additional investment due to poor state of repair.</p> <p><i>Children's play areas:</i> Existing facility in good state of repair but additional play facilities would be beneficial to the community.</p> <p><i>Teenage facilities:</i> Skatepark and BMX park are identified as in demand.</p> <p>Need for improved activities for the Youth of the Village- Weaverham Parish Plan.</p>

Whitegate and Marton	<i>Play spaces:</i> Improvements needed. <i>Parks/recreation grounds:</i> Improvements needed.
Whitley	<i>Play spaces:</i> Expansion of an existing children's play area needed. <i>Parks/recreation grounds:</i> Village Green/Community focus Play and recreation areas serving the needs of younger children and teenagers are not well provided for
Wincham	<i>Youth facilities:</i> There is space in the Linnards Lane playing field that could be used as a skate park. It would be very popular. Young people need somewhere to meet. There is a large housing development (the Wincham urban village) that is taking place.
Winsford Town Council	<i>Play spaces:</i> The Town Council is now in the final year of an 8 year rolling programme to upgrade all its Play Areas and recreation Grounds. Work is due to start shortly on upgrading the play area and developing an outdoor gym at the Wharton Recreation Ground. The Town Council recently assumed responsibility for management of the Town Park. We propose to bring it up to a standard whereby it is fit for purpose.

Locality managers were also contacted to provide input on known play and youth facility issues. The Northwich and Winsford Locality Manager comments (verbatim) are included in table 13 below.

Table 13 Locality Managers' comments regarding Northwich and Winsford

Facility /Aspect	Issues/comment/observations
Children's play areas	Key issue is on-going maintenance from both the Council and Parishes.
Teenage facilities (e.g. skateparks)	Regular issue is a request for a skatepark in Weaverham.
Multi-Use Games Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weaverham community centre want to improve their MUGA but struggling to find funding.</li> <li>• Have picked up some minor issues but don't get regular complaints;</li> <li>• Glebe (Winsford) MUGA needs a net to cover the top to stop the ball going over</li> <li>• Castle MUGA needs upgrading</li> <li>• Cuddington muted about wanting a MUGA near the playing pitches</li> </ul>

## 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 were agreed by the steering group. These are set out within table 14 below.

Table 14 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)

#### 7.1.2 Demographics

Table 15 below shows the child population within each ward (split by age group and then totalled) 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 Northwich and Winsford Locality Area) that is between age 0-19 (i.e. the child population).

The child population within the Northwich and Winsford Locality is 23,712 which is 23.53% of the total population of 100,774. This is higher than the level for Cheshire West and Chester as a whole (22.46%). Play space within wards with the highest percentages of child population (25-30%) i.e. Winsford Over and Verdin, and Winsford Wharton have scored more highly compared to other wards, as there is likely to be more demand for play space in these areas (see table 16 for detailed scoring and weighting).



Table 15 Population of 0-19 year olds at ward level (mid-year 2015 estimates)

Ward	Population Aged 0-19	Total population	% Population Under 19
Davenham and Moulton	3,333	13,476	24.73
Hartford and Greenbank	1,870	8,340	22.42
Marbury	2,502	11,867	21.08
Shakerley	922	4,365	21.12
Weaver and Cuddington	2,782	12,823	21.70
Winnington and Castle	2,373	9,840	24.12
Winsford Over and Verdin	3,635	13,668	26.59
Winsford Swanlow and Dene	2,089	8,960	23.31
Winsford Wharton	2,442	9,804	24.91
Witton and Rudheath	1,935	8,279	23.37
<b>Total for Northwich and Winsford Locality Area</b>	<b>23,883</b>	<b>101,422</b>	<b>23.55</b>

### 7.1.3 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) score highly, 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.

The Northwich and Winsford Locality Area has no significant difference to England of excess weight rates in reception children and is significantly lower compared to England in year 6 children. None of the wards are significantly higher in child excess weight compared to England. Hartford and Greenbank Ward and Weaver and Cuddington Ward have significantly lower child excess weight (year six children only) compared to England.

### 7.1.4 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.

### 7.1.5 Proximity to other play areas

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

### 7.1.6 Child/youth deprivation (IDACI)

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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 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.

The area generally has low levels of child deprivation, although there are pockets of deprivation across Weaver and Cuddington, Winnington and Castle, Hartford and Greenbank, Witton and Rudheath, Winsford Over and Verdin, Winsford Wharton and Winsford Swanlow and Dene.

### **7.1.7 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 majority of the Locality has high levels of geographical barriers to services, reflecting the rurality of the area. The areas of the Locality with few barriers are the urban areas and large towns e.g. Northwich and Winsford.

### **7.1.8 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 Northwich and Winsford Locality quality audit, with their rank scores is provided in tables 10 and 11.

## **7.2 Scoring play areas**

For each of these criteria/priority factors listed in table 14, a scoring and weighted rank has been applied as set out in table 16 below, in order to prioritise each play area for improvements.

Table 16      Desktop assessment criteria for prioritising sites

Priority Factor	Scoring	Weighted Ranking
1. Demographics	14-20% 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 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.

The tables below show the priority for improvement (high, medium and low) for each play space in the Rural Communities Locality Area.

The tables are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council and can be made available on request.

### **8.1 High priority sites**

There are 11 play spaces that have been identified as a high priority for improvement within the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 47 and 62). five of these are children's play spaces and six are youth spaces. These high priority play areas are shown in table 17 below.

The 'Ethos recommendations' column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis (columns 5 to 9) 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 17 Play areas that are a high priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1920	Clive Park Basketball	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	D	A	60	0	114.42	Very poor basketball facility in a high priority for improvement zone. There is also a shortfall in parish supply. The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and improved in line with the quality audit.
759	Fairways Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	C	47	0.01	41.16	Average play space. Its loss would result in a gap in access and therefore it is recommended it is retained and improved.
783	Knights Grange Sports Complex Skateboard Park	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	47	0.01	50.98	The site is a small, poor facility with limited play value. Despite this, the site is the only one of its subtypology in the area. Therefore, it is recommended that the site is retained and enhanced.
867	Leigh's Brow half-MUGA	Barnton	Play Space (Youth)	D	B	50	0.01	104.47	Poor quality MUGA. There is a shortfall of youth provision within the parish, and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained and improved.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
727	Marlborough Avenue Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	B	50	0.09	19.87	Poor site with low play value. Whilst the gap in access appears large it is over a largely unpopulated area. There is also sufficient parish supply. It is therefore considered that the site may have potential for alternative open space use.
874	Meadowbank Basketball	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	47	0.01	114.89	The site is the only of its kind in the area and its removal would create a large gap in access and worsen the existing shortfall in parish supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.
761	Rowan Rise Play Area	Barnton	Play Space (Children)	C	B	47	0.01	15.62	Average play space with potential to improve, and in an area of high need (high priority for improvement). There is a shortfall of children's play space within the parish, and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained and improved.
772	Runcorn Road Play Area	Barnton	Play Space (Children)	D	B	48	0.04	24.41	Poor play space with potential to improve. There is a shortfall of children's play space within the parish, however its loss would result in only a negligible gap in access (provided that the A533 is not a barrier to access and that Grange Avenue Play Area is retained). Therefore, it may have potential for alternative open space use if a nearby play space (Grange Ave) is extended by the same area to avoid worsening the shortfall. However, if the A533 presents a barrier to access, or if Grange Avenue Play Area is made into informal 'playable' space then it should be retained and improved, as its loss would result in a gap in

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
									access.
767	Saxons Lane Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	C	B	50	0.04	30.53	The site is in a high priority zone and has potential for improvement. Whilst there is a large gap in access it is not over a populated area, and its loss would not result in a shortfall in the parish supply. However, there is funding secured to improve the site, and therefore it is not considered to have potential for alternative open space use. There are plans to improve the site via wider play and open space masterplan from 2017/18.
558	Weaverham Community Centre MUGA	Weaverham	Play Space (Youth)	D	B	50	0.13	16.26	The site is in poor condition and needs improvements. There is an existing shortfall in supply within the parish. There would also be a moderate gap in access if the site were to be removed. It is recommended that the site is retained and improved in line with the quality audit.
605	Wharton Recreation Ground MUGA	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	D	B	50	0.11	63.48	The site is in a high priority zone and has potential for improvements. A large gap in access and an increased shortfall in supply would occur if the site were removed. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.



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## **8.2 Medium priority sites**

There are 69 play spaces that have been identified as a medium priority for improvement within the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 31 and 46) – 53 children’s play spaces and 16 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).

Table 18 Play areas that are a medium priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
2027	Bakers Lane	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	43	0.03	35.14	Decent play space but with limited play value. Whilst there is sufficient supply in the parish, a large gap in access would occur if the site was removed. It is recommended that the site is retained.
786	Basford Way MUGA	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	37	0.01	45.56	The site is in decent condition and it is the only facility of its kind in the area. It is recommended that the site is retained.
824	Basford Way Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	36	0.04	6.3	Good quality site with some modern facilities. There is sufficient parish supply and only a small gap in access if the site is removed. Due to the quality of the site it is recommended it is retained.
2032	Beeston St MUGA	Northwich	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	36	0.01	2.36	Dated MUGA. Its loss would not create a gap in access (provided the A559 doesn't act as a barrier). The site may have potential for alternative open space provided the main road (A559) doesn't create a barrier to access and that a nearby site is expanded/improved to avoid worsening the shortfall of youth provision within the parish.
828	Belmont Grange Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	B	D	32	0.12	7.02	The site is in a medium priority zone with sufficient parish supply. If the site was removed it would not create a gap in access. However, it is a good quality site and therefore it is recommended it is retained.
878	Birches Lane Play Area	Lach Dennis	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	0.05	77.37	The site is of good quality with decent play value. A large gap in access would be created if the site was removed and there is already a shortfall in supply. Therefore, it is recommended that the site is retained.
776	Blake Lane MUGA	Cuddington (Weaver and	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	32	0.04	118.22	Decent quality MUGA. It is the only youth provision within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access.

		Cuddington)							Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
1866	Boundary Lane Play Area	Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	Play Space (Children)	B	D	33	0.1	66.67	Good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and therefore it is recommended it is retained.
754	Brecon Way Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	40	0.01	28.72	Site in good condition with no need for improvements. Whilst there is sufficient parish supply, the site's removal would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
760	Burnside Way Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	C	D	38	0.01	44.85	The site is a small play area aimed at younger children. It has potential to be expanded to including junior equipment. The removal would create a large gap in access also. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and improved.
830	Burwardsley Way Play Area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	0.01	16.38	Even though there would be a gap in access if removed, it occurs over an unpopulated area. It has low play value and it considered to have potential for alternative open space use, provided that a nearby play space is extended by at least the same area, to avoid worsening the shortfall within the parish.
744	Butchers Stiles Field Play Area	Davenham	Play Space (Children)	C	B	44	0.06	50.62	Poor quality play space with low play value, in an area of medium need (medium priority for improvement). There is a shortfall of children's play space within the parish and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained and improved.
769	Campbell Close Play Area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	C	B	44	0.02	0.67	Average quality play space with low play value and potential to improve. Although its loss would not result in a gap in access when considering the access buffers, however the A533 may act as a barrier to access. Therefore, there may be potential for alternative open space use (provided a nearby play space was extended by the same area to avoid worsening the shortfall), but this would require further consideration of the main road.
764	Chapel Street Play Area	Wincham	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	0.05	34.9	Average site with low play value. Whilst the gap in access appears large it is over a largely unpopulated area. It is

									therefore considered that the site may have potential for alternative open space use.
728	Coniston Grange (Hawks Head Way play area)	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	43	0.1	24.79	Site is average with low play value. Whilst there is sufficient supply in the parish, the gap in access caused by the site removal would be significant. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
773	Danefield Road MUGA	Northwich	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	34	0.01	72.69	Decent MUGA site with little potential for improvement. If the site was removed it would result in a large gap in access and worsen the shortfall in supply. It is recommended that the site is retained.
724	Danefield Road Play Area 2	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	B	D	34	0.06	15.02	Whilst the parish has adequate play space supply, the removal of the site would cause both a shortfall and create a gap in access. The site has been refurbished with all new equipment. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
841	Drillfield road play space	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	0.01	0	The site is small play space with average play value. There is sufficient parish supply and no gap in access would result in the site's removal. It is therefore considered that the site may have potential for alternative open space use.
748	Dukes Way 2 Play Area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	C	C	39	0.01	3.15	Good quality multi-climb equipment. Although there is a shortfall of children's play space in the parish, its loss would not result in a gap in access, and therefore there may be potential for alternative open space use if a nearby play area (Dukes Way Play Area) was improved and extended by the same area to avoid worsening the shortfall. i.e. There may be potential for alternative open space use of either Dukes Way 2 or Dukes Way Play Area (but not both).
819	Dukes Way Play Area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	C	C	40	0.01	0	See comments for Dukes Way 2 Play Area (ID 748)

743	Elizabethan Way Play Area	Rudheath	Play Space (Children)	C	D	39	0.05	56.15	Small play space with very average equipment. The is in an area of medium priority for improvements and there is an existing shortfall in supply. Because a large gap in access would be created if the site were removed, it is recommended that the site is retained and improved.
1972	Esk Road MUGA	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	35	0.05	5.67	Decent MUGA in need of litter management. Whilst there is hardly any gap in access, the site is in good condition and there is already a shortfall in supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
834	Finsbury Walk Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	39	0.11	16	Good site with diverse equipment. Whilst there is sufficient parish supply, a large gap in access would be created if the site was removed. It is recommended that the site is retained.
742	Gadbrook Park	Rudheath	Play Space (Children)	C	D	38	0.1	21.08	Decent play area with some flooding issues. The removal of the site would create a large gap in access in an area of medium improvement. It would also worsen the existing shortfall in parish supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
722	Grange Avenue Play Area	Barnton	Play Space (Children)	C	B	44	0.06	4.01	Average play area with potential to improve play value. Although its loss would only result in a very small (negligible) gap in access, there is a shortfall in supply of children's space within the parish. Due to its size and potential to improve, it is recommended that it is retained and improved. However, it may have potential for alternative open space use provided a nearby play space (Rowan Rise or Runcorn Road) were extended by the same area, to avoid making the shortfall worse.

798	Griffiths Park Play Area	Rudheath	Play Space (Children)	C	D	38	0.02	29.21	Average play space with some damaged equipment. A large gap in access would be created if the site was removed, as well as an increased shortfall in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
1911	Helmdon Close Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	C	40	0.03	62.53	Decent play area with little potential for improvements. There is sufficient supply for children's play in the parish. However, if the site were to be removed it would create a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
735	James Street Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	B	D	34	0.04	30.82	The site is in good condition and its removal would result in a large gap in access. It is recommended that the site is retained.
780	Kensington Close Basketball	Kingsmead	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	41	0.01	114.78	Single basketball hoop with low play value. It is the only youth provision within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained and improved e.g. it could be upgraded to a full MUGA.
836	King George VI Playground	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	36	0.01	1.64	Average site with some management issues. There is sufficient supply in the parish and only a very small gap in access would be created from its loss. It is therefore considered that the site may have potential for alternative open space use.
771	Knights Grange Sports Complex Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	36	0.13	4.45	Large, good quality play space within a sports complex. Whilst only a small gap in access would occur, it is recommended that the site is retained due to its high quality/play value.

763	Knutsford Road Play Area	Antrobus	Play Space (Children)	B	D	32	0.05	76.58	Good quality play with good play value. It is the only play space within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
734	Leaf Lane Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	C	38	0.14	7.44	Improvements have been recently made to the site and it's in reasonable condition, just need to unlock the gates. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1863	Leyland Walk MUGA	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	45	0.02	98.32	The site is the only of its kind in the area and its removal would create a large gap in access and worsen the existing shortfall in parish supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.
869	Lifestyle Centre Skate Park	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	32	0.05	113.51	The site is the only of its kind in the area and its removal would create a large gap in access and worsen the existing shortfall in parish supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.
818	Long Meadow Play Area	Weaverham	Play Space (Children)	C	C	43	0	54.66	The site is average and could be improved. The site is in a medium priority zone and there is a shortfall in parish supply. A large gap in access would be created if the site was removed. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained, and improvements are made in line with the quality audit. Small scale improvements planned in 2017/18
784	Main Road Multi Use Games Area	Moulton	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	31	0.08	119.91	The site is the only youth space within the parish and its removal would create a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained
745	Main Road Play Area	Moulton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	33	0.07	77.76	Good quality play space. This is the only children's play space within the parish and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
758	Meadowbank Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	42	0.05	77.15	Play space with limited play value. The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.

731	Minster Close Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	39	0.11	55.72	The site is in good condition and its removal would result in a large gap in access. It is recommended that the site is retained.
756	Monarch Drive Play Area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	C	D	36	0.02	0	Decent quality play space with average play value. Its loss would not result in a gap in access, therefore it may have potential for alternative open space use, provided a nearby play area was extended by the same area to avoid worsening the shortfall within the parish.
777	Mount Pleasant Drive BMX Track	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	37	0.38	12.98	Good BMX facility with limited potential for improvement. Whilst there is only a small gap in access, the removal of the site would worsen the supply shortfall. It is recommended that the site is retained.
778	Mount Pleasant Drive Skate Park	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	37	0.06	0.99	Whilst there is not a large gap in access, the removal of the site would create a large gap for the adjacent site (Mount Pleasant Drive BMX track). And the site is in decent condition. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
739	Norley Road Play Area 2	Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	0.15	68.72	Large play space with good play value, although some equipment would benefit from updating/painting. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and therefore it is recommended that the play space is retained and improved.
755	Normandy Avenue Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	38	0.04	32.09	Site with limited play value. The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
789	Old Hall Road	Northwich	Play Space (Youth)	B	C	42	0.01	115.36	Decent facility. The parish has a shortfall in supply and removing the site would not only worsen that, but it would create a large gap in access. It recommended that the site is retained and improved. Improvements planned from 2018.
857	Old Hall Road Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	B	C	42	0.05	74.66	The site is in generally good condition and does not need improvements. The removal of the site would result in large gap in access. It is recommended that the site is retained. Improvements planned from 2018.
750	Orchard Avenue Play	Acton Bridge	Play Space (Children)	C	B	44	0.04	76.6	Average play space with potential to improve play value. Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play



	Area								space within the Parish). Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained and improved. Small scale Improvements are planned for 2017/2018.
737	Over Recreation Ground Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	41	0.27	12.49	Average site with little room for improvement. Paths have recently been resurfaced on site. The site has medium priority for improvement and the parish has sufficient supply. There would be a gap in access if the site was replaced. It is recommended that the site is retained.
740	Parker Avenue Play Area	Hartford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	37	0.04	51.62	Decent quality play space. Its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
752	Princess Road Play Area	Allostock	Play Space (Children)	C	D	36	0.01	76.16	Basic toddler play area with potential to improve play value. Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the Parish). Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained and improved.
845	Pulford Close Play area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	C	D	33	0.01	0	Average play space with no gap in access if it were removed. It is considered that the site has potential for alternative open space use, provided a nearby space were extended by the same area to avoid worsening the shortfall within the parish.
860	Radcliffe Road Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	C	44	0.02	37.88	Average play space in a parish with sufficient supply. However, the site is in a medium priority for improvement zone and a large gap in access would occur if the site was removed. It is recommended that the site is retained.

757	Rookery Rise Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	D	C	46	0.02	24.42	Poor play space with limited potential to improve. Whilst there is a gap in access, it is over a largely unpopulated area. There is sufficient parish supply. On this basis, it is considered that the site may have potential for alternative open space use.
859	Rosewood Drive	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	C	44	0.02	29.43	Poor play area. There is sufficient parish supply. Whilst it appears there would a large gap in access, the gap is over a largely unpopulated area. It is therefore considered that the site may have potential for alternative open space use.
753	Russet Road Play Area	Weaverham	Play Space (Children)	B	D	35	0.06	58.71	Decent condition site in an area of medium priority for improvements. If the site were to be removed it would result in a large gap in access and worsen the existing shortfall in supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
775	Saxons Lane Basketball Hoop / MUGA	Northwich	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	42	0.02	8.16	The site is the only MUGA/basketball hoop in the area, creating a large gap in access if removed. The site removal of the site would also worsen the existing shortfall in supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit. <b>Plans to improve site via wider play and open space masterplan from 2017/18</b>
781	Saxons Lane Skate Park	Northwich	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	42	0.01	3.35	Whilst there is not a large gap in access, the site is the only one of its kind in the area. There is also an existing shortfall in supply which would be worsened if the site was removed. It is recommended that the site is retained and improved. Plans to improve site via wider play and open space masterplan from 2017/18.
770	Stanthorne (Clive Park)	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	35	0.16	80.72	Large, good quality play space in a park. Whilst there is sufficient parish supply, a large gap in access would occur if

	Play Area								the site was removed. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
729	Stones Manor Lane Play Area	Hartford	Play Space (Children)	C	C	37	0	16.68	Single swing set, poor quality and low play value. Its loss would result in a small gap in access, but as the site offers such low play value and there is sufficient supply within the parish (and the gap in access created from its loss would be small), it is considered that the play space may have potential for alternative open space use.
873	Swan Grove	Nether Peover	Play Space (Children)	C	C	41	0.1	79.83	Whilst in a rural setting, the site is the only play space in the area and its removal would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
808	Vauxhall Way Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	40	0.04	27.4	Average play space with room for improvements. Whilst there is sufficient parish supply, a large gap in access would be created if the site was removed. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.
822	Verdin Park Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	B	C	38	0.06	46.54	Play space with potential for improvements. The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore considered that the site should be retained.
782	Verdin Park Skate Ramp	Northwich	Play Space (Youth)	B	C	36	0.04	45.9	The site is of average quality and needs improvements. The site is in a medium priority for improvement zone and if removed it would create a large gap in access and worsen the existing shortfall in supply. It is recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.
1931	Vickers Way MUGA	Northwich	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	31	0.07	46.6	Decent skate park facility in an area of medium priority for improvement. The removal of the site would create a large

									gap in access and worsen the existing shortfall in parish supply. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
726	Victoria Street Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	B	D	33	0.03	76.7	The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. The site is also in decent condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
738	Wharton Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	0.23	19.61	Average site with dated equipment. Whilst there is sufficient parish supply, the site's removal would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.
858	Wren Avenue AGS	Sproston	Play Space (Children)	C	B	46	0	73.2	Very poor play space in need of improvements. The site is in a medium priority area for improvements and in a parish with sufficient supply. There is no other play provision anywhere near the site. It is recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit.
746	Yarwood Close Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	C	C	45	0.01	20.27	The site's removal would result in a large gap in access in an area of medium priority for improvement. It is recommended that the site is retained and enhanced in line with the quality audit. Northwich Town Council will be implementing improvements in 2018.

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### **8.3 Low priority sites**

There are 27 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) – 21 children’s play spaces and six youth facilities, as shown in table 19 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 19 Play areas that are a low priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
766	Bradburns Lane Play	Hartford	Play Space (Children)	A	D	22	0.3	12.12	Good quality, large play space with good play value. Therefore, it is considered that this play space should be retained.
1987	Bradbury Road Play Area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	0.35	42.27	Decent site in need of litter management. Whilst there is sufficient parish supply, a large gap in access would occur if the site was removed. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
1986	Bradbury Road Skate and Basketball	Winsford	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	29	0.05	39.37	Decent facility with potential for improvements. Whilst the site is in a low priority zone, there is an existing shortfall in access and the removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
749	Capesthorpe Close (Kingsmead) Play Area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.01	0.57	Good quality play space with three items of wooden equipment (average play value). Although there is a shortfall of children's play space within the parish, its loss would not result in a gap in access. However, due to the quality of the equipment, it is recommended it is retained.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
725	Church Walk Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.18	25.49	Good quality site with no potential for improvements and the parish has sufficient play space supply. However, if the site were to be removed it would create a large gap in access. It is recommended that the site is retained.
779	Comberbach MUGA	Comberbach	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	29	0.03	116.98	Good quality MUGA. It is the only youth provision within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that it is retained.
741	Comberbach Play Area	Comberbach	Play Space (Children)	A	D	25	0.19	82.05	Very good quality play space. It is the only children's play space within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that it is retained.
709	Denehurst Park Way	Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	0.04	76.27	Good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and therefore it is recommended it is retained.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
825	Kensington Way Play Area	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	0.03	1.15	Good quality play site with decent play value. Whilst the site is in a low priority for improvement zone, and its removal would not result in a gap in access, the site is in good condition and should therefore be retained.
2034	Knightsbridge Park/St James Way	Hartford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	28	0.02	6.26	Decent children's play space with provision aimed at toddlers. Although its loss would only result in a very small gap in access due to Stones Manor Lane Play Area to the south, this play space consists of only a poor-quality swing set, and considering the A559 which separates Bradburns Lane Play Space, it is recommended that this play space is retained.
821	Laburnam Road Play Area	Davenham	Play Space (Children)	B	D	24	0.03	23.47	Good quality children's play space. There is a shortfall in children's play space within the parish and its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the play space is retained.
844	Lifestyle Centre Play area	Winsford	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.04	0	Good quality play space in a parish with sufficient parish supply. If the site was removed it would not create a gap in access, however due to the quality of the space it is recommended it is retained.



ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
792	Linnards Lane MUGA	Wincham	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	25	0.02	116.64	The site is the only youth facility in the parish and it is in good condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
839	Linnards Lane Play Area	Wincham	Play Space (Children)	A	D	25	0.02	77.03	The site is only one of two in the parish and is in excellent condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1990	Lion Saltworks Play Area	Marston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	27	0.06	36.96	Good quality play space with good play value, its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
762	Little Leigh Play Area	Little Leigh	Play Space (Children)	A	D	27	0.08	80.03	Site is of good quality after receiving improvements in line with the previous quality audit. There is no other provision in the area, so the site's removal would create a large gap in access. There is also a shortfall in parish supply. It recommended that the site retained.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1870	Manor Avenue MUGA	Marston	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	29	0.03	117.52	The site is decent condition and is the only youth facility in the area. Its removal would create a large gap in access. It is recommended that the site is retained.
765	Manor Avenue Play Area	Marston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	0.08	78	The space is in decent condition and is one of only two play spaces within the parish. Its removal would also create a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
768	Marbury Park Play Area	Anderton with Marbury	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	0.23	83.65	Good quality play with good play value. It is the only play space within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained <sup>15</sup> .
837	Mereworth Drive Play Area 3	Kingsmead	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	0.01	6.27	Good quality site. There is a shortfall within the parish. Therefore it should be retained.

<sup>15</sup> This play area has been downgraded following a recent ROSPA inspection, and the play equipment may need replacing.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
842	Moss Farm Playing Fields	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	0.11	52.43	Excellent play space with good quality equipment. The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. Various improvements have also been made on site. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1858	Nursery Road MUGA and Skatepark	Barnton	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	29	0.09	109.91	Good new skate park, and average MUGA. There is a shortfall of youth provision within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, these facilities should be retained. There is potential for the basketball area to be upgraded to a MUGA or accommodate additional skate ramps.
730	Nursery Road Play Area	Barnton	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	0.08	55.31	Good quality, large play space with good play value. There is a shortfall in supply of children's play space within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
1860	Russet Road MUGA	Weaverham	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	30	0.01	10.3	Decent quality half MUGA in a ward where there is a shortfall in provision. Therefore it is recommended that it is retained.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
751	Stubbs Lane Play Area	Lostock Gramam	Play Space (Children)	A	D	26	0.08	25.46	The site is of good quality with decent play value. A large gap in access would be created if the site was removed and there is already a shortfall in supply. Therefore, it is recommended that the site is retained.
733	Townshend Road Play Area	Lostock Gramam	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.34	32.46	The site is an area of low priority for improvements, but its removal would create a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
736	Vickers Way Play Area	Northwich	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	0.34	10.11	Large, good quality site with good play value. 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 may have potential for alternative open space use (the decision making for each of these sites is included within the ‘Ethos recommendations’ column of tables 18 to 20):

- Marlborough Avenue Play Area (High Priority for Improvement), Winsford
- Runcorn Road Play Area (High Priority for Improvement), Barnton
- Beeston Street MUGA (Medium Priority for Improvement), Northwich
- Burwardsley Way Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Campbell Close Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Chapel Street Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Wincham
- Drillfield Road Play Space (Medium Priority for Improvement), Northwich
- Dukes Way 1 or 2 Play Areas (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Grange Avenue Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Barnton
- King George VI Playground (Medium Priority for Improvement), Winsford
- Monarch Drive Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Pullford Close Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Rookery Rise Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement, Winsford
- Rosewood Drive (Medium Priority for Improvement), Winsford
- Stones Manor Lane (Medium Priority for Improvement), Hartford.

## 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 new provision where they would reduce gaps in access, enabling more areas of the borough 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 new play provision in the Borough, 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.

Table 20 Open space with potential for new provision to reduce shortfalls in quantity/access

Parish	Number of play areas/youth facilities		Supply (ha) (for urban/part – urban parishes only)		Comments
	Child	Youth	Child	Youth	
Acton Bridge	1	0			The parish meets the rural standard for children's play space but not for youth provision. There may be some scope to introduce youth provision at <b>Orchard Avenue Park</b> .
Allostock	1	0			The parish meets the rural standard for children's play space but not for youth provision. There may be some scope to introduce youth provision at <b>Chapel Lane Recreation Area</b> .
Anderton with Marbury	1	0	0.2	-0.02	The parish has sufficient supply of children's play space, but a gap in access in the south – however, due to the small number of houses within this gap/more rural nature of the area, and the presence of New Road Amenity Green space which offers 'playable' space in this area, the local need for new children's play space requires further investigation <sup>16</sup> . There is an under-supply of youth play space but very limited opportunity for new provision within existing open space.
Antrobus	1	0			The parish meets the rural quantity/access standard for children's play space but not for youth provision. There may be some scope to introduce youth provision at <b>The Village Hall amenity green space</b> . <sup>17</sup>
Barnton	4	2	-0.09	-0.07	There is an under-supply of youth and children's play space, but good access.

<sup>16</sup> Anderton with Marbury Parish Council would like CWAC to provide and manage a play area.

<sup>17</sup> Antrobus parish council has an aspiration to extend the current play area to accommodate wider age groups

Parish	Number of play areas/youth facilities		Supply (ha) (for urban/part – urban parishes only)		Comments
	Child	Youth	Child	Youth	
					Therefore, existing children's play spaces and youth facilities should be improved and extended. <sup>18</sup>
Bostock	0	0			The parish meets the rural quantity/access standard for parishes with less than 250 people, as there is 'playable' space in the form of Bostock Green.
Byley	0	0			The parish meets the rural standard for parishes with less than 250 people, as there is 'playable' space in the form of Drakelow Lane amenity green space.
Comberbach	1	1			The parish meets the rural quantity/access standard for children's play space and youth provision.
Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	3	1			The parish meets the rural quantity/access standard for children's play space and youth provision. Cuddington Parish Council are trying to fund a skate park which would complement the existing youth provision, and is in accordance with the area being classed as a key service centre.
Darnhall	0	0			This parish does not meet the rural standard for parishes with less than 250 people, as no public open ('playable') space has been recorded within this parish as part of the CWAC Open Space Study (parks, amenity green space or accessible natural green space). <sup>19</sup> However, in reality there are likely to be plenty of opportunities for informal/natural play within this rural parish, even if not public open space.
Davenham	2	0	-0.05	-0.08	There is an under-supply of children's play space and a gap in access but with very limited potential to fill this gap. It is therefore recommended that existing children's play space is expanded and improved e.g. at Butchers Stiles Field.

<sup>18</sup> Barton Parish council are planning to replace their skate park

<sup>19</sup> Darnhall Parish Council would like to see the restoration of Darnhall for public use to include MUGA and tennis

Parish	Number of play areas/youth facilities		Supply (ha) (for urban/part – urban parishes only)		Comments
	Child	Youth	Child	Youth	
					There is an undersupply of youth play space and gaps in access. There may be scope to introduce youth provision at <b>Butchers Stiles Field OR Laburnam Road Park</b> to reduce the shortfall and access gaps.
Dutton	0	0			The parish does not meet the rural standard of 1 appropriately scaled down multi-use space for play to accommodate use by accompanied toddlers, children and teenagers. There is very limited potential for new provision, although there may be some scope to introduce small scale natural play equipment at <b>Dutton Park Woods</b> (this would require careful consideration of the impact on biodiversity and natural character of the woods). Dutton Parish Council also note that there is <b>potential for children's play/recreation area on land owned by the parish council.</b>
Great Budworth	0	0			Although no children's play space is available on publicly accessible land, it is noted that there is a children's play area within the grounds of Great Budworth Primary School which can be used by the community. There is very limited potential for new youth provision.
Hartford	4	0	0.09	-0.17	There is sufficient supply of children's play space, but a large gap in access in the south of the parish. <b>Mornant Avenue</b> amenity green space may have potential to accommodate new children's play space to reduce the access gap. There is an under-supply of youth play space, with no access across the parish and very limited potential to install new provision. Access to school facilities would be beneficial.
Kingsmead	9	1	-0.1	-0.14	There is an under-supply of children's play space, but good access across the



Parish	Number of play areas/youth facilities		Supply (ha) (for urban/part – urban parishes only)		Comments
	Child	Youth	Child	Youth	
					whole parish. Therefore, it is recommended that existing children's play areas are improved and extended. There is an under-supply of youth play space and the north of the parish does not meet the 600m access standard. There is very limited potential for new provision. Access to school facilities e.g. MUGAs would be beneficial.
Lach Dennis	1	0			This parish meets the rural standard for children's play space and there is limited potential for installing a new youth facility due to the lack of open space in the parish.
Little Leigh	1	0			The parish meets the rural standard for children's play space but not for youth provision. There is very limited potential for new youth provision in existing open space. <sup>20</sup>
Lostock Gramam	2	0	0.31	-0.06	There is sufficient supply of children's play space and the residential areas meet the access standard. Therefore, no new provision or extension of play areas is currently required. There is an under-supply of youth space and the parish does not meet the access standard. There may be potential for new youth provision at <b>Manchester Road Park and Rec.</b>
Marston	2	1	0.12	0.02	There is sufficient supply of children's play space and good access across the residential parts of the parish. Therefore, no new provision or extension of play areas is currently required. There is sufficient supply of youth play space, but a gap in access in the south of the ward – but with no potential for new provision.
Nether Peover	1	0			The parish meets the rural standard for children's play space but not for youth provision. There is no potential for new

<sup>20</sup> Little Leigh Parish Council note the need for new MUGA/tennis facilities and the need for youth facilities

Parish	Number of play areas/youth facilities		Supply (ha) (for urban/part – urban parishes only)		Comments
	Child	Youth	Child	Youth	
					youth provision within existing public open space <sup>21</sup> .
Northwich	13	7	0.05	-0.46	There is sufficient supply of children's play space and generally good access across the parish, but with a gap towards the south. This access gap could be removed by installing a new play space at <b>Old Hall Road</b> amenity green space <sup>22</sup> . There is an under-supply of youth play space and some gaps in access (although the majority of the area meets the standard. <b>Old Hall Road</b> amenity green space may have potential to accommodate new youth provision to reduce access gaps and shortfall.
Rudheath	3	0	-0.02	-0.11	There is insufficient supply of children's play space but the residential parts of the parish meet the access standard. Therefore, it is recommended that existing children's play areas are improved and extended. There is a shortfall in youth provision and approx. half of the residential area does not meet the access standard. <b>Gadbrook Park</b> may have potential to accommodate new youth provision to reduce the shortfall and access gap.
Sproston	1	0			The parish meets the rural quantity/access standard for parishes with less than 250 people, as there is 'playable' space at Wren Avenue (including a swing set).
Stanthorne and Wimboldsley	0	0			This parish does not meet the rural standard for parishes with less than 250 people, as no public open ('playable') space has been recorded within this parish as part of the CWAC Open Space Study (parks, amenity green space or accessible natural green space).
Weaverham	2	2	-0.26	-0.05	There is an under-supply of children's

<sup>21</sup> Nether Peover Parish Council note that residents would like to see the play area on Swan Green Extended and seating areas created. They note there is nothing in the area for teenagers.

<sup>22</sup> Northwich Town Council highlight a need for new play areas in Winnington, Lostock and Leftwich

Parish	Number of play areas/youth facilities		Supply (ha) (for urban/part – urban parishes only)		Comments
	Child	Youth	Child	Youth	
					play space and gaps in access. Potential for new provision at Briar Lane amenity green space to reduce shortfall and access gap. <sup>23</sup> There is an under-supply of youth play space and gaps in access. Potential for new youth provision at <b>Briar Lane OR Hazel Drive</b> amenity green space <sup>24</sup> .
Whitegate and Marton	0	0			This parish does not meet the rural standard for play space. There may be some potential to install natural play equipment within woodland in the parish (would require careful consideration).
Whitley	0	0			This parish does not meet the rural standard for play space. There may be potential to install natural play equipment at <b>Whitley Pitt</b> natural green space, or play equipment at the <b>Village Hall</b> amenity green space. Whitley Parish council note that an expansion of an existing play area is needed – but no play provision has been recorded in Whitley.
Wincham	2	1	-0.04	-0.04	There is an under-supply of children's play space but the residential areas of the parish meet the access standard. Therefore, it is recommended that existing children's play areas are improved and extended. There is an under-supply of youth play space with good access in the north, and no access in the south of the parish. There is no opportunity for new provision in the south of the parish, therefore it is recommended that youth Provision within Linnards Lane park is extended to reduce the shortfall. <sup>25</sup>
Winsford	23	11	0.52	-0.18	There is sufficient supply of children's play space with good access across the

<sup>23</sup> Weaverham Parish Council note that additional play facilities would be beneficial

<sup>24</sup> The Locality Manger has noted regular requests for a skate park in Weaverham and the Parish Council identified Skate park and BMX as in demand.

<sup>25</sup> Wincham Parish Council note that there is space in the Linnards Lane playing field that could be used as a skate park which would be very popular.

Parish	Number of play areas/youth facilities		Supply (ha) (for urban/part – urban parishes only)		Comments
	Child	Youth	Child	Youth	
					residential areas. There is a gap in access to the west of the river which could be reduced by installing play space at <b>Church Street</b> amenity green space. There is an under-supply of youth play space and some gaps in access, but limited potential for new provision. Therefore, it is recommended that existing youth provision is improved and expanded to reduce the shortfall.

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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 Northwich the projected housing growth is at least 4,300 new dwellings and for Winsford the projected housing growth is at least 3,500 new dwellings.

This would result in the following requirements for new play space based on the quantity standards in table 4, and assuming a population increase of 17,940 people (7,800 x 2.3):

Play Space (Children): **0.88ha**

Play Space (Youth): **0.54ha**

If development occurs in areas where there is an existing shortfall of play space, or where there are gaps in access, it would be expected that this provision be provided on site.

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

### **10.1 Quantity**

- There are a total of 79 children's play areas and 28 youth facilities (excluding teen shelters) within the Locality Area.
- There is an overall sufficient supply of children's play space and an under-supply of youth play space within the Locality, although different standards are used for the urban/part-urban parishes (table 4) compared to the rural parishes (table 5).
- The parishes of Dutton, Whitley, Great Budworth (although there is access to a school play area), Lach Dennis, Byley, Bostock, Stanthorne and Wimboldsley, Darnhall and Whitegate and Marton do not have any provision of children's play space. The majority of parishes have no provision of youth play space.
- Out of the urban/part-urban parishes, Anderton with Marbury, Hartford, Lostock Gralam, Marston, Northwich, and Winsford have sufficient supply of children's play space. Barton, Davenham, Rudheath, Kingsmead, Weaverham and Wincham have an under-supply. For youth provision, all urban parishes or part-urban parishes (with the exception of Marston) have a shortfall.
- A number of parishes highlight the need/aspiration for new provision of play space (see section 6).
- Consultation with the Locality Manager revealed that a regular issue is a request for a skatepark in Weaverham.

### **10.2 Access**

- There is generally good access to children's play space across the urban areas of the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area, with relatively small gaps in access in Hartford, Davenham, Northwich Barnton, Anderton with Marbury and Winsford. The provision of youth play space is more sporadic, with larger gaps in access across the majority of urban/ part-urban parishes.
- There are a number of rural parishes that do not meet the recommended levels of provision for quantity/access as set out in table 5 – see table 20 for details.

### **10.3 Quality**

- There is a large variation in the quality of play space within the Northwich and Winsford Locality, ranging from good quality sites offering excellent play value e.g. Vickers Way Play Area (Northwich) to very poor sites e.g. Rookery Rise Play Area (Winsford).
- Consultation with the Locality Manager and Parishes highlights that a key issue is on-going maintenance from both the Council and Parishes, and a number of play and youth facilities are in need of improvement.

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## 10.4 Priorities for the area

- There are 11 play spaces that have been identified as a high priority for improvement within the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 47 and 62) – five are children’s play spaces and six are youth facilities. These high priority play areas are shown in table 17.
- There are 69 play spaces that have been identified as a medium priority for improvement within the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 31 and 46) – 53 children’s play spaces and 16 youth facilities, as shown in table 18.

## 10.5 Sites with potential for alternative open space use

The following sites **may** have potential for alternative open space use (the decision making for each of these sites is included within the ‘Ethos recommendations’ column of tables 18 to 20):

- Marlborough Avenue Play Area (High Priority for Improvement), Winsford
- Runcorn Road Play Area (High Priority for Improvement), Barnton
- Beeston Street MUGA (Medium Priority for Improvement), Northwich
- Burwardsley Way Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Campbell Close Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Chapel Street Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Wincham
- Drillfield Road Play Space (Medium Priority for Improvement), Northwich
- Dukes Way 1 or 2 Play Areas (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Grange Avenue Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Barnton
- King George VI Playground (Medium Priority for Improvement), Winsford
- Monarch Drive Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Pullford Close Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement), Kingsmead
- Rookery Rise Play Area (Medium Priority for Improvement, Winsford
- Rosewood Drive (Medium Priority for Improvement), Winsford
- Stones Manor Lane (Medium Priority for Improvement), Hartford.

## 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:

- Orchard Avenue Park (for youth provision in Acton Bridge)
- Chapel Lane Rec (for youth provision in Allostock)
- Village Hall amenity space (for youth provision in Antrobus)
- Butchers Stiles Field or Laburnam Road Park (for youth provision in Davenham)
- Mornant Avenue (for children’s play space in Hartford)

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- Old Hall Road amenity (for children's play space and youth provision in Northwich)
  - Gadbrook Park (for youth provision in Rudheath)
  - Briar Lane or Hazel Drive amenity (for youth provision in Weaverham)
  - Whitley Pitt or Village Hall amenity for children's and youth provision in Whitley)
  - Church Street amenity (for children's play space in Winsford).

### **10.7 Requirements from new development**

- The projected housing growth for Northwich and Winsford is at least 7,800 new dwellings which would result in a requirement of 0.88ha of new children's play space and 0.54ha 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 parish, but an under-supply of play space, then extending and improving existing play areas may be considered.