



**Stockton-on-Tees**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **Planning Policy Guidance 17 Assessment**

Appendix 7 to the Open Space  
Recreation and Landscaping SPD

**Stockton-on-Tees Borough  
Local Development Framework**

December 2009

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE 17

1.1. Planning Policy Guidance 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) was published in 2002. It highlights the role that open space and sport provision can play in people's quality of life and in delivering wider government objectives such as:

- Supporting an urban renaissance;
- Supporting a rural renewal;
- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion;
- Health and well being; and
- Promoting more sustainable development.

1.2. PPG17 states that robust assessments of local need and existing provision are necessary to effectively plan for open space, sport and recreation. Information from assessments of need and existing provision should then be used to set local standards for quantity, quality and accessibility.

1.3. Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion Guide to PPG17 (PPG17 Guidance) suggests a five step process for the assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities;

- 1) Identifying local needs
- 2) Auditing Local Provision
- 3) Setting Provision Standards
- 4) Applying Provision Standards
- 5) Drafting Policies

## TYPOLOGY OF SPACES

1.4. The table below outlines the typology of open space defined by PPG17, this table has been taken from the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees Open Space Audit (2005), which forms part of our audit of local provision.

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
Parks and Gardens	Urban parks and formal gardens	Informal recreation Community events
Natural Greenspace	Woodland, scrub, grassland, wetland etc. with note-able wildlife value, including country parks.	Wildlife conservation Biodiversity Environmental education
Green Corridors	Spaces whose primary function is as a corridor (e.g. wildlife corridor, cycle ways, paths, rights of way). Other types of	Corridor for travel (e.g. walking, cycling, horse-riding) or wildlife. Opportunities for wildlife migration (e.g.

	space may form parts of Green Corridors but have different primary functions therefore would be designated with different typologies.	hedgerows or stream corridors). Linear usage
Sports Facilities	Open space specifically geared towards sport and formal recreation e.g. football pitches, athletics fields and playing fields. May be private/public owned. Includes school playing fields.	Participation in specific sports e.g. football, golf, and athletics. Training for sports. Watching sports.
Amenity Greenspace	Spaces whose primary function is the provision of amenity (e.g. visual enhancement or informal recreation) to local residents, workers or passers by. Predominantly found in residential areas but may be located in e.g. commercial areas to serve staff/visitors.	Casual activities close to home or work. Visual enhancement of local area.
Play areas	All formal playgrounds. Even those within other open spaces.	Play
Allotments	Allotment gardens – recognised areas where people can grow their own produce.	Non-commercial growing of vegetables and fruit. Does not include private gardens.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	All cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds whether still used as graveyards or not.	Burial of dead Quiet contemplation Wildlife conservation Biodiversity
Civic spaces	Town squares, market squares. Hard surfaced spaces for pedestrians, around civic buildings and town centres.	Markets Settings for civic buildings Community/town events

1.5. The typology for built sports facilities has been based on a suggested typology from PPG17 and from Sport England's Active Place Power online database. It includes Health and Fitness Suites, Indoor Bowls Centres, Indoor Tennis Centres, Sports Halls, Swimming Pools, Synthetic Turf Pitches, Ice Rinks and Community Centres and Village Halls. The typology is explained further in the Built Facilities Audit section of this document (see page 39).

## **RELEVANT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

1.6. This PPG17 assessment will provide an evidence base for a number of documents, policies and strategies. These include

- Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document (SPD);
- Core Strategy Development Plan Document
- Environment Development Plan Document (DPD);
- Regeneration Development Plan Document (DPD)
- Stockton-on-Tees Green Infrastructure Strategy;
- Sport and Active Leisure Strategy;

1.7. A number of other existing strategies and policies will provide the wider context for the assessment and are also outlined below.

### **Open Space, Recreation and Landscape SPD**

1.8. As part of the Local development Framework (LDF) this SPD will provide guidance to open space and recreation policies that will be contained within the Environment DPD and Regeneration DPD. It will contain the standards that result from this assessment and outline the way that they will be used to determine planning obligations that are required for new development. Guidance on landscape is also included to ensure that new development contains high quality open space.

### **Core Strategy DPD**

1.9. The Core Strategy is the overarching document of the Local Development Framework and as such is being prepared first. It sets out, in broad terms, the pattern of development and growth in the Borough over the next 15 years, and how this will be achieved. This document sets out the key planning policy for the Borough based on its unique feature and characteristics and taking account of other strategies and programmes that affect the area.

### **Environment DPD**

1.10. The Environment DPD is a high level document in the LDF, which will house planning policy relating to the built and natural environment such as open space, nature conservation sites, green wedges and the historic environment. The DPD requires a robust evidence base including the PPG17 assessment.

### **Regeneration DPD**

1.11. The Regeneration DPD is a high level document in the LDF, where site allocation policies for the Borough will be located. It will contain specific site allocation policies for the determination of development relating to housing, employment, mixed-use developments and land uses relating to

transport. Community facilities policy and some open space policies will be included in the document. The DPD requires a robust evidence base including the PPG17 assessment.

### **Stockton-on-Tees Green Infrastructure Strategy**

1.12. The Stockton-on-Tees Green Infrastructure Strategy aims to deliver the vision of the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy in Stockton-on-Tees. The multi functional nature of green infrastructure will be used to provide benefits to local residents and the local environment based on both local needs and green infrastructure principles. The strategy will provide a long-term vision for green infrastructure in the Borough and encourage partnership working.

- Key functions and benefits of green infrastructure include:
- Travel and transport;
- Recreation;
- Settings and image;
- Learning;
- Natural and built heritage;
- Working landscapes; and
- Ecosystem services.

### **Sport and Active Leisure Strategy**

1.13. Stockton's Strategy for Sport and Active Leisure seeks to ensure the effective planning and coordination of a range of opportunities for participation in sport and active leisure to meet the needs and aspirations of the borough's residents, and to support the objectives of the Council and its strategic partners.

1.14. The vision of the strategy is:

*'To positively contribute to the Health, Educational Attainment and Economy of Stockton through raising the levels of participation in sport and active leisure within the community. We will achieve this by offering a quality sport and leisure environment that is equally accessible to all which encourages the achievement of personal goals.'*

1.15. The three strategic aims, which underpin the vision, are as follows:

- Through strong and cohesive partnerships we will develop opportunities for all sectors of the community to participate in sport and active leisure, at whatever level they choose;
- To develop robust structures (physical and organisational), in which to develop sustainable and high quality sport and active leisure opportunities;
- To inspire a generation to participate in sport and physical activity through the delivery of high profile initiatives that promote and realise the many benefits that sport can provide.

### **Draft Playing Pitch Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough**

1.16. This document will provide information and assessment of needs surrounding playing pitches in the Borough, based on team generation rates. It will provide more detailed information about the adequacy of provision for football, cricket and rugby and is discussed further in the Further Analysis of Outdoor Sports Facilities section on page 102. The Strategy also includes an action plan for the improvement of facilities.

### **The Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document**

1.17. The purpose of the Sustainable Design SPD is to provide advice to developers to improve the design standards and sustainability of new residential developments. The SPD aims to encourage vibrant, sustainable and inclusive communities, to promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability and to promote high quality design standards, which have a high regard for the surrounding character of the site and create attractive places to live. The SPD will also include advice on how to achieve well designed landscaping and high quality open space within residential developments.

### **Local Plan 1997 (Saved Policies)**

1.18. The Secretary of State has saved relevant policies from the Local Plan, as part of the transitional arrangements from the local plan to the LDF system. Open space and recreation policy is currently part of this body of saved policies that will be replaced by policy in the Core Strategy or Environment DPD once adopted.

### **Shaping Our Future: A Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough of Stockton –on-Tees 2008-2021**

1.19. This strategy outlines how public agencies will use resources and work with the public and voluntary sector to improve the Borough's ability to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

1.20. The strategy is based around a number of core improvement themes:

- Economic Regeneration and Transport;
- Environment and Housing;
- Safer Communities;
- Children and Young People; and
- Healthier Communities and Adults.

### **'Play Matters' Stockton –on-Tees Children's Trust Board Play Strategy 2007-2012**

1.21. Developed in response to the 2004 children's play review "Getting Serious About Play" this strategy is linked to the five Every Child Matters Outcomes particularly 'Be Healthy'. Widespread public consultation including adults and children from 4-19 years informed the development of the strategy which aims to improve opportunities for play throughout the Borough and links the importance of play to wider objectives.

1.22. Key objectives are:

- To develop and promote high standards of play provision across the Borough;
- To increase the range, distribution and quality of child led play activities across the Borough;
- Provide a range of appropriately risk managed play environments, which physically challenge and stimulate the minds of children and young people;
- Promote free inclusive and accessible play opportunities for all children and young people, whatever their age ability and circumstances;
- To empower children and young people to contribute as equal partners in the development monitoring and review of play provision.

### **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Play Area Strategy 2007 – 2010**

1.23. This strategy aims to provide a framework for the future development and management of equipped play areas in the Borough in order to ensure the effective targeting of resources, to inform planning policy and the use of planning obligations and to encourage cooperation between stakeholders.

1.24. The Strategy also outlines the benefits of appropriate play provision and its contribution to wider social and environmental agendas such as anti social behaviour, inequality, exclusion and environmental quality.

1.25. Existing play areas have been categorised into a hierarchy of Destination, Neighbourhood and Doorstep sites. These designations reflect relative levels of use and relative size of catchment areas therefore indicating the required resource levels for different sites.

1.26. The strategic objectives are:

- Equity- Provide high quality diverse play equipment across the Borough that are convenient to access from people's homes;
- Community Safety- Create play areas where children and parents feel safe, eliminate unacceptable levels of risk and reduces anti social behaviour through good design and other measures;
- Environmental Quality – Provide attractive play areas in well-maintained environments;
- Social Inclusion and Accessibility – Provide convenient and safe pedestrian access to facilities, improve access for disabled people and people from disadvantaged sections of the community. Provide convenient and safe car parking, public transport and cycle access to larger play sites with wider catchment areas.

### **Draft Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment**

1.27. The Landscape Character Assessment is intended to assess the landscape character of green wedges and of areas outside the Borough's



development limits. The assessment will identify areas of landscape value, which are not suitable for national designations, but still require some level of protection. The information will be used to inform the Green Infrastructure Strategy and a criteria based policy in the Environment DPD.

### **Stockton-on-Tees Climate Change Action Plan 2007 – 2012**

1.28. This plan acknowledges concerns about climate change and aims to cut emission from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough area through more efficient energy use, renewable energy, waste management, sustainable transport and green procurement. The target is to reduce green house gas emissions by 8.75 per cent below the 2000 level by 2012. Other aims are to raise awareness and involve communities, to provide a framework to adapt to the impact s of climate change and to demonstrate the social, economic and environmental benefits of taking climate change actions.

1.29. Objective 7 and 8 of the Plan, set out below, are the issues that are most relevant to this SPD.

- Objective 7: Promote cycling as an attractive alternative to the private car for journeys made within the Borough;
- Objective 8: Green infrastructure managed and developed functioning as a carbon sink and contributing towards sustainable lifestyles.

### **Cemeteries 5 Year Improvement Plan**

1.30. This plan seeks to improve the quality of cemeteries and closed churchyards, limiting the health and safety risks to users. It identifies the relevant condition of cemeteries on a number of different aspects such as:

- Walls and boundaries;
- Ground stability and drainage works;
- Roads and footpath works;
- Chapels and buildings;
- Street furniture;
- Expansion and development; and
- Horticultural Aesthetics work and trees.

1.31. The plan then outlines a process of continual monitoring and repair, excluding Memorials for which funding will be sought from elsewhere.

### **Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan 2006 to 2011: Cycling Strategy**

1.32. Set against the five themes of the Central Government/ Local Government Association's Shared Priority for Transport; congestion, accessibility, road safety, air quality and other quality of life, the strategy's aim is to achieve "more people cycling, more often, and more safely". Relevant objectives are:

- To develop a seamless hierarchy of cycle routes, allowing cyclists to access all parts of the Borough;

- To develop and implement a robust planning and design process to deliver cycle-friendly infrastructure as an integral part of the Borough's transport network;
- To provide a safe and efficient well maintained cycling network;
- To provide more and better cycle facilities to remove theft as a barrier to cycling as a transport mode choice;
- To provide for the needs of cyclists at all stages of the land use planning and development control processes.

### **Emerging Obesity Strategy and Children and Young People Select Committee Review of Obesity February 2009**

1.33. The Stockton PCT is currently preparing an obesity strategy; this has been supported by a Review of Obesity by the Children and Young People Select Committee. The review concluded 40 recommendations around the following areas:

- Maternal health;
- Early years prevention;
- Schools;
- Sixth form colleges and further education colleges;
- Promote healthier food choices;
- Promoting participation in physical activity;
- A supportive built environment;
- Creating incentives for better health;
- Personalised advice and support.

### **Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy**

1.34. Green Infrastructure is a network of multi functional green and blue spaces. This approach to open spaces acknowledges the many benefits that open space provides including those to health, environment, biodiversity, local economies and local identity.

1.35. The Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies the strategic green infrastructure network across the Tees Valley in relation to existing green infrastructure and highlights priorities and actions at the sub-regional level. It outlines the following vision.

1.36. To develop by 2021 a network of green corridors and green spaces in the Tees Valley that:

- Enhance the quality of place and environment for existing and future communities and potential investors;
- Provide an enhanced environment for new development and regeneration projects, which produces high quality design and renews the housing market;
- Creates and extends opportunities for access, recreation and enhancement of biodiversity.

### **Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan**

1.37. The Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan is a living document that highlights the sub-regional priority bird and mammal species, and habitats. The plan encourages partnership working between National Government Agencies, Local Authorities and Non Government Organisations.

### **Tees Valley Sport Sub-Regional Facilities Strategy (draft) and A Regional Facilities Strategy for Sport England North East (draft)**

1.38. A Sport England Facilities Strategy has been produced at both the regional and sub-regional level. These strategies determine the adequacy of existing facilities compared to regional and sub-regional need and identify strategic issues and opportunities at the regional and sub-regional level. The built facilities section of this PPG17 assessment will sit beneath these strategies and take the assessment of the adequacy of built sports facilities down to the Local Authority Level.

### **The North East of England Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021**

1.39. The RSS outlines the long-term strategy for spatial development in the North East. Local Development Frameworks produced at the local authority level must be in general conformity of this strategy. The RSS and LDF make up the statutory Development Plan outlined in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SPD conforms to the policy in the RSS, as it supports Green Infrastructure and high quality development and redevelopment.

### **North East Strategy for the Environment 2008**

1.40. This strategy, produced by the North East Environment Forum, is designed to ensure that “an understanding that social and economic activity must be undertaken within environmental limits in line with the fundamental principles of sustainability”. There are four main themes through which objectives are highlighted:

- Sustainable communities – how environmental and cultural assets contribute towards better places to live and work;
- Resource management – Making best use of our resources;
- Environmental Infrastructure – safeguarding key natural, physical and cultural assets realising their potential;
- Towards Delivery – Action to meet the region’s environmental objectives whilst also delivering social and economic benefits;

### **Planning Obligations Circular 05/2005**

1.41. The circular provides updated guidance on the governments approach to planning obligations. The guidance states how planning obligations must be:

- Relevant to planning;

- Necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms;
- Directly related to the proposed development;
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development; and
- Reasonable in all other respects.

1.42. Standards outlined through this assessment will be used to request planning obligations in line with the above tests.

## 2. IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEEDS

- 2.1. To identify local needs it is important to assess the current context in which open space is provided in the Borough, including current policies and advice from those using the policies in the Development Services Section, the Countryside and Greenspace Section and the Leisure and Sports Development Section.
- 2.2. It is also important to understand the needs and aspirations around open space, sport and recreation facilities, of people living in the Borough. This has been achieved through the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey which was a large scale survey intended to identify the views of a representative sample of the Borough. Some qualitative analysis has been undertaken with people who may have particular needs around open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- 2.3. In order to identify specialist knowledge about open space, sport and recreation facilities, questionnaires were sent out to groups with a particular interest in open space, for example, due to a sport they undertake or a type of facility they need to use. The questionnaire contained both open and multiple-choice questions.

## EXISTING POLICIES AND STANDARDS

### **Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan 1997**

- 2.4. The following are policies from the Local Plan, which relate to open space and have been saved by the secretary of state for the transition from the Local Plan to the LDF system. These policies will be used until they are replaced by a suitable document in the LDF such as the Core Strategy or the Environment DPD.

#### *EN 15*

*Development will not be permitted on Urban Open Space unless:*

- i) It would enhance the sporting, recreational, or nature conservation value of the land and the space would still retain its character; or*
- iii) The development of a small area of open space would result in the enhancement of the remainder to the overall benefit of the local community.*

#### *REC1*

*Development that would result in the permanent loss of playing space will not be permitted unless:*

- i) Sport and recreation facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site, or*
- ii) Alternative provision of equivalent community benefit is made available, or*
- iii) The land is not required to satisfy known local needs.*

HO11

*New residential development should be designed and laid out to:*

*ii) Incorporate open space for both formal and informal use;*

2.5. The justification for the above policy states that

*“For larger developments the council will use the National Playing Fields Association standard of 2.46ha per 1000 population as a guideline to assess the requirement for outdoor playing space, such as football pitches, until it develops its own standard based on a local survey.”*

### **Supplementary Planning Document 6: Planning Obligations 2008**

2.6. The recently adopted Planning Obligations SPD states that the requirements for open space on new development will be assessed on a case-by-case basis using the formula below until local standards are derived.

*“For every 0.1ha of land within the planning application boundary, the Council would seek a contribution of £3500 plus maintenance contributions.”*

### **Limitations of the existing approach**

2.7. Discussion with colleagues in Development Services and Countryside and Greenspace, have highlighted a number of limitations with the existing approach. The current lack of evidence base makes it hard to prove what is acceptable to ask for as a planning obligation contribution. For example, what is relevant to planning, necessary to allow the proposal go ahead, directly related to the proposed development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind and reasonable in all other respects. This makes negotiations with developers difficult.

2.8. A lack of certainty about the contributions that are likely to be achieved makes it difficult to coordinate and pool contributions for offsite provision. On a number of occasions planning obligation contributions have almost been returned to developers because they could not be spent in the right time frame in a way that was related to the development. An increased certainty about the ability to achieve planning obligation contributions may enable more use for securing matched funding for open space and sport. A greater time frame in which to be able to keep contributions, beyond the five years that is often currently used, would facilitate the pooling of contributions considerably.

2.9. Other issues with the current approach are that on site provision is harder to secure, as off site contributions have been preferred by developers. The provision of open space based on the area of the development does not reflect the density of the development and therefore the population that the open space is to serve. Also, we have currently not been requesting contributions to built sports facilities.

## **SPORT RECREATION AND LEISURE SURVEY**

- 2.10. The Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey was undertaken in early 2008, by a social research company NWA Research. A representative sample of 2700 residents of the Borough were interviewed on a face-to-face basis about their views on open space, sport and recreation provision. The sample was representative both spatially and in terms of demographic characteristics.
- 2.11. A copy of the survey was also available online so that those with an interest in the assessment were able to take part even if they were not selected as part of the sample. This self-selected sample was analysed separately from the main sample so it remained representative of the Borough. The online questionnaire achieved 239 responses.
- 2.12. The survey aimed to understand the leisure activities people undertake, the spaces and facilities they use, what they think of the quantity and quality of these facilities and also people's aspirations for improvements to existing provision. Open space, built sports facilities and other cultural and community facilities were included.

### **Activities and interests**

- 2.13. The survey showed that the most popular activity is walking and enjoying the outdoors and nature with 60.9 per cent saying that they consider it one of their favourite leisure activities. Other favourite activities include watching films, shopping and visiting pubs and restaurants. Sporting or fitness activities are a preference for 35.4 per cent and 17.2 per cent enjoy cycling.
- 2.14. People were asked if they belong to any clubs relating to their favourite leisure activities 25.6 per cent of the sample belong to a club, team or association. Sport and fitness clubs are the most popular, 16.4 per cent of people say they are a member.
- 2.15. When asked if there are any activities people would like to undertake or undertake more often 25.4 per cent said that they would. "General sporting activities" was the most popular answer followed by "various/ like to be generally more active" and "gym/ fitness activities".

### **Existing spaces and facilities**

- 2.16. In total 61.7 per cent of the sample would like to see more of some type of open space or facility nearer to their home. People were asked what type of open spaces or facilities they would like to see more of near to their home. "Parks and gardens/nature areas" was the space that most people would like to see more of, with 28.1 per cent of the sample mentioning it. This is followed by informal greenspace also known as amenity greenspace at 11.9 per cent.

- 2.17. The sports facilities that most people would like to see more of near to their homes are swimming pools with 15.4 per cent mentioning them; this is very closely followed by outdoor sports facilities at 14.9 per cent. Sports pitches were the most popular outdoor sports facility mentioned was “sports pitches / playing fields”.
- 2.18. The cultural or community facility that most people would like to see more of nearer to their home was indoor community facilities such as community centres and village halls, 7.1 per cent of the sample mentioned them. This was closely followed by “theatres or other venues for live performance” at 6.9 per cent.
- 2.19. People were asked about the type of spaces they use and the reasons for not using the spaces they do not use. The most used type of open space was “parks and gardens/ nature areas” with 69.7 per cent of the sample saying they used them. This was followed by accessible countryside at 52.8 per cent.
- 2.20. The space where the highest number of people do not use a space for reasons other than personal reasons or a lack of interest, was accessible countryside where 9 per cent do not use the space for reasons other than personal reasons. In this case the biggest reason for non-use is “too far away/ difficult to get to”. Riverside walks is another example of this, 8.3 per cent do not use this facility for reasons other than personal reasons, the biggest reason for non-use is “too far away/ difficult to get to”.
- 2.21. The most used sports facility is swimming pools with 42.2 per cent of people saying they use them. This is followed by 26.6 per cent of people saying they use indoor sports facilities. The sports facility with the highest number of people who do not use the facility for reasons other than personal reasons is ice rinks. The ice rink is not used for reasons other than personal reasons by 10.5 per cent of people; the main non-personal reason is that the facility is “too far away/ difficult to get to”. Gyms are the facility that follows ice rinks in this category, 8.6 per cent do not use them for reasons other than personal reasons the biggest reason for non-use is that they are too expensive.
- 2.22. The most used cultural or community facility is libraries, with 43 per cent of the sample saying they use them. This is followed by theatres and other performance venues, which are used by 37 per cent of the people surveyed. The two cultural and community facilities with the highest proportion of people who do not use facilities for reasons other than personal reasons are theatres and museums and galleries. The biggest non-personal reason for non-use in both cases is that they are “too far away/ difficult to get to”.



## **Outdoor Spaces**

- 2.23. Of the sample 81.5 per cent said they use an outdoor space for leisure. The most used space is Preston Park with which 15 per cent of the sample said they use most often; this is closely followed by Ropner Park at 13.4 per cent. Amenity greenspace is third with 12.6 per cent of the sample saying it is the space they use most often.
- 2.24. Of people who use outdoor space 38.6 per cent travel less than a mile to access their most used space and 66 per cent of people travel under two miles. Of people who use outdoor space 51 per cent walk to the site they use most often. The most popular use of people's most used outdoor space is walking (56.8 per cent) and enjoying the outdoors and nature (51 per cent).
- 2.25. Most of the sample rated their most used space as very good (43.6 per cent) or good (36.7 per cent). Of those who rated their most used space as poor or very poor improved cleanliness, appearance and maintenance and "improved security /reduce anti social behaviour" were the most popular improvements suggested.

## **Sports and Fitness Facilities**

- 2.26. The sample were asked if they use sports or fitness facilities 58.5 per cent said that they do. Splash Leisure Centre is the most popular facility with 12.5 per cent of the sample saying that it is their most used facility, closely followed by Billingham Forum Leisure Complex with 12.3 per cent saying it is their most used facility.
- 2.27. Respondents were asked how far they travel to their most used facility 22 per cent said they travel under a mile, 29.8 per cent said they travel one to two miles meaning that over half of the sample travel less than two miles to their most used facility. However the most popular answer was between two and five miles at 31.2 per cent. The most popular form of transport to access this facility is by car (66.5 per cent) followed by on foot at (22 per cent).
- 2.28. The most popular activity undertaken at people's most used facility was swimming at 54 per cent followed by gym or individual fitness activity at 32.4 per cent and fitness classes at 10.8 per cent. Most people rated their most used facility as very good (44.5 per cent) or good (36.1 per cent). Of those who rated it as poor or very poor improved cleanliness, appearance and maintenance (42 per cent) and more or better facilities such as toilets, seating and changing rooms (28.4 per cent) are the most popular improvements requested.

## **Community and Cultural Facilities**

- 2.29. The survey asked people about the facility they use most often to pursue non-sporting leisure interests. Of the sample 66.5 per cent said they use community or cultural facilities. The most popular most used facility is the library at 26.6 per cent followed by the theatre or other venue for live performances which 17.1 per cent cited as their most used facility.

In terms of travel distance 36.6 per cent said they travel less than a mile to their most used facility, 27.9 per cent said they travel one to two miles. The car is the most popular form of transport (53.2 per cent) followed by walking (38.5 per cent).

2.30. The most popular activity undertaken at the most used community or cultural facility is browsing or viewing exhibits (20.5 per cent) followed by local groups and associations (17 per cent). The most popular activity undertaken in libraries is borrowing books (96.1 per cent) followed by using reference books (13.6 per cent). The most popular performances viewed at theatres are drama (53.5 per cent) and comedy (43.1 per cent).

2.31. Of those who use community or cultural facilities 49 per cent rate their most used facility as very good, followed by 37.3 per cent who rated it as good. Of those who rated the facility as poor or very poor the most popular improvement requested was 'other' with 40.6 per cent. 'Other' comments included more live music, more varied performances and more affordable prices.

### **Children and Young People**

2.32. People were asked if they had children under 16 in the household. The 37.6 per cent who did, were asked about the way in which sports and leisure facilities in the area could be improved to better meet the needs of children. More facilities for five to eleven year olds (37.1 per cent) was the most popular improvement requested, closely followed by more facilities for 12 to 16 year olds (36.3 per cent) and more facilities for under five year olds (32.9 per cent). More organised activities (32.8 per cent) and more open space for ball games (27.6 per cent) were also popular.

2.33. Of the people who thought that improvements to existing facilities were important 20.2 per cent highlighted improved security and reduction in anti-social behaviour as an area for improvement closely followed by 19.1 per cent who felt that a greater range of activities available.

### **Online Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey**

2.34. In addition to the main Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey, residents of the Borough who were not selected as part of the representative sample were also able to complete the survey. The survey was made available online and paper copies were left in libraries, community centres and visitor centres. Groups who responded to the Groups Questionnaire were asked to inform their members about this survey, 239 people responded to this part of the questionnaire. There were more women and more people aged 45-64 in this self-selected sample than the one that was representative of the Borough.

2.35. More of this sample belong to groups around their interests, 46.4 per cent rather than 25.3 per cent in the wider survey, which is to be expected due to the way the survey was publicised. More people in this sample would like to see more facilities near to their home in most cases, with

accessible countryside and theatres being the spaces and facilities with the highest increase compared to the representative sample. This group were also much more likely to think there needed to be more facilities in the Borough as a whole compared the main sample who mainly were concerned with facilities near their home.

2.36. As should be expected due to the nature of the sample, higher levels of use for all facilities and spaces where expressed, reasons for non-use in this sample were less likely to be personal due to lack of interest or ill health and were more likely to relate to issues concerning the facility or space such as expense, lack of information or anti-social behaviour.

2.37. In general this sample is less likely to rate their most used facilities and spaces as very good and more likely to rate them as poor, although this was still relatively low. They are also more likely to travel further to access their most used spaces and facilities. More members in this sample were likely to have children in the household and only 3.3 per cent thought that no improvements for facilities for children and young people were necessary.

## QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 2.38. A number of quantitative studies have been undertaken to investigate children and young people's views about open space and recreation facilities. It is important to include these as the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey was designed to access the views of people over 16. The following information is from a Youth Viewpoint Questionnaire distributed to 10-18 year olds on the panel in 2005.
- 2.39. The most popular reasons for young people to visit parks are for walking (33 per cent), play facilities (31 per cent) and events (31 per cent). They thought the biggest problems with urban parks are safety (53 per cent) and "looking scruffy" (49 per cent). In order to make people use parks more the young people surveyed thought that clean toilets were most important (68 per cent) followed by feeling safer (62 per cent) and better play equipment (56 per cent).
- 2.40. The Ezeelive questionnaire 2005 also demonstrates the views of young people towards open space and recreation provision. Just over half of the people asked think there are enough youth clubs, two thirds of young people think there are enough sports facilities and just over half think there are enough places to chill out with friends. Just over half say there are enough youth clubs but almost half said that more youth clubs where they live is one of the top things they would change. Almost two thirds of young people would like access to more arts and cultural activities. Affordability is clearly an issue for young people, as three quarters of those surveyed would like more affordable things to do.
- 2.41. During Stockton Children's Trust consultation day in 2008 young people told us that their most popular activities are hanging around with friends (23 per cent) and sport of fitness activities (16 per cent). The places they told that they told us were hardest to get to are leisure centres (19 per cent) and the countryside (16 per cent). When asked for areas near where they live where they feel unsafe parks were mentioned often, as were other public places such as parades of shops.

## QUALITATIVE CONSULTATION

2.42. In order to supplement the statistical information from the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey some qualitative work was undertaken to understand people's needs around open space, sport and recreation facilities. This was undertaken through focus groups and attendance at meetings of groups who may have particular needs surrounding their use of open space, sport and recreation facilities. This information will also be used in order to identify visions for different types of spaces to encourage the form of their future development.

### Children and Young People

2.43. To understand the needs of children and young people a Youth Assembly meeting was attended as was an Urdu class held at the International Family Centre and a Sure Start drop in session. Children and young people from the BME community who were attending an Urdu class provided information about the views of children and young people. Most of these children and young people live in the Parkfield area of Stockton. Young people in the 11-14 age group said they enjoy sport and fitness activities, including football, cricket, swimming, gymnastics, and socialising in community centres and parks. The need for more open space for these activities was highlighted.

2.44. A need for independence was identified, as the young people would like to have places they were able to go without parents or older siblings. Spaces near their homes are valued but often seen as unsafe and it was mentioned that it is important that parks are safe without dog dirt and evidence of drug use. Community centres were highlighted as an important resource to have activities closer to home but it was mentioned that they need to be bigger.

2.45. Suggested improvements in order to make it easier to access facilities included opening schools at weekends, more play equipment in parks, facilities that are close by, and more organised activities. Festivals were viewed positively but there was a desire for something more permanent, it was acknowledged that you have to go further away and outside of Stockton for larger more unusual facilities such as Nature World.

2.46. In the 8-11 age group many views are similar to those above, particularly the need to have locally based facilities and organised activities. There was a desire for more unusual facilities in parks such as a maze, mini fairs, young people's gyms and roller skating. Once again community centres were highlighted as important with suggested improvements including a canteen, table tennis and pool and a relaxation room. This age group showed an interest in less active organised activities, which was not as evident in the older group, such as arts and crafts, dancing, face painting and sewing. This age group also said they enjoy using the library.

- 2.47. A key issue for young people at the Youth Assembly meeting was the ability to travel to facilities and open spaces in terms of their access to public transport and its running times. Another issue is the cost of using facilities, an example provided was the cost of using the Tees Barrage.
- 2.48. Security was highlighted as important with discussion of the suitability of CCTV with park keepers also suggested as an alternative. In terms of improvement to existing facilities lots of traditional park elements were suggested such as sports areas and places to relax. However, there was also a request for challenging play equipment for young people such as zip lines and assault courses. The improvements at John White Head Park were suggested as an example of a play facility, which caters for a wider age range.
- 2.49. The young people also mentioned that the availability of facilities and open space such as sports pitches varied depending on where you live, with Fairfield and Ingleby Barwick mentioned as places with lower levels of sports facilities. An issue suggested for improvement was the need for more places indoors where young people can hang out, more specifically “more places for 16-18 year olds for non-alcohol related chilling”.
- 2.50. The Play it Your Way Billingham consultation undertaken in 2007 was designed to understand the views of young people not usually involved in mainstream consultation processes. This identified that football is a key activity for both genders; music is also a key interest. Friends were the biggest reason for young people being encouraged to join clubs and activities.
- 2.51. Getting into trouble was associated with a buzz and excitement, particularly for boys aged 16-18. However, the majority of young people interviewed thought that positive activities are the best way of stopping young people drinking too much. And, the majority of young people interviewed would like steps to be taken to improve how safe they feel in their area particularly more policing with a strong emphasis on community policing
- 2.52. An understanding of the needs of very young children was accessed through a drop in session at a Sure Start centre. Most of the people accessing the centre live near Ropner Park and there was a strong consensus that this was a very good facility for young children. The points mentioned were that it is free to use, in good condition, closed at night to stop anti social behaviour and has a variety of facilities such as the play area with equipment for young children, the café and being able to feed the ducks.
- 2.53. The need to have facilities close by when walking with small children was highlighted, and the sure start centre was seen as a positive facility and likened to a community centre. People at the centre who had experience of Yarm and Ingleby Barwick felt there was a lack of facilities

for young children and the development of Romano Park was seen as an important improvement.

### **Older People**

#### **2.54. Attendance at the Over 50s Assembly and Retired Members**

Association provided an opportunity to identify the needs of older people around open space and recreation facilities. The cost of using facilities and hiring meeting places was considered a key problem for older people. Transport was also identified as a difficulty, particularly the inability to access facilities and activities on an evening. A central meeting place for older people with good bus access and low hourly rates was identified as a solution to these problems.

2.55. A lack of information was highlighted as a problem as people expressed that they were unable to find out about activities for older people and concessions available. Better toilet facilities were identified as an important issue for older people as they are only available in shops and pubs and it limits the amount of time that can be spent in a park. People at the meetings believed that there is a lack of activities for older people that are based on entertainment rather than education and it is important for older people to have something to do on an evening, as currently lots of evening entertainment is focused on younger people.

2.56. The importance of “cut throughs” in residential areas for older people was highlighted to avoid having to walk long distances. Safety issues were understood but it was believed that this should be dealt with in other ways rather than closing routes that people find important.

### **People with disabilities**

2.57. In order to understand the needs of people with disabilities, a meeting was arranged with members of the Disability Advisory Group, and a session with Special Needs Activities with Parent Support was attended, as was a meeting with social workers who work with people with profound and multiple disabilities.

2.58. There were some common themes that emerged when talking to members of these groups. A key issue is the lack of facilities and activities that are accessible to people with disabilities or special needs. It was felt that the legal requirement for disabled access does not always fully meet people’s needs and that it is important to have some facilities that go further than just what is legally required. This was felt to be particularly important due to changes in the way services are delivered through Direct Payments meaning people will increasingly have to access facilities independently. Also, activities are often only short term and could benefit from being extended.

2.59. Toilets are a key example of difficult access as it is difficult to be certain of the accessibility of toilets even in accessible buildings. Use of the National Accessible Scheme, currently used by the tourism industry, was

suggested as a way of making public buildings more accessible. It was highlighted that nowhere in the local area has toilets with a hoist.

- 2.60. Having trained staff was also felt to be a key way of helping people access facilities so that people could be confident that there would be help in an emergency. Providing 'safe' people for vulnerable people to access if necessary. Flexible staff, that understand people's needs, could enable people to access facilities more independently.
- 2.61. Transport was also described as a key difficulty in accessing facilities, parking can be difficult to access public places such as high streets, and accessible buses and taxis are not always available. Information is also another key issue, this included not only a lack of information about activities and facilities that are available to people with a disability or special needs but also in a format that is accessible.
- 2.62. The importance of design and well maintained surfaces was mentioned and it was suggested that people with disabilities could be involved in the design of new spaces and facilities. It was also mentioned that there is a lack of disability sport in the area and lack of activities that people with and without disabilities can take part in together.
- 2.63. Positive examples included the library services, which operate housebound services and the book bus. Examples of sporting venues that provide audio commentaries to blind and partially sighted people were given, and it was suggested that the Riverside Festival, which was considered as a very positive event, could be improved by more provision for disabled people.

### **Black and Minority Ethnic Groups**

- 2.64. A number of people from the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities have been accessed when investigating the views of other groups, for example, through the Urdu class consultation and through speaking to women at the Sure Start centre. Many of the views expressed have been included within other sections of this analysis. However, additional points include that Sure Start centres are considered to be good facilities as they are like community centres but have interpreters for people who do not speak English, increasing inclusion.
- 2.65. A Health Trainer from the BME community highlighted the issue of getting transport to facilities outside of the centre of Stockton. This was an issue for some BME women who need to use sports facilities in a female only environment, including having only female staff in activity areas. It was highlighted that the design of facilities such as Splash were problematic as they were very open and people using them are visible to people outside the facility. The design of Splash is unhelpful in this situation as it is located nearest to the area of Stockton where a large proportion of BME communities live.



## **GROUP'S SURVEY**

2.66. Specialist questionnaires were sent out to various groups that have an interest in open space, sport or recreation provision. The aim was to capture the specialist knowledge of these groups about their subject areas. The Group's Survey also offered an opportunity to get qualitative data from people who are engaged in the use of facilities. In total 71 questionnaires were returned but the groups who returned these questionnaires represent over 3000 members. This is likely to be an under estimate as it does not include the number of people represented by parish councils and residents associations and those accessing support services.

### **Groups with an Interest in a Particular Area**

2.67. Area based questionnaires were returned by 17 residents associations, parish councils and others. The groups identified spaces that they felt had both improved and deteriorated since the Open Space audit was completed, this information has been used to inform the Open Space Audit update. Many of the questionnaires were returned by parish councils in village areas, although there were also returns from residents groups in urban areas.

2.68. The groups were asked what issues, if any, prevented people in their area from using indoor recreation facilities. None of the groups felt that there were no real restrictions to the use of indoor facilities in their area and comments were generally around a lack of accessible facilities.

- Thirteen groups felt that poor public transport was a key issue.
- Ten groups felt that a lack of choice of activities was a key issue.
- Eight groups felt that poor facilities were a key issue.
- Seven groups felt that the location of facilities was a key issue.
- Seven groups felt that lack of information about activities was a key issue.
- Six groups felt that expense was a key barrier to use.
- One group felt that opening hours was a key issue.

2.69. The groups were asked what issues, if any, restrict residents from using outdoor leisure and recreation facilities. One group felt that there were no real restrictions to the use of outdoor facilities, comments were generally about a lack of available facilities.

- Twelve groups felt that poor public transport was a key issue.
- Nine groups felt that the location of outdoor facilities was a key issue.
- Eight groups felt that poor facilities were a key issue.
- Six groups felt that lack of maintenance was a key issue.
- Two groups felt that safety was a key issue.

2.70. The groups were asked to provide comments about indoor community facilities in their area. Two groups were satisfied with their indoor community facilities and one group was positive about them. Five groups

felt that there needed to be more facilities and five groups felt that existing facilities needed to be improved. The remaining four groups did not comment.

- 2.71. The groups were asked what they felt there needed to be more of or there was a demand for in the area. There were eight responses, the majority, were about the need for more facilities mainly for sports, including both indoor and outdoor facilities. Requests for improved activities and services were also popular, particularly around arts and crafts and adult education classes. Better walking networks and bigger projects like Ropner Park and a large concert hall were also mentioned.
- 2.72. Groups were asked about the particular needs of their communities for recreation and leisure facilities. The most popular response was the need to improve existing facilities. This was followed by the need for facilities or activities for young people, and the need for more facilities generally. More activities and services were mentioned particularly in an outreach capacity in rural areas such as ICT and adult education. Improved walking networks were also mentioned particularly as a way of people in rural areas accessing the countryside.
- 2.73. The groups felt that the best way to meet the needs they expressed was to provide more facilities, mainly through increased access to existing facilities such as on school sites. Increased resources were a main concern. Support and outreach services were also mentioned. Other comments included the need for better use of existing spaces, better parking and footpaths and concerns about areas that are generally deficient in facilities.

### **Sports Teams**

- 2.74. In total 17 sports organisation replied to the survey with a variety of sport interests such as cricket, bowling, football, netball, rugby, bowling, golf and others. The groups that responded represent almost 2000 members made up of approximately 464 adult males, 297 adult females, 756 junior males and 230 junior females.
- Eleven groups cater for school children.
  - Ten groups cater for young people.
  - Nine groups cater for adults.
  - Six groups cater for over 50s.
  - Five groups cater for families.
  - Four groups cater for people with disabilities.
  - Three groups cater for parents with young children.
  - Three groups cater for all of the above.
- 2.75. There was an even split between groups that met weekly, of these groups all members tended to meet at once, and groups that met daily of which meetings tend to be more casual with different combinations of members meeting. There is also a seasonal element to some of the team's meetings.

- 2.76. The teams were asked about the way their members travelled to meetings.
- Sixteen teams said a significant number of their team drive to meetings.
  - Seven teams said a significant number of their team walk.
  - Five teams said a significant number of their team cycle.
  - Four teams said a significant number of their team use public transport.
- 2.77. Teams were also asked how far their members travel to meetings.
- Five of the teams had members who travelled between 1 and 5 miles.
  - Four teams had members that travelled under a mile and up to 5 miles.
  - Four teams had members that travelled over a mile up to 15 miles.
  - Two teams had members who travelled as little as a mile and over 15 miles these teams where more specialist.
  - One team had members that travelled under a mile and up to 15 miles.
- 2.78. This seems to demonstrate that although most team's members do not travel further than five miles to attend meetings people will travel much further. Seven teams have members that travel from outside the Borough three teams had approximately five per cent of members from outside the Borough, one team had ten per cent, two teams had 20 per cent and one team was based outside the Borough with 76 per cent of its members from other areas.
- 2.79. The table below demonstrates the number of teams which gave their main venue different ratings from very poor to very good.. It appears that teams are generally pleased with their venues based on these criteria although there are areas for improvement.

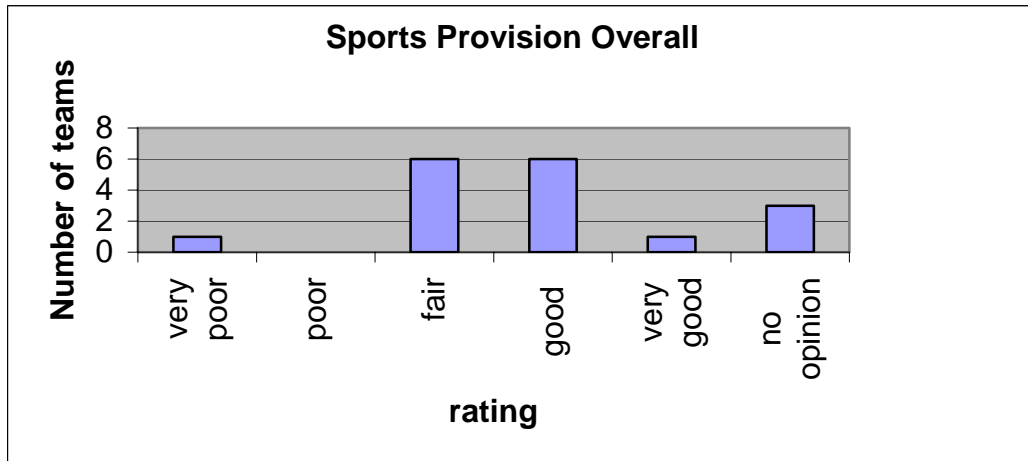
**Sports Team's Rating of Their Main Venue**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	No opinion / don't know
Location	0	0	1	7	9	0
Signposting	1	6	4	4	2	0
Accessibility by public transport	0	1	5	6	3	2
Accessibility by walking or cycling networks	0	0	3	9	3	2
Accessibility within the site or venue for all users– inc those with disabilities	1	1	3	8	4	0
Car-parking	2	0	5	6	4	0
Quality of facility	1	1	3	5	6	0
Range of facilities	1	2	1	9	3	1
Opening times	0	0	2	7	8	0
Value for money	1	1	0	5	10	0
Overall	1	0	3	6	7	0
Does it meet your needs as a group?	2	1	2	5	6	1

- 2.80. When asked how their venue could be improve to better suit the team's needs, nine teams suggested changes to the venue itself including

improvements to the sports area and improvements to other features of the venue, such as car parking and refreshment areas. Two teams reported a need to solve difficulties with other users of their venue. Other suggestions were for more facilities, more access to schools, improved equipment and improvement to the area surrounding the facility.

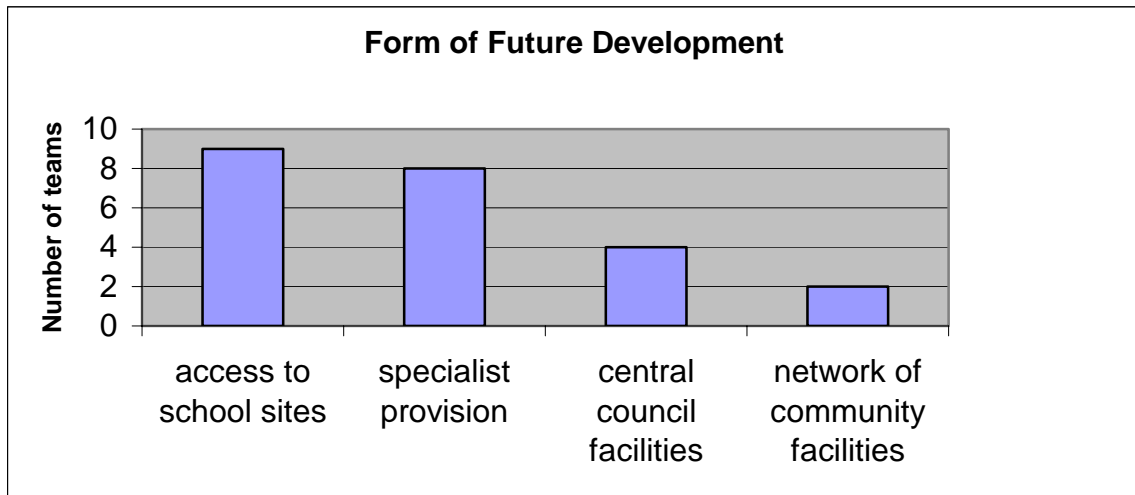
2.81. Teams were asked to rate the overall provision of sports facilities in the Borough, the result was generally positive as demonstrated below, with most thinking that provision was fair or good. It does however show room for improvement.



2.82. Groups were asked if there was any thing they would like to do but currently are unable to due to the facilities available, 12 teams responded. Five of these teams felt that they needed to improve or expand their facilities. Three teams felt they needed to expand their meetings or range of activities. Two teams felt they needed more facilities and one team was already happy with their venue.

2.83. When asked what they would like to see more of in terms of facilities or what they thought there was a demand for in the Borough 12 teams responded. New facilities suggested include a skate park, roller rink and dedicated badminton facilities. Most suggestions were for more facilities such as swimming pools, bowling rinks and pitches. More access to existing facilities was also mentioned.

2.84. Teams where asked about the type of facility development they would like to see in the future. As demonstrated below, there is a clear preference from the teams for increased access to school sites and the development of specialist provision.



2.85. When asked if the teams had any plans to expand 13 teams responded positively. Four of these teams outlined that they would like to increase their membership either of existing teams or by expanding opportunities for participation to new age groups or ability groups for example. Five of the teams expressed a desire which would require an improvement of facilities, for example floodlighting to extend participation time, the ability to store equipment and better car parking and showering facilities.

2.86. The teams were asked about the key issues that they currently face.

- Ten teams outlined a lack of resources for equipment / facility improvements.
- Eight teams mentioned that suitable facilities were not available.
- Six teams felt unable to recruit junior members.
- Six teams feel they are lacking enough volunteers to run the club.
- Three teams felt the lack of quality coaching personnel is a key issue.
- Three teams felt that recruiting adult members was a key issue.

2.87. Additional comments included a need for help with funding, improved links with schools to recruit members, the need for all weather facilities and the need for more access to facilities to make the most of existing coaching staff.

### **Community Groups**

2.88. Community groups such as faith groups, management committees of community facilities, support groups and social groups returned 22 questionnaires. The groups represent approximately 768 members and many more in the case of groups that offer a support role. This is made up of 214 adult males, 326 adult females, 110 junior males and 118 junior females. Most of the groups meet weekly as full groups but there were those who met more frequently on a casual basis and less frequently in the case of management committees.

2.89. The groups were asked whom they cater for.

- Thirteen groups said they cater for all.
- Six groups said they cater for adults.
- Four groups cater for those aged 50 and above.

- Three groups said they cater for people with disabilities.
  - Two groups said they cater for young people.
  - One group said they cater for school children.
  - One group said they cater for parents with young children.
- 2.90. Groups were asked about the travel arrangements of their members.
- Nineteen groups said a significant number of their members travelled by car.
  - Thirteen said a significant number of their members walked.
  - Five groups said a significant number of their members used public transport.
  - One group said a significant number of their members cycled.
- 2.91. In addition to travel modes groups were also asked about the pattern of distances that their members travelled to attend, it demonstrated that most of the groups had members that did not travel over five miles to attend.
- Five groups that their members travelled less than a mile.
  - Five groups that their members travelled less than a mile and up to five miles.
  - Five groups said that their members travelled between one and five miles.
  - Four groups said that their members travelled over five miles and up to 15 miles.
  - One group said their members travelled between one and five miles and over 15 miles.
  - One group said their members travel less than a mile and between five and 15 miles.
  - One group said their members travelled over a mile and up to 15 miles.
- 2.92. The following table demonstrates the number of community groups that gave different ratings to their meeting venue, from very poor to very good. The response is positive, particularly for how the venue meets the group's needs overall and value for money.

**Community Group's Rating of Their Main Venue**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	No opinion / don't know

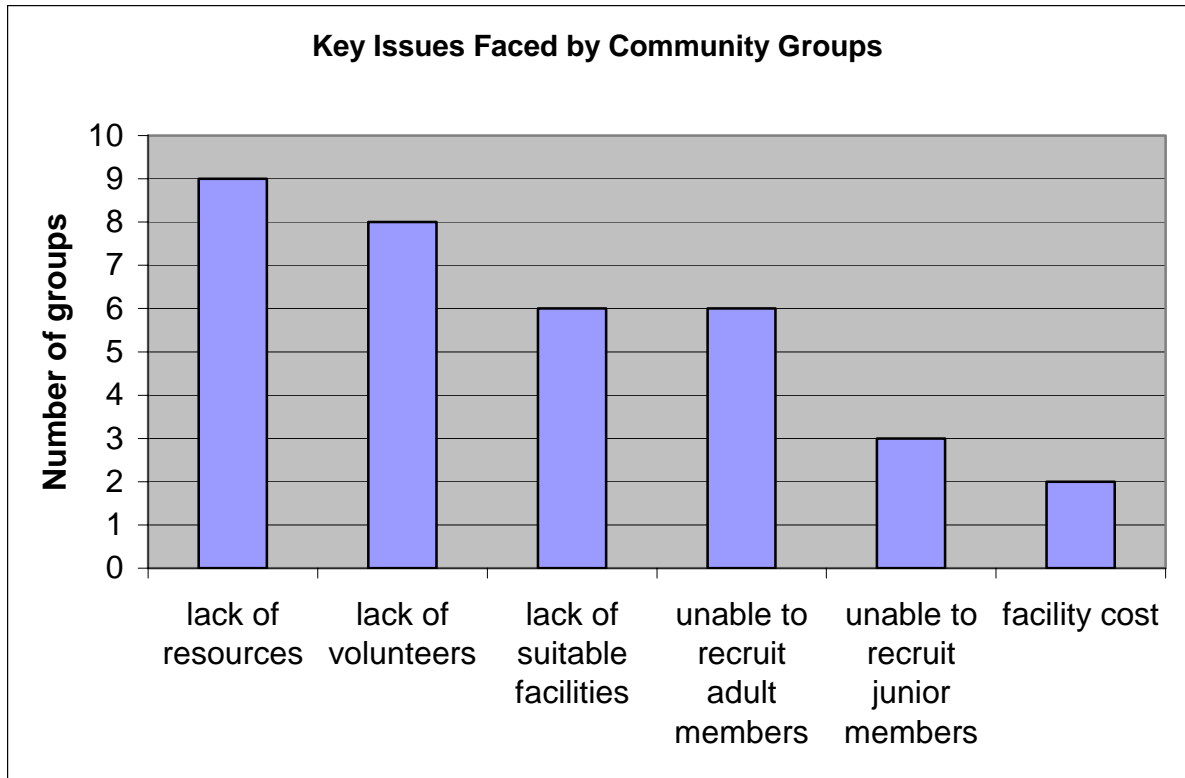
Location	0	0	3	9	10	0
Signposting	2	6	4	7	2	1
Accessibility by public transport	1	5	4	6	5	1
Accessibility by walking or cycling networks	0	4	6	7	5	0
Accessibility within the venue for all users – inc those with disabilities	0	1	4	10	7	0
Car-parking	2	1	5	7	7	0
Quality of facility	0	1	3	11	7	0
Range of facilities	0	1	4	9	8	0
Opening times	0	1	2	7	9	3
Value for money	0	0	1	6	13	2
Overall	0	0	1	11	10	0
Does it meet your needs as a group?	0	0	3	5	14	0

2.93. The groups were asked how the venue could be improved to met their needs better. Sixteen groups responded ten of which wanted to improve their facilities particularly in relation to refurbishment and parking provision. The need for improved equipment was also highlighted. Improved access was mentioned in relation to transport and signposting.

2.94. The groups were asked if there was anything they would like to be able to do but currently are unable to, because of existing facilities. Eight groups responded some felt that they would like to offer new opportunities such as new youth facilities, outdoor areas, games rooms or kitchens. Other felt they needed further resources to be able to extend the opportunities already offered.

2.95. When asked what they would like to see more of, or what there was a demand for in the Borough, nine groups responded. The response was varied but included improved public transport, crèches, meeting rooms and a concert hall.

2.96. The groups where asked about the key issues they currently face. As demonstrated below a lack of resources and a lack of volunteers to help run the group where the most popular issue. Additional comments seemed to suggest that these issues where often related, for example a lack of resources resulted in an inability to provide information to recruit members.



### **Groups with an Interest in the Environment, Greenspaces and Outdoor Recreation**

2.97. Nine groups with an interest in the environment, greenspace and outdoor recreation were surveyed. They have a variety of roles such as conservation and involving the community with greenspaces, or have an interest in a particular greenspace. The groups represented approximately 516 members of which; 405 are adult males, 104 adult females and seven junior members. Most of the groups said they meet quarterly and some monthly.

- Five groups said they cater for adults.
- Four groups said they cater for over 50s.
- Two groups said they cater for all.
- One group said they cater for people with disabilities.
- One group said they cater for parents with young children.
- One group said they cater for families.
- One group said they cater for young people.

2.98. The groups were asked about the travel arrangements to their meeting venue or site if this differed, most travel appears to be by car.

- Eight groups said a significant number of their members travelled by car to meetings of their site.
- Three groups said a significant number of their members walked to their meetings or their site.
- Two groups said a significant number of their members travelled on public transport to their meetings or their site.



2.99. Information was also provided about the distances travelled to their venue or their site, as demonstrated below the majority of people do not travel more than five miles to their meeting or site.

- Three groups said members travel one to five miles.
- Two groups said that members travel five to 15 miles.
- One group said members travel less than a mile.
- One group said members travel from under a mile up to five miles.
- One group said that members travel between one and 15 miles.

2.100. Six groups plan to extend their role in the future mainly through the expansion of membership and activities undertaken and by and extension of remit, for example, budget holding.

2.101. Groups were asked if there is anything they would like to do but are currently unable to, six groups responded to the question. The main aspirations were to improve outdoor spaces in order to offer wider opportunities for people to use them, particularly children. Another group felt they would like to take more control of decision-making.

2.102. Six of the groups had an interest in a particular, park or area of countryside or greenspace. The groups were asked to rate this greenspace; some groups rated more than one space. Additional comments relate to problems with litter and antisocial behaviour, the need for resources to improve management and the opportunities offered by improvements. The following table demonstrates the number of groups who gave their site different ratings from very poor to very good.

**Environmental Group's Rating of Their Main Venue**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	No opinion / don't know
Signposting and on-site information	1	1	4	4	3	0
Other information / publicity (e.g. information on Council's website)	2	2	3	3	3	0
Accessibility by public transport	2	1	2	4	0	4
Accessibility by walking or cycling networks	0	0	1	6	5	1
Accessibility within the site/area for all users– inc those with disabilities	0	0	7	5	0	1
Car-parking	2	0	2	4	5	0
Management and cleanliness of the site/area	0	0	2	5	6	0
Range of facilities	1	1	3	4	4	0
Overall quality	0	1	1	7	4	0
How do you think it meets the needs of local people and/or visitors?	1	0	1	7	4	0

- 2.103. When asked what improvements are needed to make this site better meet the needs of the group and other users, the main theme was around small improvements, such as seating, bins and information boards, making a big difference. More involvement with the community and education were also mentioned as were the need to improve access other than by car, by improving public transport and walking and cycling networks.
- 2.104. The groups were asked to highlight issues of particular importance, those mentioned relate to the conservation of the natural and historic environment, local greenspace, light pollution, access for people with disabilities and access by public transport. The groups were asked to expand upon this by outlining the main assets and opportunities, which relate to these issues. The wealth of green spaces in the Borough including ancient woodland and Local Nature Reserves where the most popular of the Borough's assets, its network of countryside organisations were also mentioned. Opportunities highlighted by the groups mainly relate to forms of management, for example managing spaces including verges in a way that enhances wildlife habitats. Other examples include traffic management, improved public transport, and energy savings through reduced street lighting.
- 2.105. Additional comments were welcomed, many of these were positive about the improvements that have taken place, but there are concerns about the loss of greenspaces and countryside areas, and about the correct management of existing spaces. The need for increased resources and security was also highlighted as was some of the group's willingness to be involved in management of spaces in the future, or in a more involved way than at present

### **Allotment groups Survey.**

- 2.106. Six questionnaires were returned from allotment management groups across the Borough. Their questionnaires demonstrated that the groups undertake a number of activities in addition to working on plots and looking after chickens and pigeons, including barbecues, shows, a shop, a charity fair and maintenance of a local flower bed.
- 2.107. The groups were asked about the people they cater for as members.
- Six groups cater for adults.
  - Five groups cater for people over 50.
  - Three groups cater for people with disabilities.
  - Three groups cater for parents with young children.
  - Three groups cater for families.
  - Three groups cater for young people.
  - Three groups cater for school children.
- 2.108. The groups were asked about their members travel arrangements to their allotment site no one said that their members travelled more than five miles to their site, five groups said their members travelled one to five

miles and one group said their members travelled under a mile. There are also a variety of transport modes used:

- Six groups said a significant number of their members walk to the site.
- Five groups said a significant number of their members cycle to the site.
- Five groups said a significant number of their members use public transport to reach the site.
- Five groups said a significant number of their members use a car to visit their site.

2.109. Groups were asked to rate their allotment site and the number of groups rating each feature as very poor through to very good is outlined below.

**Allotment Group's Rating of Their Site**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	No opinion / don't know
Signposting and on-site information	2	0	2	1	0	None
Other information / publicity (e.g. information on Council's website)	1	3	1	1	0	0
Accessibility by public transport	0	0	4	1	2	0
Accessibility by walking or cycling networks	0	0	2	2	2	0
Accessibility within the site/area for all users– inc those with disabilities	0	0	2	1	2	0
Car-parking	1	1	2	2	0	0
Management and cleanliness of the site/area	0	0	1	2	3	0
Range of facilities	0	1	1	2	1	0
Overall quality	1		1	2	3	0
How do you think it meets the needs of local people and/or visitors?	0	1	1	2	2	0

2.110. In addition to the above rating the groups were asked about the improvements that they felt were necessary for their sites. The most popular improvements were toilets and fencing, but parking, running water, drainage and police presence were also mentioned.

2.111. When asked to rate the provision of allotments in the Borough overall the response was positive but left room for improvement, three groups reported them as average and three groups reported them as good.

2.112. The groups were asked if there was anything they wanted to do but were unable to due to their current facilities, three groups said no, but one

group would like to be able to have meetings on site. The groups felt that there was a demand for toilets on site and more allotment provision in the south of the Borough, particularly in Ingleby Barwick.

- 2.113. When asked if the groups had any plans to expand half of those surveyed said they did not but the other three groups said that they welcome new members or that they would expand but there was not the land available to allow this. The groups were also asked what the main issues facing their organisation or allotment site were, the most popular answer was vandalism, litter and other similar issues. Lack of resources for improvements and lack of volunteers to run the organisation also featured.
- 2.114. Other comments offered by the groups indicated the level of demand on waiting lists, which has led some allotments to split their plots to accommodate more members. The current use of allotments by adult education and local schools was raised, as was concern about the loss of existing allotments.

### 3. AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

- 3.1. The second step of the assessment is to determine the level of existing provision. It is important to identify the amount of existing space, the quality and value of existing space and how it is distributed.

#### OPEN SPACE AUDIT

- 3.2. The Open Space Audit, completed in 2005, assessed existing provision; over 1000 spaces are included. The pilot for this study was originally undertaken in Billingham in 2003. The audit has both a quantitative and qualitative element. The assessment was undertaken using the following information sources

- Aerial and ground photography;
- Ordnance Survey Maps;
- Field Survey; and
- Background Reports.

- 3.3. For inclusion in the audit, Urban Open Space was defined as:

*“Open land within 500m of urban areas, which has the potential to provide recreational, environmental, social or economic benefits to communities, regardless of access or ownership. Such land shall not include land within the curtilage of private dwellings or private farmland.”*

- 3.4. Land with an area smaller than 200 square metres was excluded unless it had particular amenity value, an assessment to identify those spaces under 200 square metres was included in the audit. Highway verges were also excluded. The audit was intended to provide a baseline about the quantity and quality of open space in the Borough. The audit provides information about open space at a particular point in time.
- 3.5. The quantity of space has been assessed using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Each space was surveyed using a standard form, which assessed a number of characteristics around issues such as biodiversity, facilities and landscaping. Using this information spaces were given a score for quality. To ensure that spaces were not penalised unfairly for not having characteristics that are not suitable for their type, scores were based on different characteristics for different types of space. For example, a natural green space would not be penalised for not having a marked pitch, which would be unsuitable for its primary purpose. Primary purposes have been outlined previously (pages two and three). An online consultation was then undertaken in which residents were able to rate the spaces that they use.

## **OPEN SPACE AUDIT UPDATE**

3.6. In order to reflect changes that have taken place to open space in the Borough it is important to update the audit regularly and an update of the audit was undertaken in 2008. Information from a number of sources was used to update the audit and ensure consistency.

### **Original Survey Sheets**

3.7. Due to the inappropriate representation of toilets, bins and seating in the qualitative assessment of the spaces, the survey sheets from the Open Space Audit were used to change the way this information was represented to that when originally surveyed.

### **Geographical Information Systems (GIS)**

3.8. Planning application sites are entered onto GIS and these were used with the Audit information to identify open spaces in the Audit where a planning application had taken place. Planning applications were then investigated to identify changes to the quantity or quality of open space. Ordnance Survey information was also used to highlight areas of change.

### **Play Area Strategy and Informal Sports Information**

3.9. The Play Area Strategy and mapped informal sports, or young people's areas, information was used to ensure that play areas and young people's areas are included in the audit.

### **Playing Pitch Audit (Care for Your Area 2007) and Sports England's Active Places Power**

3.10. To ensure that sports facilities were defined consistently the playing pitch audit and Active Power Places were used to identify sports facilities. Spaces identified as sports facilities in the audit which do not appear in the playing pitch audit or on active power places were included if there was evidence of a marked pitch identified by aerial photographs or a site visit.

### **Officer Local Knowledge**

3.11. The local knowledge of officers in the Countryside and Greenspace Section was used to identify issues that may have caused changes to open space, or areas of the Audit that could be improved.

### **Survey of New Development**

3.12. Since the original audit new development has occurred which contains new areas of open space, particularly in Ingleby Barwick. Open space on new development was surveyed and added to the audit.

### **Major Improvements**

3.13. Major programmes of improvements have taken place since the original audit was conducted such as the improvements at Ropner Park and improvements to the play area at John Whitehead Park. Information about major improvements has been used to identify spaces that have changed in quality.

### **Land in Industrial Estates**

3.14. It was noted that there was some inconsistency in the inclusion of land in industrial estates. Most industrial estates only had land that has some significance included, however, in one case all land was included, this land was excluded during the update to maintain consistence with the other industrial estates and because it was deemed to not meet the definition of urban open space of providing benefits to communities.

## BUILT FACILITIES AUDIT

3.15. The table below identifies the facilities included in the built facilities audit, and the unit of measurement. This has been derived using a suggested typology from PPG17 and information held on Sport England's Active Places Power online database.

Type	Definition	Unit for measurement
Health and Fitness Suites	Contain health and fitness equipment for individual fitness activity.	Measured in the numbers of stations included in the suite
Indoor Bowls Centres	Permanent indoor facilities that contain a permanent bowls green area.	Measured in rinks
Indoor Tennis Centres	Dedicated covered or indoor tennis courts not multi use halls etc,	Measured in courts
Sports Halls	Main halls are multi-sports halls where a range of activities are carried out, at least one hall on site should be the size on one badminton court. Activity halls are also included they are halls which share a site with a main hall and are smaller than a badminton court, or are on their own site larger than a badminton court but not marked for sports.	Sports halls are measured in both badminton courts and square metres.
Swimming Pools	Swimming pools include main pools that are over 15 metres in length and are generally rectangular, training pools, which may be less than 15 metres in length, or the smaller pool on one site. Open-air pools are also included.	Measured in lanes and square meters.
Synthetic Turf Pitches	Synthetic alternative to grass pitches for all weather use, pitches should be a minimum of	Measured in pitches



	75 metres times 45 metres and flood lit.	
Ice Rinks	Permanent ice rinks.	Measured in square metres.
Community Centres and Village Halls	Included community centres owned by the SBC Community Development and Youth Services. Also includes village halls identified in the Tees Valley Rural Community Council Village Hall Audit (2005).	Measured in capacity, the number of people the facility holds.

3.16. Both private and public sports facilities have been included in the Built Audit, as have facilities in schools, as all facilities provide potential benefits. This is the approach suggested by Sport England. Private facilities provide a legitimate part of the sports facility market in a diverse Borough like Stockton and provide choice to residents. Public facilities also have a cost for use and some sectors of the private sports facility market have a similar cost to public facilities.

3.17. The inclusion of community centres and village halls is slightly different to that of the sports facilities. Only those facilities associated with SBC Community Development, those in the portfolio of SBC Children Education and Social Care and those identified in the Tees Valley Rural Community Council Village Hall Audit (2005) are included. The village hall audit was undertaken as part of the Tees Valley Village Halls and Rural Community Buildings Project. There is a need for strict boundaries for the inclusion of community centres and village halls due to the variety of buildings that can be used for community purposes and the difficulty of identifying them all.

3.18. Quality has been assessed through the audit in a number of ways. For built sports facilities run by Tees Active an ISPAL Customer Service Audit Report undertaken in 2007 has been used as to outline the quality of facilities. For private and school facilities the date when the facility was built and last refurbished indicates the quality and attractiveness of the facility, an approach taken by Sport England.

3.19. For community centres and village halls a quality assessment was undertaken using a standard form that identifies the quality of facilities such as toilets, entrances and internal equipment. This assessment was undertaken in person, over the phone or in cooperation with colleagues in Community Development and Youth Services who have regular access to these facilities. The nature of this assessment was determined by access issues associated with built facilities that are not relevant to open spaces.

## AREA PROFILES USING 2008 INFORMATION

- 3.20. The following profiles outline the quantity and quality of spaces in different areas of the Borough. For some types of space the total open space and accessible open space has been highlighted. The Open Space Audit has included all spaces that meet its definition regardless of access and ownership because of the amenity and biodiversity benefits that can be provided even without access. For this reason, spaces that were “Restricted (only accessible to a small group of people e.g. operational site)” have been excluded from the area of accessible space.
- 3.21. Allotments, Cemeteries and Churchyards and Civic Space have not been separated by their accessibility, as both civic space and cemeteries and churchyards do not have any instances of inaccessibility. Allotments have an unusual form of access so no difference has been made.
- 3.22. The type of space where the largest proportion of space is sports facilities this is largely because golf courses, which tend to be by far the largest facilities in an area, have been classed as inaccessible. Although people can access them by arrangement they are usually opportunity led and it is unlikely that we would expect to increase them through planning obligations contributions. Due to the massive size of golf courses compared to the number of people who use them it is felt that they are an exceptional case and would skew the amount of provision compared to population. Golf courses have therefore been excluded from the calculations that are used to set standards.
- 3.23. The quality total has been broken down to show the distribution of spaces that have different quality scores. The percentage of spaces with a poor, satisfactory, good, and excellent score is demonstrated. A poor score relates to spaces scoring between zero and 25 per cent, satisfactory 26 to 50 per cent, good 51 to 75 per cent and excellent 76 to 100 per cent.
- 3.24. A percentage score is used to demonstrate quality rather than an actual score as different types of space are scored for a different number of characteristics. The differing nature of the spaces means that different characteristics represent quality for different spaces, for example a marked sports pitch would be inappropriate in a natural greenspace. Using a percentage score allows comparison across different types of spaces.
- 3.25. The population figures used have been provided by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU). Ward estimates have been produced based on Office of National Statistics Lower Super Output Areas for 2007 that were released at the end of November 2008. The JSU figures were produced at the beginning of December 2008. These figures contain the age breakdown of people in the Borough. Most of the areas used in the Open Space Audit relate to the wards however this is not the case in Stockton

East and Stockton West where Parkfield and Oxbridge have been split. In this case the population of that ward in each side of Stockton has been estimated using the ward population and identifying the number of households in each area through GIS and the Gazetteer. This was not an issue for the Built Facilities Audit.

- 3.26. In the case of rural villages their population has been estimated using the figure of 2.4 people per dwelling as the average suggested by the JSU for the current number of people per house. In cases where rural villages are in the wards that also contain urban areas, the population of the village has been taken away from the population that makes up that urban area and the villages stands alone. For example, Kirklevington's population has been taken away from that of Yarm and both areas have been assessed separately.
- 3.27. Information about levels of use has been taken from the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey. Information on car ownership is based on census data at ward level. To identify car ownership at the town level an average of the wards included in that town has been undertaken to provide an indication. In cases where this average may mask a wide variation in car ownership in the town, this has been highlighted.

## Stockton-on-Tees Borough

### Population –190,250

#### Percentage of the population:

- **Aged 0-15 years =19.67%**
- **Retirement age 17.69%**
- **Working age (16-retirement) =62.63%**
- **Do not own a car = 30%**
- **Use outdoor areas for leisure =81.5%**
- **Use sports and fitness facilities =58.5%**
- **Use community and cultural facilities =66.5%**

3.28. The total population of Stockton-on-Tees Borough is 190,250. Of this population 19.67 per cent are children aged up to 15 years, 17.69 per cent are of retirement age, currently 65 for males and 60 for females and 62.63 per cent of working age, aged 16 to retirement. Of the whole population of the Borough 30 per cent do not own a car. Levels of car ownership will be investigated in the other area profiles; however, at ward level non- car ownership varies between 68 per cent in Stockton Town Centre Wards and three per cent in Ingleby Barwick West. In rural areas car ownership is higher than the general Borough level with 13 per cent and ten per cent non-car ownership in Northern Parishes Ward and Western Parishes Ward respectively.

3.29. The results of the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey demonstrate that in the Borough as a whole 81.5 per cent use outdoor areas for leisure, 58.5 per cent use sports and fitness facilities and 66.5 per cent use community and cultural facilities.

3.30. The total amount of open space in the Borough is 1890.1 hectares of which 1503.3 hectares is considered accessible. The largest proportion of this space is made up by sports facilities and natural greenspaces. Civic space, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards make up the lowest proportion of the space.

3.31. Sports facilities, green corridors and natural greenspace have the largest proportion of inaccessible space. Almost all of the parks and gardens in the Borough are accessible; the level of accessible amenity greenspace is also very high.

### Quantity of Spaces in Stockton-on-Tees Borough

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	1890.1ha	1503.3ha
Parks and Gardens	106.1ha	106.1ha
Natural Greens Spaces	510.8ha	468.6ha
Green Corridors	288.5ha	236ha
Sports Facilities	603.5ha	335.1ha
Amenity Green Space	276.5ha	263.6ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	2091 people per play unit.*	
Allotments	42.9ha	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	50.5ha	
Civic Space	5.6ha	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.

3.32. Most of the space in the Borough is of good quality and six per cent is excellent. About a third is satisfactory and only one per cent is poor. Play areas and young people's areas and Civic space have the highest proportion of excellent space, with allotments the only type of space not to have any space scoring excellent for quality.

3.33. Most types of spaces have a significant majority of spaces with a quality rating of good, it is only natural greenspace and allotments where this is not the case. Both of these types of spaces have a higher percentage of spaces with satisfactory quality. The highest proportion of poor spaces is found within the natural greenspace category. Allotments and cemeteries have a relatively higher amount of space in this category at four per cent, however it should be noted that for those types of space with less sites, four per cent might only relate to very few sites. Often buildings and structures associated with cemeteries and churchyards have heritage value and are protected.

### Quality of Spaces in Stockton-on-Tees Borough

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	1%	30%	63%	6%
Parks and Gardens	0	35%	59%	6%
Natural Greenspace	7%	43%	45%	4%
Green Corridors	2%	32%	60%	7%
Sports Facilities	1%	32%	59%	9%
Amenity Greenspace	1%	26%	70%	4%
Play areas/young people's areas	0	17%	64%	19%
Allotments	4%	65%	31%	0
Cemeteries and Churchyards	4%	8%	85%	4%
Civic Space	0	13%	75%	13%

3.34. The Borough has a total of 1227 health and fitness stations, and 100 badminton courts of sports halls in main halls and six smaller activity halls. There are 42 lanes of swimming pools in main pools and seven training pools. Six synthetic turf pitches are available in the Borough as are an ice rink, an indoor tennis centre with seven courts and two indoor bowls centres containing a total of 8 rinks. There are 43 community centres and village halls in the Borough with the total capacity to hold 6263 people.

### Quantity of Built Facilities in Stockton-on-Tees Borough

Built Sports Facilities	Total
Health and Fitness Suites	1172 stations
Indoor Bowls	8 rinks
Indoor Tennis	6 courts
Sports Halls	100 badminton courts
Activity Halls	5 halls
Swimming Pool	42 lanes
Training Pool	7 pools
Synthetic Turf Pitch	6 pitches
Ice Rink	1456 sq.m.
Community Centres and Village Halls	Capacity for 6263 people

## Billingham

Population –37,570

Percentage of the population:

- Aged 0-15 years =19.12%
- Retirement age 18.93%
- Working age (16-retirement) =61.96%
- Do not own a car = 30%
- Use outdoor areas for leisure =78.3%
- Use sports and fitness facilities =62.9%
- Use community and cultural facilities =70.6%

3.35. The current population of Billingham is 37,570 people. This is made up of 19.12 per cent children, 18.93 per cent retirement age and 61.96 per cent working age. This is very similar to the demographic make up of the Borough as a whole but with a slightly lower proportion of children, higher proportion of retired people and a lower proportion of working age people. The level of car ownership is the same as that in the Borough as a whole. However, this average of the wards in Billingham does not demonstrate the level of variation by area, with 12 per cent and 16 per cent non car ownership in Billingham North and Billingham West wards and 44 per cent in both the Central and East Ward. The ward best represented by the average is Billingham South with 35 per cent.

3.36. At 78.3 per cent the percentage of people who use outdoor areas for leisure is lower than that in the Borough as a whole at 81.5 per cent. However, the percentage of people using sports and fitness facilities at 62.9 per cent is higher than the Borough level of 58.5 per cent, as is the proportion of people using community and cultural facilities at 70.6 per cent compared to the Borough level of 66.5 per cent.

3.37. There is a total of 457.5 hectares in Billingham with 400.3 hectares of that space considered accessible. Almost half of this space is natural greenspace largely due to the location of Cowpen Bewley Nature Reserve and Billingham Beck Country Park. Sports facilities are the least accessible of spaces due to the relatively large area of the golf course.

### Quantity of Spaces in Billingham

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	457.6ha	400.3ha
Parks and Gardens	14.7ha	14.7ha
Natural Greens Spaces	218.6ha	216.8ha
Green Corridors	22.3ha	22.3ha
Sports Facilities	142.4ha	87.8ha
Amenity Green Space	40.6ha	40.1ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	1977 people per play unit.*	
Allotments	11.6ha	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	5.7ha	
Civic Space	1.2ha	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.

3.38. The overall quality of spaces in Billingham is lower than that in the Borough as a whole, as 52 per cent of spaces score only poor or satisfactory compared to 31 per cent at the Borough level. The lower quality of spaces is continued throughout the different types of spaces in Billingham. Only parks and gardens, play and young people's facilities and civic space have less space scoring only poor or satisfactory than in the Borough as a whole. The per cent of spaces scoring excellent is lower in Billingham than the Borough as a whole for all types of space.

#### Quality of spaces in Billingham

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	2	50	47	1
Parks and Gardens	0	25	75	0
Natural Greenspace	7	59	34	0
Green Corridors	0	24	71	5
Sports Facilities	3	50	43	3
Amenity Greenspace	0	57	43	0
Play areas/young people's areas	0	9	82	9
Allotments	10	80	10	0
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	25	75	0
Civic Space	0	0	100	0

3.39. A variety of Billingham's facilities are housed at the Forum Leisure Complex including the ice rink, indoor bowling and a main pool, training pool, sports hall activity hall and health and fitness suite. Billingham has 25 badminton courts worth of sports halls, three activity halls, two synthetic turf pitches and 285 health and fitness stations. There are eight community centres in Billingham with the total capacity to hold 1052 people.



### Quantity of Built Facilities in Billingham

Built Sports Facilities	Total
Health and Fitness Suites	285 stations
Indoor Bowls	2 rinks
Indoor Tennis	0 courts
Sports Halls	25 badminton courts
Activity Halls	3 halls
Swimming Pool	10 lanes
Training Pool	1 pool
Synthetic Turf Pitch	2 pitches
Ice Rink	1456sq.m.
Community Centres and Village Halls	Capacity for 1052 people

## Thornaby

Population –23,175

Percentage of the population:

- Aged 0-15 years =19.16%
- Retirement age 18.12%
- Working age (16-retirement) =62.68%
- Do not own a car = 40%
- Use outdoor areas for leisure =78.1%
- Use sports and fitness facilities =51.4%
- Use community and cultural facilities =57.5%

3.40. Thornaby's population currently amounts to 23,175. Of this population 19.16 per cent are children, 18.12 per cent are retired and 62.68 per cent are of working age. This is very similar to the total Borough population with very slightly less children very slightly more retired people and almost exactly the same proportion of working age people. The level of people in Thornaby who do not own a car, 40 per cent, is higher than the Borough level by ten per cent. However, both Village Ward and Stainsby Hill Ward are more similar to the Borough level than the average suggests with 34 per cent and 36 per cent respectively. The level in Mandale and Victoria Ward is 50 per cent.

3.41. The percentage of people who use outdoor areas for leisure is 78.1 per cent, the percentage of people using sports and fitness facilities is 51.4 per cent and the percentage using community and cultural facilities is 57.5 per cent. This is lower in all cases than the wider Borough levels which are 81.5 per cent, 58.5 per cent and 66.5 per cent respectively.

3.42. There is a total of 277.8 hectares in Thornaby of which 217 hectares are accessible. All 17.7 hectares of parks and gardens are accessible; the level of accessibility of amenity space is also very high. Sports facilities are the least accessible of spaces due to the relatively large area of the golf course. As usual civic space, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards were the spaces with the lowest area.

### Quantity of Spaces in Thornaby

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	277.8ha	217ha
Parks and Gardens	17.7ha	17.7ha
Natural Greens Spaces	67.4ha	63.6ha
Green Corridors	47.5ha	38.3ha
Sports Facilities	81.5ha	34.5ha
Amenity Green Space	34.6ha	33.8ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	1545 people per play unit*	
Allotments	10.1ha	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	17.3ha	
Civic Space	0.5ha	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.

3.43. The quality of space in Thornaby is very similar to the level of quality of space in the Borough overall. The level of quality of amenity space and natural greenspace in Thornaby is also very similar to the quality of amenity space in the whole Borough. Green corridors, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards have a lower quality in Thornaby than in the Borough as a whole, with parks and gardens only slightly worse. The quality of sports facilities and civic space is higher in Thornaby than it is in the Borough as whole. The amount of excellent spaces, in all cases except sports facilities, is lower in Thornaby than the whole Borough level.

**Quality of Spaces in Thornaby**

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	2	29	62	7
Parks and Gardens	0	50	50	0
Natural Greenspace	9	45	45	0
Green Corridors	8	75	17	0
Sports Facilities	0	11	72	17
Amenity Greenspace	0	23	70	6
Play areas/young people's areas	0	0	100	0
Allotments	0	100	0	0
Cemeteries and Churchyards	33	0	67	0
Civic Space	0	0	100	0

3.44. Thornaby has 254 health and fitness stations and 17 badminton courts worth of main sports hall, eight of which are housed at Thornaby Pavilion. The largest indoor bowls facility in the Borough is also in Thornaby with six rinks. There are eight lanes of swimming pools. There are three community centres in Thornaby with the total capacity to hold 450 people.

### Quantity of Built Facilities in Thornaby

Built Sports Facilities	Total
Health and Fitness Suites	254 stations
Indoor Bowls	6 rinks
Indoor Tennis	0 courts
Sports Halls	17 badminton courts
Activity Halls	0 halls
Swimming Pool	8 lanes
Training Pool	1 pool
Synthetic Turf Pitch	1 pitch
Ice Rink	0 sq.m.
Community Centres and Village Halls	Capacity for 450 people

## Ingleby Barwick

### Population –19,645

#### Percentage of the population:

- **Aged 0-15 years =26.05%**
- **Retirement age 6.9%**
- **Working age (16-retirement) =67.03%**
- **Do not own a car = 4%**
- **Use outdoor areas for leisure =87.8%**
- **Use sports and fitness facilities =68.7%**
- **Use community and cultural facilities =75%**

3.45. Ingleby Barwick currently has a population of 19,645 people. Of that population 26.05 per cent are children; this is considerably higher than the Borough level at 19.67 per cent. The proportion of children at the Borough level has been skewed slightly by the high proportion of children in Ingleby Barwick, as the proportion of children in all other towns is slightly lower than the Borough level. The proportion of people of working age people, 67.03 per cent, is also higher than that at the wider Borough level of 62.63 per cent. Perhaps the most striking variation is the proportion of retired people in Ingleby Barwick, which at 6.9 per cent is less than half the proportion of retired people in the Borough as a whole, which is 17.69 per cent. The low proportion of retired people in Ingleby Barwick has skewed the proportion of retired people in the Borough as a whole, as all other towns have a higher proportion of retired people than the Borough level.

3.46. The proportion of people who do not own a car is the lowest in the Borough at four per cent. In Ingleby Barwick 87.8 per cent say they use outdoor areas for leisure, 68.7 per cent say they use sports and fitness facilities and 75 per cent say they use community and cultural facilities. This is a higher level of use for all facilities than that at the Borough level, which is 81.5 per cent, 58.5 per cent and 66.5 per cent respectively.

3.47. There is a total of 230.6 hectares of open space in Ingleby Barwick 154.9 hectares of which is accessible, green corridors make up the largest proportion of this space, at over half of the total space. Ingleby Barwick has fewer of the types of space in the PPG17 typology with no space allocated to allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, civic space and parks and gardens. However, in the case of parks and gardens this is soon to change with the development of Romano Park. As usual, sports facilities have the lowest level of accessible space due to the proportion of the space that is made up by the golf course. Natural greenspace and amenity greenspace has a high level of accessibility.

3.48. Ingleby Barwick has the highest number of people per play unit of all the Borough's towns however; the development of Romano Park will considerably improve this situation. The Park will include a destination play area which amounts to five play units and a multi ball court which

amounts to three play units of young people's provision. This increases the number of play units in Ingleby Barwick to 12 resulting in 1637 people per play unit. This is a higher level of provision than that of the Borough as a whole.

### Quantity of Space in Ingleby Barwick

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	230.6ha	154.9ha
Parks and Gardens	0	0
Natural Greens Spaces	27.5ha	25.8ha
Green Corridors	147ha	105.8ha
Sports Facilities	42ha	10ha
Amenity Green Space	14ha	13.2ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	4911 people per play unit*	
Allotments	0	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	
Civic Space	0	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.

3.49. The quality of space in Ingleby Barwick is generally better than the quality of space in the Borough as a whole. There are a higher proportion of spaces in the excellent category and a lower proportion of spaces in the poor category in nearly all cases. Green corridors, sports facilities, amenity greenspace, and play facilities are generally of a higher quality than those in the whole Borough. The type of space with a generally lower quality score in Ingleby Barwick than the rest of the Borough is natural greenspace.

### Quantity of space in Ingleby Barwick

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	1	21	54	24
Natural Greenspace	0	75	13	13
Green Corridors	0	18	68	14
Sports Facilities	0	13	63	25
Amenity Greenspace	4	12	58	27
Play areas/young people's areas	0	0	25	75

3.50. In total there are 90 stations of health and fitness suite in Ingleby Barwick there is also four badminton courts of sports hall located at the

secondary school and one training pool. There is on one community centre in the Ingleby Barwick with the capacity to hold 180 people.

**Quantity of Built Facilities in Ingleby Barwick**

Built Sports Facilities	Total
Health and Fitness Suites	90 stations
Indoor Bowls	0
Indoor Tennis	0 courts
Sports Halls	4 Badminton Courts
Activity Halls	0 halls
Swimming Pool	0 lanes
Training Pool	1 pool
Synthetic Turf Pitch	0sq.m.
Ice Rink	0m2
Community Centres and Village Halls	Capacity to hold 180 people

## Eaglescliffe

Population –10,650

Percentage of the population:

- Aged 0-15 years =19.05%
- Retirement age 19.61%
- Working age (16-retirement) =61.39%
- Do not own a car = 14%
- Use outdoor areas for leisure =84.8%
- Use sports and fitness facilities =65.7%
- Use community and cultural facilities =81%

3.51. Currently 10,650 people live in Eaglescliffe, 19.05 per cent of this population are children, this is similar to but slightly lower than the level in the Borough as a whole, which is 19.67 per cent. The population of retirement age people in Eaglescliffe is at 19.61 per cent. This is higher than the total Borough level, which is 17.69 per cent. The working age population is at 61.39 per cent, which is similar to but lower than the Borough level, which is 62.63 per cent. The proportion of people who do not own a car in Eaglescliffe is 14 per cent. This is less than half the proportion of people in the Borough as a whole who do not own a car.

3.52. In Eaglescliffe 84.8 per cent of people use outdoor spaces for leisure, 65.7 per cent of people use sports and fitness facilities and 81 per cent use community and cultural facilities. This is higher for all types of facilities than the total Borough levels which are 81.5 per cent, 58.5 per cent and 66.5 per cent respectively. Use of community and cultural facilities in Eaglescliffe is high second only to Yarm at 81.3 per cent.

3.53. There is a total of 131.8 hectares of open space in Eaglescliffe 89.3 hectares of which is accessible. A large proportion, almost half, of the total space is made up of sports facilities. All of the parks and gardens, green corridors and amenity greenspace in Eaglescliffe are accessible. In Eaglescliffe there is no civic space. Cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors are the spaces with the lowest areas. Eaglescliffe has the lowest number of people per play unit of all the Borough's towns, resulting in a higher level of provision.

### Quantity of space in Eaglescliffe

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	131.8ha	89.3ha
Parks and Gardens	11.6ha	11.6ha
Natural Greens Spaces	20.2ha	18.2ha
Green Corridors	4.9ha	4.9ha
Sports Facilities	60.6ha	22.9ha
Amenity Green Space	25.2ha	25.2ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	1183 people per play unit*	
Allotments	7.8ha	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.7ha	
Civic Space	0	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.



3.54. The quality of open space in Eaglescliffe is better than the Borough as a whole largely due to 84 per cent of the spaces in Eaglescliffe being rated as good. This distribution is highlighted by the percentage of spaces scored as poor, being lower than the wider Borough level except for natural greenspace. There are also a lower proportion of spaces categorised as excellent in Eaglescliffe than the Borough as a whole, apart from amenity greenspace and play and young people's areas. All types of space have a higher level of quality than the whole Borough due to the high proportion of spaces which are good, even with lower levels of excellent spaces the proportion of spaces scored good or excellent is higher and the proportion of spaces scoring poor or satisfactory lower, than the wider Borough.

#### Quality of space in Eaglescliffe

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	1	9	84	6
Parks and Gardens	0	0	100	0
Natural Greenspace	9	27	64	0
Green Corridors	0	0	100	0
Sports Facilities	0	17	83	0
Amenity Greenspace	0	8	88	5
Play areas/young people's areas	0	0	50	50
Allotments	0	0	100	0
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	0	100	0

3.55. In Eaglescliffe there are 41 health and fitness stations and 9 badminton courts of sports hall, largely housed on two schools sites, Egglescliffe School and Teesside Preparatory High School. There is also one training pool and one synthetic turf pitch. Eaglescliffe has one community centre and two village halls with the total capacity to hold 530 people.

### Quantity of Built Facilities in Eaglescliffe

Built Sports Facilities	Total
Health and Fitness Suites	41 stations
Indoor Bowls	0 rinks
Indoor Tennis	0 courts
Sports Halls	9 badminton courts
Activity Halls	0
Swimming Pool	0 lanes
Training Pool	1 pool
Synthetic Turf Pitch	1pitch
Ice Rink	0sq.m.
Community Centres and Village Halls	Capacity to hold 530 people

## Yarm

### Population –9,025

#### Percentage of the population:

- **Aged 0-15 years =19.05%**
- **Retirement age 19.61%**
- **Working age (16-retirement) =61.39%**
- **Do not own a car = 13%**
- **Use outdoor areas for leisure =89.7%**
- **Use sports and fitness facilities =69.2%**
- **Use community and cultural facilities =81.3%**

3.56. The population of Yarm is currently 9,025, 19.05 per cent of the population are children, which is similar to but slightly lower than the wider Borough percentage of 19.67 per cent. The population are of retirement age in Yarm is 19.61 per cent which is higher than the wider Borough level of 17.69 per cent and 61.39 per cent are of working age which is similar to but very slightly lower than the Borough level of 62.63 per cent. Non-car ownership in Yarm is at 13 per cent, which is less than half the proportion of the wider Borough population who do not own a car.

3.57. In Yarm 89.7 per cent of people say that they use outdoor areas for leisure, 69.2 per cent say they use sports and fitness facilities and 81.3 per cent say they use community and cultural facilities. The proportion of people who say they use these facilities is higher for all types of facilities in Yarm than in the Borough as a whole, which is 81.5 per cent, 58.5 per cent and 66.5 per cent respectively. Yarm has the highest proportion of people who say they use all types of facilities in the Borough.

3.58. There is a total of 65.8 hectares in Yarm 56.5 hectares of which is accessible. The largest proportion of this space is made up of sports facilities closely followed by amenity greenspace. All sports facilities and amenity greenspace are categorised as accessible. Parks and gardens have the lowest area of space, the only area included is Atlas Wynd garden, followed by cemeteries and churchyards and civic space.

#### Quantity of space in Yarm

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	65.8ha	56.5ha
Parks and Gardens	182sq.m.	0
Natural Greens Spaces	13.5ha	6ha
Green Corridors	6.4ha	4.7ha
Sports Facilities	21.1ha	21.1ha
Amenity Green Space	18ha	18ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	3008 people per play unit*	
Allotments	3.7ha	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	1.2ha	
Civic Space	1.6ha	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.

3.59. The overall quality of space in Yarm is higher than that in the whole Borough. There is a majority of spaces scoring 'good' for quality and there are also a relatively high proportion of spaces in the excellent category. Sports facilities, amenity greenspace, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards and civic space all have a better quality distribution than the same spaces in the whole Borough. This is also true of parks and gardens but it should be remembered that in Yarm this category relates to one site with a very small area.

3.60. The quality distribution of green corridors is similar to that at the whole Borough level. The quality of play and young people's areas are lower than the Borough level as is the quality of natural greenspace. However, natural greenspace quality has an unusual distribution in Yarm with a third excellent, which is high, but no space categorised as good, meaning that a third of spaces are satisfactory and a third of spaces are poor.

**Quality of space in Yarm**

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	2	14	71	14
Parks and Gardens	0	0	100	0
Natural Greenspace	33	33	0	33
Green Corridors	0	38	50	13
Sports Facilities	0	0	71	29
Amenity Greenspace	0	7	83	10
Play areas/young people's areas	0	33	67	0
Allotments	0	50	50	0
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	0	100	0
Civic Space	0	0	0	100

3.61. In Yarm there are 90 health and fitness stations and eight badminton courts of sports halls the majority of which are contained on the Conyers School site. There is also one swimming pool and one synthetic turf pitch. Yarm has two community centres and a village hall with the total capacity to hold 310 people.

### Quantity of Built Facilities in Yarm

Built Sports Facilities	Total
Health and Fitness Suites	90 stations
Indoor Bowls	0 rinks
Indoor Tennis	0 courts
Sports Halls	8 badminton courts
Activity Halls	0 halls
Swimming Pool	1 pool
Training Pool	0 pool
Synthetic Turf Pitch	1 pitch
Ice Rink	0sq.m.
Community Centres and Village Halls	Capacity to hold 310 people

## **Stockton**

- 3.62. For the purpose of the Built Facilities assessment Stockton has been assessed in its entirety. Due to the more concentrated nature of built facilities it is expected that people will travel further to access them, therefore the separation of Stockton into East and West, as occurs with the open space assessment, is not necessary.
- 3.63. For the purposes of the open space assessment Stockton is separated into Stockton East and Stockton West this separation was part of the original Open Space Audit. PPG17 Guidance suggests that the assessment should be based on identifiable neighbourhoods rather than political or administrative boundaries but that reference should be given to physical boundaries such as rivers and railway lines. The original separation of Stockton into east and west for the analysis of open space reflects this, as the boundary between the two areas is the railway line.

### **Population –82,805**

#### **Percentage of the population:**

- **Aged 0-15 years =19.07%**
- **Retirement age 19.13%**
- **Working age (16-retirement) =61.77%**
- **Do not own a car = 34%**
- **Use outdoor areas for leisure =81%**
- **Use sports and fitness facilities =56.1%**
- **Use community and cultural facilities =64.2%**

- 3.64. The total population of Stockton is 82,805, 19.07 per cent of this population is made up of children. This is similar to, but slightly smaller than, the proportion of children in the Borough as a whole, which is 19.67 per cent. The proportion of people of retirement age in Stockton is 19.13 per cent, which is slightly higher than the proportion in the Borough as a whole, which is 17.69 per cent. The working age population of Stockton is at 61.77 per cent, which is very similar to but slightly lower than the Borough level, which is 62.63 per cent.
- 3.65. In Stockton 34 per cent of the population do not own a car, which is higher than the level of the Borough as a whole at 30 per cent. In this case the average of 34 per cent non car ownership for Stockton hides the wide variation in non car ownership in Stockton, which is as high as 68 per cent in Stockton Town Centre and as low as 13 per cent in Hartburn.
- 3.66. In Stockton 81 per cent say they use outdoor areas for leisure, which is very similar to 81.5 per cent at the Borough level, 56.1 per cent say they use sports and fitness facilities, which is lower than the Borough level of 58.5 per cent. In Stockton 64.2 per cent say that they use community and cultural facilities, which is lower than the Borough level of 66.5 per cent.
- 3.67. Stockton has 467 health and fitness stations, 37 badminton courts of sports halls and three activity halls. Stockton is the location of the indoor

tennis centre, which contains seven courts and is part of the David Lloyd Club. There are 24 lanes of swimming pools in main pools and three training pools. There is also one synthetic turf pitch at the Norton Teesside Sports Complex. Facilities at Stockton Sports Centre have not been included as they closed at Christmas 2008. As it is not yet complete the Splash extension has not been included. However, the implications of the closure of Stockton Sports and the opening of the Splash extension are discussed further on in this document (page108.). There are 16 community centres in Stockton with the capacity to hold a total of 2920 people.

#### **Quantity of Built Facilities in Stockton**

Built Sports Facilities	Total
Health and Fitness Suites	412 stations
Indoor Bowls	0 rinks
Indoor Tennis	6 courts
Sports Halls	37 badminton courts
Activity Halls	2 halls
Swimming Pool	24 lanes
Training Pool	3 pools
Synthetic Turf Pitch	1 pitch
Ice Rink	0sq.m.
Community Centres and Village Halls	Capacity to hold 2920 people

### **Stockton East**

**Population=31,505**

**Percentage of the Population:**

- **Aged 0-15 years =18.35%**
- **Retirement age =18.02%**
- **Working age (16-retirement) =63.59%**

3.68. The population of Stockton East, as defined in the Open Space Audit, is 31,505. In Stockton East 18.35 per cent of the population are children, which is lower than the proportion in the Borough as a whole, which is 19.67 per cent. In Stockton East 18.02 per cent of the population are of retirement age, which is higher than the Borough level, which is 17.69 per cent. In Stockton East 63.59 per cent are of working age, this is slightly higher than the wider Borough proportion of 62.63 per cent.

3.69. There is a total of 236.5 hectares of open space in Stockton East, 227.6 hectares of which is accessible. The types of space that make up the largest proportion of this area are sports facilities and natural greenspace. All of the parks and gardens, natural greenspace, green corridors and sports facilities are accessible. The types of space with the smallest area are allotments, civic space and cemeteries and churchyards.

### Quantity of space in Stockton East

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	236.5ha	227.6ha
Parks and Gardens	19.2ha	19.2ha
Natural Greens Spaces	61.6ha	61.6ha
Green Corridors	23ha	23ha
Sports Facilities	65ha	65ha
Amenity Green Space	57.8ha	50.3ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	2423 people per play unit*	
Allotments	1.6ha	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	5.7ha	
Civic Space	1.7ha	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.

3.70. Overall the quality of space in Stockton East is very similar to that of the Borough overall, in particular the proportion of excellent spaces is the same. The quality of civic space, amenity greenspace and natural greenspace is higher than that in the Borough as a whole. This is particularly true of the proportion of natural greenspace rated as excellent. The quality of parks and gardens, allotments and play and young people's areas are worse than at the Borough level, as are cemeteries and churchyards and sports facilities, but only slightly. In the case of sports facilities this is due to the higher proportion of satisfactory spaces. The quality of green corridors is very similar to that in the rest of the Borough.

#### Quality of space in Stockton East

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	0	23	71	6
Parks and Gardens	0	100	0	0
Natural Greenspace	0	30	50	20
Green Corridors	0	33	67	0
Sports Facilities	0	45	45	9
Amenity Greenspace	0	5	89	5
Play areas/young people's areas	0	43	57	0
Allotments	0	100	0	0
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	25	75	0
Civic Space	0	0	100	0



## Stockton West

**Population=51,300**

**Percentage of the population:**

- **Aged 0-15 years =19.51%**
- **Retirement age =19.81%**
- **Working age (16-retirement)= 60.66%**

3.71. The population of Stockton West as defined by The Open Space Audit is currently 51,300. The proportion of children in Stockton West is 19.51 per cent this is similar to but very slightly lower than the Borough proportion which is 19.67 per cent. The proportion of retirement age people in Stockton West is higher than the wider Borough level of 17.69 per cent at 19.81 per cent. In Stockton West 60.66 per cent of the population is of working age, this is lower than the proportion at the Borough level, which is 62.63 per cent.

3.72. There is a total of 362.5 hectares of open space in Stockton West, 292.5 hectares of which is accessible. A large proportion of this total is made up of sports facilities and amenity greenspace. Green corridors and parks and gardens are fully accessible. Civic space, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards make up the smallest proportion of space.

### Quantity of space in Stockton West

Type of space	All Space	Accessible Space
Total Open Space	362.5ha	292.5ha
Parks and Gardens	42.7ha	42.7ha
Natural Greens Spaces	64.2ha	38.7ha
Green Corridors	34.3ha	34.3ha
Sports Facilities	123.6ha	88.5ha
Amenity Green Space	72.2ha	68.9ha
Play areas and Young People's Areas	2332 people per play unit*	
Allotments	6.2ha	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	17.8ha	
Civic Space	0.6ha	

\*For explanation of play units please see page 124.

3.73. The overall quality of open space in Stockton West is very similar to that in the Borough as a whole. Parks and gardens, green corridors, amenity greenspace, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards in Stockton West all have better quality than that of the whole Borough. Natural greenspace, sports facilities, play and young people's areas and civic spaces all have worse quality distribution than the same spaces in the Borough as a whole.

### Quality of space in Stockton West

	Per cent of spaces scoring 0-25%	Per cent of spaces scoring 26-50%	Per cent of spaces scoring 51-75%	Per cent of spaces scoring 75-100%
All Space	1	27	69	3
Parks and Gardens	0	20	60	20
Natural Greenspace	13	69	19	0
Green Corridors	0	29	62	10
Sports Facilities	0	35	61	3
Amenity Greenspace	1	22	76	1
Play areas/young people's areas	0	25	58	17
Allotments	0	60	40	0
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	0	100	0
Civic Space	0	33	67	0

## 4. SETTING AND APPLYING STANDARDS

- 4.1. PPG17 asserts that adequate planning for open spaces requires an understanding of the quantity and quality of open space. Setting standards for open space and built facility provision is a way of outlining a level of acceptable provision, which can be used to identify deficiencies of open space in the Borough. To achieve this, a standard should be set for the quantity, quality and proximity of open space. Quantity and proximity relate to planning for the quantity of open space and quality relates to improving quality.
- 4.2. The standards set through this assessment are based on the level of provision, which is already in existence at the Borough level. Due to this the standard set should be seen as a minimum standard, in instances where this standards is not met the level of provision should be increased. This means that where open space is above the standard it should not be seen as a surplus of open space, which is then available for development.
- 4.3. The PPG17 Guidance, on redevelopment of existing open space, stresses that before open space is considered suitable for development it should be considered to remedy open space deficiencies in the area. For example natural greenspace could be changed into allotments in an area will high levels of natural greenspace but a deficiency in allotments. As no area in the Borough meets the minimum standard for all types of space this means that open space is not suitable for development.
- 4.4. The PPG17 Guidance explains that it is not necessary to set all types of standards for all types of open space, as demonstrated below. Both civic spaces and green corridors are opportunity led and it is not necessary to set quantity and proximity standards to relate them to population. A quality standard can be set for all types of space, as it is reasonable to improve the quality of any type of space.

Space Type	Quantity Standard	Quality Standard	Proximity Standard
Parks and Gardens	✓	✓	✓
Natural Greenspace	✓	✓	✓
Green Corridors	X	✓	X
Sports Facilities	✓	✓	✓
Amenity Greenspace	✓	✓	✓
Play areas and young people's areas	✓	✓	✓
Allotments	✓	✓	✓
Cemeteries and Churchyards	✓	✓	✓
Civic Space	X	✓	X

## **TOOLS USED FOR OPEN SPACE AND BUILT FACILITIES ANALYSIS**

### **Capacity Ratio**

4.5. The capacity ratio is a way of comparing existing provision to population. It provides an estimate for the number of a unit of facilities, for example square meters in the case of pools, against the population in an area, in this case per 1000 population. This provides an indication of the facilities compared to the population and can be compared to a national and regional level as calculated by Sport England or to existing national standards. The limitations of this approach are that the only spatial element is the area in which you compare facilities to population, so the potential to travel to facilities outside of that area is ignored. This analysis has been undertaken using open space and built facility information from 2008.

### **Proximity Analysis Integrated Transport Network (ITN)**

4.6. Distances for the proximity standards were determined using ITN on our Geographical Information Systems (GIS). An ITN analysis was used to determine proximity standards for both open space and built facilities. ITN contains a detailed road network, which can be used to identify the number of households that are within different distances of open space or sports facilities. Through the use of a road network this approach takes account of barriers to movement such as rivers and railway lines. However, the network does not contain footpaths and cycle ways that do not follow roads, this data, with this level of detail, is not yet available for ITN analysis.

4.7. The distances used for the analysis are based on those used in Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) and those from other local authorities' analysis. The standard has been set at the distance when a majority of at least 60 per cent (or almost 60 per cent) of households are within that distance.

4.8. In the case of built sports facilities, which people may be happy to travel longer distances to, facilities which may be attractive outside the Borough Boundary have been included in the analysis, to simulate resident's ability to travel to facilities outside of the Borough.

4.9. For sports facilities the ITN has been used to identify deficiencies rather than to set standards. Private facilities have been included in the built sports facilities analysis, which is important as they do provide for needs in the Borough. However, as cost should be seen as an element of accessibility it is important to factor this in to the standard that is determined for use in the allocation of planning obligations. This has been achieved by the use of a provision hierarchy for built sports facilities, which is an approach suggested in the PPG17 Guidance.

4.10. The hierarchy is for Borough wide facilities, which is the highest level of significance, facilities that should be accessible by cycle ride, which is the middle order of significance and facilities that should be accessible on foot, of only local significance. The distance for cycling distance is five kilometres and the distance for walking distance is two kilometers these are the maximum distances outlined in *Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport*. This approach factors the fact the resident's nearest facility may not be the one they are actually able to use, into the standards.

### **Quality Value Analysis**

4.11. The PPG17 Guidance suggests using information on the quality and value of sites, which has been collected during the audit of existing provision, to compare quality and value. The guidance suggests that sites with high value and high quality are successful sites and the aim is that all sites should fall into this category. Site that have high value but low quality should be the priority for improvement to make the most of the high value site.

4.12. Other categories in the quality value analysis are low value and low quality and low value and high quality. The suggested approach with these sites is to improve their quality and value if possible and if not possible identify if their value could be increase by change to another type of open space.

4.13. This analysis has been undertaken for each type of open space. Sites have been identified as high quality of value if they scored over 50 per cent for these characteristics in the Open Space Audit and identified as low quality or value if they scored 50 per cent of under in the open space audit. The scores have then been compared and categorised and displayed in graphs in the following analysis.

## **TOOLS USED FOR BUILT FACILITY ANALYSIS**

4.14. A number of tools are available to assess the adequacy of the existing provision of built sports facilities. These tools offer particular insight into different elements of the adequacy of facilities. However, these tools do have limitations, which it is important to be aware of during use. Limitations can be mitigated by the use of a number of tools to provide a wider picture of the adequacy of facilities. The tools used have largely been accessed on Sport England's Active Places Power Online Database.

### **Sports Facilities calculator**

4.15. The sports facilities calculator is a tool for assessing the demand likely to be generated for a facility by a particular population. This tool is available for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls. The demand generated is based on a population with the same characteristics as Stockton Borough. A limitation of this tool is that it does not have a spatial

element; calculations are based on an isolated population, ignoring the wider context. It also does not take into account other things that can be a barrier to access such as capacity, hours of operation, condition and price.

### **Facility Catchment Tool**

4.16. The facility catchment tool introduces a spatial element to the analysis and facilitates the investigation of the potential to travel to facilities rather than just compare the amount of facilities in particular bounded areas. It can be used to work out drive times and walking times to facilities and allows comparison with other local authorities. This tool acknowledges that facilities in one town can provide for residents in another due to short travel times. The population level for this tool is based on the 2001 census. This tool acknowledges the ability to travel to facilities outside of the Borough.

### **Personal share**

4.17. The Personal Share identifies the potential share of facilities per person when the ability to travel to facilities is incorporated. Demand is also integrated and the personal share depends heavily on the population and the size of the facilities within travelling distance. This is currently the most powerful tool available on Active Places Power; however, it is only available for swimming pools sports halls and indoor bowls. The personal share value should be used mainly to compare, rather than as a meaningful value in itself. The personal share is identified by ward.

### **Corresponding Local Authorities**

4.18. In order to be able to compare local authorities the Office of National Statistics has identified local authorities that have similar characteristics. Census information is used to identify similarities between authorities around the following issues: demographic structure, household composition, housing, socio-economic character, employment and industry sector.

4.19. The authorities that are most similar to Stockton-on-Tees are Doncaster, Rotherham, Redcar and Cleveland and Darlington. In cases where there are no national or regional figures for comparison and there are no recognised standards, a comparison will be made with these authorities to put Stockton-on-Tees figures into a wider context. This is particularly the case with travel time analysis.

### **Facilities Planning Model**

4.20. The facilities planning model is the most powerful tool used during this assessment. It estimates the demand generated by the population and then compares it to supply, factoring in the size, location and age of facilities. Less attractive facilities that are, for example, very small or only accessible to a small number of people are excluded from this analysis.

This tool is currently not available on the Active Places Power website. Sport England North East undertook analysis using this tool, for sports halls and swimming pools.

### **Age Range**

4.21. To enable an understanding of the quality of built sports facilities the date the facility was built or was most recently refurbished has been used as a guide. This information is contained in Sport England's Active Places Power database. This information has been shown on the Analysis Map for each built sports facility. The age range has been split into three brackets to give clearer comparisons, those facilities built or refurbished since 2000, those built or refurbished since 1990 and before 2000 and those built or refurbished in or before 1989.

## 5. QUALITY STANDARDS

5.1. The PPG17 Guidance states that

*“Social justice demands that authorities should aim to bring all the open spaces or sport and recreation facilities in their area up to as consistent a standard of quality as possible; and Best Value demands that they should progressively raise it.”*

5.2. With this in mind the approach to quality standards should aim to ensure as much potential to improve sites as possible. Due to this, a “plus one” approach will be adopted. Using the designation of sites as either poor, scoring 0-25 per cent, satisfactory, scoring 26-50 per cent, good, scoring 51 to 75 per cent and excellent scoring 75 per cent and over, a “plus one” approach means improving sites so that they can step up to the next quality standard. For example a poor site should be improved to a satisfactory or good site with excellent as the ultimate aim. Any improvement is important so it should aim to increase the quality of a site from one category to the next, if that is all that is possible, rather than aim to match the predefined criteria of a quality site.

5.3. Those sites scoring poor or satisfactory should be the priority for enhancement with poor sites as an absolute priority. However, sites that are already rated good or excellent should not be excluded from improvement that can enable them to better deal with increased usage from increased population, or widens use to different groups.

5.4. In the case of improvement to built sports provision age range or the more detailed assessment of quality should be used to identify priorities for improvement.



## 6. OPEN SPACE QUANTITY STANDARDS

6.1. All analysis has been undertaken using information from the 2008 update of the Open Space Audit and does not take into account changes to open space provision since that time. Updates of open space information will take place annually.

### PARKS AND GARDENS

6.2. In the Borough as a whole there are 0.55 hectares of parks and gardens per 1000 people. However, across the Borough there is variation in the provision of parks and gardens with some areas having more provision than the Borough level of provision and some areas having less.

**Quantity of Parks and Gardens per 1000 People**

Town	Area per 1000 people	People who thought there should be more*
Borough	0.55ha	28%
Ingleby Barwick	0ha	61%
Yarm	0ha	25%
Billingham	0.39ha	18%
Stockton East	0.61ha	30%
Thornaby	0.77ha	34%
Stockton West	0.83ha	25%
Eaglescliffe	1.08ha	16%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

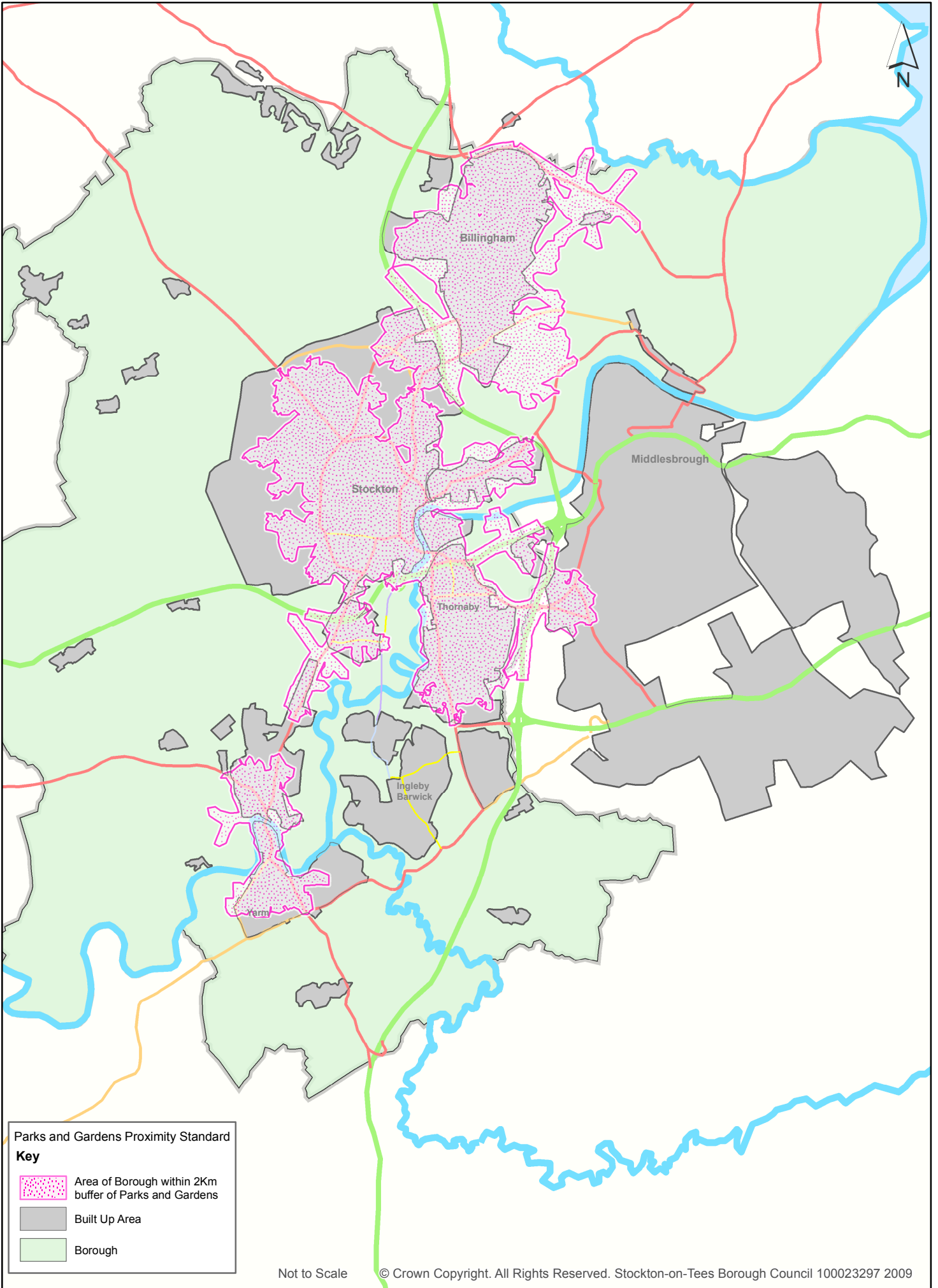
6.3. Although PPG17 asserts that it is important to set local standards based on local evidence, previous national standards can provide a guideline of acceptable provision. The National Playing Field Association set aside 0.4 hectares per 1000 people for parks and amenity spaces. This suggests that the level of provision in the Borough for parks and gardens is high and should be maintained. The high number of people in the Borough who think there need to be more parks justify setting a higher standard than the national one.

6.4. To understand the quantity of provision it is important to understand not only the amount of provision but also its proximity. A space may not fall within the boundary of a town but may still be close enough for the residents of a town to use. This is particularly true of large facilities that should have a large catchment area.

6.5. The table below demonstrates that the majority of people live within two kilometres of a park or formal garden. This is a suitable level at which to set the proximity standard for all parks and gardens. The map on page 25 identifies the areas of the Borough that are included within the proximity standard.

**Number of Households within Different Distances of Parks**

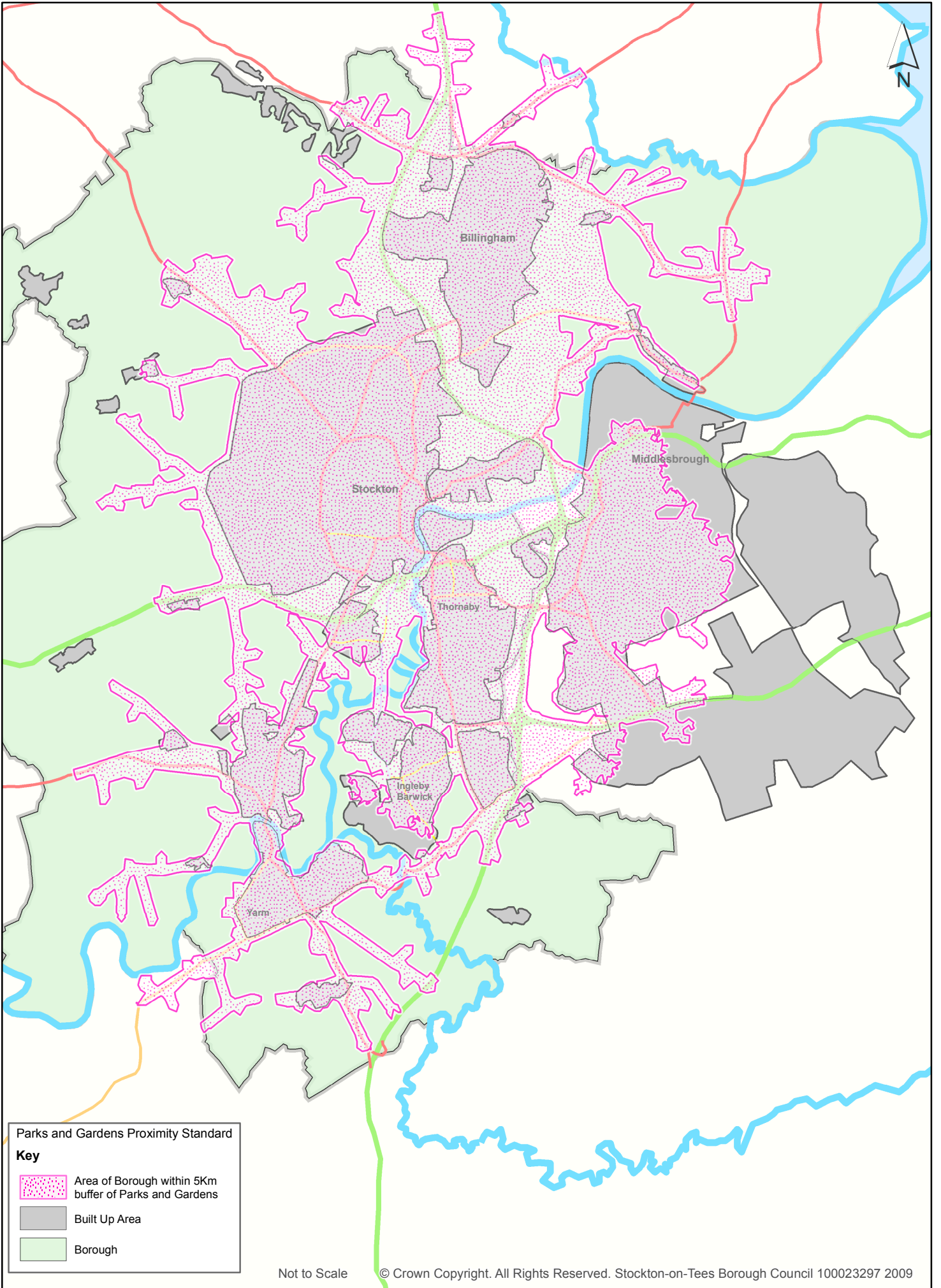
Parks and Gardens	600m	1km	2km	Total
Number of households	8567	20895	47545	82288
Percentage of households	10%	25%	58%	100%



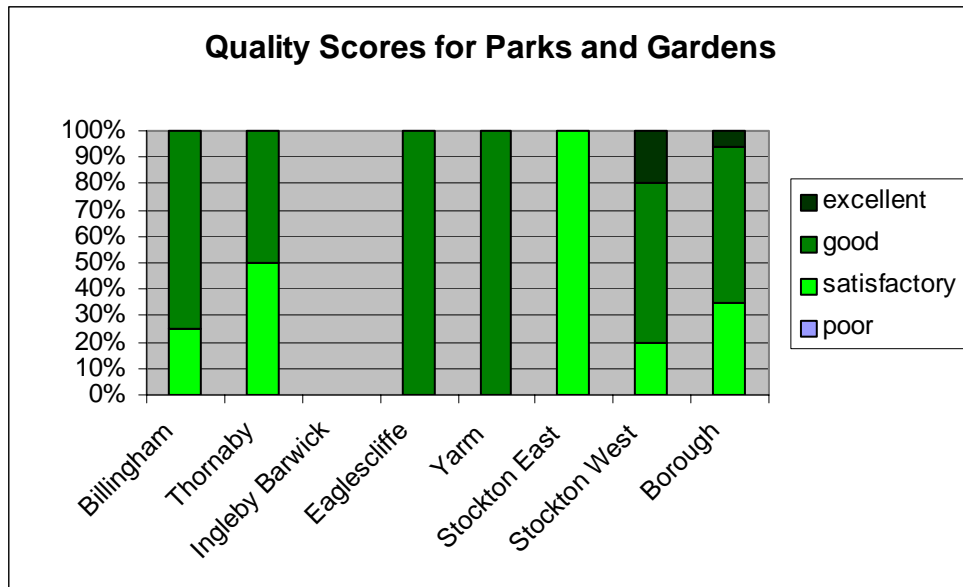
6.6. Strategic parks, which have been highlighted by the Countryside and Greenspace section as Ropner Park, Preston Park and John Whitehead Park, are larger, have more facilities and have a larger catchment area than parks in general. Due to this a separate analysis has been completed for these parks. As shown below the majority of households are located within five kilometres of a strategic park, which is a suitable level at which to set this standard. The map on the following page demonstrates this analysis.

**Number of Households within Different Distances of Strategic Parks**

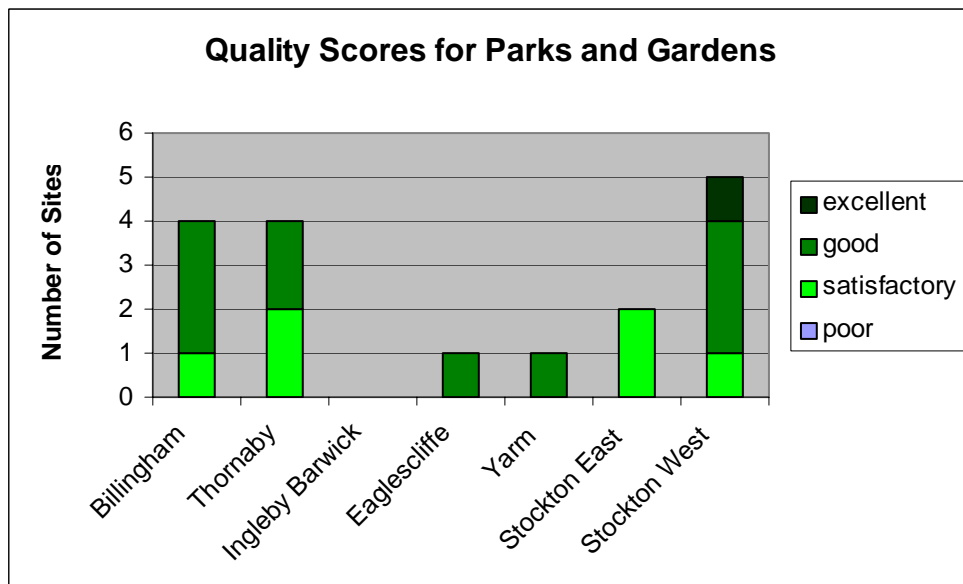
Strategic Parks	2km	5km	Total
Number of Households	17268	66090	82288
Percentage of households	21%	80%	100%



6.7. Quality is also an important factor in the adequacy of park and garden provision. The graph below shows the relative quality of parks and gardens in different areas in the Borough. This graph shows whether parks have achieved poor, satisfactory, good or excellent quality scores as a percentage of all the sites in that area, to allow better comparison.



6.8. The graph below shows the quality scores based on the number of sites, in order to demonstrate the actual numbers of sites in each category in each area.

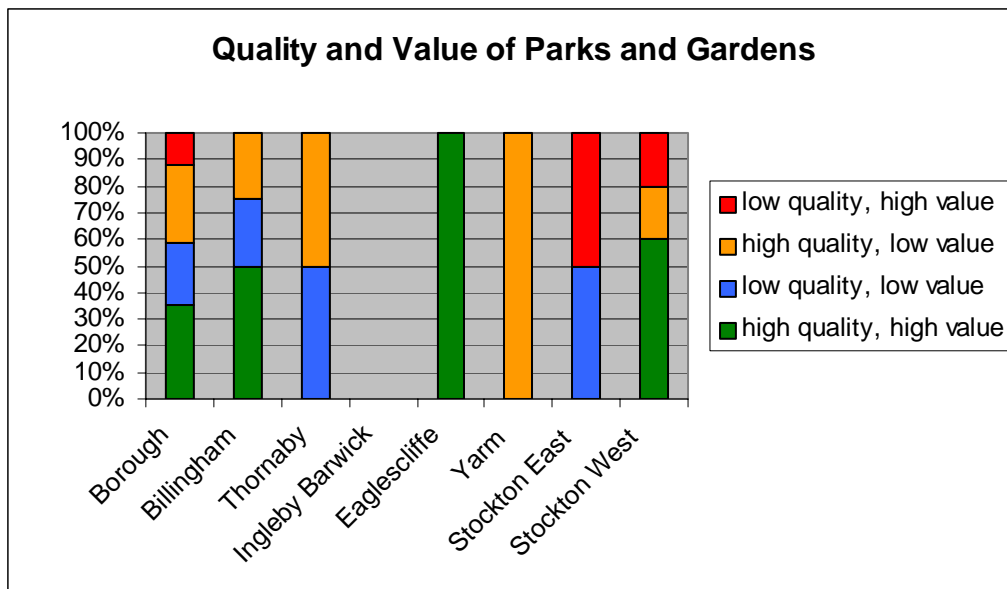


6.9. The graphs show that there are no poor quality Parks and Gardens in the Borough. In the Borough as a whole there are a majority of good quality sites, fewer satisfactory sites and one excellent site. Stockton West has the only excellent site, has a similar proportion of good sites to

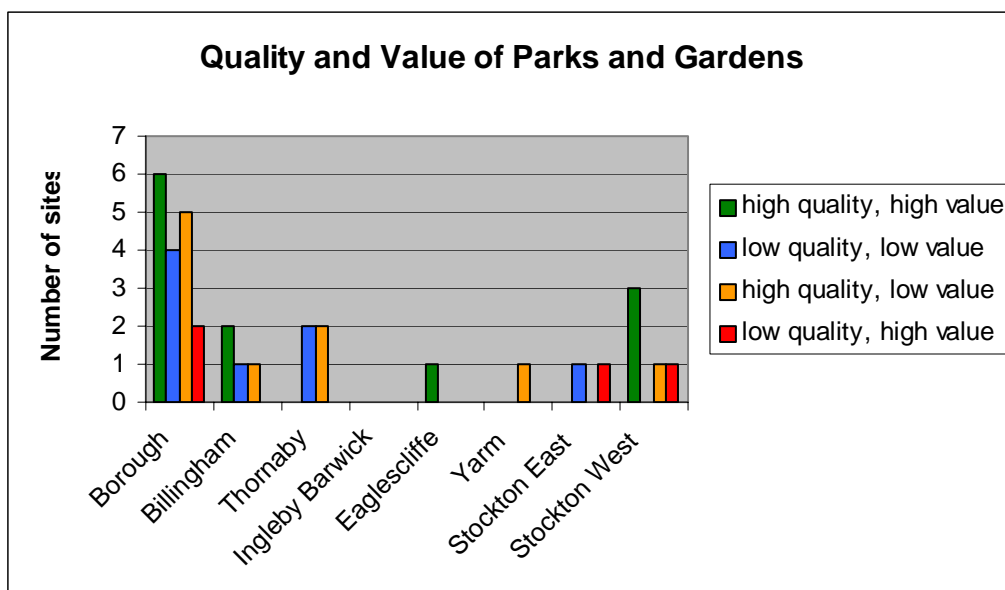
the rest of the Borough and has fewer satisfactory sites. Both Yarm and Eaglescliffe exceed the Borough level of quality by having only good parks and gardens, this is partly explained by there only being one site in each of these areas.

6.10. Billingham has fewer satisfactory sites than the Borough as a whole and more good quality sites. Thornaby has fewer good sites than the Borough as a whole and more satisfactory quality parks and gardens. Stockton East has the lowest level of quality with all sites having satisfactory quality. This is partly explained by the lower number of sites.

6.11. Comparing quality of sites to their value highlights the most successful spaces and those that should be priorities for improvement. The graph below demonstrates the different relationships between quality and value as a proportion of the total parks and gardens in different areas, to aid comparison.



6.12. The graph below demonstrates the number of sites that fall into the different categories; this information is useful in order to expand on the graph above.



6.13. High quality, high value sites are the most successful open spaces. All spaces in Eaglescliffe fit into this category, partly explained by there only being one park there. A high proportion of the parks and gardens in Stockton West fit into this category and half of the sites in Billingham also fit into this category. None of the other areas have parks and gardens in this category.

6.14. Low quality, high value sites are those that should be the first priority for improvement. Only two of the parks in the Borough fall into this category one is located in Stockton West and the other is one of the two sites in Stockton East.

### Standard

**Quantity standard: 0.55 hectares of Parks and Gardens per 1000 People.**  
**Proximity standard: within two kilometres of a park and within five kilometres of a strategic park.**

### Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs

6.15. As shown by the comparison to the suggested national standard the provision of parks and gardens in the Borough overall is good. However, it varies between different areas in the Borough both in terms of quality and quantity.

6.16. Billingham does not meet the quantity standard for parks and gardens, it should be remembered that the country parks around Billingham have been classified as natural greenspace. Billingham is completely covered by the five kilometre proximity standard buffer around strategic parks and is relatively well covered by the two kilometre standards around all parks however; Wolviston, Port Clarence and a small part of the west of Billingham are not covered. Although there are no excellent parks and gardens in Billingham most sites are of good quality with one satisfactory site. Half of the sites in Billingham are successful high quality sites, which



is above the Borough level, there are no sites that fit into the most in need of improvement category.

- 6.17. Stockton West meets the quantity standard and is entirely within the proximity standard buffer for strategic parks. Much of the western side of Stockton West is outside of the proximity standards of two kilometres for all parks and gardens. Stockton West has the Borough's excellent park; it also has a majority of good quality parks and gardens, putting it above the Borough level, and one park of satisfactory quality. Stockton West has a relatively high proportion of parks and gardens which fit into the successful category of high quality and high value, however, there is one site which falls into the priority for improvement category of high value, low quality sites.
- 6.18. Stockton East meets the quantity standard for parks and gardens and is completely within the proximity standards for strategic parks, however, much of the northern half of the area is outside the proximity standard of two kilometres for all parks. Stockton East has the lowest level of quality of all areas in the Borough with both sites scoring only satisfactory for quality. Half of the sites, one site in this area, fall into the highest priority category for improvement, high value, low quality. There are no high quality, high value sites.
- 6.19. Thornaby meets the quantity standard for parks and gardens and is entirely covered by the proximity standard for strategic parks and largely covered by the proximity standard of two kilometres for all parks. Quality in Thornaby is slightly worse than the Borough level with half of sites scoring good and half scoring satisfactory. Thornaby has no sites that fit into either the high quality, high value category or the priority for improvement category.
- 6.20. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the quantity standard, as there are no parks and garden sites located there. The settlement is largely covered by the strategic parks proximity standard apart from the southwestern edge but is completely outside the two kilometre standard for all parks. It should be noted that the development of Romano Park improves this situation significantly.
- 6.21. Eaglescliffe meets the quantity standard for parks and gardens with the highest level of provision in the Borough. Eaglescliffe is completely within the proximity standard for strategic parks however part of the settlement is outside of the proximity standard of two kilometres for all parks. The south of Eaglescliffe is within the two kilometre standard but this relates to a very small formal garden in Yarm. Quality exceeds the Borough level as the site in Eaglescliffe is of good quality and falls into the successful category of high quality high value.
- 6.22. Yarm does not meet the quantity standard for Parks and Gardens as its one site is a small formal garden. All of the settlement is within the proximity standard for strategic parks but much of the settlement is

outside the two kilometre proximity standard for all parks and it should be noted that in this case, the park referred to is a small formal garden. Quality of sites in Yarm is higher than the Borough level as the single site is of good quality. The site is neither in the most successful category nor in the highest priority category for improvement.

- 6.23. Although there is a good level of parks and garden provision in the Borough, areas of potential improvement should be identified in case the opportunity for improvement arises. The analysis shows that quantity improvements are most required in Ingleby Barwick, Yarm and to a lesser extent Billingham. Proximity improvements for the two kilometre proximity standard are most required in Ingleby Barwick, Stockton, Eaglescliffe and Yarm. Quality improvements are most required in Stockton East, Billingham and Thornaby and including the priority site in Stockton West.

## NATURAL GREENSPACE

6.24. In the Borough as a whole there is a total of 2.46 hectares of natural greenspace per 1000 people. The amount of natural greenspace per 1000 people varies widely across the Borough. It is at its highest in Billingham with 5.77 hectares per 1000 people, this is largely due to Cowpen Bewley Nature Reserve and Billingham Beck Country Park.

**Quantity of Natural Greenspace per 1000 People**

Town	Area per 1000 people	People who thought there should be more*
Borough	2.46ha	28%
Yarm	0.66ha	25%
Stockton West	0.75ha	25%
Ingleby Barwick	1.31ha	61%
Eaglescliffe	1.69ha	16%
Stockton East	1.96ha	30%
Thornaby	2.74ha	34%
Billingham	5.77ha	18%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.25. Natural England has set a standard for natural greenspace called the ANGSt standard, which outlines that there should be two hectares of natural greenspace per 1000 people. The level of provision in the Borough clearly exceeds this. However, as most of the towns in the Borough have a level below the ANGSt standard it seems that the high level of provision in Billingham is significantly increasing the level of provision in the Borough overall.

6.26. The high level of provision in Billingham has been opportunity led due to the existing green infrastructure rather than due to the demands of the local population alone. Due to this, a level of provision at the Borough level, which includes the high level of provision in Billingham, is not typical of the Borough. As the Borough level of provision is not suitable in this case, the ANGSt standard two hectares per 1000 people, is more appropriate. Most of the towns in the Borough have a level of provision below this standard with the exception of Thornaby and Billingham. However, the high number of people who think there should be more natural greenspace in the Borough, highlighted by our survey, suggests that the ANGSt standard is suitable.

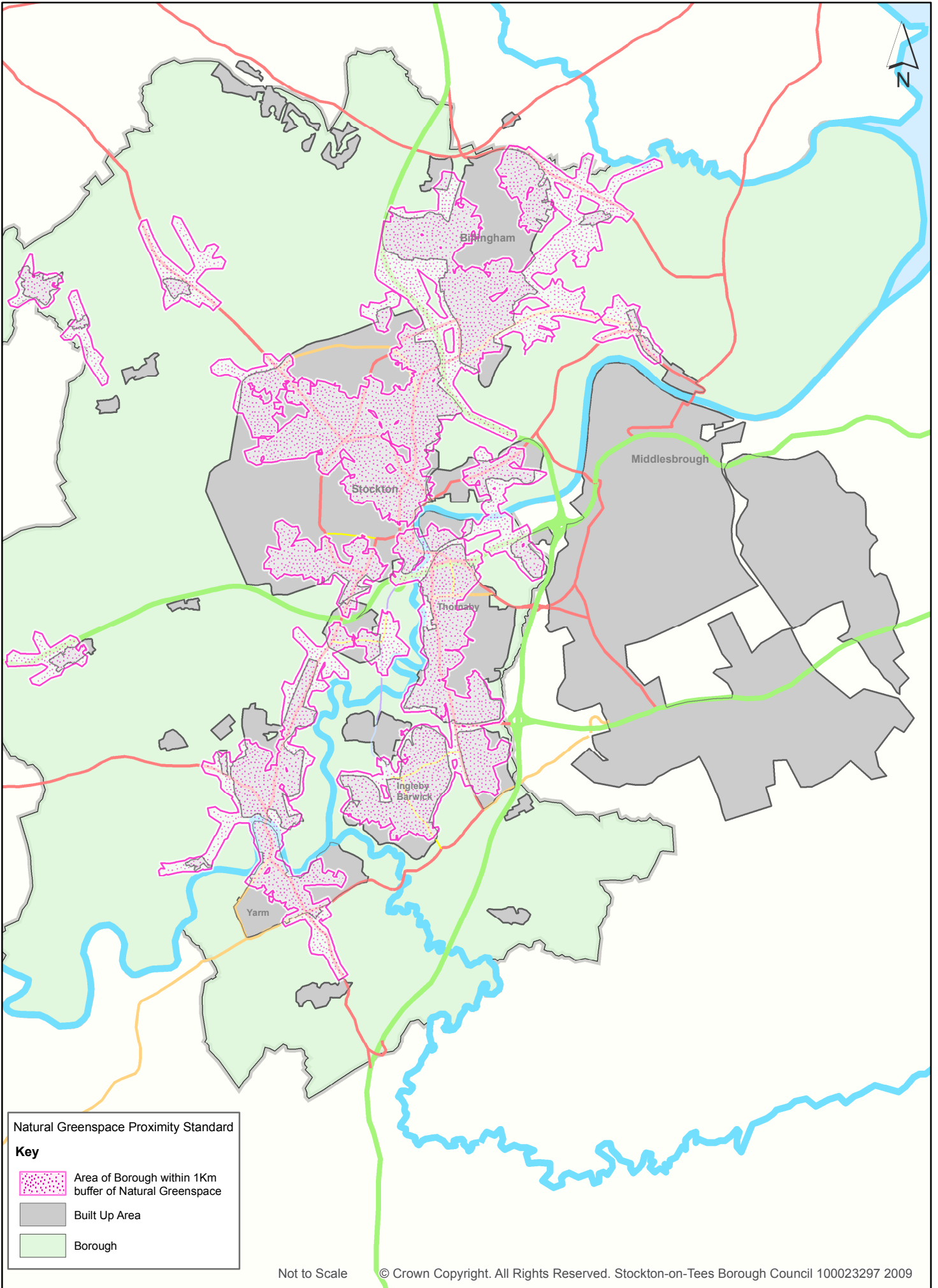
6.27. It is important that the quantity of provision is not understood only in terms of the amount of provision in an area, a large amount of provision may exist outside of a town's boundary and the population may be able to travel to it easily. To represent this, a proximity standard is also important.

6.28. The table below demonstrates the number and percentage of households within different distances of natural greenspace by road. Nine per cent of the Borough's households are within 300 metres of a natural

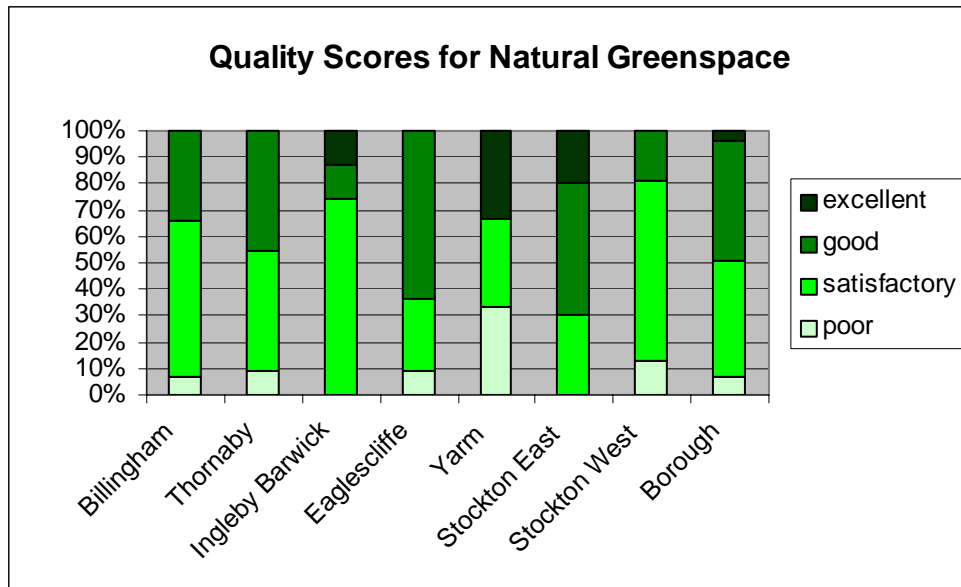
greenspace, 29 per cent of the Borough's households are within 600 metres of a natural greenspace, 76 per cent of the Borough's households are within one kilometre of a natural greenspace and 96 per cent of the Borough's households are within two kilometres of a natural greenspace. A large majority of the households in the Borough are within one kilometre of a natural greenspace, this is an appropriate level at which to set the proximity standard. The map on the following page identifies the areas in the Borough that are within the proximity standard for natural greenspace.

**Households within Different Distances of Natural Greenspace**

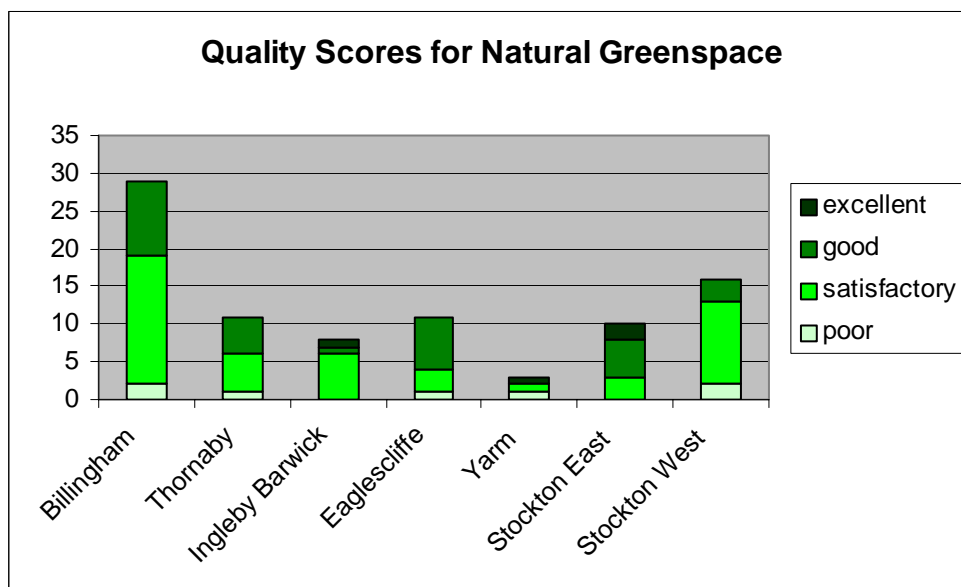
Natural greenspace	300m	600m	1km	2km	Total
Number of households	7796	23638	62411	78870	82288
Percentage of households	9%	29%	76%	96%	100%



6.29. The quality of natural greenspace is an important factor in the adequacy of provision. The graph below shows the quality of natural greenspaces in different areas as a percentage of the total natural greenspaces in that area. This is designed to enable comparison between areas and with the Borough as a whole.



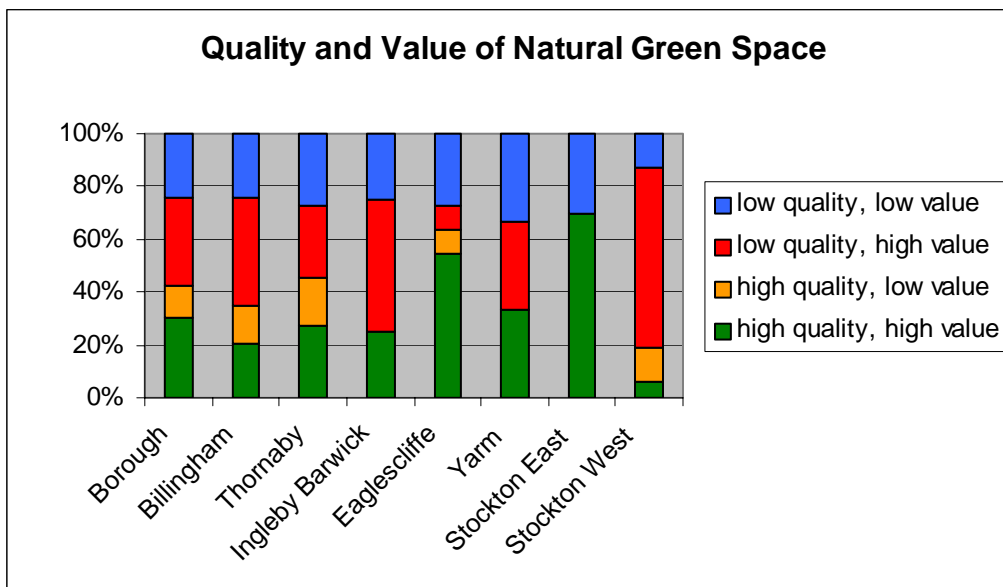
6.30. The graph below shows the total numbers of natural greenspaces in different areas. This provides additional information to the graph above to enable better understanding of the results. For example the high proportion of poor and excellent spaces in Yarm is due to there being only three spaces and one being poor and one being excellent. In this case a third of all spaces actually relates to only one space.



6.31. In the Borough as a whole there is a small proportion of excellent spaces and a slightly bigger proportion of poor spaces. There are a high proportion of both good and satisfactory spaces. Stockton East performs better than the Borough level for quality, as there are no poor spaces and a higher proportion of excellent and good spaces. Eaglescliffe performs slightly better than the Borough as there is a higher proportion of good spaces however there are no excellent spaces in Eaglescliffe. Yarm is an unusual example as there is a higher proportion of excellent space and of poor space. There is also no good quality space; Yarm has an unusual quality distribution due to the smaller number of spaces.

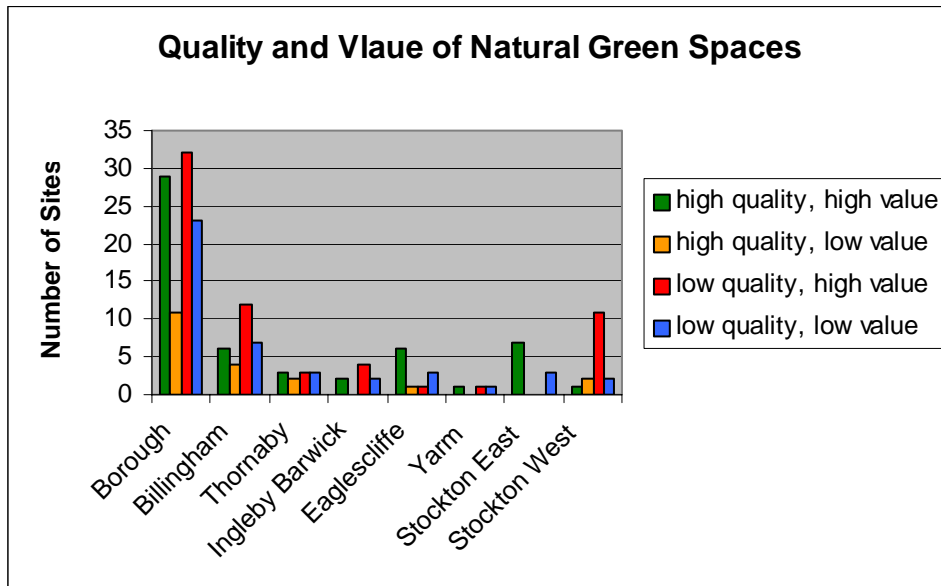
6.32. Thornaby has a similar pattern of quality as the Borough as a whole but without any excellent spaces and with a slightly higher proportion of poor spaces. Stockton West, Billingham and Ingleby Barwick all perform worse for quality than the Borough as a whole as there are a higher proportion of poor and satisfactory spaces, although Ingleby Barwick does have a higher proportion of excellent sites than the Borough level. Billingham has the highest number of natural greenspaces so although the proportions are similar there are far more satisfactory sites here than in other areas.

6.33. Comparing the quality and value of sites provides a way of identifying the most successful sites, those that score high quality and high value and the sites that should be the highest priority for improvement, that is spaces which have low quality but high value. The graph below shows the percentage of spaces in each area that fall into different quality value categories. This allows for comparison between areas and with the Borough as a whole.



6.34. The graph below identifies the actual number of spaces that fall into the different categories to provide the context of the percentage scores above. Showing the relative number of spaces rather than the relative percentage of spaces identifies the scale of the need for improvement. For example there are far more spaces in Billingham that are in the

priority for improvement category even though in the graph above the proportion of these spaces in Ingleby Barwick is higher.



6.35. All areas have some spaces in the most successful category, this may be due to generally high value scores for the natural greenspaces due to them achieving well in the biodiversity section. Stockton East and Eaglescliffe do best here. This also means there is a relatively high proportion of spaces in the priority for improvement category that has the highest number of spaces at the Borough level. Stockton West, Ingleby Barwick and Billingham have a higher proportion of these spaces than the Borough overall and the number of these spaces is particularly high in Billingham and Stockton West.

#### Standard

**Quantity standard: two hectares of natural greenspace per 1000 people.**

**Proximity standard: within one kilometre**

#### Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs

6.36. When compared to the suggested national benchmarking standards the Borough has a high level of natural greenspace provision, however, the amount varies a great deal throughout the Borough so it is important to understand this in different areas.

6.37. Billingham has a very high level of natural greenspace provision due to the location of Billingham Beck Valley Country Park and Cowpen Bewley Nature Reserve in its vicinity. The one kilometre proximity standard buffer largely covers Billingham but there is a significant strip from the centre to the north that is outside of this standard. The quality of spaces in Billingham is lower than the Borough as a whole and there is a high proportion and high number of spaces in the priority for improvement category when comparing quality and value scores.



- 6.38. Stockton West does not meet the quantity standard for natural greenspace provision and much of the area is not covered by the one kilometre proximity standard. In terms of the proportion of spaces Stockton West is the poorest performer for quality with a high proportion of satisfactory spaces. The highest proportion of priority for improvement spaces in the quality value analysis are also in this area, there is also a relatively high number of these spaces.
- 6.39. Stockton East just falls short of the quality standard, there is 1.96 hectares of natural greenspace per person compared to the two hectare standard. Much of the area is covered by the proximity standard of one kilometre but there are areas that are outside of the standard to the north and south of Stockton East. Natural greenspace quality in this area is the highest level in the Borough with a higher proportion of good and excellent spaces and no poor spaces. It also has the highest proportion and number of successful spaces, which are spaces that score high for value and high for quality in the quality value analysis. There are no sites in the at most need of improvement section.
- 6.40. Thornaby meets the quantity standard for natural greenspace and is second only to Billingham for quantity, however, an area to the east of the town is outside the one kilometre proximity standard. Quality of natural greenspace is similar to the Borough level with no excellent spaces and a very slightly higher proportion of poor spaces. Thornaby also has a slightly higher proportion of spaces in the priority for improvement category and slightly fewer spaces in the most successful space category than the Borough as a whole, for the quality and value analysis.
- 6.41. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the standard for natural greenspace, however, much of the area is covered by the one kilometre proximity standard excluding an area to the north and south. Ingleby Barwick does have some space that has excellent quality but it has a lower level of quality than the Borough as a whole, due to a high proportion of satisfactory spaces. Ingleby Barwick also has a higher proportion than the Borough level of provision in the priority for improvements category for the quality value analysis.
- 6.42. Eaglescliffe does not meet the quantity standard for natural greenspace however most of it is covered by the one kilometre proximity standard with an area to the east that is not covered by the standard. Eaglescliffe has a higher proportion of good spaces than the Borough overall but no excellent spaces. It also has a higher proportion of successful spaces, second only to Stockton East and a lower proportion of spaces in the priority for improvement section, than the Borough as a whole, in the quality value analysis.
- 6.43. Yarm does not meet the quality standard for natural greenspace and has the lowest level of this type of provision. A central strip of the settlement is covered by the one kilometre proximity standard, however,

areas to the east and west are excluded. Yarm has a higher proportion of both excellent and poor spaces than the Borough level, this is largely due to there only being three sites in the area and each site therefore taking on a higher significance. In terms of the quality value analysis the proportion of spaces in the most successful spaces category and the priority for improvement category are similar to the Borough level, however they still only amount to one space in these categories.

- 6.44. There is a good level of natural greenspace provision in the Borough overall, however, it is important to identify areas for improvement should the opportunity arise. The analysis shows that quantity improvements are most in need in Stockton West, Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe, Yarm and to a lesser extent Stockton East. Accessibility improvements are in most need in Stockton West, Billingham and in some areas of most of the settlements in the Borough. Quality improvements are most required in Stockton West, Ingleby Barwick and Billingham.

## GREEN CORRIDORS

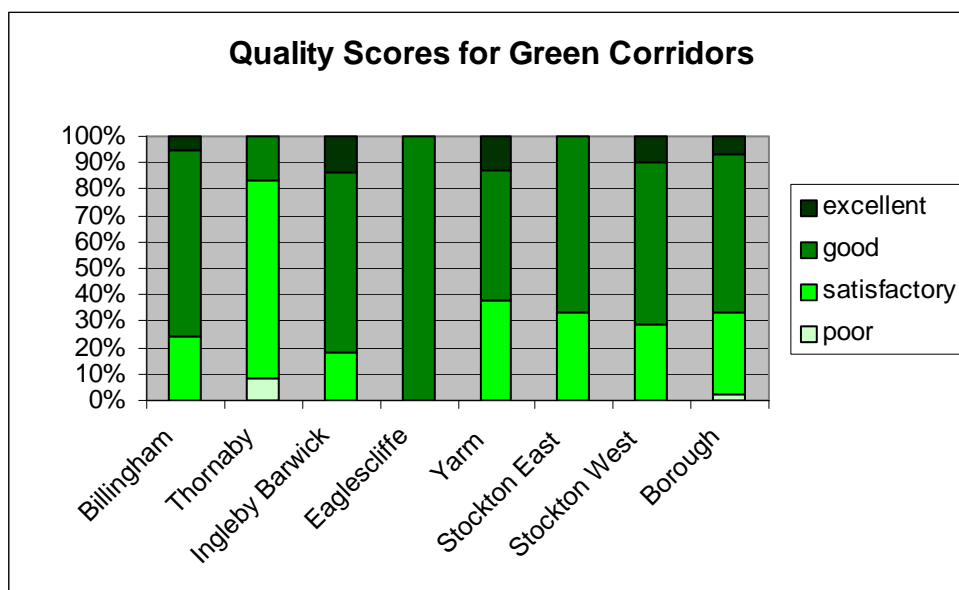
6.45. PPG17 highlights the need to enhance and protect green corridors, through planning policy, to encourage sustainable travel and improve biodiversity. However it suggests that it is not sensible to set a quantity standard including amount or proximity, for green corridors. They should be demand led and based on connecting residential areas to services or instigated by natural features such as watercourses. The need to take opportunities to establish linear routes is also acknowledged.

6.46. The table below demonstrates that in the Borough overall there is 1.24 hectares of green corridors per 1000 people. This varies across the Borough and is at its highest level in Ingleby Barwick at 5.39 hectares per 1000 people.

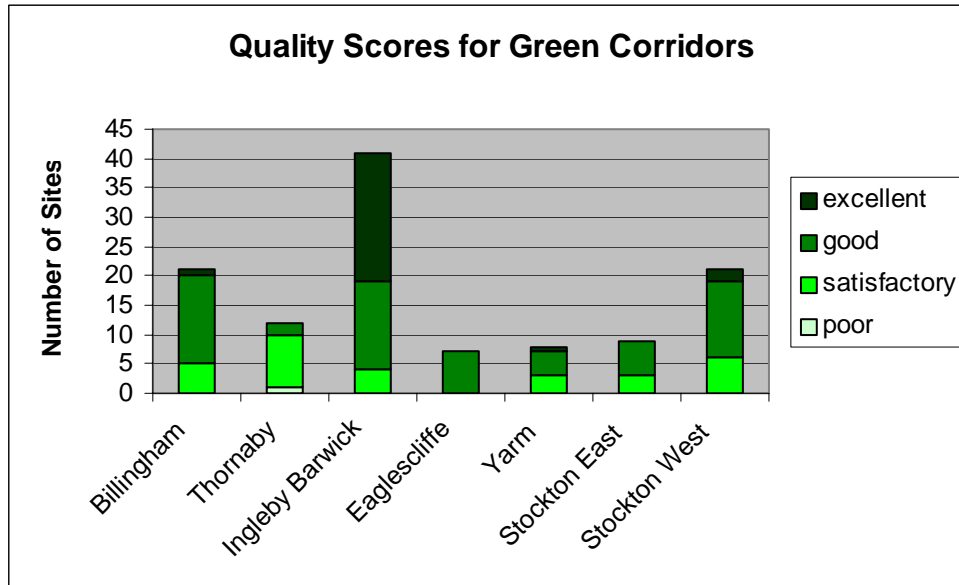
**Area of Green Corridors per 1000 People**

Town	Area per 1000 people
Borough	1.24ha
Eaglescliffe	0.45ha
Yarm	0.52ha
Billingham	0.59ha
Stockton West	0.67ha
Stockton East	0.73ha
Thornaby	1.65ha
Ingleby Barwick	5.39ha

6.47. Quality is an important factor in the provision of open space and the quality of green corridors is outlined in the graph below. This graph shows the proportion of green corridors that fall into different quality categories in each area to enable comparison between areas and with the Borough as a whole.

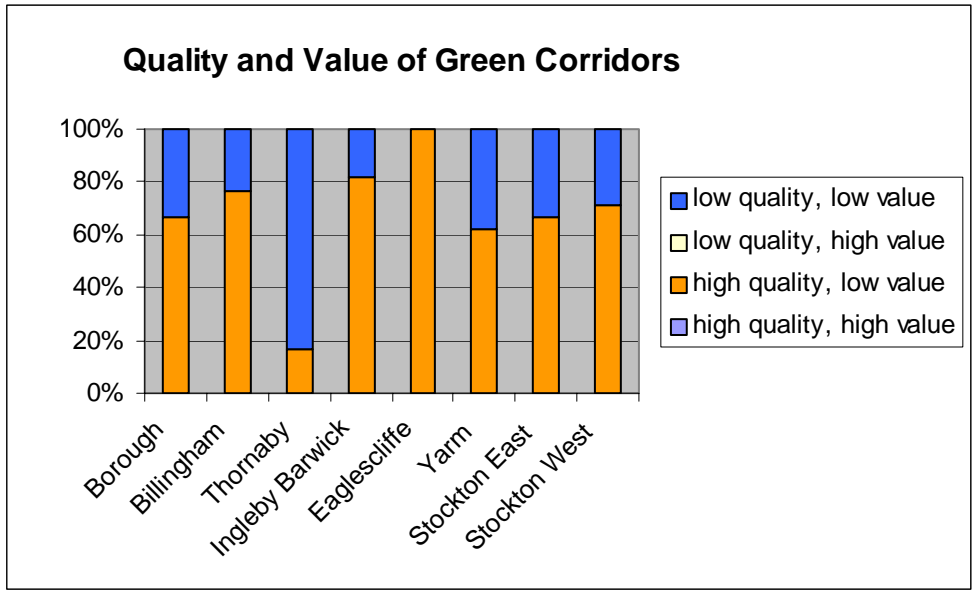


6.48. The graph below shows the quality of green corridors based on the number of sites that fall into each category. This provides context to the graph above by identifying the actual number of sites that make up the percentages shown.

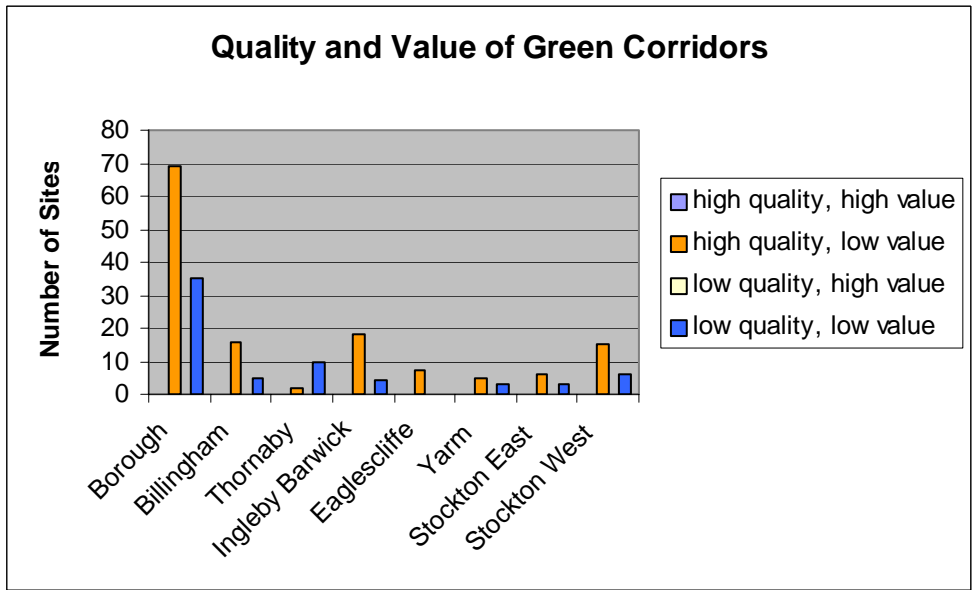


6.49. Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick have the highest quality spaces when compared to the Borough wide level. This becomes particularly obvious for Ingleby Barwick due to the high number of excellent green corridors in the graph above. Stockton West, Yarm and Billingham have quality similar to that of the Borough overall. Stockton East is similar to the Borough level for quality apart from the lack of excellent green corridors in this area. Thornaby has noticeably poorer quality than the Borough as a whole and the other areas when looking at the proportion of sites.

6.50. The comparison of quality and value can provide added understanding of the spaces in different areas. The graph below shows the proportion of spaces that fit in to different quality value categories in different areas.



6.51. The graph below shows the number of sites that fall into these categories and provides further understanding to the percentage graph above by identifying the number of sites that make up the proportions shown above.



6.52. None of the green corridors fall into either the most successful spaces category of high quality and high value or the priority for improvement category of low quality and high value. As the quality graphs show that green corridors have a pattern of quality similar to other types of open space, it seems that this may be due to green corridors not scoring highly for value. As green corridors are a type of space which can be particularly useful for green transport and movement of animal species for biodiversity it seems that the assessment may not have been as responsive to the value of green corridors as to other spaces.

## **Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

- 6.53. Standards are not to be set for green corridors, as they are to be opportunity led, however this does not undermine their importance and it is important to examine the quantity and quality of existing green corridors throughout the Borough. Billingham has a quantity of green corridors, which is lower than the level of the Borough as a whole. Quality is similar to the Borough level but with fewer satisfactory corridors and no poor green corridors.
- 6.54. Stockton West has a similar pattern of quality distribution as the Borough as a whole with a slightly higher proportion of excellent corridors. Stockton West does not match the level of provision in the Borough overall and neither does Stockton East. The quality of green corridors in Stockton East is similar to the Borough quality pattern but without the extremes of excellent and poor spaces present in the Borough quality distribution.
- 6.55. Thornaby exceeds the level of provision in the Borough as a whole however the quality of the space is lower with the highest proportion of satisfactory and poor spaces of all areas.
- 6.56. Ingleby Barwick has the highest level of provision in the Borough and exceeds the quantity of green corridors at the Borough level by a very large amount. As only two areas exceed the Borough amount is likely that the high level of provision in Ingleby Barwick is skewing the provision at the Borough level so it is less related to other areas. Quality in Ingleby Barwick is also high with a high proportion of and even higher number of excellent and good quality spaces.
- 6.57. Eaglescliffe has the lowest quantity of green spaces in the Borough but a high level of quality, as all spaces score good for quality. Yarm also has a lower level of quantity than the overall Borough amount. It also has a slightly worse quality distribution than the overall Borough level as it has a higher proportion of satisfactory spaces. However it does have a higher proportion of excellent spaces.
- 6.58. Although the quantity of open spaces should not be necessarily be targeted for improvement as green corridors should be opportunity led, quality improvement should be aimed for. The areas most in need of quality improvements are Thornaby followed by Yarm and Stockton East to a much lesser extent.

## OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

6.59. Outdoor sports facilities have been assessed here as a whole including all types of sports facilities, their run off space and additional space ancillary to the actual facility. This is the way the Open Space Audit was designed and it is felt important to understand the full area of land required to provide the outdoor sports facilities we have in the Borough, not just the area of the pitch or court itself. Due to this, it is felt important to provide some further analysis of outdoor sports facilities available on page 102 at the end of this section. Additional analysis is also included in the draft Playing Pitch Strategy.

6.60. The level of existing sports facility provision in the Borough is 1.76 hectares per 1000 people. This varies across the Borough with some areas not meeting the Borough level and some exceeding it. The highest level of provision is in Billingham.

### Quantity of Sports Facilities per 1000 People

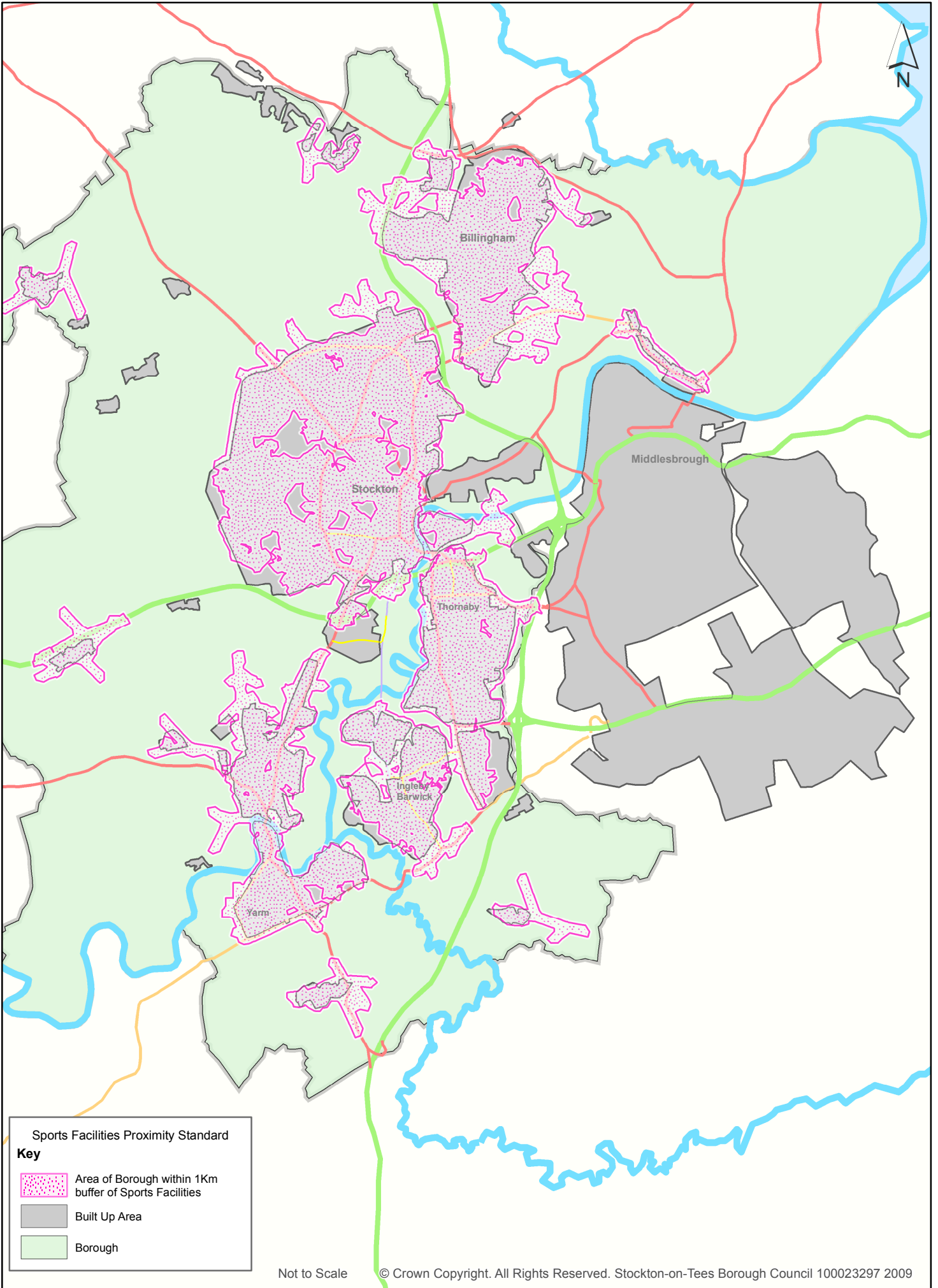
Town	Area per 1000 people	People who thought there should be more*
Borough	1.76ha	15%
Ingleby Barwick	0.51ha	29%
Thornaby	1.49ha	13%
Stockton West	1.73ha	17%
Stockton East	2.06ha	10%
Eaglescliffe	2.14ha	6%
Yarm	2.34ha	33%
Billingham	2.34ha	9%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.61. The table below outlines the number of households within different distances of sports facilities by road. As it demonstrates, the vast majority of households are located within one kilometre of outdoor sports facilities. Almost all households in the Borough are within four kilometres of an outdoor sports facility. The analysis below determines that one kilometre is a suitable level at which to set the proximity standard. The map on the following page identifies the areas of the Borough where households are within the one kilometre standard. Proximity standards for specific strategic facilities will be included in the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

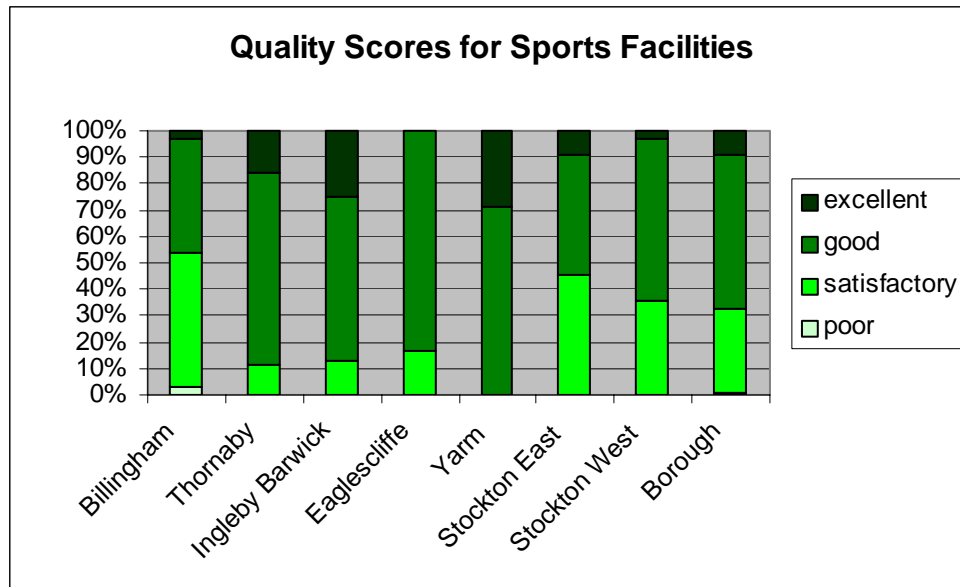
### Households within Different Distances of Sports Facilities

Sports Facilities	1km	2km	3km	4km	Total
Number of households	74758	80787	81592	82163	82288
Percentage of households	91%	98%	99%	100%	100%

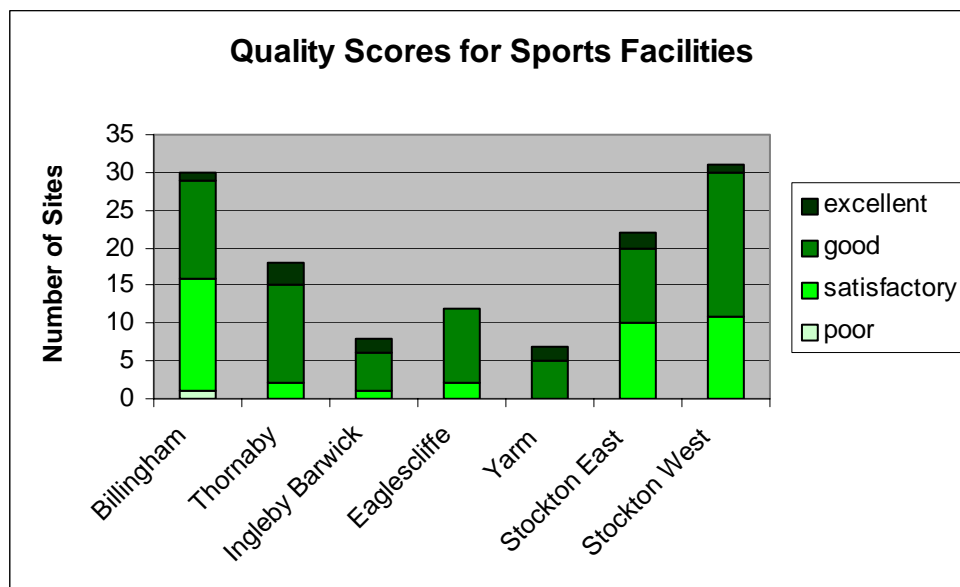




6.62. In order to get an understanding of the suitability of the provision of sports facilities overall, it is important to gain an understanding of their quality. The graph below shows the percentage of spaces with different quality scores in different areas throughout the Borough. This enables comparison between different areas and with the whole Borough's quality scores.



6.63. The graph below is intended to put the above graph into context by showing the number of sports facility sites that achieve different quality scores across the Borough. For example, the proportion of satisfactory sports facilities in Stockton East and Stockton West has a wider difference than their actual numbers in the graph below.

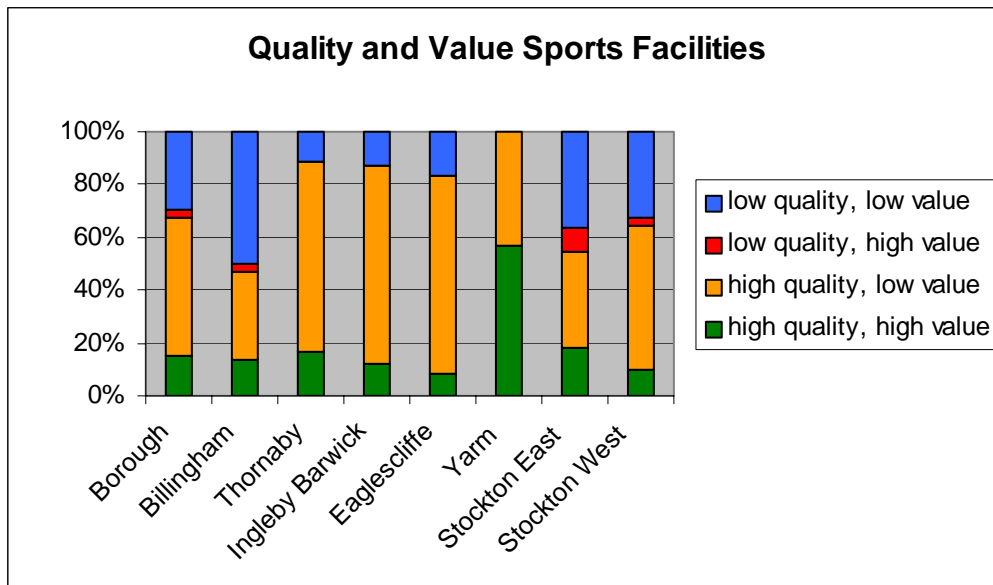


6.64. The graphs show a variation in the quality of sports facilities across the Borough. Yarm, Ingleby Barwick and Thornaby all have higher quality

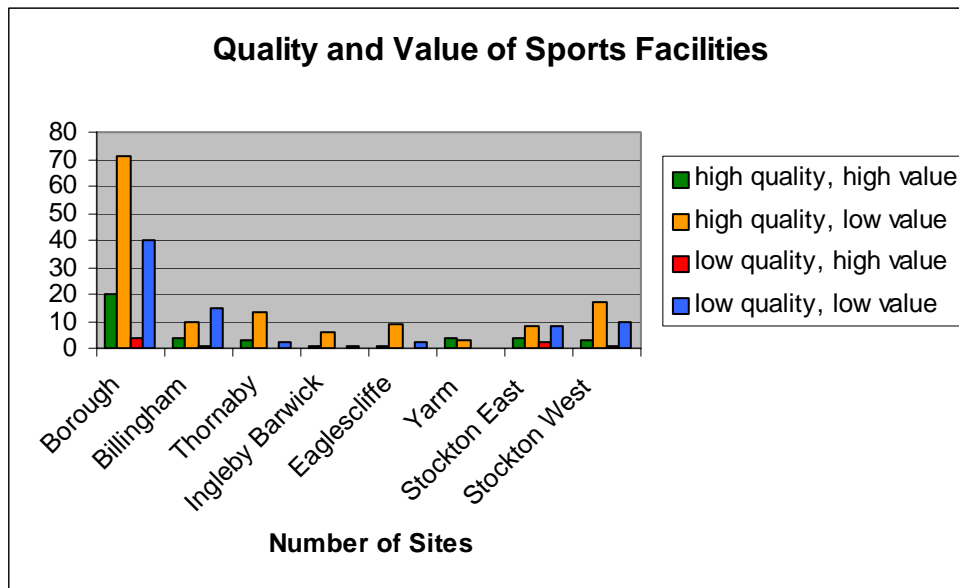
sports facilities than the Borough overall with a higher proportion of good and excellent spaces. Yarm does not have any spaces scoring satisfactory. Eaglescliffe also scores well compared to the wider Borough, with more good quality spaces but no excellent spaces.

6.65. Stockton West has a similar quality distribution to the Borough as a whole but has fewer excellent spaces. Stockton East is also similar to the Borough overall but with more satisfactory spaces, giving a slightly lower quality distribution. Billingham’s quality is lower than that in the Borough as a whole as it has less good and excellent spaces and a poor quality space.

6.66. To provide additional understanding of the quality of facilities it is useful to compare the quality score of facilities with their value score. The graph below shows the percentage of sports facilities that fit into different quality value categories across the Borough. This allows comparison between areas and with the picture in the Borough overall.



6.67. The graph below is intended to provide context to the percentage graph above by showing the number of sites that fall into the different categories. This grounds the above graph in the number of sites included to make up the percentage.



6.68. Most of the areas in the Borough have a similar proportion of successful spaces, that is spaces with both high quality and high value scores, to those in the Borough overall. Yarm is the exception with a much higher proportion of these spaces. Most areas have fewer priority for improvement sports facilities than is seen at the Borough level. Stockton West and Billingham have a similar level and Stockton East has the highest proportion.

**Standard**

**Quantity standard: 1.76ha of outdoor sports facility per 1000 people.**

**Proximity standard: within one kilometre**

**Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

6.69. A further analysis of the overall quantity, quality and proximity of sports facilities is required to understand the picture of provision more fully and this is included in the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy and from page 102.

6.70. Billingham meets the quantity standard for sports facilities and has the highest level of provision in the Borough. It is also well covered by the one kilometre proximity standard, apart from its northern edge. The quality of sports facilities in Billingham is lower than that at the Borough level. It has a similar level of successful spaces than the Borough as a whole and a similar if not slightly higher proportion of priority for improvement sites from the quality value analysis.

6.71. Stockton West falls marginally below the quality standard for sports facilities with 1.73 hectares per 1000 people compared to 1.76 hectares. It is relatively well covered by the one kilometre proximity standard, although there are some gaps in the centre and on the western edge of the area. The quality of sports facilities in Stockton West is similar to the Borough level overall but with fewer excellent spaces. It also has a similar proportion of priority for improvement spaces as the Borough as a whole

in the quality value analysis. However, there are a slightly smaller proportion of spaces in the successful spaces category of high value, high quality.

- 6.72. Stockton East meets the standard for the quantity of sports facilities and is relatively well covered by the one kilometre proximity standards buffer. Although Stockton East has a similar proportion of excellent quality spaces to the Borough overall it has a higher proportion of satisfactory spaces and the second highest proportion of satisfactory spaces in the Borough.
- 6.73. Thornaby does not meet the quantity standard for sports facilities, however, it is completely covered by the by the one kilometre proximity standard buffer. The quality of sports facilities in Thornaby is better than the Borough as a whole as it has a higher proportion of excellent spaces, and a lower proportion of satisfactory spaces, than the whole Borough. Thornaby has no spaces in the priority for improvement category in the quality value analysis and a slightly higher proportion of sports facilities in the successful spaces category than the Borough overall.
- 6.74. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the quantity standard for sports facilities and has the lowest level of this type of provision in the Borough. The settlement is almost fully covered by the one kilometre proximity standard buffer, apart from a small part of the southwestern edge. The quality of sports facilities in Ingleby Barwick is better than the Borough as a whole with a smaller proportion of satisfactory spaces and a greater proportion of excellent spaces. Ingleby Barwick is second only to Yarm for quality of sports facilities. In terms of the quality value analysis Ingleby Barwick does not have any spaces in the high priority for improvement category and a similar proportion of spaces in the successful spaces category as the Borough overall.
- 6.75. Eaglescliffe meets the quality standard for sports facilities and is well covered by the one kilometre proximity standard buffer around sports facilities. Although Eaglescliffe does not have any excellent quality spaces it has a higher level of quality than the Borough overall as it has such a high proportion of good quality spaces. Eaglescliffe does not have any spaces in the high priority for improvement category of the quality value analysis and it has a lower than Borough level of spaces in the successful spaces category.
- 6.76. Yarm meets the standard for sports facilities and is well covered by the proximity standard buffer of one kilometre around sports facilities apart from two small sections on the southern edge. The quality of sports facilities in Yarm are the best in the Borough with only good and excellent spaces. Yarm has a majority of spaces in the successful spaces category of the quality value analysis, unlike any other area in the Borough. This concentration of spaces in certain categories may be partly due to the lower number of sports facilities in Yarm.

6.77. In the Borough overall Ingleby Barwick, Thornaby and to a much lesser degree Stockton West are at most need of quantity improvements. Stockton West has the most provision gaps that need addressing in the proximity standard analysis; however, these should be treated with caution as they may cover locations that are well served with open space, for example parks. Billingham is at most need of quality improvements followed to a lesser degree by Stockton West and Stockton East, which have a similar number of satisfactory spaces. There is a higher proportion of spaces that are in the priority for improvement section of the quality value analysis in Stockton East, than in other areas. However there are also spaces located in this category in Stockton West and Billingham.

## **Further Analysis of Outdoor Sports Facilities**

6.78. The PPG17 Guidance suggests that spaces should be categorised into the open space typology based on their primary purpose. Due to this the Open Space Audit, using the typology outlined in PPG17, is not suitable in itself to assess all sports facilities. Sports Facilities have been assessed to identify an overall standard based on spaces whose primary purpose is as a sports facility.

6.79. However, some sports facilities located in parks have been counted as part of the park, as ancillary to the parks primary purpose as a park. Also, various different types of sports facilities have been included in one sports facility. For example a school playing field may have both football pitches and an athletics track. Due to this some additional analysis of specific sports facility provision is necessary

6.80. Information on the total level of sports facility provision is available from page 95 of this document, which provides an overall standard for sports facilities. However, to enable the provision of particular facilities an assessment of different types of outdoor sports facilities is necessary to identify where the distribution of specific types of sports facilities, may differ from deficiencies in sports provision as a whole. When Leisure and Sports Development intend to strategically provide or improve a particular facility or facility type the proximity standard shown in the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy will be used instead of the general sports standard. This is justified, as each individual type of facility is much rarer than sports facilities as a whole.

6.81. This further assessment has been undertaken for-

- Football pitches
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby Pitches
- Golf courses
- Athletics tracks
- Tennis courts
- Bowling greens
- Multi ball courts and Multi use games areas

6.82. Information on more specialist facilities can be found in the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

### **Playing Pitch Strategy**

6.83. Leisure and Sports Development are currently producing a playing pitch strategy. It will include an assessment and a strategy for football pitches, cricket pitches and rugby pitches. The rest of the sports facilities outlined above are assessed below.

## Golf

6.84. Golf courses have been counted as sports facilities in the Open Space Audit but were excluded from figures for setting the standards as it was felt that the large size of golf courses compared to their level of use would make the figures unrealistic.

6.85. In order to recognise golf courses it is important to assess them separately and by comparing the number of holes to population rather than the area of the course, a measure used by Sports England on the Active Places Power website. There are six golf courses in the Borough and the break down of holes to population is shown in the table below.

England: 0.67 holes per 1000 people

North East Region: 0.69 holes per 1000 people

Stockton-on-Tees Borough: 0.52 holes per 1000 people

### Quantity of Golf Courses per 1000 Population

Area	Capacity Ratio (holes per 1000 people)
Billingham	0.48
Thornaby	0.78
Ingleby Barwick	0.46
Eaglescliffe	1.69
Yarm	0
Stockton	0.22

6.86. The break down in the table above does not show the golf course in Wynyard that does not fit into any of these areas. Due to the low population at Wynyard the capacity ratio for golf courses there are ten holes per 1000 people. The golf course at Wynard has been included in the figures at the Borough level, so its ability to meet the demand for golf provision in the Borough has been counted.

6.87. The capacity ratio for the Borough as a whole is below that of the national and north east regional level at 0.52 holes per 1000 people. However, the figures for individual towns vary. All areas apart from Yarm have a golf course, however, there is currently an approved planning application for a golf course in Yarm. Eaglescliffe has a particularly high capacity ratio and due to the close location of Yarm to Eaglescliffe it is likely that the golf course at Eaglescliffe is meeting the demand for golf in Yarm. Yarm should not be considered deficient due to the current lack of this facility.

6.88. When the population of Yarm and Eaglescliffe is combined and compared to the size of the golf course the capacity ratio is 0.91 holes per 1000 people, which would still be the highest level in the Borough. Similarly some of the requirement for golf courses in the south of Stockton

may be taken up by the high capacity ratio in Thornaby as the golf course is located in the north of Thornaby. In addition to golf courses there are also three driving ranges in the Borough, one in Yarm, one in Wynyard and one in Ingleby Barwick.

6.89. Although the level of provision is below the national and regional level, when we asked people what facilities they thought there should be more of near to their homes in the Recreation and Leisure Survey, golf courses were not mentioned, even though 1.3 per cent said that gold courses are their most used sporting facility.

6.90. The quality of golf courses in the Borough is good with spaces scoring high above the Borough average quality score for sports facilities. The exception is the golf course at Ingleby Barwick, which was not completed at the time it was last surveyed. The highest scoring sports facility is also a golf course. The Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey seems to support these findings with 85 per cent of people who said their most used facility was a golf course rating the facility as very good and 13 per cent rating it as good. The proportion of people rating the facility as very good or good is considerably higher than other facilities.

6.91. The proximity of facilities to population is relatively good with all settlements in the Borough having a golf course apart from Yarm, which can reasonably be said to be covered by the course in Eaglescliffe as well as having an approved planning application for a course. As part of the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey we asked people how far they travel to their most used facility, the result from those who said their most used facility was a golf course is shown below.

**How far do you travel to your most used facility (Golf Courses)?**

Less than a mile	1 to 2 miles	More than 2 to 5 miles	More than 5 to 10 miles	More than 10 to 15 miles	More than 15 miles	Not sure
4%	15%	35%	25%	13%	4%	4%

6.92. Golf courses have a lower proportion of people travelling under five miles to use them than any type of facility. They also have a higher proportion of people travelling ten to 15 miles or over 15 miles to use them than any other sports facility. This suggests, considering the location of a golf course in almost every settlement, that people do not use their nearest golf course and may have considerations other than distance when choosing which facility to use.

6.93. The evidence suggests that although the quantity of golf provision is slightly lower than that at the national and regional level that there is not a requirement for more golf provision in the Borough. Golf courses also have a high level of quality and have good proximity to population even though this may not be much of a factor when people choose which golf course to use.



6.94. These findings are supported by Sport England's Sub-Regional Facilities Strategy, which shows that no additional demand for golf has been identified in the Tees Valley. Also the Regional Facilities Strategy, which identifies a need to focus on the strategic development of existing clubs and identifies no demand for new golf courses in the North East.

### Athletics Tracks

6.95. As the figures below show, there are more athletics tracks per 1000 people in Stockton-on-Tees than there are both nationally and in the north east region. There are three athletics tracks in the Borough, two of which are located on school sites the third is in Billingham Central Avenue Stadium. By their nature athletics tracks are a concentrated facility meaning that when provision is broken down to individual settlements it is very high in some areas with no provision in other areas. An example of this is Eaglescliffe where the level of provision is more than 11 times that at the national level. Yarm is shown to have no provision, which is not realistic when it is located so close to an area of such high provision.

England: 0.05 lanes per 1000 people

North East Region: 0.08 lanes per 1000 people

Stockton-on-Tees Borough: 0.09 lanes per 1000 people

Area	Capacity Ratio (Lanes per 1000 people)	People who think there should be more Athletics Tracks*
Borough	0.09	1.9%
Billingham	0.16	2.2%
Thornaby	0	1.9%
Ingleby Barwick	0	1.9%
Eaglescliffe	0.56	1%
Yarm	0	4.7%
Stockton	0.07	1.5%

\*Information from the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.96. The percentage of people who said they thought there needed to be more athletics tracks nearer to home in the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey is relatively low, without a great deal of variation in different areas of the Borough, apart from Yarm with 4.7 per cent. Although Yarm does not have its own athletics track it is close to the one in Eaglescliffe, which has a very high level of provision, that could easily provide for the population of Yarm. It is possible that increased access to the existing athletics tracks could improve the situation for people who feel there needs to be an increased quantity of tracks.

6.97. Athletics Tracks are a specialist facility that should not be expected in every town so it is important to note that where provision is high, nearby areas of low provision will be provided for by these areas. When compared to the national and regional levels provision in the Borough is

good and tracks are well distributed throughout the Borough, one in the south, one centrally and one in the north.

- 6.98. The quantity of provision of athletics tracks in the Borough is good and above that at both the regional and national level, however, the quality of the tracks is also an important factor in their ability to meet local needs. All three tracks in the Borough have poor quality cinder surfacing which according to Sport England's Sub-Regional Facilities Strategy is considered an outmoded surface not recognised by the national governing body for athletics. However, Sport England recognised the importance of cinder tracks as a local and educational resource.
- 6.99. UK Athletics recommend a standard of one outdoor synthetic track of 6 to 8 lanes per 250000 people, within 20 minutes drive time. Sport England's Sub-Regional Facilities Strategy determines that in the Tees Valley as a whole there are three synthetic tracks serving approximately 212,922 people each, which meets this standard. The sub-region is also covered reasonably well by the 20 minutes drive time (45 minutes in rural areas) according to this analysis.
- 6.100. Although the quantity of provision in the Borough is suitable there is not a synthetic track in the Borough. At the sub-regional level of analysis a synthetic track would not be considered necessary in the Borough however, the Borough is currently only able to cater for participation level for this facility and has aspirations through the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy to be able to provide facilities from participation to performance standard. In order to do this the provision of a synthetic turf pitch in the Borough is necessary.
- 6.101. As the overall level of provision is suitable it is suggested that a current athletics track be up graded rather than a new track provided. The track located in Stockton is in the largest town in the Borough. It is suggested that this more centrally located site would be the most suitable to upgrade, due to the large population nearby and the central location of the facility in the Borough.
- 6.102. Sport-England's Regional and Sub-Regional Facilities Strategy do identify a need for a regional level indoor athletics facility, however, Stockton-on-Tees Borough is not identified as the preferred location for this.

### **Multi Ball Courts and Multi Use Games Areas**

- 6.103. Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Multi Ball Courts (MBCs) are intended to provide all weather spaces for informal sport and active recreation. Both types of facilities provide spaces for a variety of ball games but they differ in specification. MUGAs are built to include courts with specific dimensions such as netball and five a side. MBCs are generally smaller as they do not have to provide courts of a particular size, but provide flexible all weather areas for ball games with

combination goals, rebound barriers and fencing. In this assessment MUGAs and MBCs have been categorised as young people's facilities (please see pages 124 to 132) however, as a flexible space they can be used by children too. In the assessment MBCs have been counted as three play units, equal to a neighbourhood play area.

6.104. Kick walls fulfil a similar function to MUGAs and MBCs but they are smaller in scale typically providing one combined goal as part of a rebound barrier. However, the exact provision of kick walls varies, for example some are on a grassed area others have tarmac surfacing. Kick walls will not be assessed as part of this section of the document due to their scale but have been included in the Play and Young People's provision assessment on pages 124 to 132. Kick walls have been counted as one play unit. Three kick walls are located in Stockton West, two in Thornaby and Yarm, Billingham and Stockton East all have one.

6.105. There is only one MUGA in the Borough located at Arlington Park in Stockton. The rest of the facilities referred to are MBCs. In the Borough overall there are 0.03 MBCs per 1000 people. The three settlements where MBCs are located exceed the Borough amount and the three settlements without facilities are clearly below it.

6.106. As part of the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey people with children under 16 living in their household were asked how sport and play facilities could be improved. Only 11.8 per cent of people in the Borough with children in their household felt that no improvements were necessary to sport and leisure areas for children. The figures below show the percentage of people in each area who thought that more open space for ball games should be a priority.

Area	Capacity Ratio (MBC/MUGA per 1000 people)	People with children living in the household who think there needs to be more open spaces for ball games.*
Borough	0.03	27.6%
Billingham	0.05	22.3%
Thornaby	0.04	26.7%
Ingleby Barwick	0	68.6%
Eaglescliffe	0	2.6%
Yarm	0	30.6%
Stockton	0.04	23.7%

\*Information from the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.107. The percentage of people with children in their households who felt there should be more open space for ball games is significant in all areas apart from Eaglescliffe which interestingly does not have any MBCs. The figure is at its highest in Ingleby Barwick at 68.6 per cent which is more than double the next highest figure at 30.6 per cent in Yarm. The very high figure in Ingleby Barwick may be due not just to the lack of facilities

for children in this area but also to open space in general, which could be used by children for ball games.

6.108. The relatively high number of people who would like to see more open spaces for ball games for children to use suggests that the current level of provision in the Borough should be increased, as MBC and MUGAs provide suitable, hardwearing all weather locations for ball games. In the case of MBCs they can be accessed on an informal basis, which may not be possible with more formal sports facilities. This is also supported by the standard for play and young people's provision, which identifies that all areas of the Borough fall short of one play unit per 1000 people.

6.109. It should be noted that there are plans to increase the provision of MBCs in the Borough with facilities planned in Billingham, Stockton and Ingleby Barwick. This facility is particularly important due to the figures shown above and will be provided as part of the Romano Park development. The resulting capacity ratio for Ingleby Barwick will then be 0.05, which will equal the current highest level of provision in Billingham.

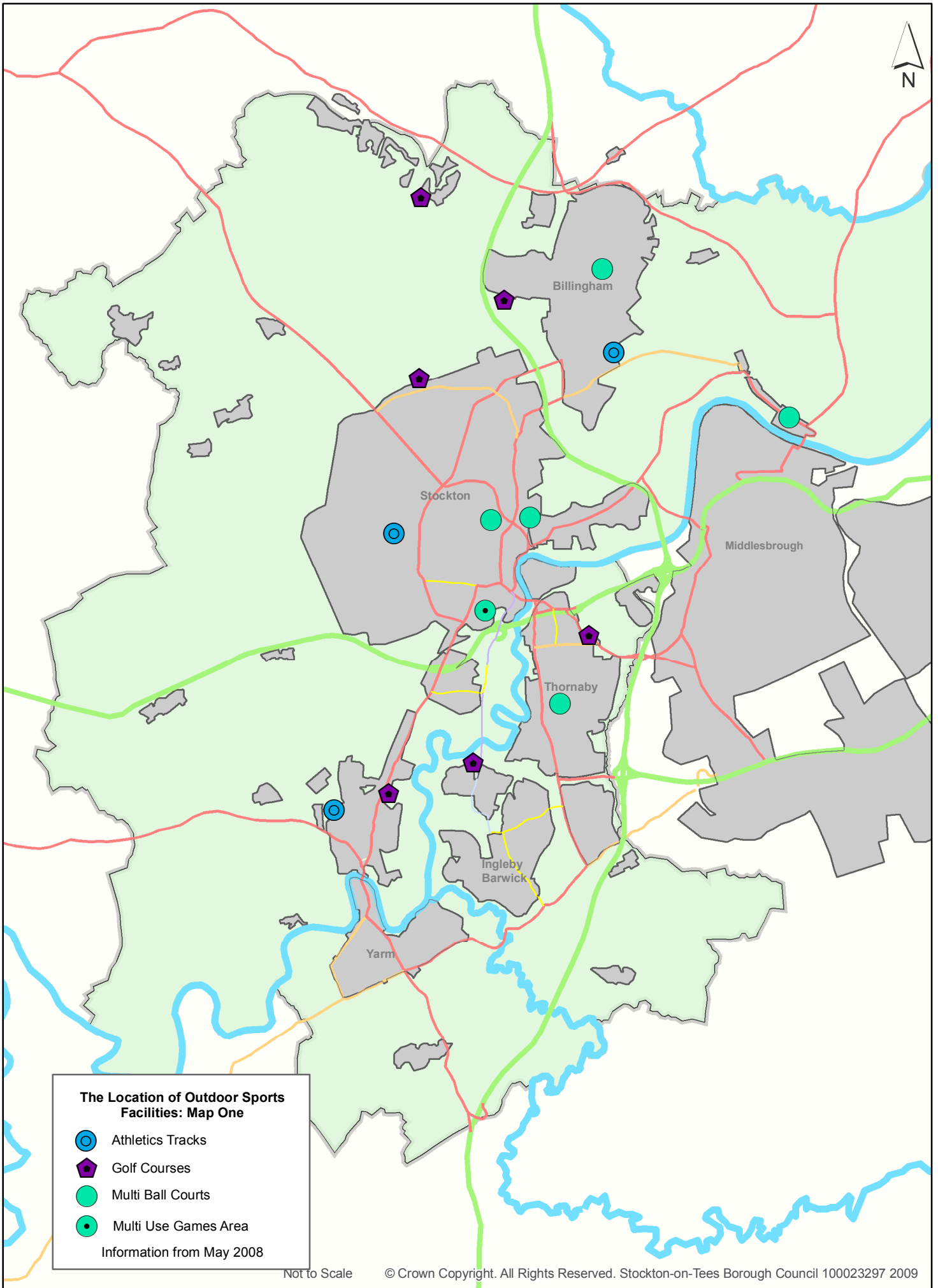
6.110. Priorities for future improvements in MUGAs and MBCs should not be decided only based on the existing provision of MBCs but also on the existing levels of play facilities as a whole and of existing outdoor sports facilities. This is to identify not only the adequacy of existing MBCs but also of alternatives.

Area	MUGAs and MBCs per 1000 people	Play and young people's facilities (people per play unit)	Outdoor sports facilities (ha per 1000 people)
Borough	0.03	2091	1.76
Billingham	0.05	1977	2.34
Thornaby	0.04	1545	1.49
Ingleby Barwick	0	4911	0.51
Eaglescliffe	0	1183	2.14
Yarm	0	3008	2.34
Stockton East	0.06	2423	2.06
Stockton West	0.02	2332	1.73

6.111. The table above shows that of the areas without any existing MBCs Ingleby Barwick seems to be at most need of improvement due to its high number of people per play unit and its particularly low levels of sports facilities, this will be much improved by the development of Romano Park. This is followed by Yarm, which has a high number of people per play unit but meets the standard for sports facilities, and Eaglescliffe with the lowest number of people per play unit, which meets the standard for outdoor sports.

6.112. Of the areas with existing facilities Stockton West is the most in need of improvement due to its lower level of existing provision, relatively high level of people per play unit and not meeting the standard for outdoor

sports. This situation is to be improved by provision of a MBC in Hardwick. Thornaby, Billingham and Stockton East have a similar level of MBC provision, of these spaces Stockton East has the highest number of people per play unitn followed by Billingham and then Thornaby. Both Stockton East and Billingham meet the standard for outdoor sports provision, Thornaby is below this standard.



## Bowling Greens

6.113. The table below identifies the number of bowling greens per 1000 people in the Borough as a whole and in different areas. The percentage of people in each area who said that there should be more outdoor bowling greens near to their home when asked as part of the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey, has also been included.

Area	Capacity Ratio (Greens per 1000 people)	People who think there should be more Outdoor Bowling Greens*
Borough	0.06	1.4%
Billingham	0.08	1.6%
Thornaby	0.09	0.3%
Ingleby Barwick	0	2.4%
Eaglescliffe	0	0
Yarm	0	7.5%
Stockton	0.08	1%

\*Information from the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.114. The table shows that the Borough level of provision is 0.06 bowling greens per 1000 people with the three towns that do have provision exceeding this level and the three settlements that do not, well below it. The overall percentage of people who think there should be more bowling greens nearer to their home is low suggesting that overall the level of provision is not deficient. In Yarm it is much higher than the Borough level, however, other towns that do not have any bowling provision do not have the same higher level of people thinking there should be more of this type of facility.

6.115. The higher level in Yarm may be for a number of reasons. It could be that more people in Yarm are interested in bowling or that in Yarm people are further away from the locations of existing provision in other towns. In all types of sporting outdoor space or built facilities the percentage of people in Yarm, who think there should be more is above the Borough level and is usually the highest, regardless of the amount of provision. This may be due to the expectation of people in Yarm around sports facilities and how they should be provided.

6.116. The table above seems to show that the level of provision in the Borough is at a suitable level and should be maintained. However, if opportunities arose to increase the provision of bowling greens, probably through the establishment of a bowling club, the most suitable place to provide this facility would be in the south of the Borough, namely Yarm, Eaglescliffe or Ingleby Barwick.

6.117. The provision of indoor bowls is also a consideration for the provision of outdoor greens as people may use outdoor greens in the summer and move to indoor provision in the winter. The provision of indoor bowls (assessed on pages 154 to 159) is similar to that of outdoor bowling

greens in that they are located in Billingham and Thornaby and partially covering Stockton but with much of the south of the Borough with a lower level of accessible provision.

6.118. It is not felt necessary to increase the level of indoor provision, as there was little demand evident from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey. These facilities are also larger and have a higher concentration of provision so people are expected to travel further to access them. However, if demand for bowling provision becomes evident in the south of the Borough smaller scale outdoor facilities may be a way of providing bowling in this area.

### Tennis Courts

6.119. The table below shows the number of courts per 1000 people in the Borough as a whole and in different areas. It also shows the percentage of people in the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey who felt there needed to be more tennis courts near to where they live.

Area	Capacity Ratio (Courts per 1000 people)	People who think there should be more Outdoor Tennis Courts*
Borough	0.57	2.8%
Billingham	0.48	2%
Thornaby	0.35	1.8%
Ingleby Barwick	0.15	4.8%
Eaglescliffe	0.94	1%
Yarm	2.44	10.3%
Stockton	0.57	2.3%

\*Information from the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey.

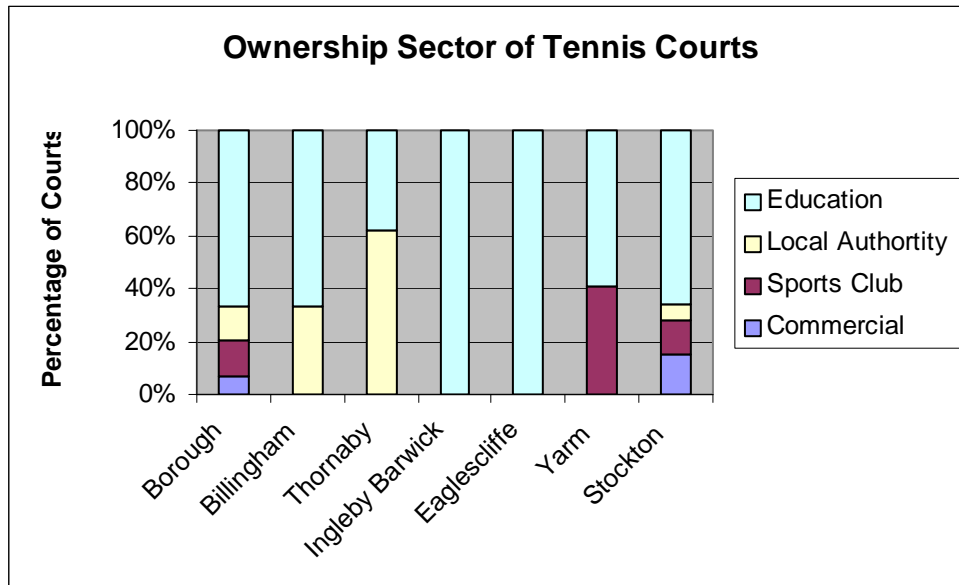
6.120. Across the Borough there are 0.57 courts per 1000 people. Eaglescliffe, Yarm and Stockton meet or exceed the level in the Borough as a whole with other settlements below it. Overall, although higher than the percentage of people who would like to see more outdoor bowling greens, the percentage of people who like to see more tennis courts is relatively low. Interestingly it is higher in Ingleby Barwick, which has the lowest level of provision, and at its highest in Yarm, which has the highest level of provision. In the case of Yarm this may be due to increased demand caused by a higher level of existing provision or based on the access people have to these facilities. Also Yarm is consistently high when asked what people would like to see more of near to their homes.

6.121. Overall the provision of outdoor tennis courts seems to be at a suitable level. However, if the opportunity to increase provision were to arise the most appropriate place to increase provision would be in Ingleby Barwick followed by Thornaby and Billingham.

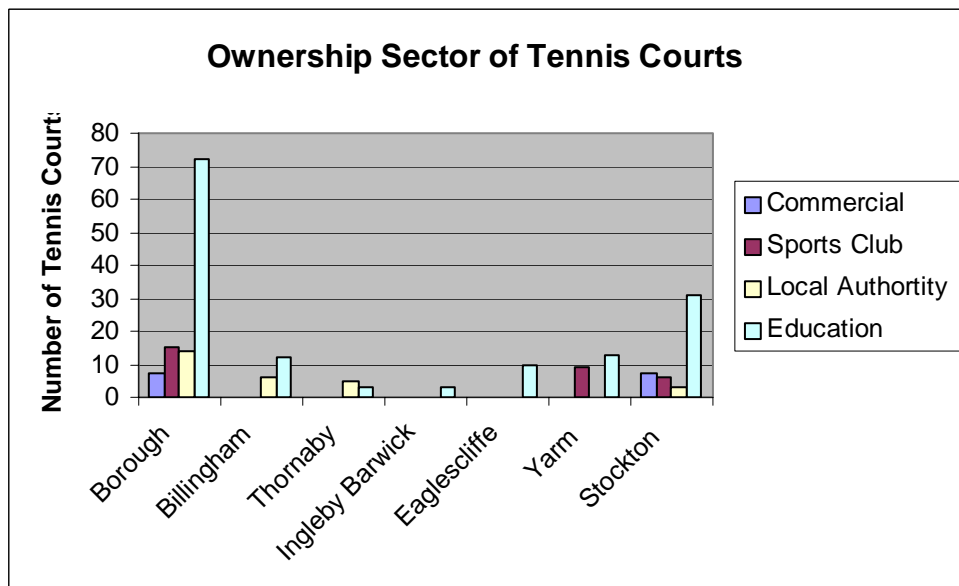
6.122. The ownership sector of outdoor tennis is an important factor in people's ability to access them and the likelihood of their quality being



improved. The graph below shows the percentage of the total tennis courts in an area that fall into each different ownership groups. This allows comparisons between areas and with the Borough as a whole.

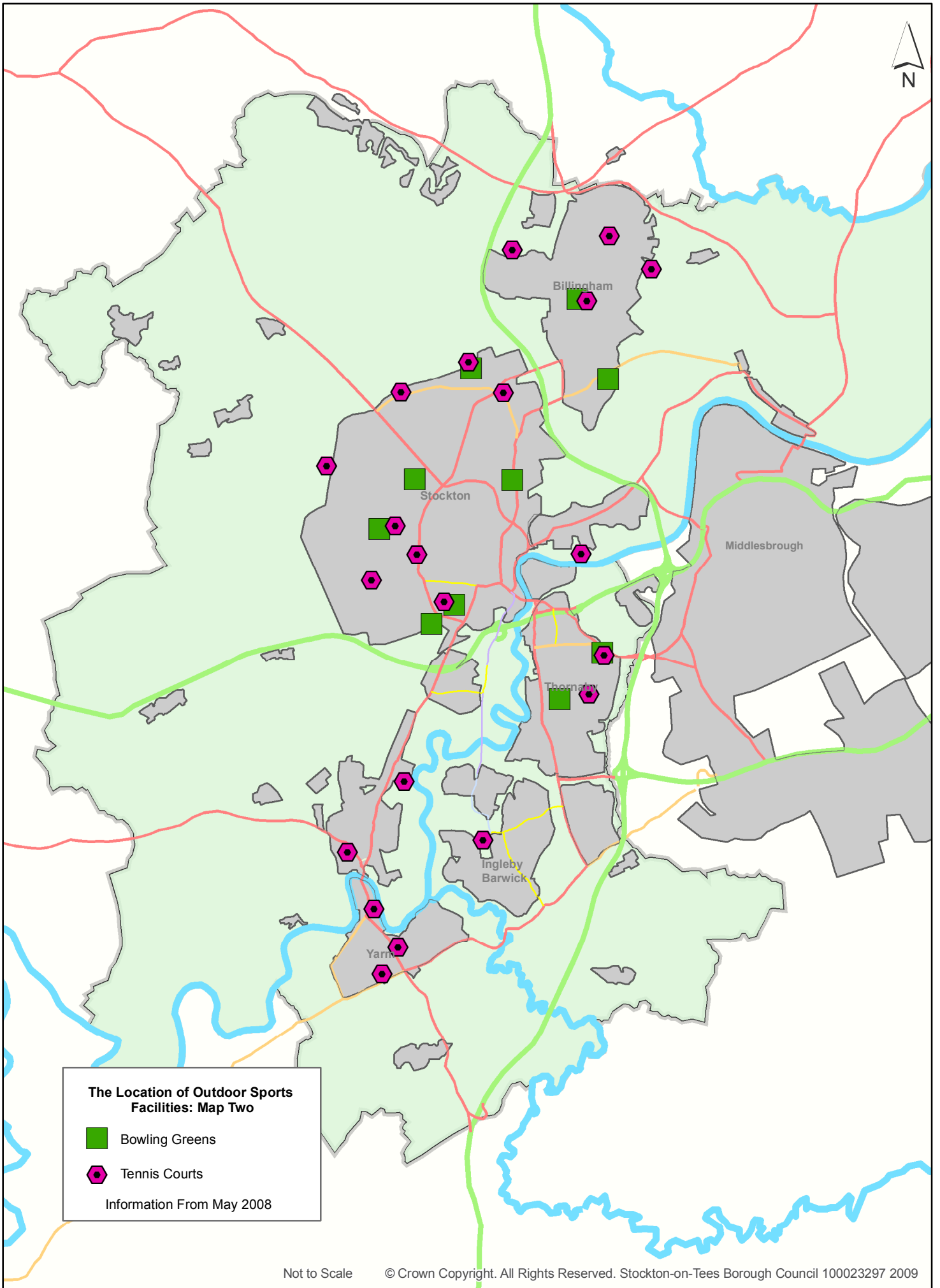


6.123. The following graph is intended to provide clarity to the graph above by showing the number of courts that make up the percentages shown above. This puts the graph into wider context by showing the actual scale, for example, the difference in the number of courts that equal one hundred per cent in the Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe.



6.124. The majority of courts throughout the Borough are in Education ownership on school sites. There are a similar number of courts that are owned by the local authority, located in parks, and owned by sports clubs. Commercially owned tennis courts are in the minority and all located on one site at David Lloyd in Stockton.

- 6.125. Stockton is the only town where all types of ownership are shown; they are in similar proportion to the Borough as a whole but with a higher proportion of commercial courts and a lower proportion of local authority courts. In Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe all provision is in education ownership. Yarm has both education provision and sports club provision. It has the highest proportion of sports club provision in the Borough. Both Billingham and Thornaby have education and local authority provision. Local authority provision has its highest proportions in Thornaby followed by Billingham, however, there are slightly more local authority courts in Billingham.
- 6.126. The Regional Facilities Strategy by Sport England highlights that the Lawn Tennis Association prioritises the floodlighting of tennis courts to increase participation opportunities. The quality of courts has also been highlighted as an issue in the Borough with a number of the schools reporting poor surfacing and Leisure and Sports Development highlighting a need to install floodlighting and improve surfacing on a number of the courts in parks.
- 6.127. As part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme tennis courts in schools will be improved, but the location of some courts will inevitably change as schools are closed. Although the courts themselves will be improved, additions to facilities to enable fuller community use are important to enable access to tennis courts.
- 6.128. Surfacing and floodlighting should also be improved on the tennis courts in parks when the opportunity arises. Priority for this type of improvement, which will increase the potential use of existing sites, should be in areas with a lower number of courts per 1000 people. This is also true of tennis courts in schools and improvements that may increase opportunities for community use. Priority for qualitative improvements that will enable an increase in usage should take place where quantity is lower.
- 6.129. The provision of indoor tennis courts needs to be considered when assessing outdoor tennis courts. The provision of indoor tennis in the Borough is very different to the outdoor provision. It is completely in commercial ownership and all on one central site in Stockton. This type of provision is typical for indoor tennis provision and it is felt to be at an adequate level in the Borough. The pattern of provision is suitable with a central indoor facility and outdoor provision distributed throughout the Borough. It is important that this provision is improved to increase the time available for its use through floodlighting and ensure that surfaces are suitable.



## AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.130. The amount of existing amenity greenspace in the Borough is 1.39 hectares per 1000 people. This varies across the Borough with some areas below this level and others above this level. Eaglescliffe has the most amenity greenspace compared to its population.

**Quantity of Amenity Greenspace per 1000 People**

Town	Area per 1000 people	People who thought there should be more*
Borough	1.39ha	12%
Ingleby Barwick	0.67ha	28%
Billingham	1.07ha	6%
Stockton West	1.34ha	11%
Thornaby	1.46ha	14%
Stockton East	1.6ha	11%
Yarm	2ha	19%
Eaglescliffe	2.35ha	8%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.131. It is important to set local standards as stated in PPG17 but national standards can provide an example of satisfactory provision. The National Playing Field Association previously set the level of provision for both parks and amenity space at 0.4 hectares per 1000 people. However it should be noted that the space typology used for the national playing fields association is not identical to that used in the Open Space Audit. The level of existing provision in the Borough exceeds the level set in the national standard. Our survey shows that people still think there needs to be more amenity greenspace. Due to this the existing level of provision should be maintained.

6.132. It is important to understand the quantity of provision not just in terms of the amount but also in terms of its proximity to people's homes. It is possible that spaces outside of a town's boundary are still close to those within that town. It is also possible that an area within a town with a high amount of provision may also be located a long distance from that provision. It is important that proximity is considered to fully understand quantity.

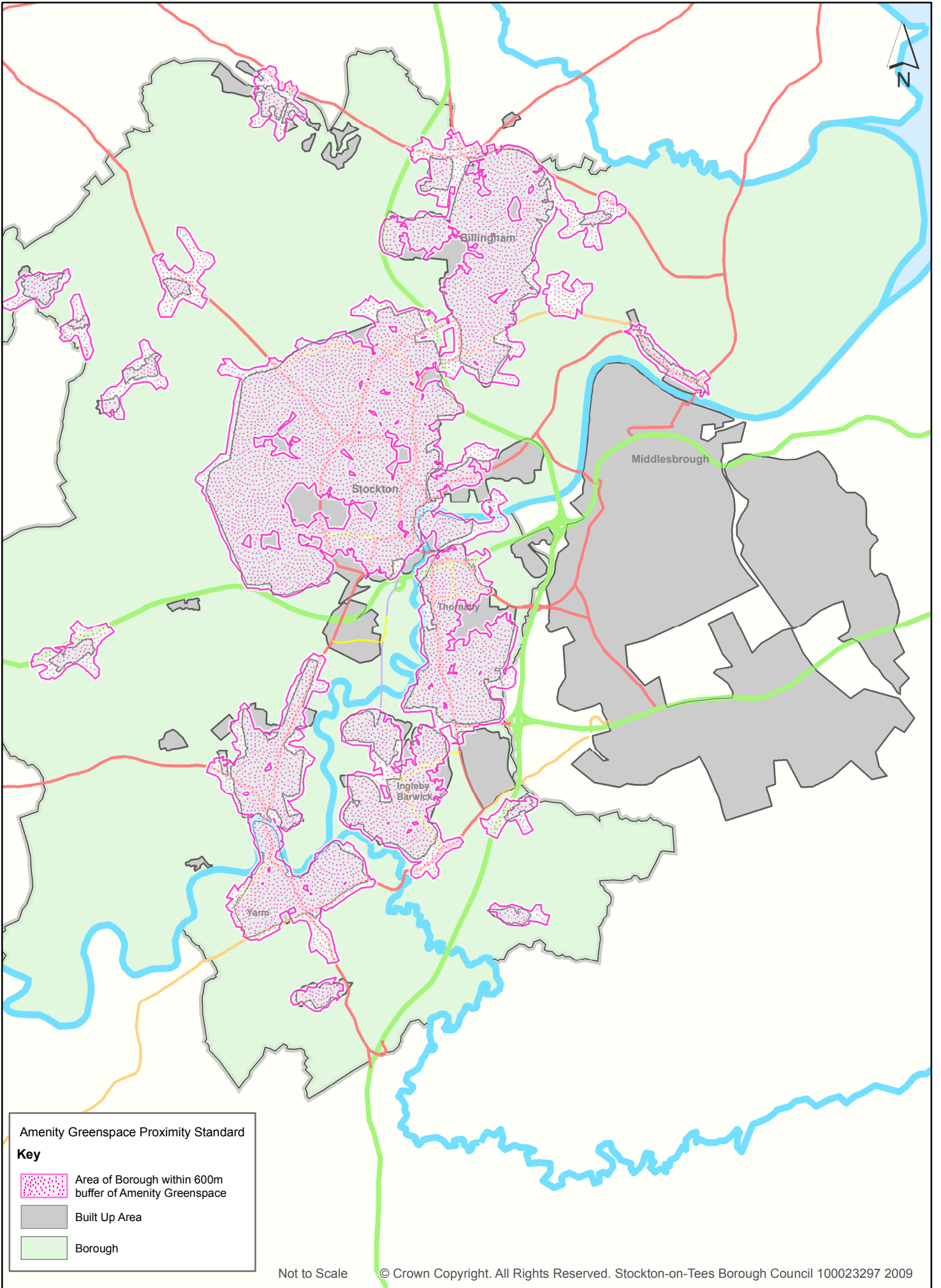
6.133. The table below demonstrates the number and percentage of households in the Borough that are different distances from amenity greenspace by road. Sixty-three per cent of households in the Borough are within 300 metres of an amenity greenspace, 90 per cent of households are within 600 metres of an amenity greenspace and 98 per cent of households in the Borough are within one kilometre of an amenity greenspace. The vast majority of households in the Borough are within 600 metres of an amenity greenspace. Although a majority of 60 per cent of households are within 300 metres of amenity greenspace a standard of

this distance would exclude the possibility of pooling contributions from a number of developments, for use offsite, so 600 metres is the suggested standard.

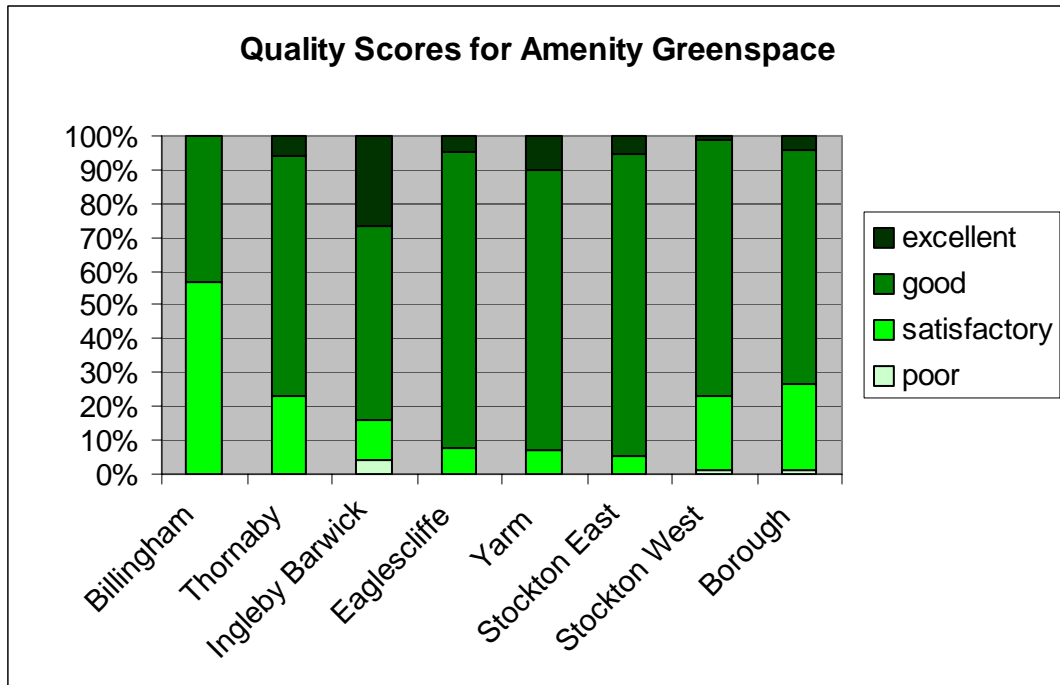
**Households within Different Distances of Amenity Greenspace**

Amenity Greenspace	300m	600m	1km	2km	Total
Number of households	51543	73986	80910	81697	82288
Percentage of households	63%	90%	98%	99%	100%

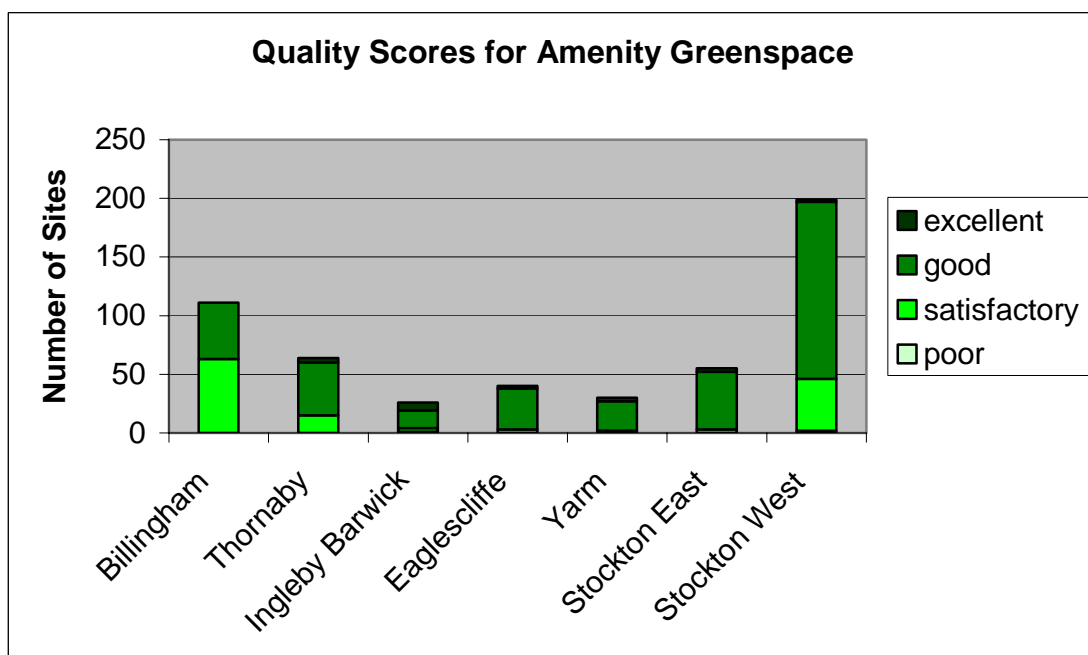
6.134. The map on the following page identifies which areas of the Borough are within the 600 metres proximity standard for amenity Greenspace.



6.135. The quality of open space is an important component of its ability to meet users' needs. The graph below shows the quality scores of amenity greenspace. It shows the percentage of spaces with different levels of quality in each area. This allows better comparison between areas and with the Borough.

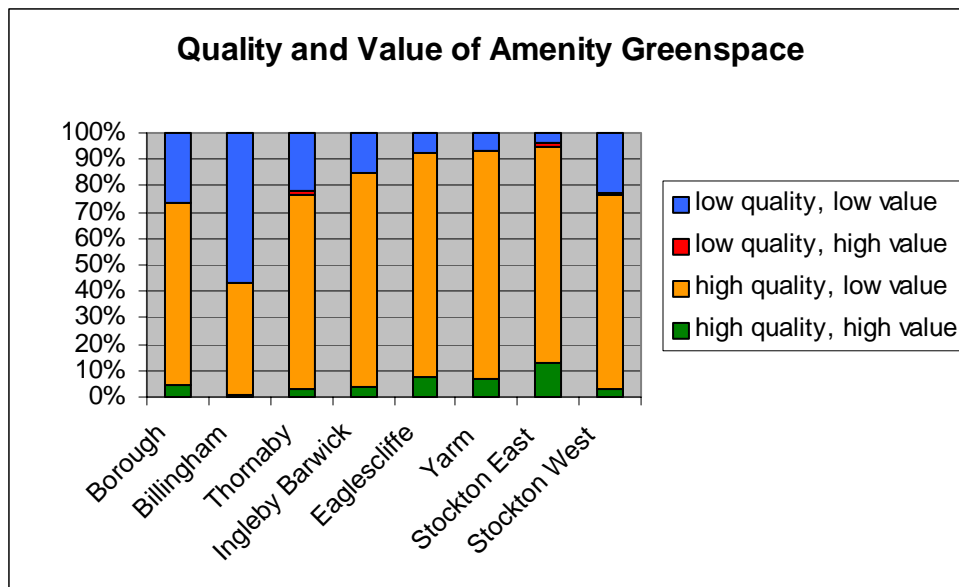


6.136. The graph below shows the number of spaces with different quality scores in each area. This information puts the percentages in the graph above in context by showing the actual number of sites involved.



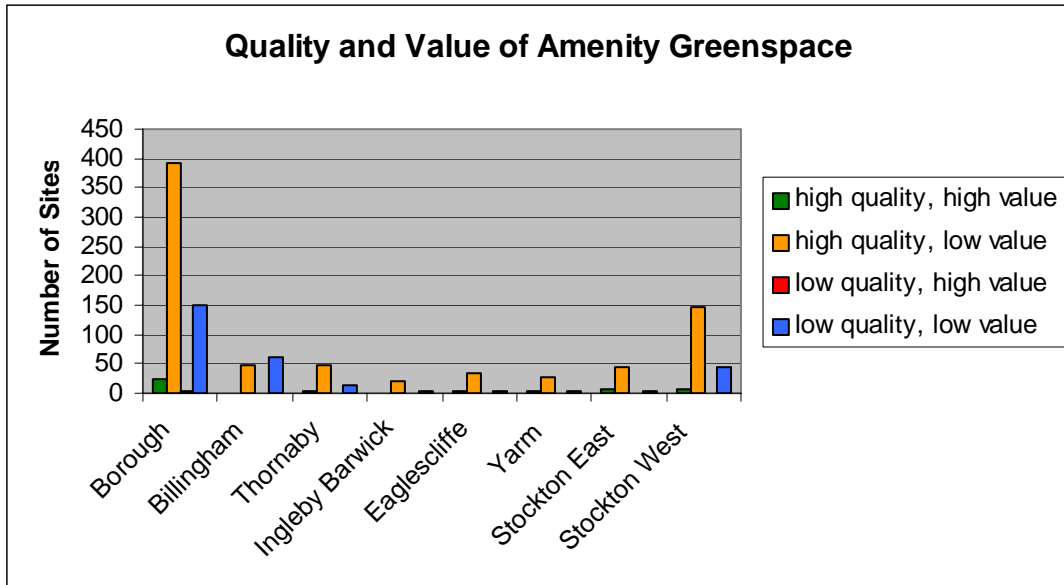
6.137. The graph shows that the quality of amenity greenspace is quite good overall with a low level of poor and satisfactory spaces, however this varies across the different areas in the Borough. Eaglescliffe, Yarm and Stockton East all have better quality provision than the Borough level as does Ingleby Barwick which has a slightly higher proportion of poor spaces than at the Borough level but a higher proportion of excellent spaces. Stockton West and Thornaby have a quality distribution that is similar to the wider Borough distribution of quality. The quality of spaces in Billingham is worse than the Borough quality distribution with a much higher proportion of satisfactory space and no excellent spaces.

6.138. In order to gain a fuller understanding of amenity greenspace in the Borough quality scores have been related to value scores and categorised, as shown in the graph below. The graph shows the percentage of spaces that fall into each category in the different areas of the Borough to aid comparisons.



6.139. The graph below shows the number of spaces that fall into each quality value category in the different areas. This allows additional understanding of the graph above as it shows the number of spaces that make up the percentages shown.





6.140. The quality value analysis shows that overall there are a relatively low proportion of spaces in both the successful spaces category of high value and high quality and the priority for improvement category of high value low quality. It appears that as the quality of amenity greenspaces is quite high that the spaces are not gaining the high value scores that would enable them to fall into these categories. This may be due to amenity greenspace not scoring as well for biodiversity and rarity value and therefore not hitting higher scores for value.

6.141. Thornaby and Stockton West have very slightly more spaces in the priority for improvement category than the wider Borough. Eaglescliffe, Yarm and Stockton East have a slightly higher proportion of spaces in the successful space category than the Borough wide level.

### Standards

**Quantity standard: 1.39ha of amenity space per 1000 people.**

**Proximity standard: within 600 metres**

### Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs

6.142. Overall the quantity and quality of amenity greenspace seems to be quite good when compared to the suggested national benchmark standard. However, the amount and quality of amenity greenspace does vary across the Borough and this must be examined further.

6.143. Billingham does not meet the quantity standard for amenity greenspace; this coupled with the relatively high number of sites in the quality graph indicates that there may be a higher number of small spaces in Billingham. The area is relatively well covered by the 600 metre proximity standard with an area to the east of Billingham that is outside of the standard. The quality of amenity greenspace in Billingham is worse than that in the Borough as a whole as there are a far higher proportion of

satisfactory spaces than in any other area. In term of the quality value analysis, Billingham does not have any spaces in the priority for improvement category and only no spaces in the successful spaces category.

- 6.144. Stockton West falls just below the quantity standard for amenity greenspace by 0.05 hectares per 1000 people. The area is generally well covered by the 600 metre proximity standard apart from a gap in the middle to south of the area and in the south. The quality of amenity greenspace in the Stockton West area is of a similar standard to that in the Borough as a whole. The proportion of spaces in the high quality, high value category of the quality value analysis is similar to that at the Borough level as is that in the low quality high value category.
- 6.145. Stockton East meets the quantity standard for amenity greenspace and most of the area is within the proximity standards buffer of 600 metres. The quality of amenity greenspace is higher than that in the Borough as a whole with a higher proportion of good and excellent spaces. In the quality value analysis the proportion of spaces in the successful spaces category and in the priority for improvement category, is similar to the Borough overall.
- 6.146. Thornaby meets the quantity standard for amenity greenspace and is largely well covered by the 600 metre proximity standard apart from a strip from the centre to the north east of the town. Quality of amenity greenspace is very similar to that in the Borough as a whole. The proportion of spaces in the high quality, high value section of the quality value analysis is very slightly lower than the Borough overall and the low quality, high value section is slightly higher.
- 6.147. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the amenity greenspace quantity standard and has the lowest level of provision of any area but it is relatively well covered by the 600 metre proximity standard. The quality of amenity greenspace is much higher in Ingleby Barwick than in the Borough as a whole and it has the highest proportion of excellent spaces, though it also has a higher proportion of poor spaces.
- 6.148. Eaglescliffe meets the quantity standard for amenity greenspace and has the highest level of provision in the Borough. It is also largely covered by the proximity standard buffer of 600 metres. The quality of space in the area is also higher than that at the Borough level with a higher proportion of good and very slightly higher proportion of excellent spaces. The quality value analysis shows that there are a slightly higher proportion of high quality, high value spaces than the overall Borough proportions and no low quality, high value spaces.
- 6.149. Yarm meets the quantity standard for amenity greenspace and is well covered by the 600 metre proximity standard. Yarm has a better than Borough level of quality with a higher proportion of spaces scoring good

and excellent. It also has a slightly higher level of successful spaces in the quality value analysis and no priority for improvement spaces.

6.150. For amenity greenspace more areas meet the quantity standard than do not, however, Ingleby Barwick, Billingham and to a lesser extent Stockton West most require quantity improvements. Areas that require proximity improvements are quite localised and there are patches that are outside the standards to some extent in most areas. However, this should be taken with caution, as often these gaps seem to correlate with areas where other types of open space are located. The priority area for quality improvement is Billingham and the poor and satisfactory sites located, in small proportions, in other areas.

## PLAY AREAS AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S AREAS

6.151. A ‘play unit’ has been defined in order to adequately measure the level of play provision in the Borough. The number of play areas or the area a play facility covers does not adequately demonstrate the amount of equipment or the age ranges provided for. The provision of play facilities outlined in the Play Area Strategy has been used to more fully represent the level of existing play provision. A doorstep play area, as outlined in the Strategy, amounts to one play unit. Due to the size of provision and age ranges covered a neighbourhood play area is three play units and due to the size, age ranges and ancillary features, a destination site relates to five play units.

6.152. The amount of provision at the Borough level is 2091 people per play unit, this varies between its lowest in Ingleby Barwick with 4911 people per play unit and it’s highest in Eaglescliffe with 1183 people per play unit.

### Population per Play Unit for Play and Young People’s Areas

Town	People per play unit.	People with children in the household who think play facilities need to be improved. *
Borough	2091	88%
Billingham	1977	90%
Thornaby	1545	93%
Ingleby Barwick	4911	93%
Eaglescliffe	1183	77%
Yarm	3008	93%
Stockton East	2423	86%
Stockton West	2332	87%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.153. There is some consensus between council officers and national government that play facility provision is low, both in Stockton-on-Tees and more widely across the country. Due to this, setting the standard based on existing provision has a risk of setting a low standard that perpetuates a low level of facilities.

6.154. In the case of play facilities national standards cannot be used as an indicator as the format of provision advocated by National Playing Fields Association is not followed in the Borough. It is felt that all areas in the Borough should be identified as deficient and to this end a standard of 1000 people per play unit has been set. This standard identifies all areas as deficient and provides a sensible figure for calculation. In the near future investment in play facilities will take place through the Play Builder Programme. The standard of 1000 people per play unit will act as a temporary standard until provision is improved through this programme and existing provision is at an adequate level at which to set a standard.

6.155. The standard set includes provision for both play areas and young people's areas. Young people's areas relate to provision such as Multi Ball Courts (MBCs), kick walls, basketball and the BMX track. The idea of play units has been used to identify the level of existing provision for young people in a comparable way.

6.156. The table below demonstrates the variation in the level of provision of play facilities and of young people's areas in different towns. The categories are not completely separate as children can play on young people's facilities and some play facilities have equipment that is designed for up to age 14, however, it is still a useful distinction.

6.157. In the Borough as a whole there is a higher level of play provision than young people's provision and the level of satisfaction associated with the level of provision does not seem to be related entirely to the amount of existing provision. The variation in different types of provision varies greatly with Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick not having dedicated young people's provision. This will change in the case of Ingleby Barwick with the development of Romano Park. The level of play provision for children is very low in Stockton East with 10,502 people per play unit.

6.158. The information below can be used to provide details of the age range of existing provision, which can lead to improvements that fill gaps in deficiency based on age. A standard for both young people's provision and play provision is not necessary due to the variations in type, particularly of young people's provision, that at this level of detail may become misleading.

**Population per Play Unit Separately for Play Areas and Young People's Areas**

Area	People per play unit	Needs more play areas*	People per young people's unit	Needs more young people's areas*
Borough	3397	8.9%	5436	9.4%
Billingham	3131	4.9%	5367	5%
Thornaby	3311	10.6%	2897	11.7%
Ingleby Barwick	4911	13.7%	No young people's areas	10.9%
Eaglescliffe	1183	0	No young people's areas	1%
Yarm	4513	19.6%	9025	20.6%
Stockton East	10502	9.8%	3151	10.2%
Stockton West	3946	9.8%	5700	10.2%

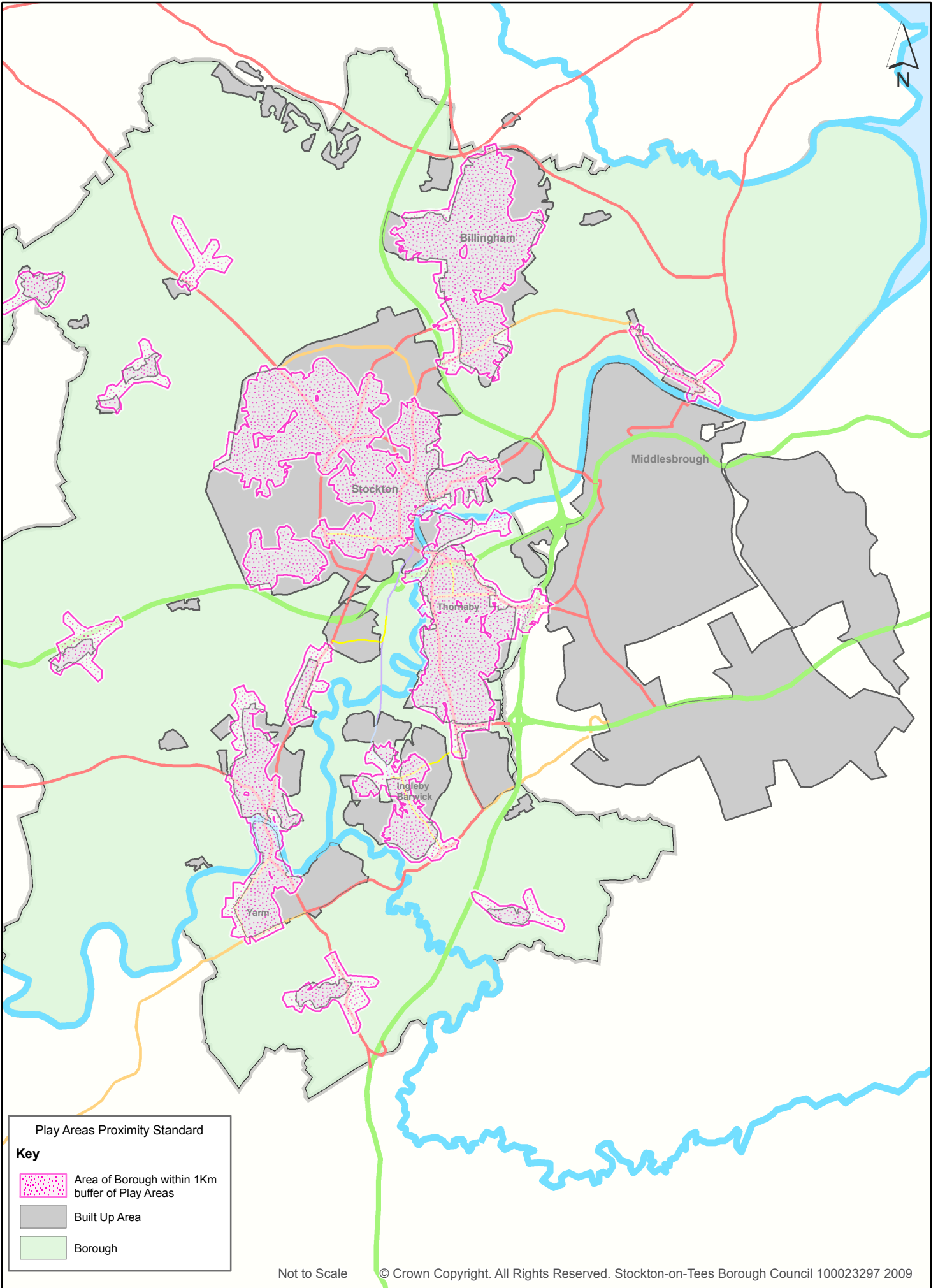
\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.159. It is important to understand not only the amount but also the location of play areas and young people's areas. The table below indicates that the majority of households in the Borough are located within one kilometre of a play area and young people's area; this is a suitable level at which to set the standard.

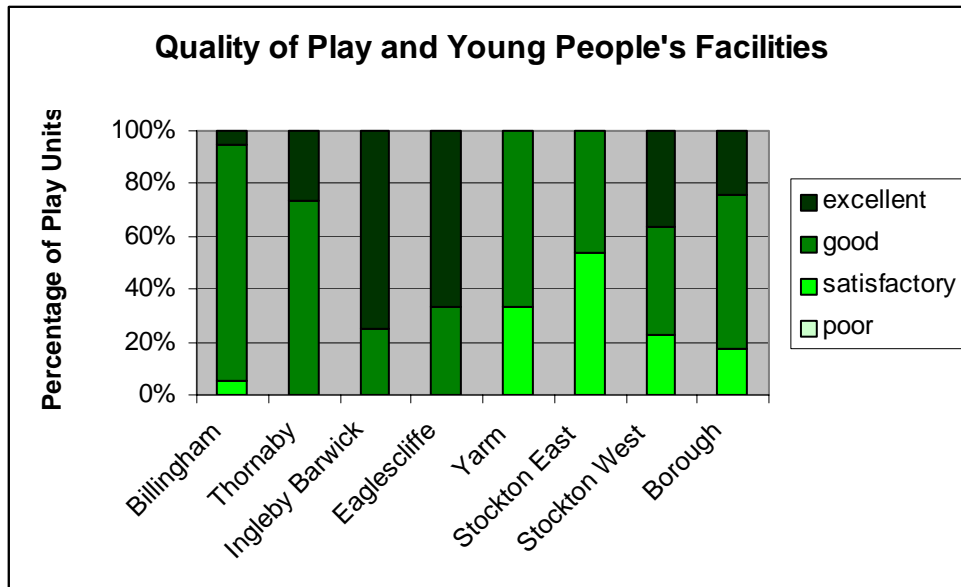
**Households within Different Distances of Play and Young People's Areas**

Play areas and Young people's areas	300m	600m	1km	2km	Total
Number of households	9203	27135	51938	78562	82288
Percentage of households	11%	33%	63%	95%	100%

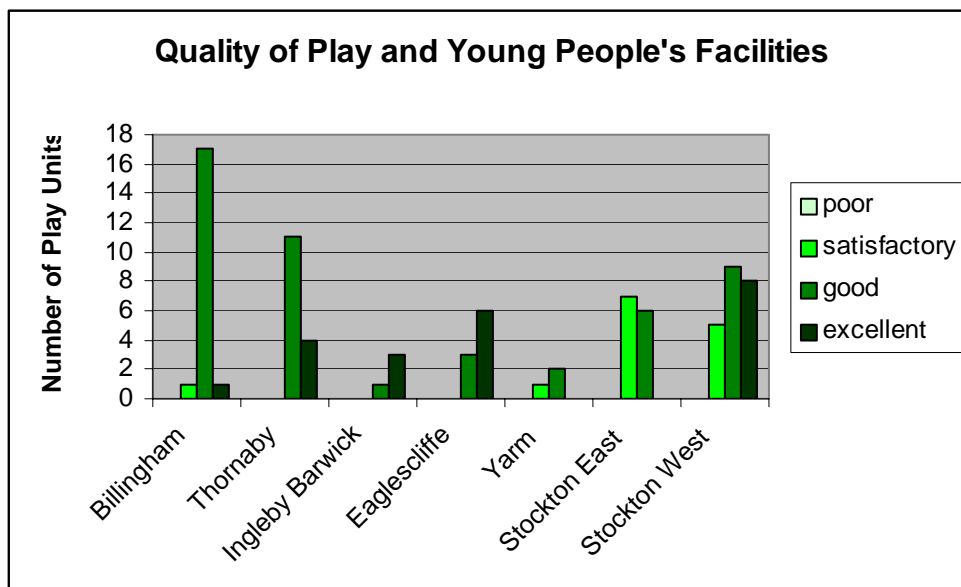
6.160. The map on the following page demonstrates the areas of the Borough that are included within the one kilometre play areas and young people's areas standard.



6.161. The quality of play and young people’s facilities is an important element of whether they are able to meet people’s needs for this type of provision. The graph below shows the percentage of the total play units in each area that fall into different quality categories. This allows comparison of the proportion of spaces in different categories between areas and with the Borough as a whole.



6.162. The graph below is intended to put the graph above into context by showing the actual number of play units that the percentages shown above represent. This shows, for example, that the high proportion of excellent quality play units in Ingleby Barwick translate into relatively few play units overall.

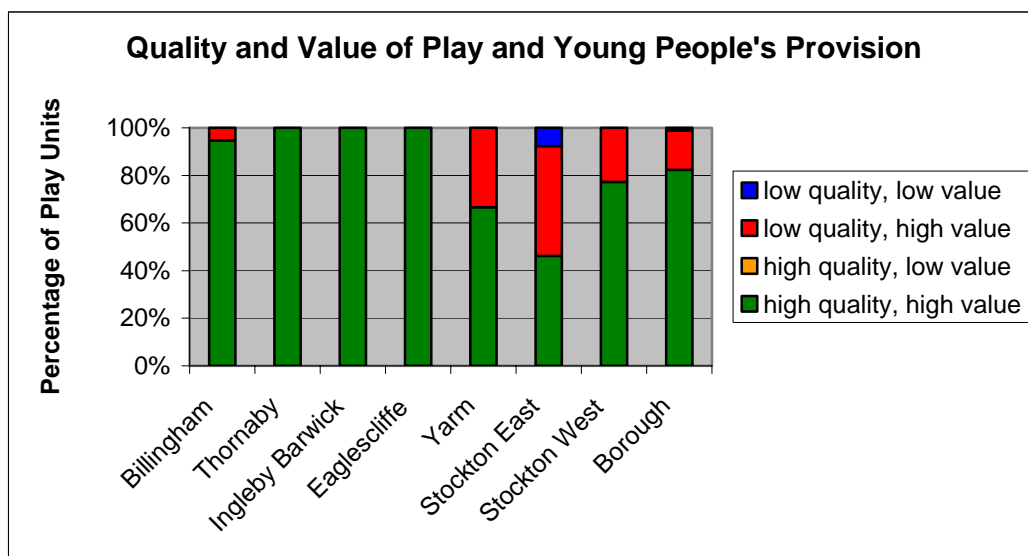


6.163. The graphs show that the quality of play and young people’s provision is generally high, with particularly high quality in Ingleby Barwick and

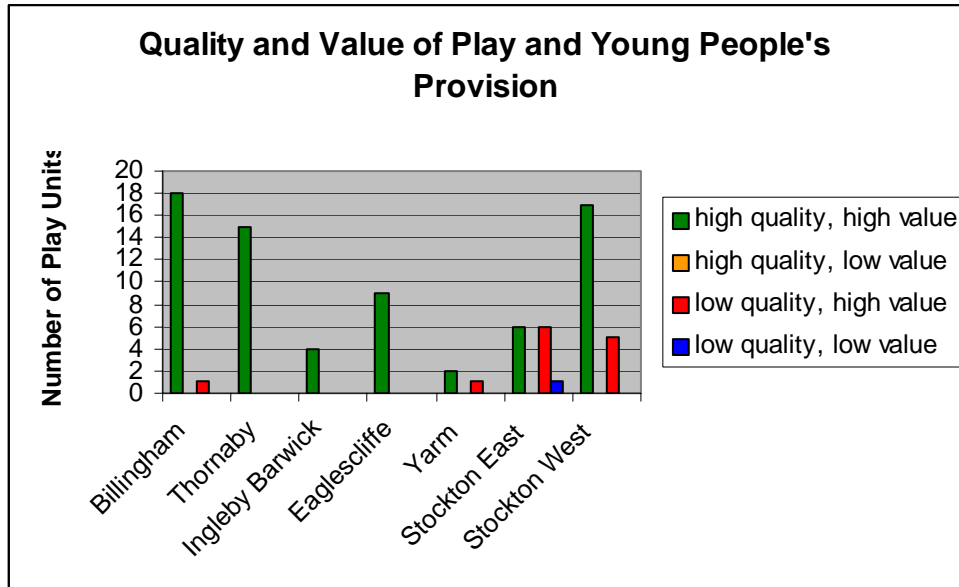


Eaglescliffe. Thornaby and Billingham also have a lower proportion of satisfactory play units than the Borough as a whole, although Billingham has a smaller proportion of excellent quality play units. Stockton West has a similar quality distribution as the Borough as a whole but with a higher proportion of excellent spaces. Yarm and Stockton East have worse quality than the Borough overall with a higher proportion of satisfactory spaces and no excellent spaces.

6.164. The comparison of quality to value can provide additional understanding of how well spaces perform their role. The graph below shows the percentage of total play units in each area which fall into different quality value categories. Using percentages enables better comparison between areas and with the Borough as a whole.



6.165. To put the graph above into context the graph below show the number of play units in each quality value category in different areas in the Borough. For example the graph above shows that all play units in Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe are in the high quality high value category. The graph below provides more information about the comparative number of play units in each area.



6.166. Play and young people's provision shows a high proportion of spaces in the successful spaces, high quality high value category. All play units in Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe fall into this category. Billingham has a higher proportion of play units in the successful spaces category than the Borough as a whole and Stockton West has a similar proportion. Billingham Yarm and Stockton East and West have play units in the priority for improvement category, Yarm and Stockton West have a higher proportion of these play units than the Borough overall.

**Standards**

**Quantity standard: one play unit per 1000 people.**

**Proximity standard: within one kilometre**

**Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

6.167. The quantity standard for play and young people's facilities has been set above the Borough level of provision to recognise that the current level of provision is not suitable and should not be rolled forward into the future, through standards.

6.168. Like the rest of the Borough Billingham does not meet the quantity standards for play and young people's provision, although, it is one of the better provided for areas in the Borough. There is a higher level of play provision than young people's provision in Billingham with 5367 people per unit for young people's provision and 3131 per unit for play. Both of these figures are better than the Borough level of provision. The one kilometre proximity standard buffer around play and young people's facilities covers most of Billingham, but there are areas to the north east, east and west, which are uncovered. The quality of provision in Billingham is better than the Borough level of quality but with a smaller proportion of excellent quality play units. The vast majority of play units in Billingham

are in the successful spaces quality value category, with one play unit in the priority for improvement category.

- 6.169. Stockton West does not meet the quality standard for play and young people's provision. The existing provision is made up of more play facilities than young people's facilities with 3946 people per unit of play and 5700 people per unit of young people's provision, both figures are slightly above the Borough level. Much of Stockton West is left uncovered by the one kilometre proximity standard around play and young people's provision. Quality of provision in Stockton West is similar to the Borough level but with more excellent quality play units. The proportion of successful spaces and priority for improvement spaces in the quality value analysis is similar to the Borough as whole.
- 6.170. Stockton East does not meet the quality standards for play and young people's provision. Unusually for the rest of the Borough Stockton East has more young people's units with 3151 people per unit, which is better than the Borough average but a far lower level of play provision with 10502 people per unit of play, the highest in the Borough. The one kilometre proximity standard buffer, particularly in the north of the area, does not cover much of Stockton East. It has the lowest quality of provision of the different areas, and the highest proportion and number of play units in the priority for improvement category of the quality value analysis.
- 6.171. Thornaby, like the rest of the Borough does not meet the quantity standard but is one of the better provided for areas in the Borough. Thornaby also has a slightly higher level of young people's provision than play provision. Most of Thornaby is covered by the one kilometre proximity standard. The quality of provision in Thornaby is better than in the Borough overall and all play units in this area fall into the successful spaces category of high quality and high value in the quality value analysis.
- 6.172. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the quality standard for play and young people's provision and has the lowest level of provision in the Borough with no young people's provision. The Southern and central area of the settlement is covered by the one kilometre proximity standard but much of the rest of the settlement is outside of the standard. It should be noted that the play and young people's provision is soon to be improved by the development of Romano Park, which will increase the level of provision and introduce young people's facilities. The quality of facilities in Ingleby Barwick is the highest in the Borough with the highest proportion of excellent play units. All play units in this area fall into the successful spaces category of the quality value analysis.
- 6.173. Eaglescliffe, like the rest of the Borough, does not meet the quantity standard for play and young people's provision but it has the highest level of provision in the Borough but there are no young people's facilities. Much of Eaglescliffe is covered by the one kilometre proximity standard

apart from a strip running from the East across the area. The quality of play and young people's provision in Eaglescliffe is higher than that in the Borough as a whole and all play units in this area fall into the successful spaces category in the quality value analysis.

6.174. Yarm does not meet the quantity standard for play and young people's provision, it has a low level of provision compared to the whole Borough and has only one unit of young people's provision. Only about half of the town is covered by the one kilometre proximity standard leaving the east side outside the standard. The quality of provision in Yarm is lower than the Borough level of provision and the area has a higher proportion of play units in the priority for improvement category of the quality value analysis, than the Borough as a whole.

6.175. The improvement in the quantity of play and young people's provision is a priority in all areas of the Borough however the picture can be more complex when deciding what should be provided for example Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe and Yarm have a particularly lower level of young people's provision than other areas and Stockton East has a much lower level of provision of play facilities than other areas. The priority for proximity improvement should be Stockton East and West, which has the largest areas outside of the proximity standard. Yarm and Stockton East are in most need of quality improvement and Stockton East, Yarm, Stockton West and Billingham have priority for improvement play units identified though the quality value analysis.

## ALLOTMENTS

6.176. Overall there is 0.23 hectares per 1000 people of allotments per 1000 people in the Borough as a whole. This varies across the Borough with some areas below this amount and others above it, with Eaglescliffe at the highest level compared to its population.

**Quantity of Allotments per 1000 People**

Town	Area per 1000 people	People who thought there should be more*
Borough	0.23	6
Ingleby Barwick	0	8
Stockton East	0.05	5
Stockton West	0.12	7
Billingham	0.31	3
Yarm	0.41	10
Thornaby	0.44	7
Eaglescliffe	0.72	5

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

6.177. The National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners suggest a standard of 0.125 hectares per 1000 people. There is currently a higher level of provision than this in the Borough. However a number of people in our survey suggest that there needs to be more than current levels of provision and a recent Allotment Review (Care for your Area 2008) suggest that the current level of provision does not meet the current level of demand with waiting lists in all areas, some as long as five years and the average at two to three years. Due to this, a standard needs to be set which defines all provision in the Borough as below the standard. The standard should be set at 0.8 hectares per 1000 people to achieve this.

6.178. It is important that the amount of space is not seen as a full representation of the quantity of space in an area. Allotments that are located outside the boundary of a town may still be close enough for residents to travel to. An assessment of the proximity of allotments is important to fully understand quantity.

6.179. The table below demonstrates the number and percentage of households in the Borough that are located within different distances of allotments by road route. Four per cent of the Borough's households are located within 300 metres of an allotment, 13 per cent are within 600 metres, 36 per cent are within one kilometre, 68 per cent are within two kilometres and 97 per cent are within five kilometres. The majority of households are within two kilometres of an allotment, however, with the current level of high demand a proximity standard of this length may not maximise opportunities to provide new allotment provision.

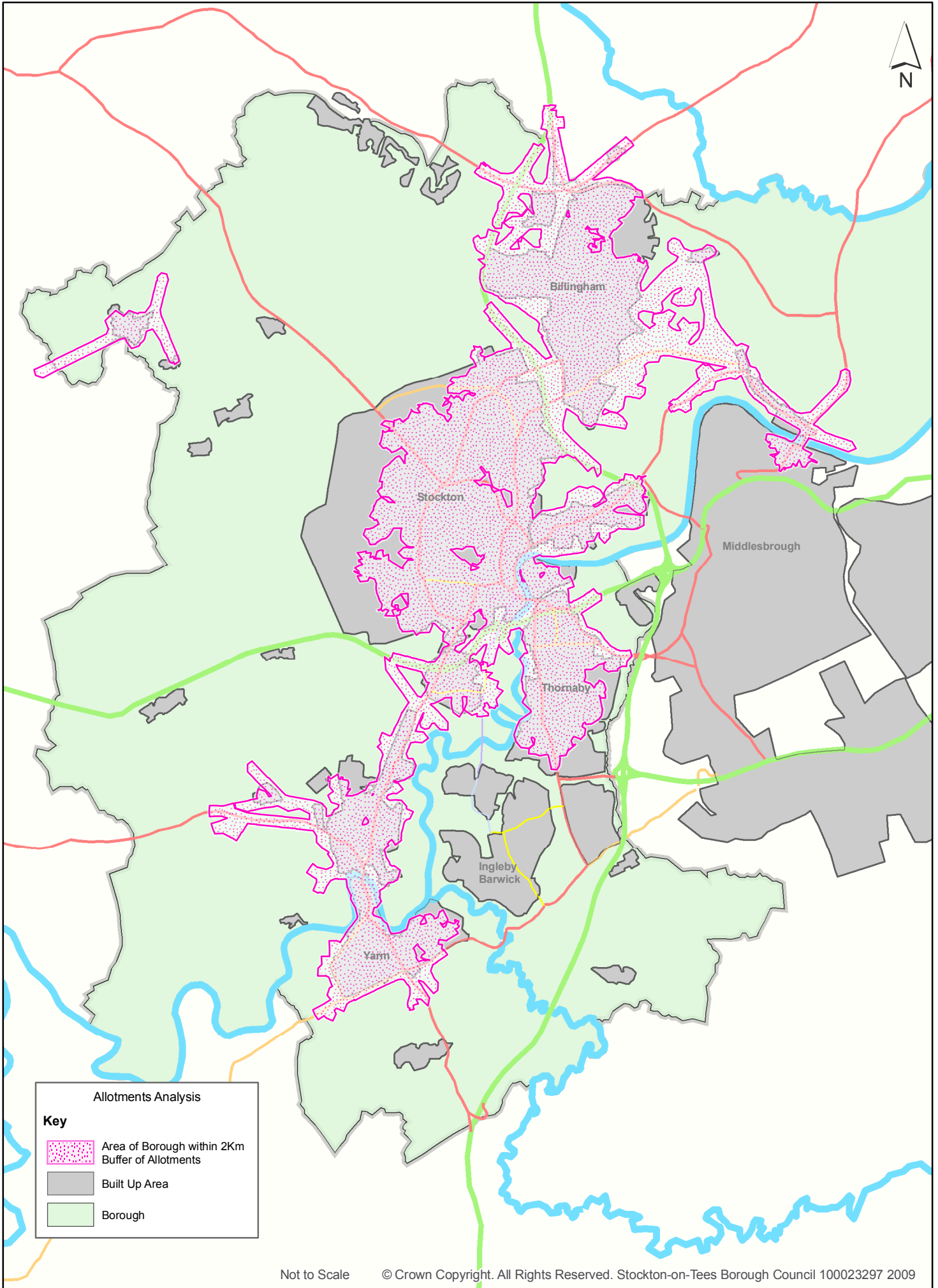
6.180. A longer proximity standard set at five kilometres will increase the opportunity to pool contributions from different developments for allotment

provision. This approach is also supported by the allotments group's survey in which a majority of groups said that their members travel between one and five miles to reach their allotment site.

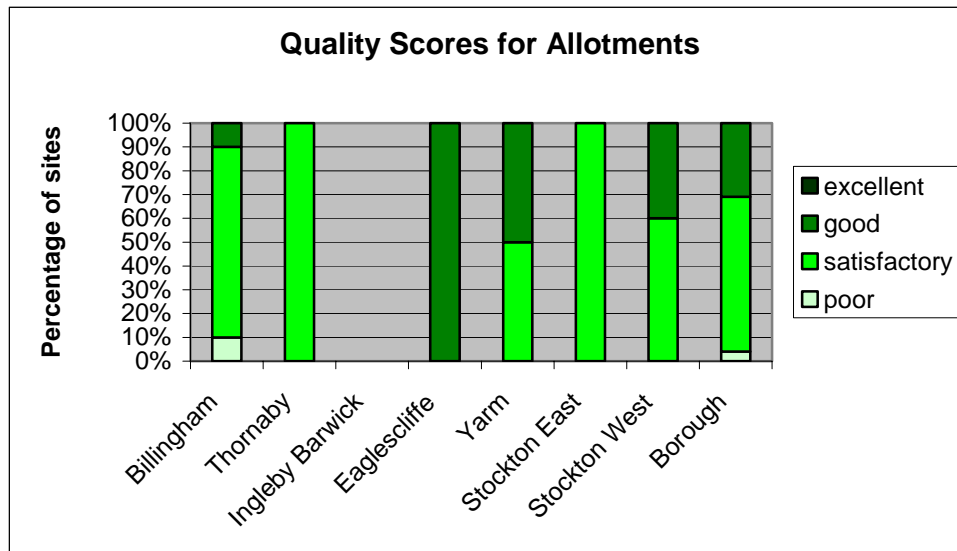
**Households within Different Distances of Allotments**

Allotments	300m	600m	1km	2km	5km	Total
Number of households	3529	11086	23849	56053	79441	82288
Percentage of households	4%	13%	29%	68%	97%	100%

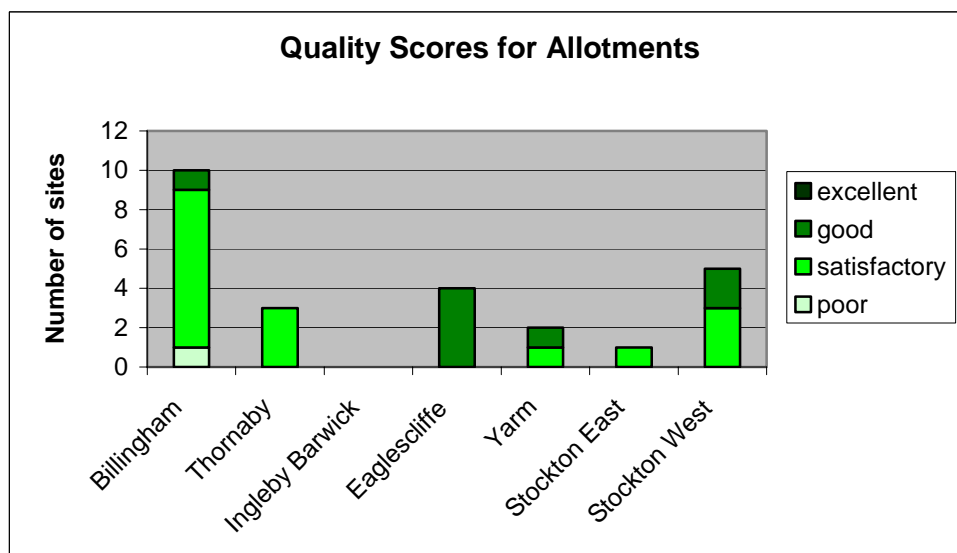
6.181. However, if new provision is to be provided it is important to identify areas which are at more need than other areas for the provision of allotments from a proximity point of view. In order to achieve this the map on the following page shows the areas of the Borough that are included within two kilometres of the existing allotment sites. This map demonstrates the areas of the Borough that have further to travel to the existing sites.



6.182. The quality of open spaces is an important factor in their ability to perform their role and the quality of existing allotments in the Borough is demonstrated in the following graphs. The graph below shows the percentage of total allotments sites in each area that fall into the different quality categories. This graph allows comparison between the different areas and with the Borough as whole.



6.183. The graph below is intended to provide more detail to the graph above by showing the number of allotments sites that fall into each quality category and the total number of sites in each area. This is of particular interest when there are low numbers of sites involved, for example, 100 per cent of sites in Stockton West are of satisfactory quality but this relates to just one site.

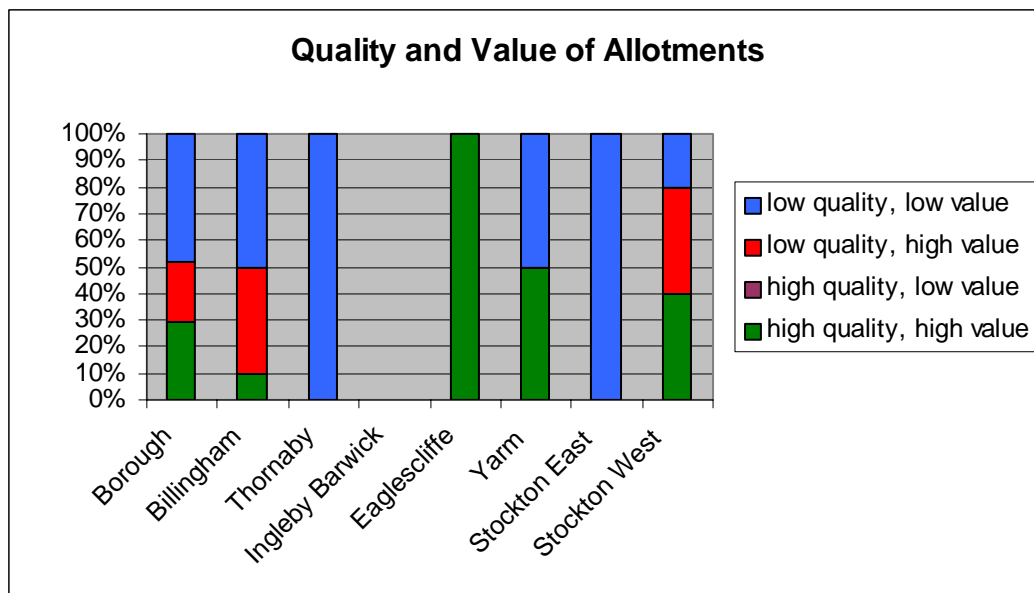


6.184. The graph shows a variation in the quality of allotments sites across the Borough. Thornaby, Stockton East and Billingham all have a lower level of quality than that at the whole Borough level. Quality is better than

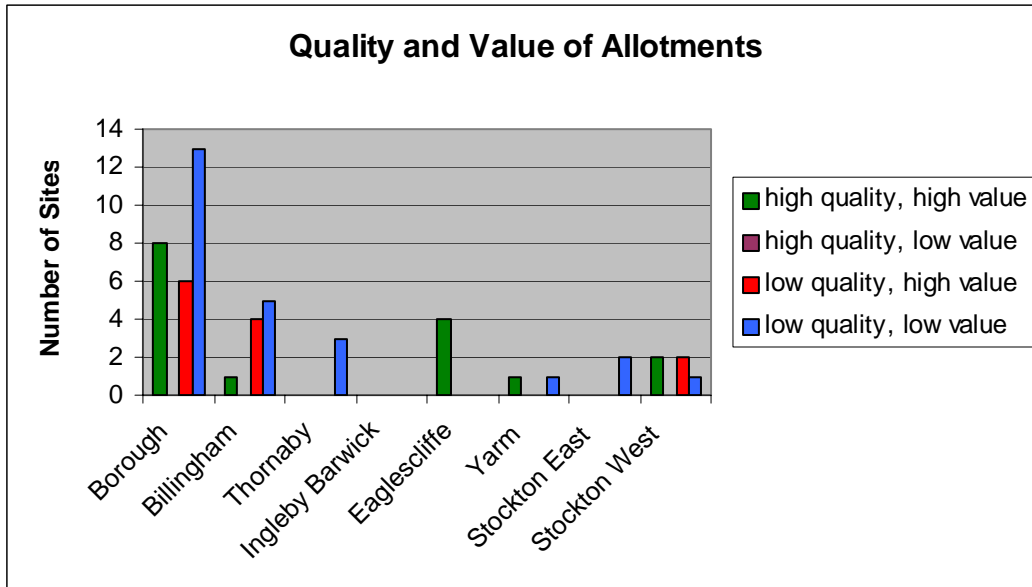


the wider Borough in Stockton West and Yarm and at its best in Eaglescliffe where all sites have good quality scores. There are no excellent allotment spaces in the Borough.

6.185. A quality value analysis has been undertaken for all types of space. By comparing the quality of sites to their value it is possible to identify particularly successful spaces with both high quality and high value. And also to identify sites which should be prioritised for improvement, those with low quality but high value. The graph below shows the percentage of the total number of allotment sites, in each area, which fall into the different quality value categories.



6.186. The graph above allows comparison between areas through its use of percentages, however, it is also important to show the number of sites that these percentages refer to. The graph below does this and is intended to provide more detail to the graph above by showing the number of allotments sites involved, which is particularly important when there are lower numbers of sites.



6.187. The graphs show that all of the spaces in Eaglescliffe fall into the successful spaces category, Yarm and Stockton West have a higher proportion of these spaces than the Borough overall. Billingham also has an allotment site that falls into this category. The spaces that fall into the priority for improvement category, shown at the Borough level, are located in Stockton West and Billingham.

#### Standard

**Quantity: 0.8ha of Allotment Land per 1000 People.**

**Proximity: Within Five Kilometres**

#### Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs

6.188. The Allotments Review (Care for your Area 2008) demonstrates that current demand for allotments is not being met by the existing amount of allotment provision. Due to this the quantity standard has been set at a level that means that all areas in the Borough are below the quantity standard. It should be noted that the information below is a purely spatial analysis and does not take account of the varying popularity of allotments in different areas. This information must also be used in any decision making about allotment provision.

6.189. Billingham does not meet the quantity standard for allotments provision; the majority of the town is within two kilometres of an allotment apart from an area to the north east. The quality of provision in Billingham is below that in the Borough as a whole and the one poor quality allotment site is located here. In the quality value analysis Billingham has one space that falls into the successful spaces category and has a higher proportion of spaces in the priority for improvements category than the Borough as a whole.

6.190. Stockton West does not meet the quantity standards for allotments provision and it has a large area down its western side not within two

kilometres of an allotments site. The quality of provision in Stockton West is similar to but slightly better than quality in the Borough as a whole. Stockton West contains an equal number of spaces in the successful spaces category and the priority for improvement category of the quality value analysis. It is above the whole Borough level in both categories.

- 6.191. Stockton East like the rest of the Borough does not meet the quantity standard for allotment provision and has the second lowest level of provision in the Borough as a whole. The two kilometre buffer around allotment sites covers most of the area. Quality of allotment sites in Stockton East is at its lowest with all spaces categorised as satisfactory. Stockton East does not have any priority for improvement spaces or successful spaces in the quality value analysis.
- 6.192. Thornaby does not meet the quality standard for allotments provision but has the second highest amount of provision in the Borough. It is also largely covered by the two kilometre buffer around allotment sites apart from some areas to the south and east. Quality of allotment provision in Thornaby is at its lowest with all spaces categorised as satisfactory. Thornaby does not have any priority for improvement spaces or successful spaces in the quality value analysis.
- 6.193. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the quantity standard for allotments, as it has no allotment provision. It is also entirely outside the two kilometre buffer around existing allotment sites.
- 6.194. Eaglescliffe does not meet the quantity standards for allotment provision, but does have the highest amount of provision in the Borough. The two kilometre buffer around allotment sites largely covers Eaglescliffe. The quality of allotments in Eaglescliffe is high with all sites scoring good for quality, all sites are also successful sites in the quality value analysis.
- 6.195. Yarm, like the rest of the Borough, does not meet the quantity standard for allotment provision. The two kilometre buffer around allotment sites covers most of the settlement. The quality of allotment sites in Yarm is better than in the Borough as a whole and half of its sites fall into the successful spaces category of the quality value analysis, however, this relates to only one of the two sites.
- 6.196. As already stated the whole Borough would benefit from increased allotment provision, however, the lowest levels of existing provision are in Ingleby Barwick, Stockton East and Stockton West. Ingleby Barwick and Stockton West are also at most need of improvement to proximity with more significant areas outside of the two kilometre buffer. Areas that most require improvements to quality are Stockton East and Thornaby.

## CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

6.197. Cemeteries are unusual in that they have a finite capacity and cannot go on being used indefinitely like other types of open space. A provision standard for cemeteries should be based on the needs of the population rather than on area alone and the Guidance suggests that a standard should be based on population and proportionate deaths that result in burial. Churchyards rely on the existence of a church so a provision standard is not suitable for them. The standard should be used to demonstrate need rather than identify areas of deficiency, as this will rely on other factors such as life spans of existing cemeteries and popularity of different cemeteries.

6.198. The death rate is currently one per cent, of which 28.8 per cent result in burials. With a current population figure of 190,250 approximately 548 burials per year would be expected. This approximately amounts to three burials a year per 1000 people. If the expected lifetime of a house is at least 60 years then a development is likely to result in the need for 180 burial plots per 1000 people.

6.199. It is important to ensure that cemeteries are of good quality and are in close proximity for people to be able to visit them. The table below demonstrates the number and percentage of the Borough's households that are located within different distances of cemeteries and churchyards by actual road routes. The analysis below shows that four per cent of the households in the Borough are located within 300 metres of a cemetery or church yard, 15 per cent are within 600 metres, 34 per cent are within one kilometre, 70 per cent are within two kilometres and 100 per cent are within five kilometres.

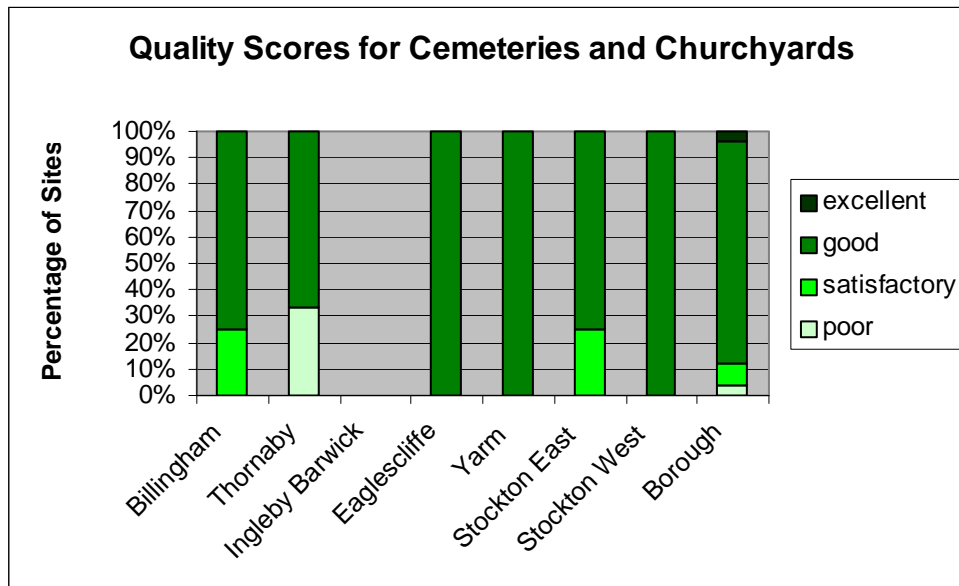
6.200. The majority of households are within two kilometres of a cemetery or church yard. However, as it is not suitable to provide cemeteries on site in a new development, the opportunities for offsite contributions to cemeteries needs to be maximised. Due to this, a proximity standard of five kilometres would be more suitable in order to increase the opportunity to pool contributions off site.

**Households within Different Distances of Cemeteries and Churchyards**

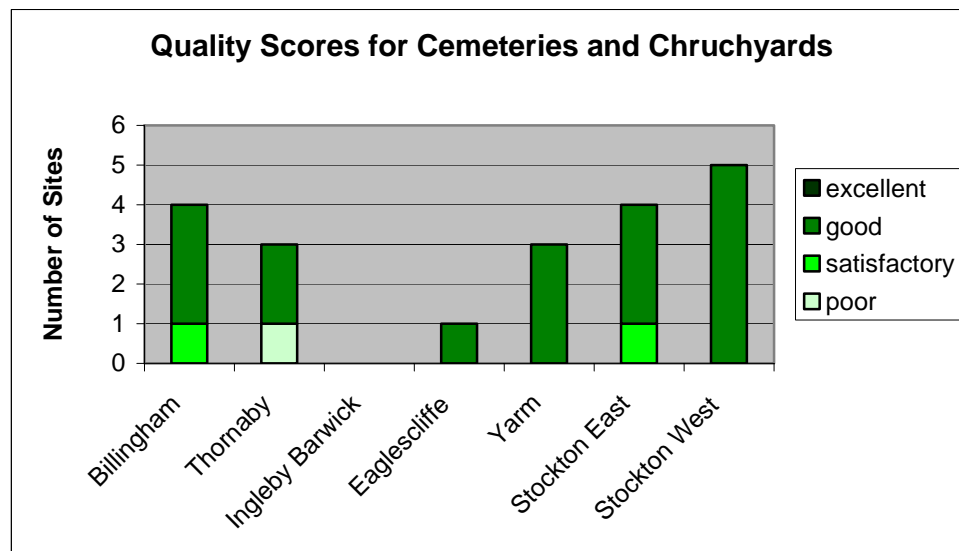
Cemeteries and Churchyards	300m	600m	1km	2km	5km	Total
Number of households	3501	12106	27647	57697	82005	82288
Percentage of households	4%	15%	34%	70%	100%	100%

6.201. Quality is an important factor in how well cemeteries and churchyards are able to fulfil their role. The graph below shows the percentage of the

total cemeteries and churchyards in each area that fall into the different quality categories. The use of percentages allows the better comparison between areas and with the Borough as a whole.



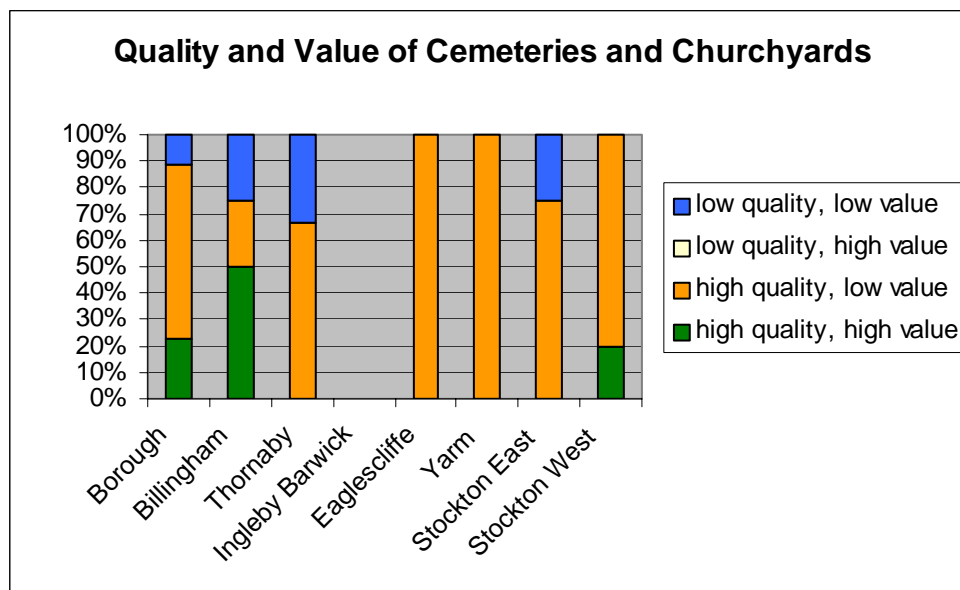
6.202. The graph below is intended to provide more detail to the percentages shown in the graph above, by identifying the number of sites that make up the different proportions. This is particularly useful when there are low numbers of sites involved. For example, in the graph above all sites in Eaglescliffe, Yarm and Stockton West score good for quality, but the graph below demonstrates that this refers to varying numbers of sites.



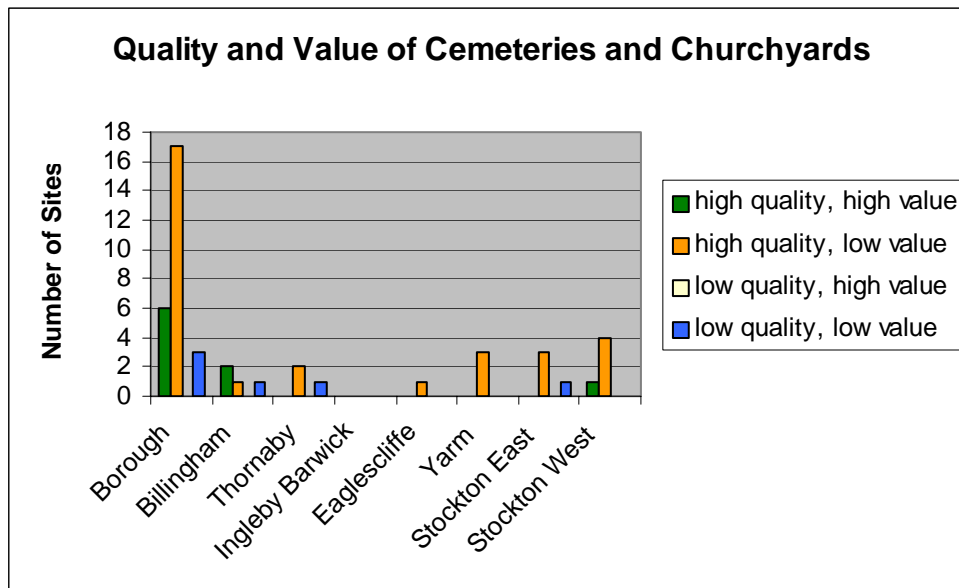
6.203. The graphs show that the quality of cemeteries and churchyards is good overall. Quality is at its best in Eaglescliffe, Yarm and Stockton West, which have no satisfactory spaces. Billingham and Stockton East have a similar proportion of satisfactory spaces and therefore similar levels of quality. Although they have poorer quality when compared to the

Borough as a whole it should be remembered that there is only one satisfactory space in each area. This is also true of Thornaby, which has the only poor quality space, although it appears to be a high proportion in the percentage graph, it relates to only one site.

6.204. Comparing the quality and value of sites can provide additional information about particularly successful sites and identify those that should be prioritised for improvement. When looking at the quality scores for cemeteries and churchyards it should be remembered that value was scored in terms of their open space use on issues such as biodiversity and has not been designed to capture the wider value of cemeteries and churchyards.



6.205. The graph above shows the percentage of total sites in each area that fall into the different quality value categories. The use of percentages enables better comparison between areas and with the Borough overall. The graph below provides further information about the number of sites that fall into the different categories and make up the percentages shown above.



6.206. The quality value analysis does not identify any sites that should be priorities for improvements but does identify a number of successful spaces that fall into the high quality and high value category. These are located particularly in Billingham and in Stockton West. In the graphs above the Borough provision may appear not to match up to the provision shown in the Borough's towns. For example, the excellent space in the quality graph, this is due to the location of some churchyards in villages that are counted overall but not broken down into these areas.

**Standard**  
**Quantity: 180 Burial Plots per 1000 People.**  
**Proximity: Within Five Kilometres**

### **Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

6.207. The need for cemeteries is based on population and the lifespan of existing cemeteries and their varying popularity. It is therefore not suitable to analyse the spatial distribution of unmet needs in the same way as other types of spaces. Advice from Bereavement Services is that the Borough has significant need for more burial space and the location of the need for increased provision should be identified by evidence from Bereavement Services.

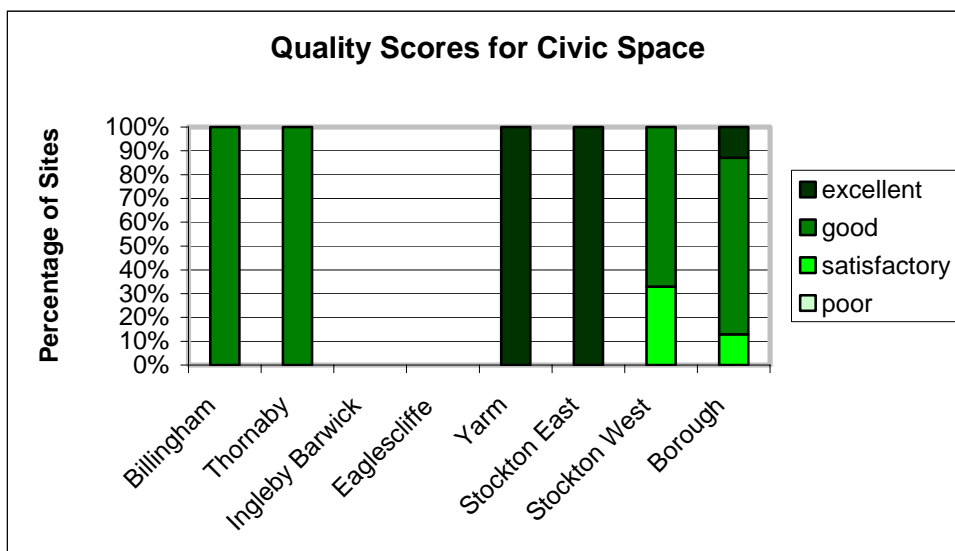
## CIVIC SPACE

6.208. Civic space is usually opportunistic and urban design led; it is not suitable to set a quantity standard in terms of amount and proximity. The table below demonstrates the amount of existing civic space in the Borough and where it is located. There are currently 292.32 square metres of civic space per person in the Borough as a whole. There are areas in the Borough that have levels of provision both above and below the Borough level, with Yarm having the largest amount of civic space compared to its population.

**Quantity of Civic Space per 1000 People**

Town	Area per 1000 people
Borough	292.32sq.m.
Eaglescliffe	0sq.m.
Ingleby Barwick	0sq.m.
Stockton West	124.33sq.m.
Thornaby	220.19sq.m.
Billingham	315.08sq.m.
Stockton East	540.83sq.m.
Yarm	1721.77sq.m.

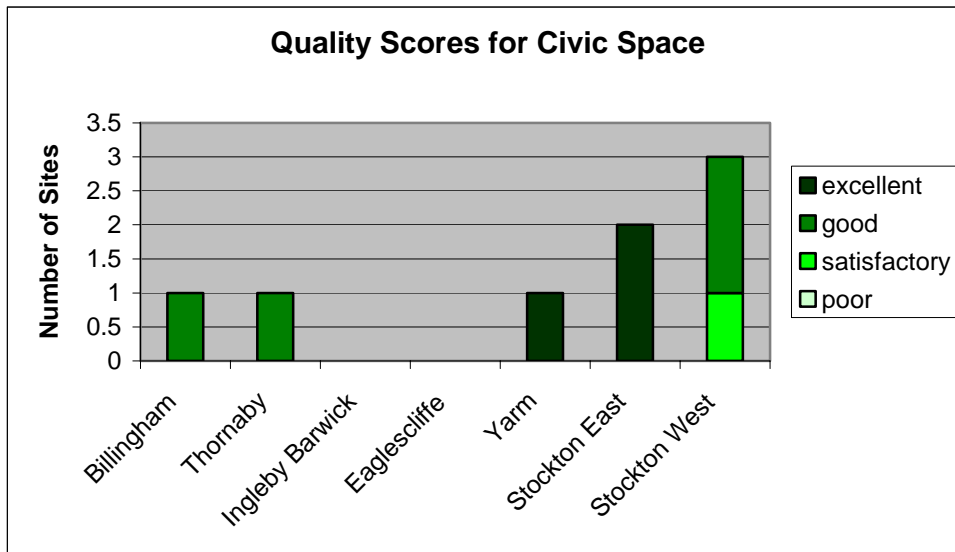
6.209. Although the quantity of civic spaces should be urban design led the quality of civic spaces should be given the same consideration as given to other spaces. The graph below shows the percentage of total civic spaces, in each area, which fall into different quality categories. The use of percentages enables comparisons between areas and with the Borough as a whole.



6.210. The graph below is intended to put the graph above into context by showing the number of spaces that fall into each category in the different areas. This is particularly useful when referring to small numbers of

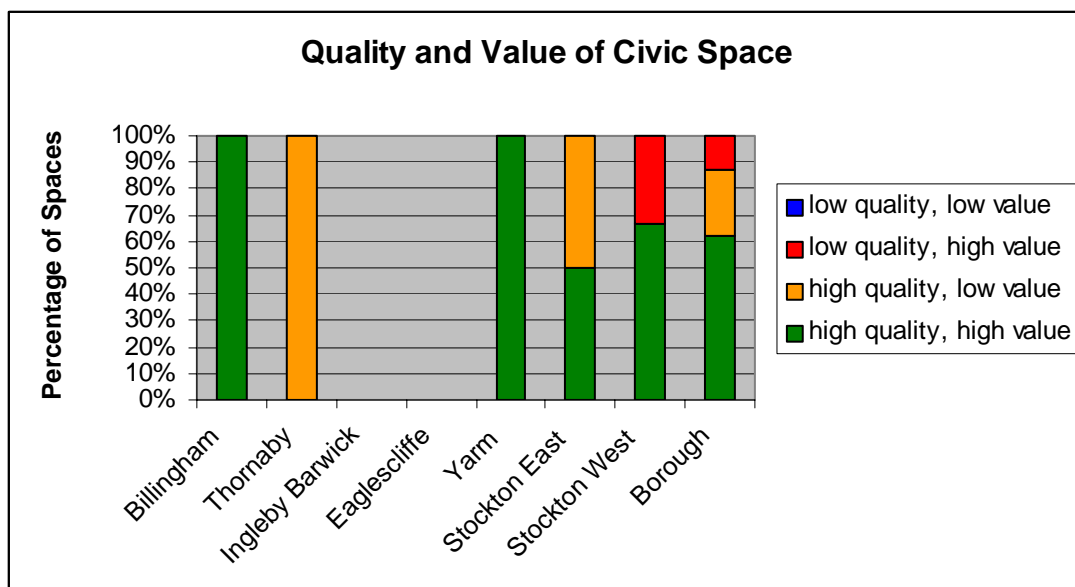


spaces, when one hundred per cent of spaces can refer to one space, as is the case here.

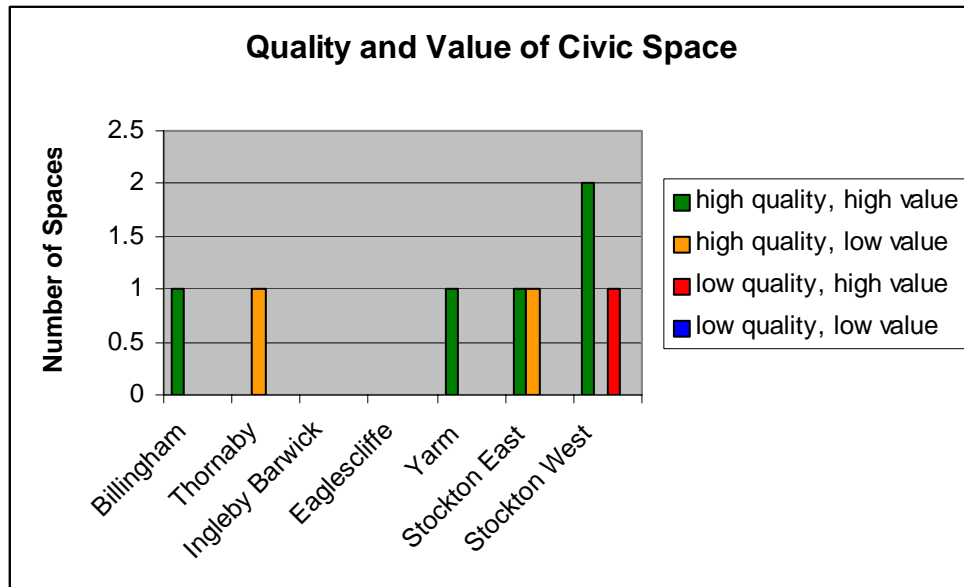


6.211. The quality of civic spaces is good overall with only one satisfactory space. Quality is best in Yarm and Stockton East where all civic spaces are of excellent quality, Billingham and Thornaby are also have better quality than the Borough as a whole, with all good quality spaces. The one satisfactory space is located in Stockton West, which means that the quality of space in this area is below that in the Borough overall, however, two of the three spaces still have a good quality score.

6.212. The quality and value of civic spaces have been compared and the results shown in the graphs below. The first graph shows the percentage of total civic spaces in each area that have fallen into the different quality categories. This allows for comparison between areas and with the Borough overall.



6.213. The second graph shown below is intended to provide additional information to the map above by showing the number of spaces that fall into the different quality categories in each area. This is particularly important when there are low numbers of sites, as one hundred per cent can refer to just one space.



6.214. The graphs show that many of the civic spaces fit into the successful spaces category of high quality and high value. All spaces in Billingham and Yarm fit into this category, however, in both cases this refers to only one site. Stockton West also has a higher than Borough level proportion of spaces which fall into this category even though it has the only priority for improvement space, which falls into the low quality, high value category.

### Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs

6.215. The quantity and proximity of civic spaces is not relevant in this analysis as civic spaces are to be opportunity and urban design led. However, quality is still an important factor in the provision of this type of space. Overall the quality of provision is good the first priority for improvement should be the satisfactory space in Stockton West, which is also the priority for improvement space in the quality value analysis. Spaces scoring good should be the next priority for quality improvements.

## 7. BUILT FACILITY QUANTITY STANDARDS

- 7.1. All of the following analysis is based of information about built facilities from the Built Facilities Audit, which was completed in early 2009. Changes in provision that have taken place since this time have not been recognised here but will be identified in future updates to the built Facilities Audit.

### HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

#### Capacity Ratio-Facilities per 1000 People

- 7.2. The total level of health and fitness suite provision in the Borough exceeds both the national and the North East level. However this is not the case in all towns and Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe do not meet the national level, meaning that other towns in the Borough are well above it.

England: 5.64

North East Region: 6.23

Stockton-on-Tees Borough: 6.16

Percentage of people in the Borough who thought there should be more: 8%

#### Quantity of Health and Fitness Suites per 1000 People

Area	Capacity Ratio (Stations per 1000 people)	People who think there should be more Health and Fitness Suites *
Billingham	7.59	5%
Thornaby	10.96	4%
Ingleby Barwick	4.58	12%
Eaglescliffe	3.85	8%
Yarm	9.97	20%
Stockton	4.98	8%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

- 7.3. Our survey shows that 25 per cent of the population use gyms and that nine per cent would like to use gyms but currently do not. The most prevalent reason for non-use was expense, followed by “too far away from home/ difficult for me to get to”. Residents in Ingleby Barwick and Yarm where most likely to think that there needed to be more facilities closer to home. In Ingleby Barwick this may reflect a lower level of provision. However Yarm has the one of the highest levels of provision in the Borough. The views expressed may be due to a lack of access to these facilities as a third of the provision in Yarm is attached to Yarm School and is for private use only.

## Travel Distances

7.4. It is very important not to understand quantity of provision as just that located within town boundaries, analysing the ability to travel to facilities in other towns gives a more realistic picture of the quantity of facilities available to residents in different areas. Areas in the Borough that have high levels of provision may adequately provide for residents who are not in the same town but are still within reasonable travelling distance.

7.5. The table below demonstrates the number of households in the Borough within different distances of health and fitness suites. It demonstrates that the vast majority of people in the Borough live within two kilometres of a health and fitness suite. This is a suitable level at which to set the standard for the analysis of health and fitness provision. The map on the page 150 demonstrates the areas of the Borough that are within two kilometres of a health and fitness suite, and the age or last refurbishment date of the facility.

### Households within Different Distances of Health and Fitness Suites

Distance	1km	2km	3km	4km	5km	6km
Number of households	25125	65049	77735	80397	81123	81676
Percentage of households	31%	79%	94%	98%	99%	99%

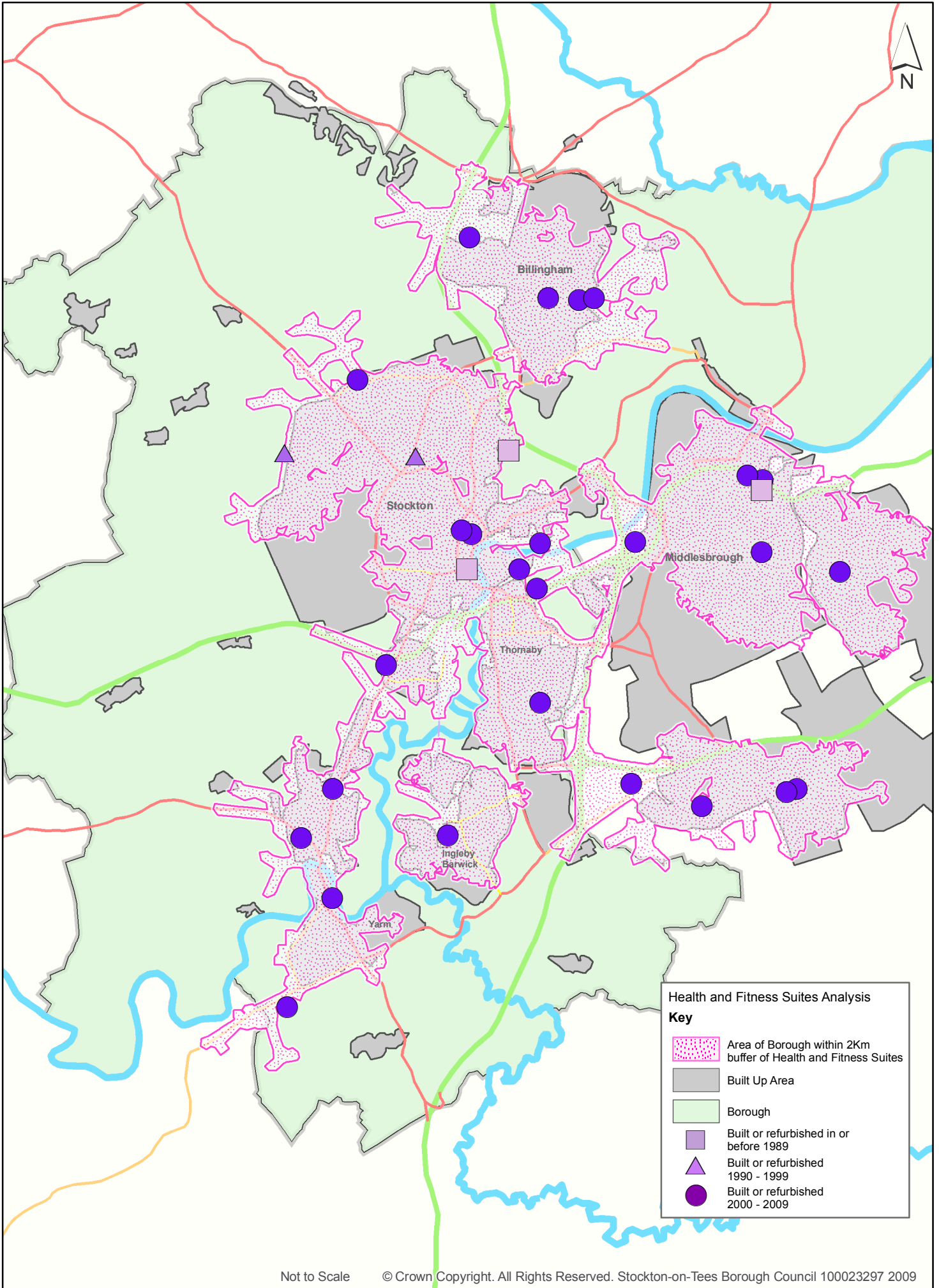
7.6. Sport England's Active Power Places enables an analysis of the location of facilities, which can be replicated in other local authorities to benchmark the level of proximity to facilities in the Borough. To place the Borough's travel times to health and fitness suites in a wider context, the table below outlines the travel times to health and fitness suites in the Borough's corresponding local authorities. As illustrated by the table, Stockton-on-Tees Borough compares well to these authorities, both by car and on foot. This demonstrates that the current level of provision is at a suitable level at which to set a proximity standard for analysis.

### Health and Fitness Suites Access by car.

	0-10 minutes	10.1 –20 minutes	20.1 – 30 minutes	30.1-45 minutes	45.1-60 minutes
Stockton-on-Tees	99%	1%	0	0	0
Doncaster	95%	5%	0	0	0
Rotherham	97%	3%	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	97%	3%	0	0	0
Darlington	92%	8%	0	0	0

### Health and Fitness Suites Access by Walking

Local Authority	0-10 minutes	10.1 –20 minutes	20.1 – 30 minutes	30.1-45 minutes	45.1-60 minutes
Stockton-on-Tees	33%	47%	16%	4%	0
Doncaster	34%	40%	13%	9%	3%
Rotherham	26%	36%	18%	15%	5%
Redcar and Cleveland	39%	40%	9%	10%	2%
Darlington	22%	27%	25%	24%	3%

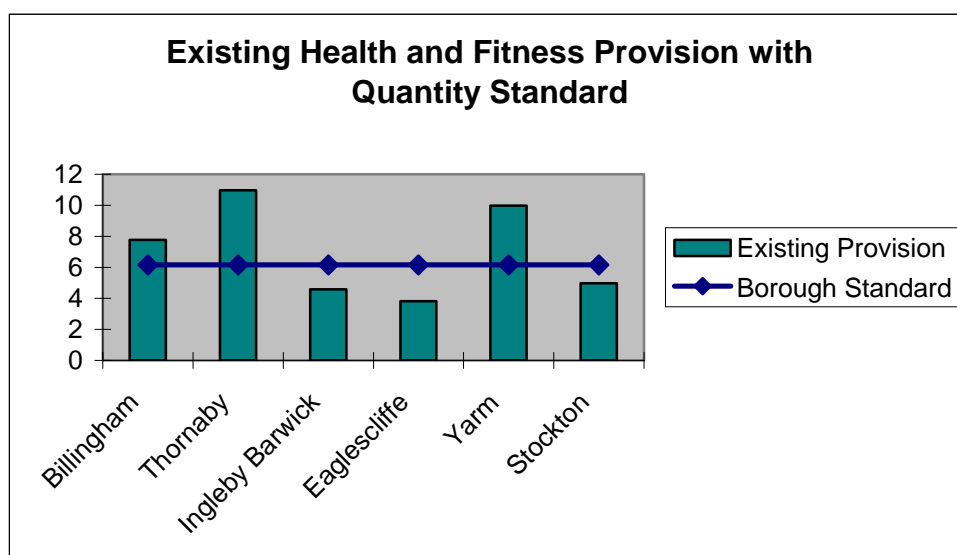


7.7. The map on the previous page shows the areas in the Borough that are currently within two kilometres of a health and fitness suite. It also demonstrates the quality of facilities based on when they were built or most recently refurbished. As the map shows, the majority of health and fitness suites have been built or refurbished since 2000. Only Stockton has facilities that were not built or most recently refurbished since 2000.

### Standards-Supply and Demand

7.8. The level of provision of health and fitness in the Borough is good and within reasonable proximity, however, it is important that this level is maintained in the future. The Recreation and Leisure Survey demonstrates that the general public still feel that there needs to be more provision in the Borough, showing that existing provision should be maintained even though it is above the regional and national level.

7.9. As the table below demonstrates there are areas that both exceed the quantity standard and do not meet the standard. It is therefore important to only understand these figures with reference to proximity analysis.



7.10. The analysis demonstrates that health and fitness suites have good accessibility compared to other local authorities. The majority of households are located within two kilometres of a suite so this provides a good basis for the analysis of unmet needs, that is, areas in the Borough that are less well provided for than others.

7.11. The analysis shows that 79 per cent of the households in the Borough are within two kilometres of a health and fitness suite. However, people may not use their closest pool for reasons such as cost. It is therefore reasonable to be able to use planning obligations contributions to swimming pools at a distance of further than two kilometres. This will also enable the better pooling of contributions to this strategic facility and better support the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

7.12. The use of provision hierarchies is encouraged in the PPG17 companion guide. For built sports facilities it is suggested that a hierarchy of Borough wide, five kilometres for cycling distance and two kilometers for walking distance is used. As 79 per cent of households are in walking distance but may not use the nearest facility for cost or accessibility reasons, health and fitness suites should move to the next stage of the hierarchy to five kilometres for cycling distance.

### **Standards**

**Quantity Standard: 6.45 stations per 1000 people**

**Proximity for analysis: within two kilometres**

**Proximity Standard: within five kilometres**

### **Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

7.13. The analysis shows that the provision of health and fitness suites in the Borough is good when benchmarked against provision at the national and regional level and when compared to other authorities. However, the analysis of unmet needs is still worth undertaking to identify areas where provision could be improved should the opportunity arise.

7.14. As the Health and Fitness Suites Analysis Map shows Billingham is relatively well covered by the two kilometre buffer around health and fitness suites. Billingham also meets the quantity standard for health and fitness provision. However there is an area in the north of Billingham and a smaller area in the South, which are not covered. This is due to most of the heath and fitness suites being located centrally.

7.15. Stockton is below the provision standard for health and fitness provision. However the high level of provision in north Thornaby may provide for some of Stockton's needs. There is also a quite significant area in the south west of Stockton, which is not covered by the two kilometre buffer around health and fitness suites. Stockton is also the only town in the Borough that has health and fitness suites that were not built or most recently refurbished since 2000. Two of the suites shown have only private use one to the west of Stockton, which means that the area that is not within two kilometres of a suite here is likely to be underestimated. Provision in Stockton could be improved by quality improvements or the opening of facilities which currently only have private use.

7.16. The quantity of facilities in Thornaby is the highest in the Borough and the town is almost completely covered by the buffer of two kilometres around health and fitness suites.

7.17. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the provision standard for health and fitness suites however the majority of the settlement is covered by the two kilometre buffer around health and fitness suites.



- 7.18. Eaglescliffe does not meet the provision standard for health and fitness suites; however, the two kilometre buffer around health and fitness suites covers the majority of the settlement. Eaglescliffe has recently built or refurbished facilities, as do most of the towns in the Borough.
- 7.19. Yarm meets the provision standard for health and fitness suites and has the second highest level of provision in the Borough. Provision here is of good quality as it is in most towns, however, a relatively high proportion of the health and suite stations are in private use due to their location in a school. Most of the town is within the buffer of two kilometres around health and fitness suites but there is an area to the east, which is not.
- 7.20. Overall the provision of health and fitness suites in the Borough is good and should be maintained, inevitably this provision is not uniform across the Borough and it is possible to identify areas where needs are less well met. Areas that are fully provided for meet the quantity standard and are covered by the two kilometre buffer. Those least well provided for are where the quantity provision standard is not met and are outside of the two kilometre buffer. In the case of health and fitness suites the south west of Stockton is the area that is the least well provided for.

## INDOOR BOWLS

### Capacity Ratio- Facilities per 1000 People

7.21. The Borough's level of provision is equal to the national level but below that of the regional level, provision is concentrated, particularly in Thornaby.

England: 0.04

North East Region: 0.06

Stockton-on-Tees Borough: 0.042

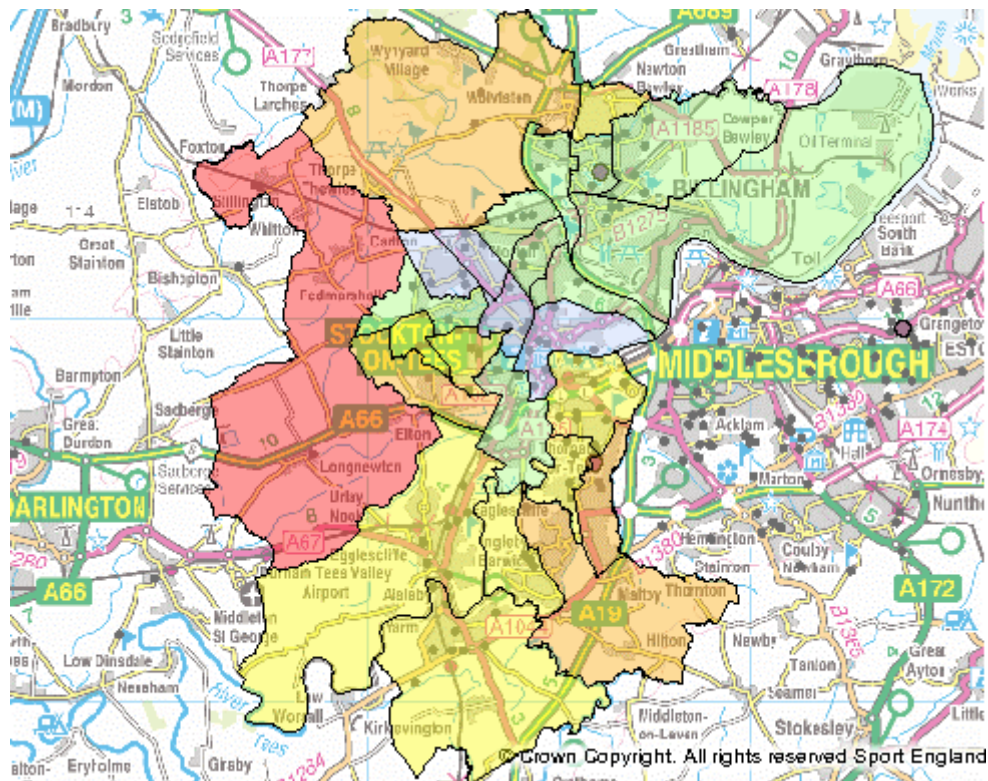
Percentage of people in the Borough who thought there should be more: 1%






### Quantity of Indoor Bowls Centres per 1000 People

Area	Capacity Ratio	People who think there should be more Indoor Bowls Facilities*
Billingham	0.053	2%
Thornaby	0.256	0%
Ingleby Barwick	0	0%
Eaglescliffe	0	0%
Yarm	0	7%
Stockton	0	0.5%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

### Personal Share of Facilities



Symbol	Range	Ward Count
	0.36 - 0.438	(4)
	0.439 - 0.516	(9)
	0.517 - 0.594	(8)
	0.595 - 0.672	(4)
	0.673 - 0.75	(1)

- England ratio: 0.6
- North East Region ratio:0.87
- Stockton Borough Ratio: 0.51

7.22. The Personal share analysis demonstrates that 21 wards have a lower personal share than the national personal share and no wards have a personal share equal to that at the regional level. However, our survey indicates that only one per cent of the sample thought that there needed to be more indoor bowls facilities in the Borough. This seems to indicate that the demand is currently being met by existing provision meaning that existing provision levels would be an adequate level at which to set the quantity standard.

### **Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator**

7.23. The table below demonstrates the level of provision required to satisfy demand from populations that have the same age and gender make up as Stockton Borough. This seems to indicate that total Stockton provision is low and that the concentration of indoor Bowls facilities is problematic with Thornaby having six rinks to serve a population that only requires 1.39 rinks. However, the Sport Recreation and Leisure survey indicates that only one per cent of residents thought that there should be more indoor bowls provision which seems to indicate that current provision is adequate.

### **Sport England Facilities Calculator Demand Compared to Existing Provision of Indoor Bowls**

Area	Existing total provision (rinks)	Demand outlined by Sport England facilities calculator (rinks)
Borough	8	11.37
Billingham	2	2.25
Thornaby	6	1.39
Ingleby Barwick	0	1.17
Eaglescliffe	0	0.64
Yarm	0	0.54
Stockton	0	4.95

7.24. The Sport England Facilities Calculator results should be viewed with caution as this demand calculation does not have a spatial element and

ignores the possibility of people travelling beyond their town to access facilities.

### Facility Catchment-Travel Distances

7.25. It is very important not to understand quantity of provision as just that located within town boundaries. Analysing the ability to travel to facilities in other towns gives a more realistic picture of the quantity of facilities available to residents in different areas.

7.26. The table below demonstrates that although provision is quite concentrated in nature the majority of households in the Borough are located within five kilometres of an indoor bowls centre. This is a suitable distance at which to set the proximity standard for analysis. The map on the following page identifies the areas in the Borough that are covered by the proximity standard.

#### Households within Different Distances of Indoor Bowls Centres

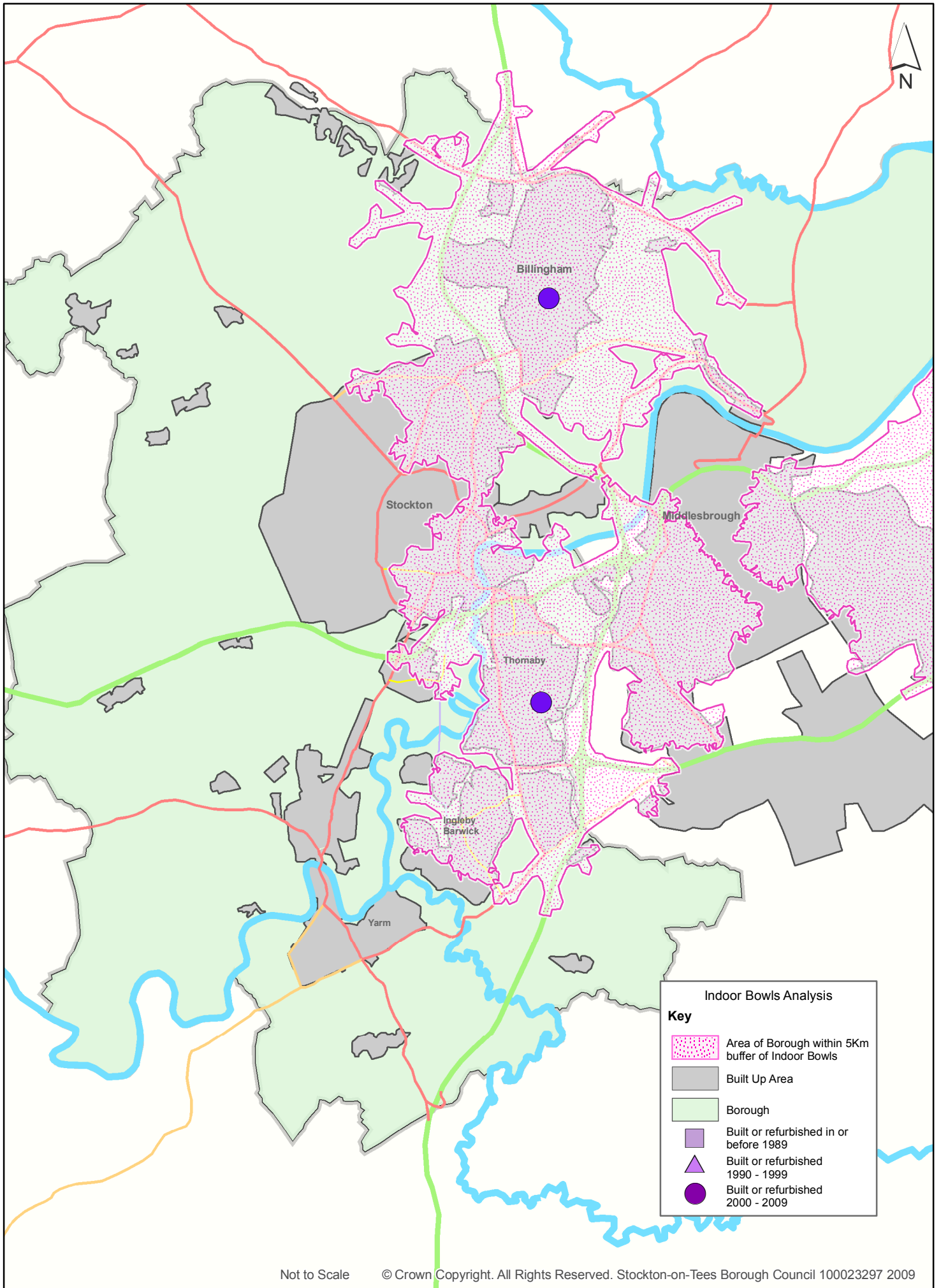
Distance	1km	2km	3km	4km	5km	6km	Total
Number of households	5135	16555	26241	35400	48902	60321	82288
Percentage of households	6%	20%	32%	43%	59%	73%	100%

7.27. Using Active Places Power it is possible to compare proximity to indoor bowls provision in Stockton-on-Tees to that in other areas. The table below indicates that access to indoor bowls by car compares well to the Borough's corresponding authorities. This demonstrates that the current level of provision is at a suitable level at which to set a proximity standard for analysis.

#### Indoor Bowls Access by Car

Local Authority	0-10 minutes	10.1 –20 minutes	20.1 – 30 minutes	30.1-45 minutes	45.1-60 minutes
Stockton-on-Tees	55%	45%	0	0	0
Doncaster	17%	56%	28%	0	0
Rotherham	5%	55%	45%	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	75%	25%	0	0	0
Darlington	71%	29%	0	0	0

7.28. The map on the following page demonstrates the areas in the Borough that are within five kilometres of indoor bowls centres by road routes. It also shows that the two indoor bowls centres in the Borough have been refurbished since 2000.



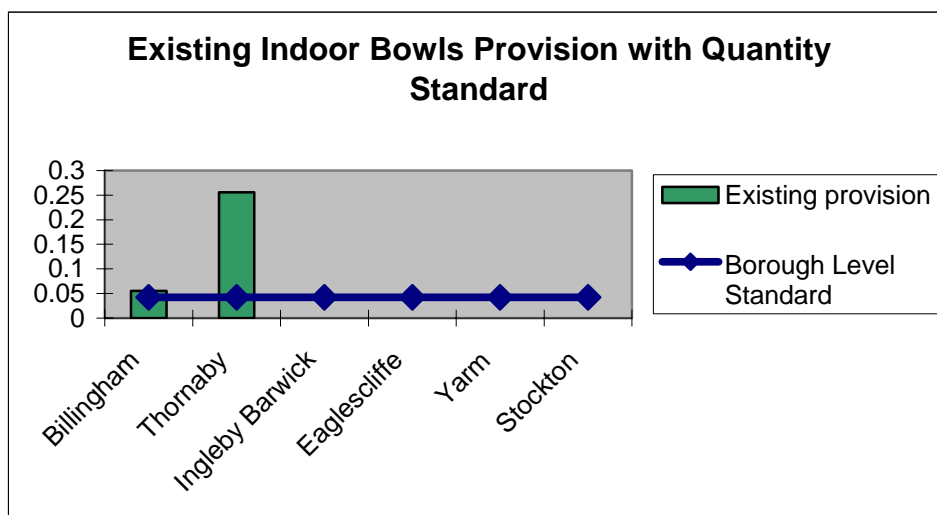
**Indoor Bowls Analysis**

**Key**

- Area of Borough within 5Km buffer of Indoor Bowls
- Built Up Area
- Borough
- Built or refurbished in or before 1989
- Built or refurbished 1990 - 1999
- Built or refurbished 2000 - 2009

## Standard-Supply and Demand

7.29. Although our level of provision is below that of the regional level, it is equal to that of the national level. It is also concentrated, so the distance that people have to travel to facilities becomes more important. However, the results of the Recreation and Leisure Survey indicate that the existing level of provision is a suitable level at which to set our proximity standard to identify unmet needs.



7.30. The analysis demonstrates that Stockton's indoor bowls centers have relatively good accessibility compared to other local authorities. The majority of households are located within five kilometres of a centre so this provides a good basis for the analysis of unmet needs, that is, areas in the Borough that are less well provided for than others.

7.31. The analysis shows that 59 per cent of the households in the Borough are within five kilometres of an indoor bowls centre. However, in order to be effective at improving centers as there are only two in the Borough it may be most effective to improve the most in need facility rather than improve the nearest facility. This will also enable the better pooling of contributions to this large-scale strategic facility and better support the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

7.32. The use of provision hierarchies is encouraged in the PPG17 companion guide. For built sports facilities it is suggested that a hierarchy of Borough wide, five kilometres for cycling distance and two kilometers for walking distance is used. Fifty nine per cent of households are in cycling distance but with only two facilities it may be most prudent to improve the most in need facility rather than the nearest. Indoor bowls centers should therefore move to the next stage of the hierarchy to become a Borough wide facility.

## **Standard**

**Quantity Standard: 0.04 Rinks per 1000 People**

**Proximity for analysis: within five kilometres**

**Proximity Standard: Borough as a whole**

### **Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

- 7.33. The analysis shows that the level of provision of indoor bowls centres meets the needs of the Borough. However there is a concentrated provision pattern with all provision in Billingham and Thornaby. Although it is not felt necessary to increase provision it is important to understand the impact of this provision pattern.
- 7.34. The quantity of indoor bowls centres in Billingham meets the quantity standard for provision and the town is entirely covered by the five kilometre buffer around indoor bowls centres. Due to the concentrated nature of the provision Stockton does not meet the standard for indoor bowls provision, as there are no centres in the town. However, much of the east of Stockton is within the five kilometre buffer around the indoor bowls centres at Billingham and Thornaby. In these areas the higher provision in Thornaby and Billingham is meeting the needs in Stockton.
- 7.35. Indoor bowls centres are particularly concentrated in Thornaby meaning that the level of provision there exceeds the quantity standard. The entire town is also within the five kilometre buffer of the indoor bowls centre. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the provision standard for indoor bowls, as it does not have a centre located there. However, with strategic facilities proximity to facilities in other towns is particularly important and Ingleby Barwick is largely within the five kilometre buffer of the centre in Thornaby.
- 7.36. Yarm and Eaglescliffe are outside of the five kilometre buffer of centres in other towns and do not have any indoor bowls provision of their own, so do not meet the quantity standard. Overall the provision of indoor bowls centres in the Borough is comparable with the national level and with other local authorities, and the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey showed that there was not a lot of demand for an increase in provision. However, it is by nature a strategic concentrated facility meaning that there will be some areas from which the centres are not as easily accessible, these are Stockton, Eaglescliffe and Yarm.

## INDOOR TENNIS

### Capacity Ratio- Facilities per 1000 People

7.37. The capacity ratio for indoor tennis facilities in the Borough is above that of both the national and regional level. Facilities are concentrated in Stockton, which has a very high capacity ratio. It should be noted that this provision is located at a private facility with relatively high membership costs.

England: 0.03

North East Region: 0.02

Stockton-on-Tees Borough:0.03

Percentage of people in the Borough who thought there should be more: 2%

### Quantity of Indoor Tennis Centres Per 1000 People

Area	Capacity Ratio	People who think there should be more Indoor Tennis Facilities*
Billingham	0	2%
Thornaby	0	1%
Ingleby Barwick	0	3%
Eaglescliffe	0	1%
Yarm	0	9%
Stockton	0.07	1%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

7.38. Of our sample, 27 per cent said they use indoor sports facilities which includes indoor tennis, indoor bowls, sports halls and ten pin bowling and 11 per cent of the sample felt there needed to be more of these facilities. Two per cent of this need was attributed to indoor tennis. Eight per cent of the sample expressed that they would like to use indoor sports facilities but didn't for a number of reasons, the most prevalent reasons were "too far away from home/difficult to get to" and too expensive.

### Facility Catchment-Travel Distances

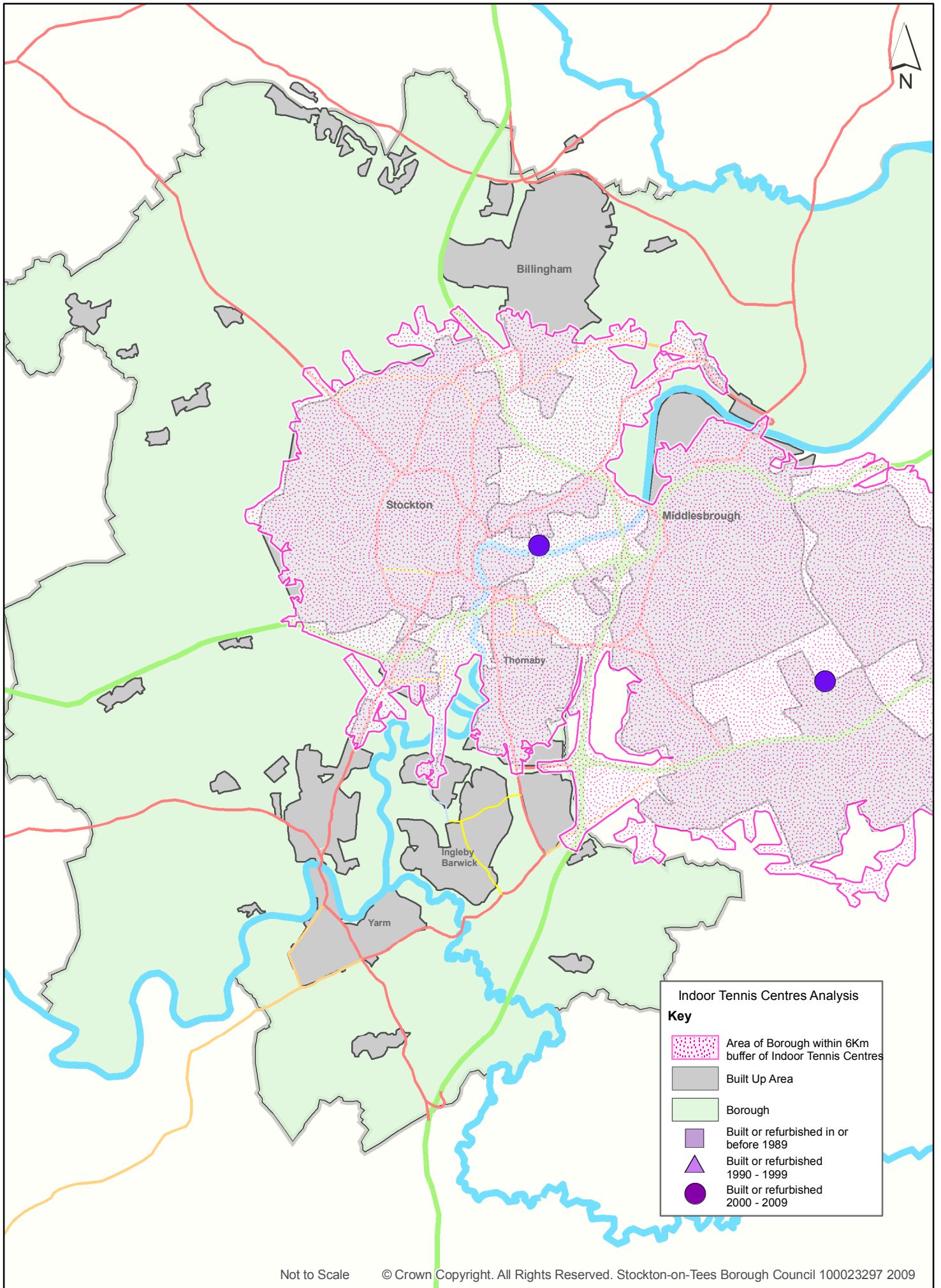
7.39. It is very important not to understand quantity of provision as just that located within town boundaries. Analysing the ability to travel to facilities in other towns gives a more realistic picture of the quantity of facilities available to residents in different areas.

7.40. The table below indicates that although the nature of tennis provision is relatively concentrated, that a majority of households in the Borough are located within six kilometres of an indoor tennis centre. This is a suitable level at which to set the proximity standard for analysis. The map on the following page identifies the areas of the Borough that are within six kilometres of the tennis centre by road routes it also shows that the centre was built or refurbished since 2000.



### Households within Different Distances of the Indoor Tennis Centre

Distance	1km	2km	3km	4km	5km	6km	Total
Number of households	135	1596	9416	21608	34167	49792	82288
Percentage of households	<1%	2%	11%	26%	42%	61%	100%



7.41. Active Places Power enables a comparison to be made between the proximity to population of indoor tennis centres in Stockton-on-Tees and in its corresponding authorities. The table below demonstrates that proximity to indoor tennis centres in the Borough is much higher than that in its corresponding authorities, meaning that the existing proximity of provision in the Borough is at a suitable level at which to set the proximity standard for analysis.

**Indoor Tennis Access by Car**

Local Authority	0-10 minutes (% pop.)	10.1 –20 minutes (% pop.)	20.1 – 30 minutes (% pop.)	30.1-45 minutes (% pop.)	45.1-60 minutes (% pop.)
Stockton-on-Tees	33%	66%	1%	0	0
Doncaster	0	2%	21%	67%	11%
Rotherham	0	20%	67%	14%	0
Redcar and Cleveland	15%	66%	15%	4%	0
Darlington	0	17%	80%	3%	0

### **Standards- Supply and Demand**

7.42. The level of provision for indoor tennis centres in the Borough is good, exceeding both the national and regional level. However, it should be remembered that this facility is a private facility with a higher than average membership fee and will not be easily accessible to everyone. The standard should be set at the national level.

7.43. The analysis shows that 61 per cent of the households in the Borough are within five kilometres of an indoor tennis centre. However, as there is only one center in the Borough should the current level of provision change it is thought best that the proximity standard for the use of planning obligation contributions should be set above this. This will enable the better pooling of contributions to this large-scale strategic facility and better support the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

7.44. The use of provision hierarchies is encouraged in the PPG17 companion guide. For built sports facilities it is suggested that a hierarchy of Borough wide, five kilometres for cycling distance and two kilometers for walking distance is used. Sixty one per cent of households are within six kilometers of the centre. Indoor tennis centers should therefore move upwards in the hierarchy to become a Borough wide facility.

#### **Standard**

**Quantity Standard: 0.03 Courts per 1000 People**

**Proximity for analysis: within six kilometres**

**Proximity Standard: within the Borough**

## **Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

- 7.45. Although the existing provision of indoor tennis centres in the Borough is of a suitable quality and is centrally located there is just one facility due to the nature of this type of provision and its demand. It is also a high membership cost associated with this facility. It is worth identifying unmet needs, that is areas that are less well provided for than the rest of the Borough, should the opportunity to widen access to indoor tennis occur.
- 7.46. Billingham does not have its own tennis centre however much of the south of the town is within the six kilometre buffer around the centre in Stockton. Stockton is very well provided for in that the centre is located there meaning it exceeds the provision standard. It is also almost entirely within the six kilometre buffer of the centre.
- 7.47. Thornaby is well covered by the six kilometre buffer for proximity analysis, however, Ingleby Barwick, Yarm and Eaglescliffe are outside of this buffer. The provision of indoor tennis centers should be viewed with reference to the provision of outdoor courts, analysed on pages 112 to 114. The provision of a central indoor facility with outdoor facilities distributed more widely is a suitable way of providing tennis facilities.

## SPORTS HALLS

### Capacity Ratio-Facilities per 1000 People

7.48. The figures below demonstrate that the level of sports hall provision in the Borough is above that of the national level and below that of the regional level.

England: 77.93

North East Region: 103.06

Stockton-on-Tees Borough: 92.22

Percentage of people in the Borough who thought there should be more: 6%

### Quantity of Sports Halls per 1000 Population

Area	Capacity Ratio (sq.m per 1000 people)	People who think there should be more Sports Halls*
Billingham	133.96	2%
Thornaby	114.30	3%
Ingleby Barwick	30.24	23%
Eaglescliffe	117.75	1%
Yarm	132.96	16%
Stockton	82.30	4%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

7.49. An investigation of the distribution of facilities at the town level demonstrates that all of the towns in the Borough exceed the National level of provision apart from Ingleby Barwick. The regional level is exceeded in Billingham, Thornaby and Yarm. Overall six per cent of people felt that there needed to be more sports halls nearer to their home. This is much higher in Ingleby Barwick where there is a lower level of provision and conversely in Yarm which has the highest level of provision in the Borough. There is a high level of people who say they use indoor sports facilities in Yarm.

7.50. It should be acknowledged that the level of provision in Stockton is currently in a state of transition; Stockton Sports Centre closed at Christmas 2008 and has not been included in current capacity ratio of 82.30. The capacity ratio of Stockton previous to this closure has been 93.36. The construction of an extension to Splash, which is currently underway, will take this ratio back up to 85.37.

## Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator

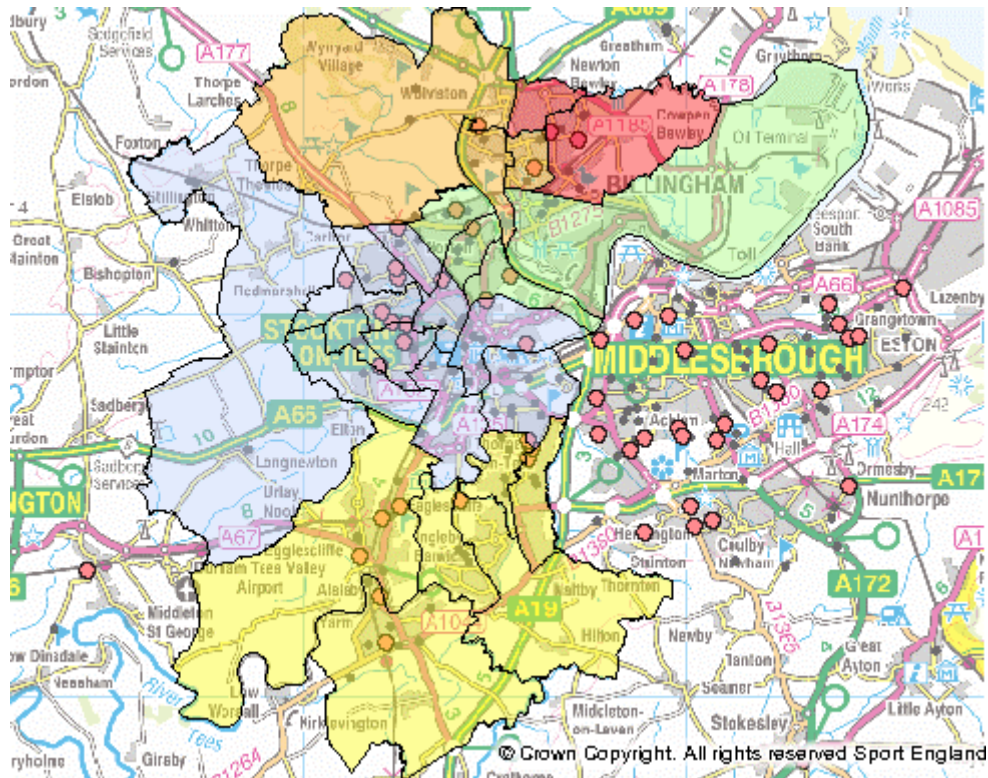
### Sport England Facilities Calculator Demand compared to Existing Provision of Sports Halls


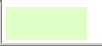



Area	Existing provision (courts)	Demand outlined by Sport England facilities calculator (courts)
Borough	100	54.38
Billingham	25	10.74
Thornaby	17	6.62
Ingleby Barwick	4	5.62
Eaglescliffe	9	3.04
Yarm	8	2.58
Stockton	37	23.67

7.51. The table above demonstrates the provision of sports halls that the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator would expect a population with the same profile, as the Borough's to require. Every town in the Borough exceeds this level apart from Ingleby Barwick.

#### Personal Share of Facilities

7.52. The personal share of sports halls for the Borough is 1.8 and therefore above the national level at 1.13 and the North East Region level at 1.75. None of the wards in the Borough have a personal share below the national level and more than 11 wards are above the North East region level. The analysis indicates that the level of provision for sports halls in the Borough is generally good, particularly in terms of personal share. This demonstrates that existing provision is at a suitable level at which to set the quantity standard.



	Range	Ward Count
	1.52 - 1.746	(11)
	1.747 - 1.972	(4)
	1.973 - 2.198	(6)
	2.199 - 2.424	(3)
	2.425 - 2.65	(2)

### Facility Catchment- Travel Distance

7.53. It is very important not to understand quantity of provision as just that located within town boundaries. Analysing the ability to travel to facilities in other towns gives a more realistic picture of the quantity of facilities available to residents in different areas.

7.54. The table on the following page shows that the vast majority of households in the Borough are located within two kilometres of a sports hall. This is a suitable level at which to set a proximity standard, for the analysis of sports hall provision, based on the proximity of existing facilities.

### Households within Different Distances of Sports Halls

Distance	1km	2km	3km	4km	5km	6km	Total
Number of households	38544	72537	79017	80415	81099	81708	82288
Percentage of households	47%	88%	96%	98%	99%	99%	100%

7.55. Active Places Power enables comparisons between the analyses of proximity of population to facilities in the Borough, to that of its corresponding authorities. The tables below show that Stockton-on-Tees compares well to other local authorities both for an analysis by car and on foot. This means that the existing level of provision is at a suitable level at which to set a proximity standard for analysis.

### Sports Halls Access by Car

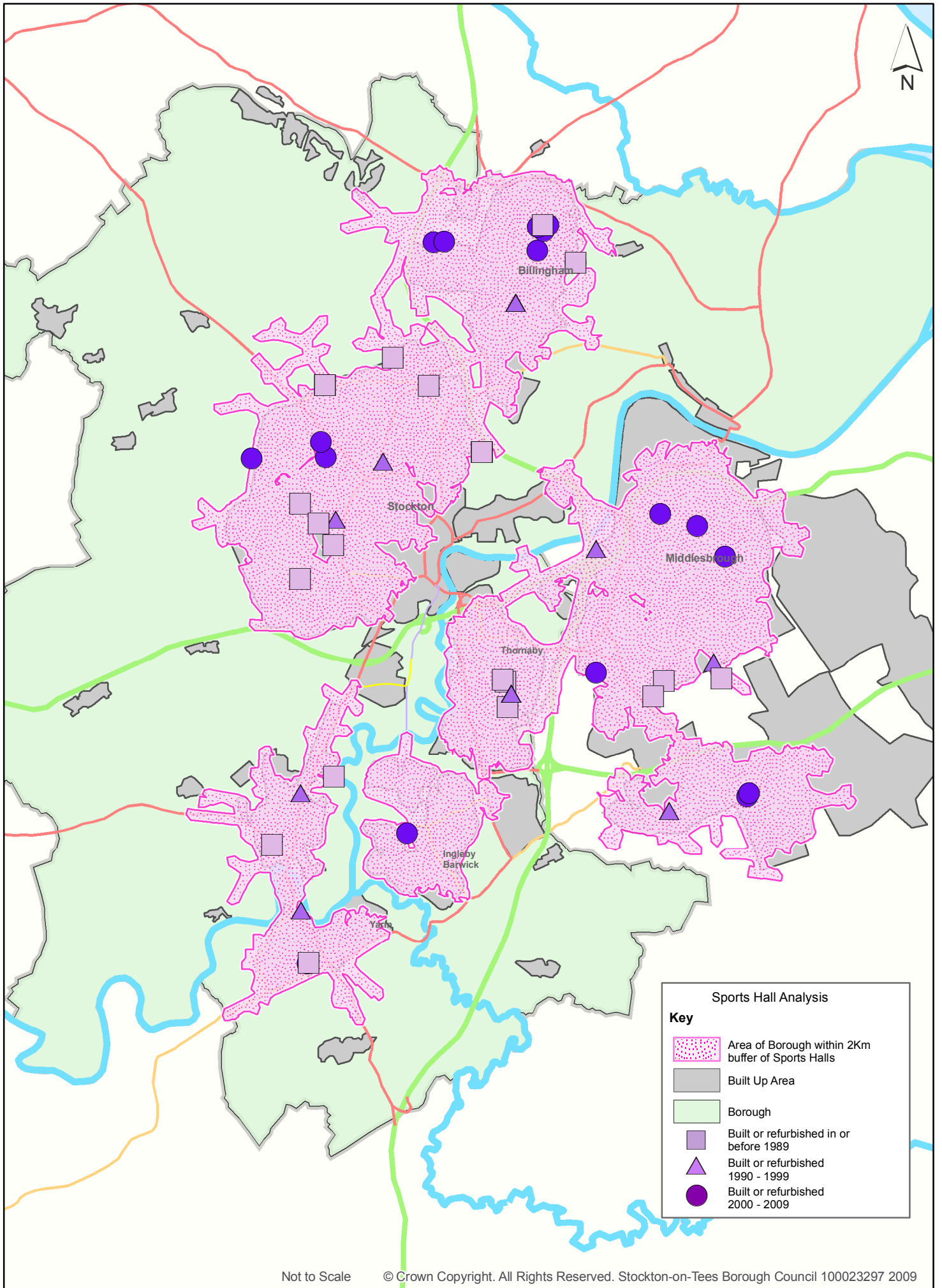
Local Authority	0-10 minutes (% pop.)	10.1 –20 minutes (% pop.)	20.1 – 30 minutes (% pop.)	30.1-45 minutes (% pop.)	45.1-60 minutes (% pop.)
Stockton-on-Tees	99%	1%	0	0	0
Doncaster	99%	1%	0	0	0
Rotherham	100%	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	93%	7%	0	0	0
Darlington	99%	1%	0	0	0

### Sports Hall Access by Walking

Local Authority	0-10 minutes (% pop.)	10.1 –20 minutes (% pop.)	20.1 – 30 minutes (% pop.)	30.1-45 minutes (% pop.)	45.1-60 minutes (% pop.)
Stockton-on-Tees	51%	35%	10%	3%	0
Doncaster	44%	34%	10%	9%	2%
Rotherham	43%	39%	9%	5%	4%
Redcar and Cleveland	39%	35%	15%	6%	5%
Darlington	47%	45%	4%	3%	1%

7.56. The following map identifies areas of the Borough within two kilometres of a sports hall it also demonstrates when the halls were built or last refurbished. The halls have a wider age range than some other facilities, as they are still able to function without frequent refurbishment unlike synthetic turf pitches for example.





**Sports Hall Analysis**

**Key**

- Area of Borough within 2Km buffer of Sports Halls
- Built Up Area
- Borough
- Built or refurbished in or before 1989
- Built or refurbished 1990 - 1999
- Built or refurbished 2000 - 2009

## Facilities Planning Model

- 7.57. Stockton has 30 halls across 17 sites. Twelve of the sports halls sites are education sites, four are leisure/community centres and one site is a private sector facility. Satisfied demand for hall space in Stockton stands at 94.4 per cent. This is a high figure compared to both the national average 90.2 per cent and the regional average 91.1 per cent. Indeed Stockton has the highest level of satisfied demand for hall space in the region. Personal share of hall space in Stockton relative to demand stands at 1.04, which is 16 per cent above the national average (although not quite as high as the regional figure).
- 7.58. Unsurprisingly unmet demand in Stockton does not add up to much. Unmet demand as visits is only 484 vpppwpp (in the context of an overall demand of 8697vpppwpp). In physical terms unmet demand equates to three badminton courts (i.e. Less than a four court hall). The key to addressing unmet demand across the Borough certainly does not lie with building additional hall space – rather it is more to do with improving the quality of the existing stock and improving access to existing facilities.
- 7.59. One contrary note, however, relates to the supply demand relationship with neighbouring authorities. Stockton is a significant net exporter of demand to neighbouring authorities – this equates to 24 per cent of the demand. This is a net figure however and nearly 40 per cent of satisfied demand for hall space is satisfied outside of Stockton. By contrast near neighbour Middlesbrough is a net importer of demand, with over 36 per cent of satisfied demand in that area being imported. This means that the high levels of satisfied demand in Stockton is not wholly down to Stockton's sports halls. Indeed high levels of satisfied demand mask the fact that there are still issues to be faced in Stockton in respect of hall provision.
- 7.60. The measure of how well sports halls are utilised shows that utilised capacity in Stockton only stands for 40 per cent (the figure at which hall capacity is being fully utilised is 80 per cent). This figure is the lowest of the Tees Valley authorities and is lower than both the regional average (49.9 per cent) and the national average (66.6 per cent). Stock that is not being utilised properly has the same revenue costs as a facility that is running at capacity.
- 7.61. To understand why this occurs it is necessary to look at the characteristics of Stockton's hall stock. First of all it is important to note that the capacity of Stockton's hall stock is weighted down because of its age by 48.2 per cent (higher than the national and regional averages at 33.3 per cent and 34.6 per cent respectively). This is quite a noticeable issue for Stockton's major hall capacity centres; Billingham Forum, Stockton Sports Centre and Thornaby Pavilion – all these leisure centres score poorly on the attractiveness rating and have their capacity supply

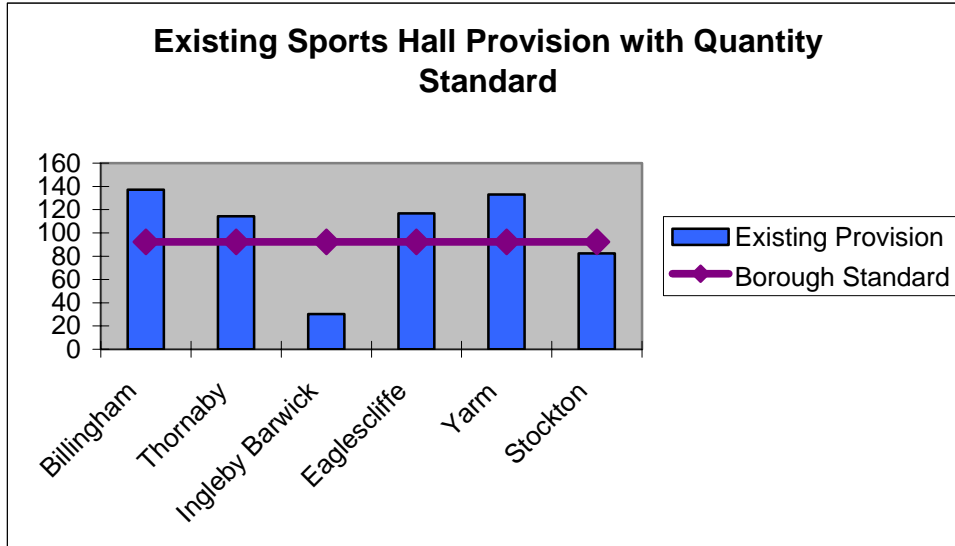
downgraded as a result.

7.62. One further issue to note from Stockton's hall stock is that there is a very high representation of sports halls in the education sector. The national level FPM data applies a slight weighting to education site sports halls where they are managed by that educational establishment. The model assumes that schools and colleges do not manage and proactively promote their sports halls as much as dedicated local authority or leisure trust staff.

7.63. Returning to Stockton's hall stock – a high proportion are managed by the educational sector and are in poor condition. This means their contribution to supply is discounted twice. It should be noted that all halls below three courts are excluded from FPM analysis, unless they are ancillary to halls that exceed this threshold.

### Standards-supply and Demand

7.64. The level of provision for sports halls in the Borough is good as are their proximity. However, six per cent of our survey indicated that they felt there needed to be more. This indicates that the level should be maintained rather than seen as an over supply. The level of 92 square metres of sports hall per 1000 people is the Borough level of provision, which should be maintained.



7.65. The analysis demonstrates that sports halls have good accessibility compared to other local authorities. The majority of households are located within two kilometres of a hall so this provides a good basis for the analysis of unmet needs, that is, areas in the Borough that are less well provided for than others.

7.66. The analysis shows that 88 per cent of the households in the Borough are within two kilometres of a sports hall. However, people may not use

their closest sports hall for reasons such as access, many of the sports halls are in school grounds and may only be accessible at some times. It is therefore reasonable to be able to use planning obligations contributions to sports halls at a distance of further than two kilometres. This will also enable the better pooling of contributions to this large-scale strategic facility and better support the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

- 7.67. The use of provision hierarchies is encouraged in the PPG17 companion guide. For built sports facilities it is suggested that a hierarchy of Borough wide, five kilometres for cycling distance and two kilometres for walking distance is used. As 72 per cent of households are in walking distance but may not use the nearest facility for cost or accessibility reasons, sports halls should move to the next stage of the hierarchy to five kilometres for cycling distance.

### **Standards**

**Quantity: 92 sq.m. of Sports Hall per 1000 People**

**Proximity for analysis: Within Two Kilometres**

**Proximity standard for contributions: within 5 kilometres**

### **Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

- 7.68. The analysis above indicates that overall the quantity and proximity of sports halls in the Borough is at a good level and should be maintained. However, as identified in the facilities planning model section above, the Borough's halls have an older age range and are largely in the education sector which means that it is still important to map areas where needs are less well met than other areas.

- 7.69. The Sports Hall Analysis Maps shows that Billingham is well covered by the two kilometres around sports halls buffer. It also meets the quantity standard for sports halls with the highest level of provision in the Borough. The general age range of halls in Billingham is relatively good with seven out of eleven halls built or refurbished after 2000. Most of the halls are in the education sector with only the main hall and activity hall at Billingham Forum not in that sector.

- 7.70. Stockton is also relatively well covered by the two kilometre buffer around sports halls apart from the south east corner. The development of the sports hall at Splash will improve proximity to sports halls in this area. Stockton does not meet the quantity standard for sports halls and will still be just below the standard after the new hall at Splash is complete. The age range of provision in Stockton could be improved with 12 of the 19 sports halls in the town not having been built or refurbished since 1989 and only three since 2000. Only two of the halls are not in the education sector although this will improve with the development of a hall at splash.

- 7.71. Thornaby meets the quantity standard for sports halls, however, the provision is located centrally meaning the northern tip of the town is not covered by the two kilometre buffer around sports halls. The development of a sports hall at splash should improve this situation and the rest of the town is well covered by the buffer. None of the halls have been built or refurbished since 2000, and three of the five have not been built or refurbished after 1989. Only one of the halls is not in the education sector, this is the biggest hall in the Borough.
- 7.72. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the quantity standards for sports hall provision though the hall is well placed within the settlement so the majority of the area is covered by the two kilometre buffer around sports halls. The sports hall has been built since 2000 and is in the education sector.
- 7.73. Eaglescliffe meets the quantity standard for sports halls and is relatively well covered by the two kilometre buffer around halls. The halls have an older age profile with only one of them having been built or refurbished in the 1990-1999 bracket. Two of the three halls are in the education sector.
- 7.74. Yarm meets the quantity standards for sports halls and is relatively well covered by the two kilometre buffer around halls. There are three halls with one falling into each age bracket for the build or last refurbishment date. All of the halls are in the education sector.
- 7.75. Overall the provision of sports halls in the Borough is good with the only area which does not meet the quantity standard and is outside the buffer in Stockton, which is soon to be improved though the hall development at Splash. The only area that does not meet the quantity standard but is covered by the buffer is Ingleby Barwick. The rest of the Borough largely meets the quantity standard and is covered by the buffer.
- 7.76. As most of the sports halls are in the education sector ensuring access to these facilities is important to meeting needs in the Borough. It is also important to improve halls that are in the older age range for build date or last refurbishment date. The Building Schools for the future programme should deal with these two issues, however, contributions should be used to enable better community access to school sports halls, for example, through improving reception areas.

## SWIMMING POOLS

### Capacity Ratio-Facilities per 1000 People

7.77. The figures demonstrate that the capacity ratio for swimming pools in Stockton-on-Tees Borough at 16.47, which is very similar to the regional level and below the national level.

England: 18.77

North East Region: 16.64

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Total: 16.47

Percentage of people in the Borough who thought there should be more: 15%

### Quantity of Swimming Pools per 1000 People

Area	Capacity Ratio (Sq.m per 1000 people)	People who think there should be more Swimming Pools*
Billingham	19.78	6%
Thornaby	28.87	10%
Ingleby Barwick	5.70	35%
Eaglescliffe	9.20	24%
Yarm	22.16	51%
Stockton	15.84	12%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

7.78. The distribution of facilities outlined in the table demonstrates a wide variation of provision across the Borough. This is to be expected, as swimming pools by their nature are a concentrated facility. Variation by area is also reflected in the results of the survey, with a wide variation in the level of people that think that there is a need for swimming facilities. Overall, our survey indicated that people thought there was more of a need for swimming pools than any other facility at 15 per cent. However this facility is also the one that the highest number of our sample said they use at 42 per cent and therefore have an interest in.

### Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator

7.79. The table below outlines the demand for facilities as outlined by Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator. The Sports Facilities Calculator identifies the level of demand that is likely to be created by a population with similar characteristics to the population of Stockton-on-Tees Borough. This demand analysis indicates that the overall level of provision in the Borough exceeds that necessary for water space.

### Sport England Facilities Calculator Demand Compared to Existing Provision of Swimming Pools

Area	Existing total provision (sq.m.)	Demand outlined by Sport England facilities calculator (sq.m.)
Borough	3134	1947
Billingham	743	384.49
Thornaby	669	237.17
Ingleby Barwick	112	201.04
Eaglescliffe	98	108.99
Yarm	200	92.36
Stockton	1312	847.42

7.80. When this is broken down to town level, demand is exceeded in Billingham, Thornaby, Stockton and Yarm. Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe do not meet the demand as outlined by the Calculator. However, the Sports Facilities Calculator does not have a spatial element, meaning that facilities that may be close by but not within the town may not be taken into account when comparing supply to demand. For example, the areas that have a supply of facilities that outstrips demand may provide facilities for other areas with a lower supply of swimming pools.

#### Facilities Catchment-Travel Distance

7.81. It is very important not to understand quantity of provision as just that located within town boundaries. Analysing the ability to travel to facilities in other towns gives a more realistic picture of the quantity of facilities available to residents in different areas.

7.82. The table below demonstrates that for all swimming pools the majority of people are within two kilometres of a swimming pool, this is a suitable level at which to set a proximity standard for the analysis of swimming pool provision.

#### Households within Different Distances of Swimming Pools

Distance	1km	2km	3km	4km	5km	6km	Total
Number of households	21721	59430	76819	79867	80646	81163	82288
Percentage of households	26%	72%	93%	97%	98%	98.51	100%

7.83. The map on page 177 demonstrates the areas in the Borough that are within two kilometres of a swimming pool. It should be noted that the areas covered in Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick are within two kilometres of a training pool rather than a main pool. Eaglescliffe, Ingleby Barwick and Yarm are also only served by pools in private ownership.

7.84. The analysis of proximity on Active Places Power allows comparison between authorities. When compared to its corresponding authorities the proximity to swimming facilities in Stockton-on-Tees compares very well for both by car and on foot. Due to this, the existing proximity of facilities is at a suitable level at which to set a proximity standard for the analysis of swimming pool provision.

**Swimming Pools Access by Car**

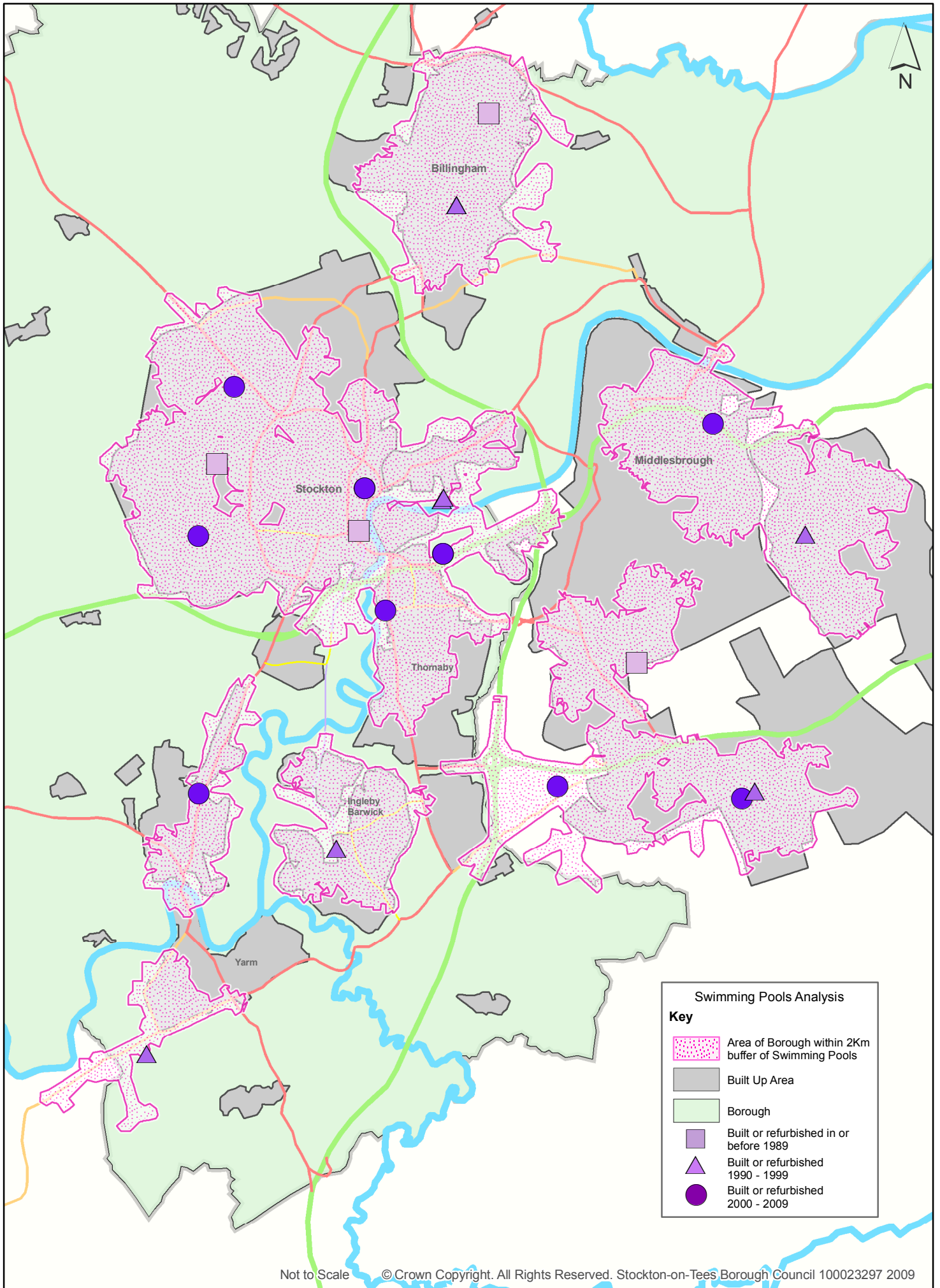
Local Authority	0-10 minutes (% pop.)	10.1 –20 minutes (% pop.)	20.1 – 30 minutes (% pop.)	30.1-45 minutes (% pop.)	45.1-60 minutes (% pop.)
Stockton-on-Tees	99%	1%	0	0	0
Doncaster	88%	12%	0	0	0
Rotherham	95%	5%	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	93%	7%	0	0	0
Darlington	94%	6%	0	0	0

**Swimming Pools Access by Walking**

Local Authority	0-10 minutes (% pop.)	10.1 –20 minutes (% pop.)	20.1 – 30 minutes (% pop.)	30.1-45 minutes (% pop.)	45.1-60 minutes (% pop.)
Stockton-on-Tees	27%	45%	22%	4%	1%
Doncaster	17%	33%	25%	19%	7%
Rotherham	20%	35%	22%	18%	6%
Redcar and Cleveland	10%	20%	22%	36%	12%
Darlington	29%	48%	18%	1%	4%

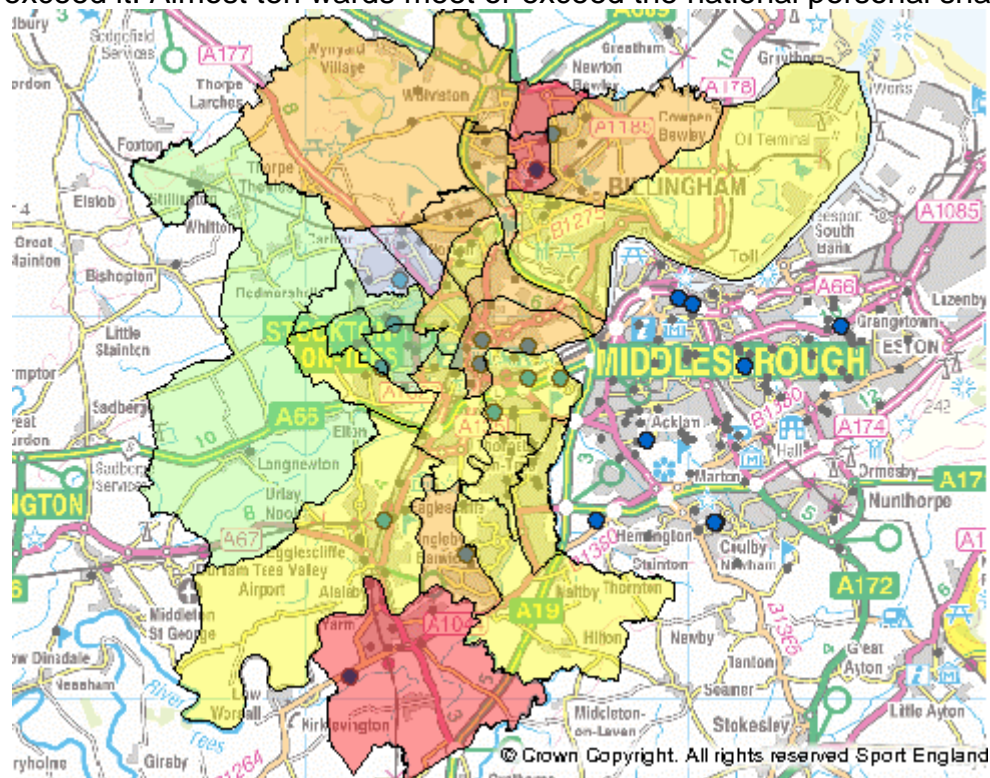
7.85. The map below shows the areas currently within two kilometres of a pool by actual road routes. It also demonstrates the quality of facilities based on when it was built or its last refurbishment. Newer facilities are relatively well distributed throughout the Borough. Only Billingham does not have a facility that has been built or refurbished since 2000.

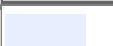
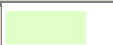







## Personal Share

7.86. The table and map below demonstrate the personal share of swimming pools in Stockton Borough. At 1.79 the Borough's personal share is above the regional level at 1.71 but below the national personal share at 1.90. Six wards are below the Borough personal share but most meet or exceed it. Almost ten wards meet or exceed the national personal share.



Symbol	Range	Ward Count
	1.2 - 1.416	(2)
	1.417 - 1.632	(4)
	1.633 - 1.848	(10)
	1.849 - 2.064	(7)
	2.065 - 2.28	(3)

## Facilities Planning Model

7.87. Stockton has 11 pools across eight sites. Two of the sites are in the commercial sector (David Lloyd, Health Academy and Total Fitness) three are leisure centres (Billingham Forum, Splash and Thornaby), with the remaining two sites being schools (Billingham Campus School and Our Lady/St Bede)

7.88. The local pool stock is able to satisfy 93 per cent of demand for swimming. This compares to a regional figure of 88.1 per cent and national figure of 91.9 per cent. Stockton residents personal share of

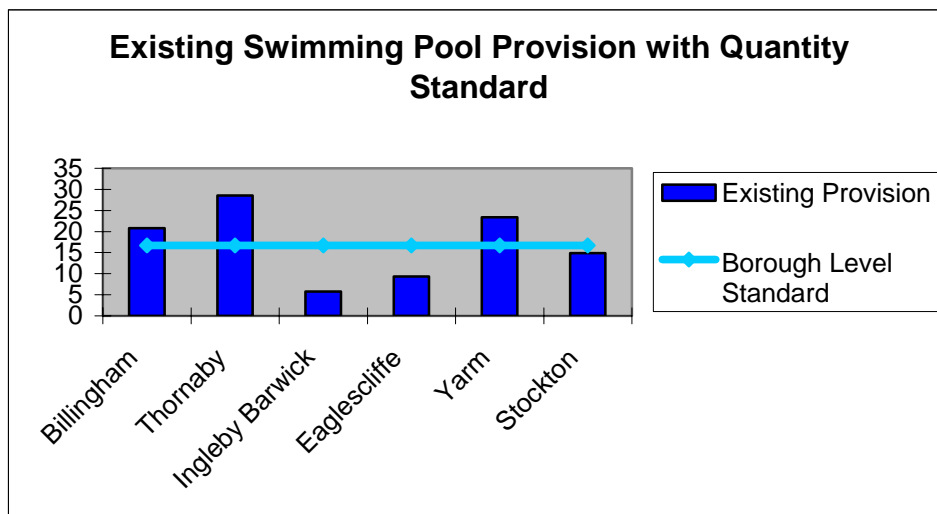
water space (square metres of water per 1000 relative to demand in local area) is marginally lower than the national average but (at four per cent) not significantly so.

- 7.89. Because satisfied demand is not at 100 per cent there is, of course, some unmet demand. As visits this equates to 765 vpppwppp. Expressed in physical terms the unmet demand equates to 135 square metres of water. It is not suggested however that the degree of unmet demand means that additional water space is needed.
- 7.90. First FPM analyses how well pool capacity is used across the stock. [The optimal figure here is 70 per cent]. On average only 59.4 per cent of Stockton's pool capacity was being utilised. This is slightly better than both the regional average (56 per cent) and the national figure (57.6 per cent).
- 7.91. There is however quite a wide variation in capacity utilisation across Stockton's pools. The pools at David Lloyd, Splash and Total Fitness could be considered full at peak times (i.e. Over 70 per cent), Splash particularly so, while at the other end of the scale Our Lady and St Bede and Billingham Forum (at 30.1 per cent and 34.2 per cent respectively) are the pools with the lowest utilised capacity.
- 7.92. This is 'age weighted' FPM analysis in that the attractiveness of pools (and therefore their capacity) declines by age. Unless pools are substantially refurbished, the older they are, the less capacity they are considered to offer. It is no coincidence that the two pools in Stockton that have the lowest utilised capacity are the two pools which have the lowest attractiveness rating Our Lady and St Bede is 36 per cent, while Billingham Forum is 45 per cent - Splash in contrast is 99 per cent.
- 7.93. The overall adequacy of Stockton's pool stock means that it is a net importer of swimming demand from its neighbour. Maps prepared at sub-regional level show the spatial distribution of unmet demand (at 2kmsq.) It is highest between Middlesbrough and Stockton, and between Stockton and Billingham.
- 7.94. It should be noted that the Facilities Planning Model at the national level includes pools that are longer than 20 metres and over 160 square metres for tanks and over 200 square metres for leisure pools. Where ancillary pools (learner pools etc) that fall below this threshold are situated adjacent to pools that meet the size / area parameter, it is also included. Private sector pools are included in the national level analysis, provided they meet the size / area parameters. Data is from Feb 2008, and is weighted by age.

### **Standards-Supply and Demand**

- 7.95. The analysis shows that the Borough is below the national and above the regional level of provision. It exceeds the Regional personal share,

which factors in the location of facilities. The overall level of provision is also above that recommended by the Sports Facilities Calculator. The standard is set at the Borough level.



7.96. The analysis demonstrates that swimming pools have good accessibility compared to other local authorities. The majority of households are located within two kilometres of a pool so this provides a good basis for the analysis of unmet needs, that is, areas in the Borough that are less well provided for than others.

7.97. The analysis shows that 72 per cent of the households in the Borough are within two kilometres of a swimming pool. However, people may not use their closest pool for reasons such as cost. It is therefore reasonable to be able to use planning obligations contributions to swimming pools at a distance of further than two kilometres. This will also enable the better pooling of contributions to this large-scale strategic facility and better support the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

7.98. The use of provision hierarchies is encouraged in the PPG17 companion guide. For built sports facilities it is suggested that a hierarchy of Borough wide, five kilometres for cycling distance and two kilometres for walking distance is used. As 72 per cent of households are in walking distance but may not use the nearest facility for cost or accessibility reasons, that swimming pools should move to the next stage of the hierarchy to five kilometres for cycling distance.

## Standards

**Quantity: 16.5sq.m. of Swimming Pools per 1000 People**  
**Proximity for analysis: Within Two Kilometres**  
**Proximity for contributions: within five Kilometres**

## **Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs**

- 7.99. Analysis using the tools above demonstrates that overall, the swimming pool provision in the Borough is of a suitable level and should be maintained. However, facilities in the Borough are relatively centralised, particularly those that are managed by Tees Active and this is examined further below.
- 7.100. As the Swimming Pools Analysis Map shows Billingham is relatively well covered by the distance of two kilometres around pools, there are some areas to the south and west of Billingham that are just outside of this distance. The quantity of facilities in Billingham is also good as it exceeds the quantity standard. However, Billingham is the only town in the Borough that does not have a facility that has been built or refurbished since 2000.
- 7.101. Stockton is just below the quantity standard for provision but does exceed the amount of provision required by the Sport England Facilities Calculator. Some of the demand in quantity for Stockton may also be provided for by the high amount of provision in the north of Thornaby. There is a significant area to the north of Stockton that is not covered by the two kilometre distance around facilities. Stockton has three pools that have been built or refurbished since 2000 so quality is relatively high. Improvement of facilities that have not been refurbished in this time frame may help to make up for Stockton not meeting the quantity standard.
- 7.102. The quantity of facilities in Thornaby is the highest in the Borough and both facilities have been built or refurbished since 2000. However, there is an area to the south and east of Thornaby that is not covered by the two kilometre distance around pools that 72 per cent of the Borough's population is currently within.
- 7.103. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the provision standard for the quantity of provision however it is relatively well covered by the two kilometre distance around the facility. It should also be remembered that the facility in Ingleby Barwick is of training pool size.
- 7.104. Eaglescliffe does not meet the provision standard for pool provision and an area to the east of Eaglescliffe is not covered by the two kilometre distance around pools. This pool has been refurbished since 2000 but it should be remembered that it is of training pool size.
- 7.105. Yarm exceeds the provision standard quite considerably but due to the location of the pool much of the town is not within two kilometres of it. Overall the level of pool provision in the Borough is good and at a suitable level. However, it has a centralised distribution. If opportunities to improve the quantity of pool provision arose the south of the Borough would benefit most. Improvements in quality would be most suitable in Billingham.

## SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES

### Capacity Ratio-Facilities per 1000 People

7.106. The figures below demonstrate that the level of provision of synthetic turf pitches is equal to both the national and regional level. In the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey, 21 per cent said they use outdoor sports provision and 11 per cent of our survey said they thought there needed to be more sports pitches nearer to their home. It should be remembered that although this figure does not relate only to synthetic pitches, that synthetic pitches could provide pitch provision in place of grass pitches where potential pitch area is low.

7.107. Although general pitch provision in the Borough meets national and regional levels there are variations by town as demonstrated below. It is important to investigate the potential to travel to existing provision outside of the defined towns.

England: 0.03

North East Region: 0.03

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Total: 0.032

Percentage of people in the Borough who thought there should be more sports pitches: 11%

### Quantity of Synthetic Turf Pitches per 1000 People

Area	Capacity Ratio	People who think there should be more Sports Pitches/Playing Fields*
Billingham	0.053	6%
Thornaby	0.043	9%
Ingleby Barwick	0	9%
Eaglescliffe	0.094	5%
Yarm	0.111	21%
Stockton	0.012	11%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

### Facilities Catchment-Travel Distances

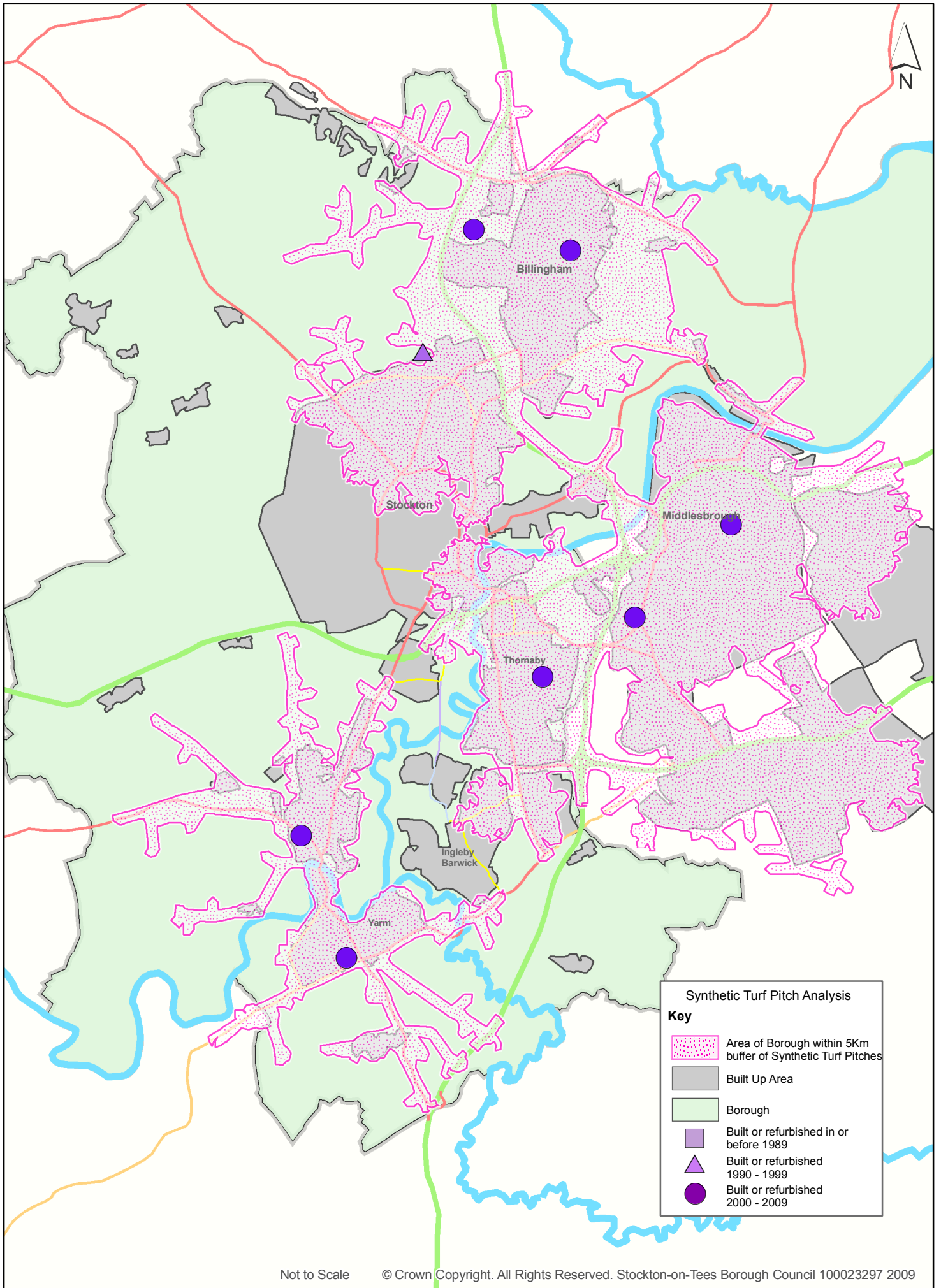
7.108. It is very important not to understand quantity of provision as just that located within town boundaries. Analysing the ability to travel to facilities in other towns gives a more realistic picture of the quantity of facilities available to residents in different areas. The table below indicates that the vast majority of households in the Borough are within four kilometres of a synthetic turf pitch. This is a suitable level at which to set the proximity standard for analysis of synthetic turf pitches.

7.109. The map on page 184 identifies the areas, which are located within four kilometres of a synthetic turf pitch. It also identifies that five of the six pitches in the Borough were built or refurbished since 2000. This is important for synthetic turf pitches, as their surface requires regular

refurbishment. The one pitch that has not been refurbished as recently is located in Stockton.

**Households within Different Distances of Synthetic Turf Pitches**

Distance	1km	2km	3km	4km	5km	6km	Total
Number of households	8846	30594	44048	56050	69898	78908	82288
Percentage of households	11%	37%	54%	68%	85%	96%	100%





7.110. Active Places Power allows an analysis of proximity that can be compared to other authorities. The tables below show that when compared with its corresponding authorities, access to synthetic turf pitches by car in Stockton-on-Tees is good. This means that the existing level of provision is at a suitable level at which to analyse proximity.

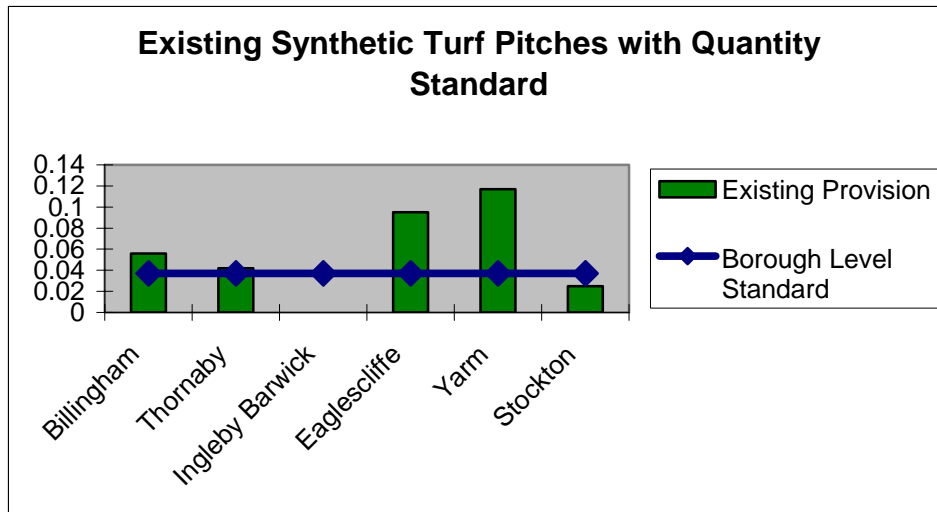
**Synthetic Turf Pitch Access by Car**

Local Authority	0-10 minutes (% pop.)	10.1 –20 minutes (% pop.)	20.1 – 30 minutes (% pop.)	30.1-45 minutes (% pop.)	45.1-60 minutes (% pop.)
Stockton-on-Tees	81%	19%	0	0	0
Doncaster	47%	52%	1%	0	0
Rotherham	56%	44%	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	61%	32%	7%	0	0
Darlington	94%	6%	0	0	0

7.111. The analysis shows that 68 per cent of the households in the Borough are within four kilometres of a synthetic turf pitch. However, as synthetic turf pitches need the surfaces renewing regularly it is thought that the proximity standard for the use of planning obligation contributions should be set above this, to better enable pooling of contributions to improve the most in need facility rather than the nearest. This will enable the better pooling of contributions to this strategic facility and better support the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

7.112. The use of provision hierarchies is encouraged in the PPG17 companion guide. For built sports facilities it is suggested that a hierarchy of Borough wide, five kilometres for cycling distance and two kilometers for walking distance is used. Sixty eight per cent of households are within four kilometers of a synthetic turf pitch. Synthetic turf pitches should therefore move upwards in the hierarchy to become a five kilometre, cycling distance facility.

## Standards-Supply and Demand



7.113. Supply standards should be set at 0.032 to maintain the Borough, national and regional level of provision.

### Standards

**Quantity Standard: 0.032 pitches per 1000 people**

**Proximity for analysis: within four kilometres**

**Proximity standard: within five kilometres**

### Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs

7.114. Although the overall level of provision in the Borough is at a suitable level there is wide variation in provision between the towns. The Draft Playing Pitch Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough also identifies that another pitch would be required and that this should be a third generation synthetic turf pitch.

7.115. As the Synthetic Turf Pitch Analysis Map shows Billingham, Thornaby, Yarm and Eaglescliffe all meet the quantity standard for synthetic turf pitches and are well covered by the buffer of four kilometres around the pitches.

7.116. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the quantity standard for synthetic turf pitches, however, some of the north east of the settlement is within the four kilometre buffer of the pitch in Thornaby. Stockton is also below the quantity standard for synthetic turf pitches and it is here that the existing pitch has not been refurbished in the period since 2000. Much of the north of Stockton is within the four kilometre buffer of this pitch, however there is a large area to the south and east covering approximately half of the town, which is not.

7.117. In line with the suggested need for another synthetic turf pitch in the Borough identified in the Draft Playing Pitch Assessment it is suggested

that the most appropriate location for this additional pitch would be Stockton. Although both Stockton and Ingleby Barwick do not meet the quantity standard it is suggested that the potential population which is outwith the four kilometre buffer of a synthetic pitch in Stockton is far higher than the population of Ingleby Barwick, it would therefore be more efficient to make the improvement in Stockton.

## ICE RINKS

### Capacity Ratio- Facilities per 1000 people

7.118. The figures below demonstrate the high level of ice rink provision in the Borough compared to both the national and regional level, this demonstrates the concentrated nature of ice rink provision, expressed even more clearly by the high level of provision in Billingham.

England: 1.09

North East Region: 1.17

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Total: 7.653

Percentage of people in the Borough who thought there should be more: 7%

### Quantity of Ice Rinks per 1000 People

Area	Capacity Ratio Total (sq.m per 1000 people)	People who think there should be more Ice Rinks*
Billingham	38.75	2%
Thornaby	0	11%
Ingleby Barwick	0	11%
Eaglescliffe	0	7%
Yarm	0	13%
Stockton	0	7%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

### Facility Catchment – Travel Distances

7.119. It is very important not to understand quantity of provision as just that located within town boundaries. Analysing the ability to travel to facilities in other towns gives a more realistic picture of the quantity of facilities available to residents in different areas.

7.120. The table below demonstrates that a majority of the households in the Borough are located within eight kilometres of the Ice Rink. However due to the regional or sub-regional significance of the ice rink it is suitable to set a standard for the ice rink which includes any households within the Borough.

### Households within Different Distances of the Ice Rink

Distance	1km	2km	3km	4km	5km	6km	7km	8km	Total
Number of households	3018	8697	15846	21441	26376	33431	41507	51705	82288
Percentage of households	4%	11%	19%	26%	32%	41%	50%	63%	100%

7.121. Active Places Power allows an analysis of a facility's proximity to population that can be compared to other authorities. When compared to its corresponding authorities, as demonstrated by the table below, the

Borough has a very good level of proximity to population for ice rinks. This demonstrates that the current provision of the Borough is at a suitable level at which to set a proximity standard for ice rinks.

#### **Ice Rinks Access by Car**

Local Authority	0-10 minutes (% pop.)	10.1 –20 minutes (% pop.)	20.1 – 30 minutes (% pop.)	30.1-45 minutes (% pop.)	45.1-60 minutes (% pop.)
Stockton-on-Tees	34%	62%	4%	0	0
Doncaster	15%	42%	39%	5%	0
Rotherham	8%	67%	25%	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0%	5%	68%	26%	1%
Darlington	0	1%	64%	35%	0

#### **Standards – supply and demand**

7.122. The information above demonstrates that Stockton-on-Tees Borough has a very high level of provision for ice rinks and that the ice rink is accessible for its residents. In the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey, 12 per cent said they use ice rinks and seven per cent of people thought that there needed to be more ice rinks in the Borough. The relatively high level of people who said there should be more ice rinks in the Borough, relevant to the number of users, may be a reflection of expectations raised by existing provision, rather than a lack of facilities. The standard will be set at the existing level of provision in the Borough.

7.123. As there is one facility in the Borough it is important that quality is kept high and that opportunities for use are maximised.

#### **Standards**

**Quantity: 7.65 sq.m. of Ice Space per 1000 Population**

**Proximity: Within the Borough**

## COMMUNITY CENTRES AND VILLAGE HALLS

### Capacity Ratio – Facilities per 1000 people

7.124. In the Borough as a whole, there is community centre and village hall capacity for nearly 33 people for every 1000 people. The highest level of provision in the Borough is in Eaglescliffe with a capacity of over 49 per 1000 people. Capacity is at its lowest in Ingleby Barwick with a capacity of just over nine per 1000 people. In the Borough as a whole seven per cent think there should be more community facilities, 17.1 per cent of people use them and six per cent would like to use them but currently do not.

### Quantity of Community Centres and Village Halls per 1000 People

Area	Capacity Ratio Total (Capacity per 1000)	People who think there should be more community buildings*
Stockton-on-Tees Borough	32.92	7%
Billingham	28	2%
Thornaby	19.42	6%
Ingleby Barwick	9.16	13%
Eaglescliffe	49.77	6%
Yarm	34.35	13%
Stockton	35.26	8%

\*Information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey.

7.125. The table on the following page demonstrates that the provision of village halls is particularly high in rural villages; this perhaps reflects that the village hall is often the only facility available in rural villages whose residents will expect to travel further to other facilities. The capacity ratio of rural villages in general is 122.78 hall capacity per 1000 people, compared to the total Borough level of 32.92 hall/community centre capacity per 1000 people.

**Table to Demonstrate the Provision of Village Halls in Rural Villages**

Village	Village Hall Capacity	Village Halls compared to population (capacity per 1000)	People who think there need to be more village halls. (%)
Thorpe Thewles	90	250	7%
Wynyard	0	0	5%
Stillington	124	127.18	0
Whitton	0	0	N/A*
Carlton	80	142.86	9%
Redmarshall	0	0	0
Elton	0	0	8%
Long Newton	200	273.96	0
Aislaby	0	0	N/A*
Kirklevington	225	231.96	15%
Hilton	35	175.68	0
Maltby	60	218.18	N/A*
Total villages	814	122.78	4%

\*People from these villages where not surveyed as part of the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey.

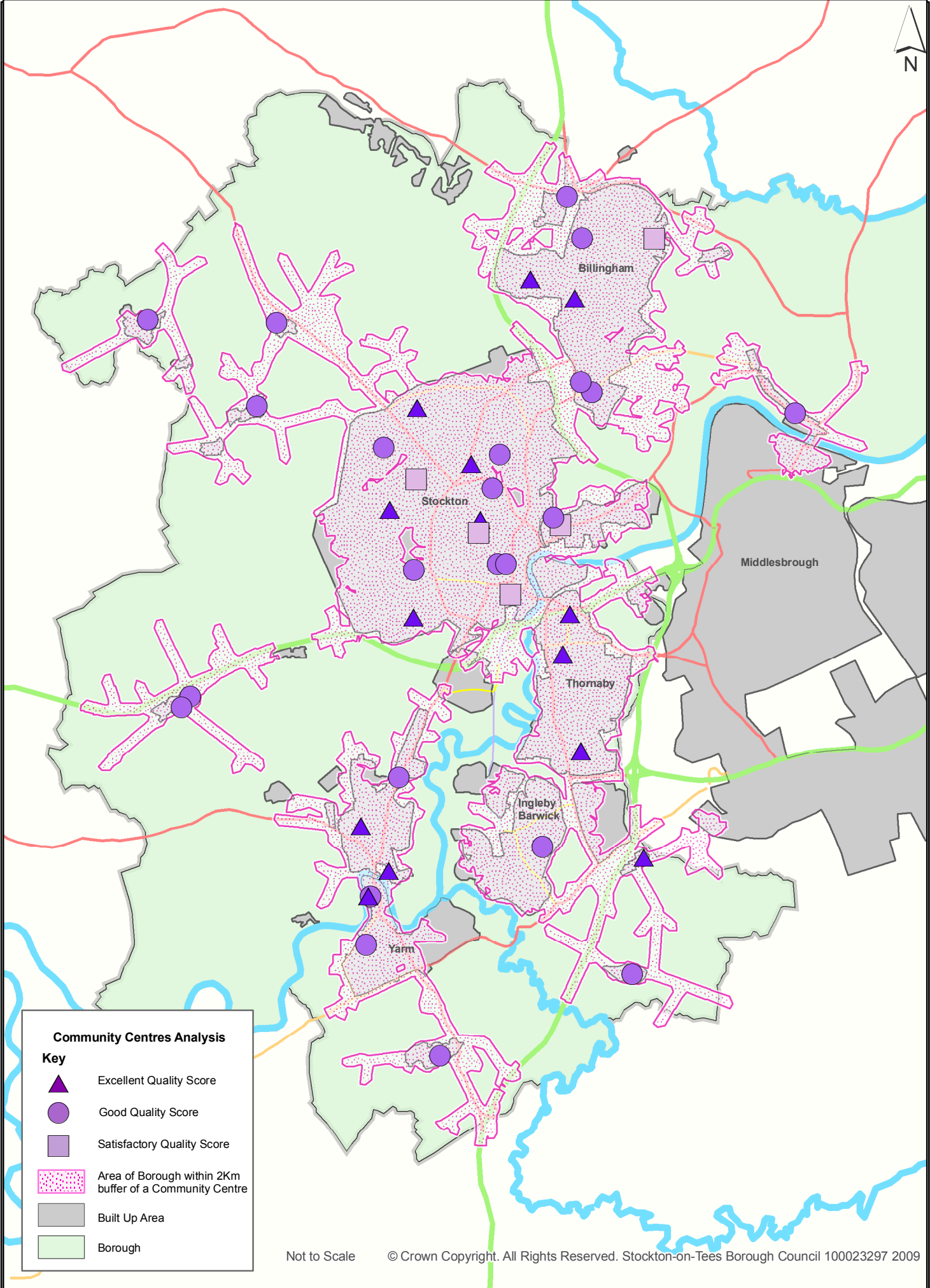
### Facility Catchment – Travel Distances

7.126. The table below demonstrates that the majority of households in the Borough are within 2 kilometres of a community centre or a village hall. This is a suitable level at which to set the proximity standard.

7.127. The Community Centres Analysis Map below shows that most of the towns and villages in the Borough are well covered by the buffer of two kilometres around community centres and village halls. It also shows that there are no centres or halls that have a poor quality score.







### Households Within Different Distances of Community Centres and Village Halls

Distance	300m	600m	1km	2km	5km	Total
Number of households	8873	24099	47089	77992	82049	82288
Percentage of households	11%	30%	57%	95%	100%	100%



**Community Centres Analysis**

**Key**

-  Excellent Quality Score
-  Good Quality Score
-  Satisfactory Quality Score
-  Area of Borough within 2Km buffer of a Community Centre
-  Built Up Area
-  Borough

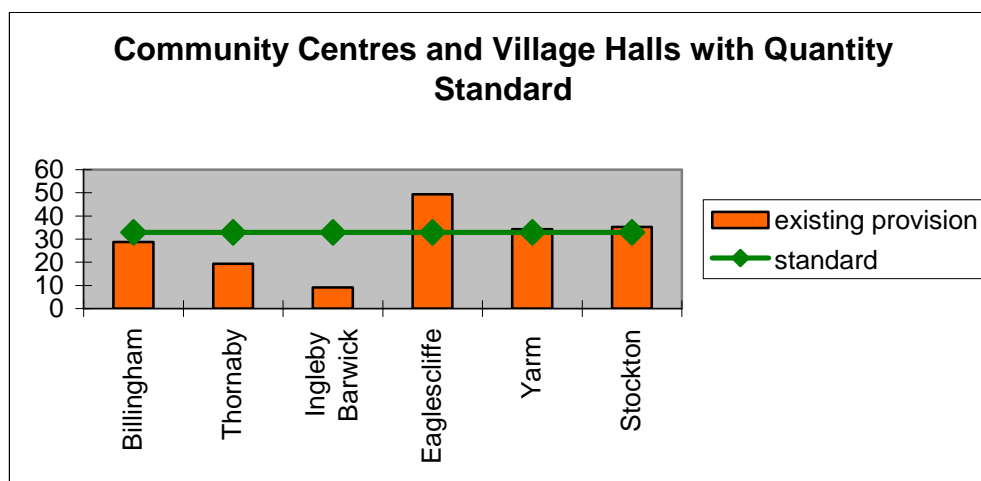
Not to Scale

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## Standards- Supply and Demand

7.128. The Borough level of provision for community centres and village halls is a capacity of 33 per 1000 people, the standard will be set at this level and is demonstrated in the graph below. The proximity standard will also be set at the Borough level of provision, which is two kilometres.



7.129. The use of provision hierarchies is encouraged in the PPG17 companion guide. For built facilities it is suggested that a hierarchy of Borough wide, five kilometres for cycling distance and two kilometers for walking distance is used. Ninety five per cent of households are within two kilometers of a community centre or village hall. Community centres and village halls should remain at the two kilometre standard for walking distance as they are a facility of local rather than strategic significance and it is likely less likely that there are cost barriers to use, as may be the case with sports facilities.

### Standards

**Quantity standard: capacity of 33 per 1000 people.**

**Proximity standard: within two kilometres**

## Spatial Distribution of Unmet Needs

7.130. Although the provision of community centres and village halls in the Borough is good the analysis of where needs are less well met is also important. As the Community Centres Analysis Map shows Billingham is well covered by the two kilometres buffer around centres and halls but falls just below the quantity standard for the provision of community centres and village halls. The quality of facilities in Billingham is good with only one facility which scores satisfactory and the rest scoring good and excellent.

7.131. Stockton meets the quantity standard for community centre and village hall provision and is relatively well covered by the two kilometre buffer

around centres and halls. There is a wide range of quality scores in Stockton from satisfactory to excellent, however; it has the highest proportion of satisfactory scores, at a quarter, compared to good and excellent.

7.132. Thornaby does not meet the quantity standard for community centres and village halls but is well covered by the two kilometre buffer around the centres it has. All of the centres in Thornaby have an excellent quality score, Thornaby is the only town in the Borough where this is the case.

7.133. Ingleby Barwick does not meet the quantity standard for community centres and village halls and in fact has the lowest level of provision of the Borough's towns. Although there is only one centre much of the settlement is covered by the two kilometre buffer around centres. An area to the north west of the settlement is outside of this buffer. The quality of provision in Ingleby Barwick is good as the one centre has a good quality score.

7.134. Eaglescliffe meets the quantity standard and has the highest level of provision in the Borough. The settlement is relatively well covered by the two kilometre buffer around centres and halls and has good quality provision with no facilities scoring satisfactory and with two of the three scoring excellent.

7.135. Yarm meets the quantity standard for community centres and village halls. However, due to the location of the centres and halls there is an area to the east of the town which is not covered by the two kilometre buffer around centres and halls. This is due to two of the centres being located near the high street. The quality of the centres and halls is high with only excellent and good scores.

7.136. The Borough's villages have a good level of provision for village halls with no villages that have halls falling below the provisions standard and in fact much higher than it in all cases. This reflects the fact that the village hall is likely to be the only facility available to people living in villages. Villages without halls are smaller and may be unable to sustain a hall. Wynyard is the exception to this as it is the largest village. Whitton and Redmarshall are within the two kilometre buffer of halls in nearby villages. Wolviston and Cowpen Bewley have been included in Billingham. The quality of provision is high with all halls scoring good and one hall scoring excellent.

7.137. Overall provision in the Borough is good. The only area that is below the quantity standard and outside the buffer is part of Ingleby Barwick. Part of Yarm is outside the buffer but meets the quality score. The rest of Ingleby Barwick, Thornaby and Billingham are within the proximity standard and below the quantity standard, with Ingleby Barwick to the greatest extent. Wynyard is the only large village without a village hall. The role of other facilities which can provide a similar service to

community centres and village halls, such as church and school halls should be considered when viewing facilities strategically.

## 8. BUILT FACILITIES QUALITY

- 8.1. The Ispal Assessment that provided information to our built facilities audit for the Tees Active Facilities offers important information surrounding the quality of these facilities. The quality of school and private facilities has been highlighted by the age and last refurbishment date of the facility.
- 8.2. Ispal highlights that the Tees Active provision in the Borough is generally of very good quality with the Splash facility in central Stockton ranked as twelfth of the facilities it assessed. The older facilities in Thornaby are also ranked highly at 104 for the Pavilion, which includes a sports hall and indoor bowls facility and 133 for the pool. Although still relatively highly ranked overall at 306, the quality of Billingham Forum is considerably below that of any other Tees Active Facility. This facility provides a large element of the Borough's water space, an ice rink, which could be said to be of sub regional importance, and is strategically important for provision in the north of the Borough.
- 8.3. Due to this Billingham Forum should be a priority for improvement, followed by the facilities in Thornaby and then Stockton. However, it is important to remember that all facilities should be open to improvement particularly where improvements could increase access and the capacity of the facility. Improvements can increase the attractiveness and use of facilities increasing their efficiency.
- 8.4. Sports halls in schools in the Borough represent an older age profile that will affect their attractiveness. However, the Building Schools for the Future programme should improve this. To enable community use many facilities located in schools will need improvements to entrances and changing facilities for example. Improvements to facilities in schools as part of the BSF programme should be given high priority, as they are particularly effective at increasing access to sports facilities through community use agreements.
- 8.5. The community centres and village halls section of the built audit shows a wide variation in the quality of facilities with scores from 40 per cent to 100 per cent. Using the same approach as quality for the open space audit where 0-25 per cent scores are poor, 26-50 per cent scores are satisfactory, 51-75 per cent scores are good and 76-100 per cent scores are excellent, the majority of community centre and village halls score good, followed by excellent and then satisfactory. There are no poor community centres and village halls.
- 8.6. All village halls score good or excellent, however, there is a wider variation in community centres with both the highest and lowest scores relate to community centres. Although the majority of community centres score good or excellent all satisfactory scores are for community centres.

## 9. EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

- 9.1. The online version of the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey provided an opportunity to identify the use of facilities by people who work in the Borough but do not live in the Borough. This was identified using postcode. The results of this survey demonstrate that for many of the open spaces and indoor sports facilities named in the survey, the same proportion of workers and people living in the Borough name them as their most used site.
- 9.2. For example 4.7 per cent of people living in the Borough in this section of the survey use John Whitehead Park most often compared to four per cent of people who work in the Borough. Of those living in the Borough in this section of the survey 19.9 per cent use Preston Park most often compared to 20 per cent who only work in the Borough. This is similarly the case with Billingham Forum Leisure complex with 22.3 per cent of those living in the Borough using it most often compared to 20 per cent of those who only work here. These examples are used because they provide named examples so we can be sure of the comparison, but it appears to be a common theme. The findings clearly demonstrate that employment uses do create a similar demand for open space and facilities. This suggests that the open space and sport facility requirements of workers are similar to those of residents.
- 9.3. This evidence would suggest that the standards determined should be used for provision in both residential and employment developments. However, it can be assumed that only built facilities and some types of open space would be used by workers, these include; parks, amenity space and outdoor sports facilities.

## 10. PROVISION IN RURAL VILLAGES

10.1. The table below outlines the quantity of open space in rural villages compared to their populations. Villages outlined here are those originally surveyed separately in the Open Space Audit; other villages such as Wolviston and Cowpen Bewley have been included in wider urban areas. The same variety of open space should not be expected in rural areas, due to the low populations that are usually served and that provision in towns is often required to make up for a lack of openness and greenery, that is not an issue in rural areas.

10.2. As the table demonstrates, the provision in rural areas shows a different pattern to that of the Borough's urban areas. The villages tend to have less variety in the types of spaces provided but in some cases the type of space provided is in much greater quantities than would be expected in urban areas, when compared to population. An example of this is the very high level of provision of natural greenspace in Thorpe Thewles, which is many times that of the Borough level. However, this should not be seen as an over provision as this is due to the nature of the space and of the lower populations in rural areas.

**Quantity of Open Space in Rural Villages Per 1000 Population**

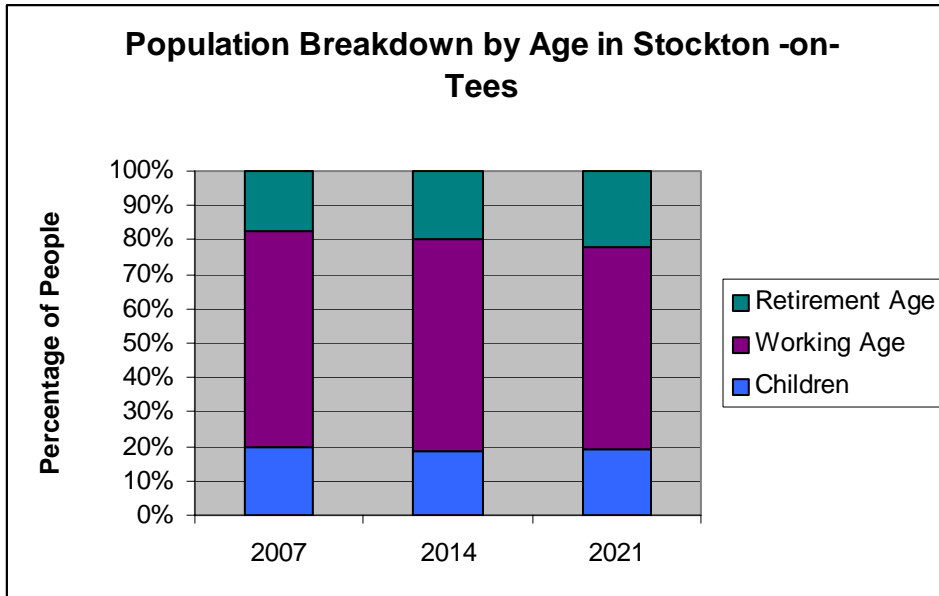
Village	Natural Greenspace (ha per 1000 people)	Green Corridors (ha per 1000 people)	Outdoor Sports (ha per 1000 people)	Amenity Greenspace (ha per 1000 people)	Play areas (people per unit)	Allotments (ha per 1000 people)
Thorpe Thewles	21.22ha	7.8ha	0	16.42ha	0	0
Wynyard	0	0	0	1.1ha	0	0
Stillington	16.56	0	2.14ha	1.76ha	488 people	2.09ha
Whitton	133.68	0	0	6.6ha	0	0
Carlton	0	0	0	2.73ha	560 people	0
Redmarshall	0	0	0	0.63ha	0	0
Elton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Newton	2.32	0	2.37ha	2.25ha	730 people	0
Aislaby	12.9	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklevington	0	0	0.68ha	0.21ha	970 people	0
Hilton	0	0	2.14ha	0.31ha	370 people	0
Maltby	0	0	0	0.64ha	0	0
Borough	2.44	1.24ha	1.76	1.39ha	2091 people	0
Standard	2ha	N/A	1.76	1.39ha	1000 people	0

- 10.3. There are no parks in the rural villages, however, Wynyard Woodland Park and play area are located relatively close to Thorpe Thewles. Graveyards are a type of space that is prevalent in rural villages and are included in Thorpe Thewles, Stillington, Elton, Long Newton, Kirklevington and Hilton. Where play provision is present in rural villages, the quantity of provision is consistently high with far less people per play unit than both the standards, and the Borough level.
- 10.4. Due to the varied nature of provision in rural areas, the Borough wide standard for open space should be applied to rural villages rather than having separate provision standards.
- 10.5. In all cases the rural villages do not have indoor sport facilities and people will typically have to travel further to this type of facility. This means that a village hall is often the only indoor facility available in rural areas and as such is particularly important.

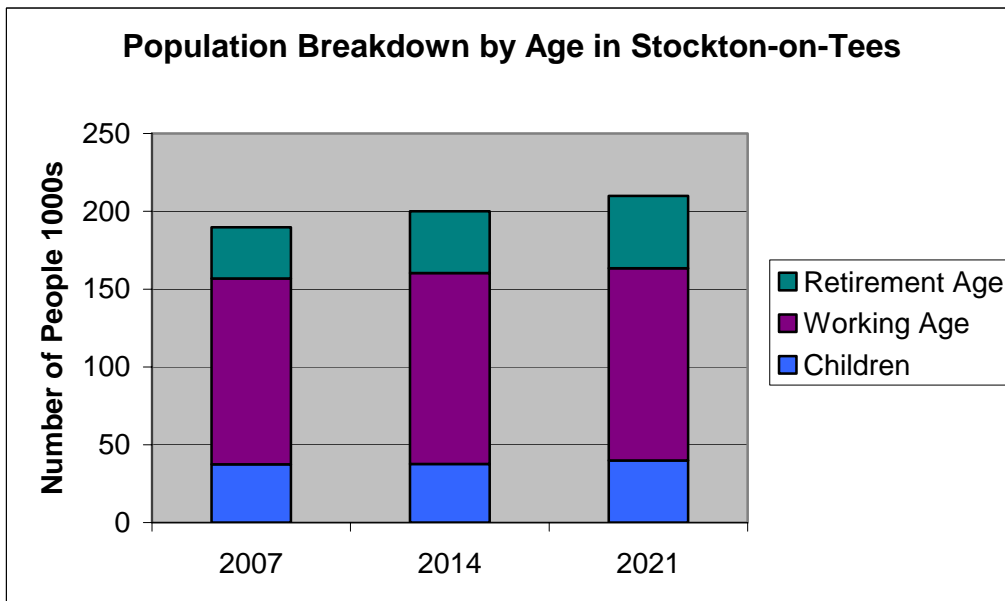
## 11. Forecasting Future Needs

- 11.1. Forecasting future needs based on population numbers and make up is an important factor in understanding the need for new open space and built facility provision. Along with the rest of the Tees Valley the population of Stockton-on-Tees Borough is estimated to increase in the period up to 2021. The population projection shows that the population of the Borough is set to rise to 200,800 in 2021. Mid 2007 population figures have been used in this assessment, and show that the mid 2007 population was 190,250.
- 11.2. Population projections show a slow rise in the child population between 2007 and 2021 from 37,400 to 40,000. The child population is counted as those from birth to age 15 years. The retired population, those aged 60 for women and 65 for men, onwards, is also projected to rise from 33,600 in 2007 to 46,500 in 2021. These retirement age figures do not factor in the rise in the retirement age for women that will increase from 2010 so that it matches the male retirement age by 2020. This will reduce the increase in this section of the population somewhat but the increase is still likely to be significant.
- 11.3. The working age population in the Tees Valley is projected to fall overall but to increase slightly in Stockton-on-Tees from 119,300 in 2007 to 123,100 in 2021. The change in the retirement age for women will also affect these figures giving a slightly bigger increase as women are counted in the working age section at older ages.
- 11.4. The graph below shows the percentage of the total population in 2007, 2014 and 2021 that fall into the categories of children, working age and retirement age. The graph demonstrates that although there will be a gradual increase in the proportion of retirement age people in the Borough that overall the relative proportions of each age group will be roughly stable.





11.5. The following graph puts the graph above into context by showing the actual number of people who are projected to fall into each age category. It shows that although the overall proportions of different age groups will remain similar with some increase in the retirement age population, it shows that the total population will increase, that children and the working age population will increase slightly and that the retirement age section of the population will increase more significantly.



11.6. In addition it is possible to use information on housing permissions and the likely locations of future housing allocations based on emerging policy, to identify where much of this population growth will be located.

11.7. There are a large number of existing housing commitments, that is dwellings that have been given planning permission but have not been started or are not yet complete. The table below shows the location of

where these dwellings are to be built. As the table below demonstrates the majority of these dwellings are to be built in the Core Area, which refers to Stockton Town centre and its surrounding residential areas, this area is the focus of regeneration.

Housing Sub-division	Commitments (dwellings with planning permission but not started or still under construction)
Core Area	About 2600
Stockton	About 1000
Thornaby	About 700
Billingham	About 250
Ingleby Barwick	About 1600
Yarm Eaglescliffe and Preston	About 150
Rural	About 500

11.8. In relation to the areas used for analysis in this assessment the Core Area covers much of Stockton East and some of Stockton West. For much of the assessment of sports facilities the whole of Stockton has been used for analysis. This would include the Core Area and Stockton where roughly half of the dwellings in the housing commitments are to be built. The other significant area of housing commitments is Ingleby Barwick where approximately 1600 further dwellings are to be built. It is not possible to require planning obligation contributions for these dwellings as they already have planning permission, however, some planning obligations will have been achieved as part of these planning applications.

11.9. Due to the large number of dwellings with existing permissions it is proposed, in the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, that it is unnecessary to allocate any further housing until the period 2016 to 2021. In this period the location of further housing is intended to be the Core Area and Stockton as a whole. The main difference in the two time frames is that in the 2016 to 2021 period Ingleby Barwick is not to be the focus of further development.

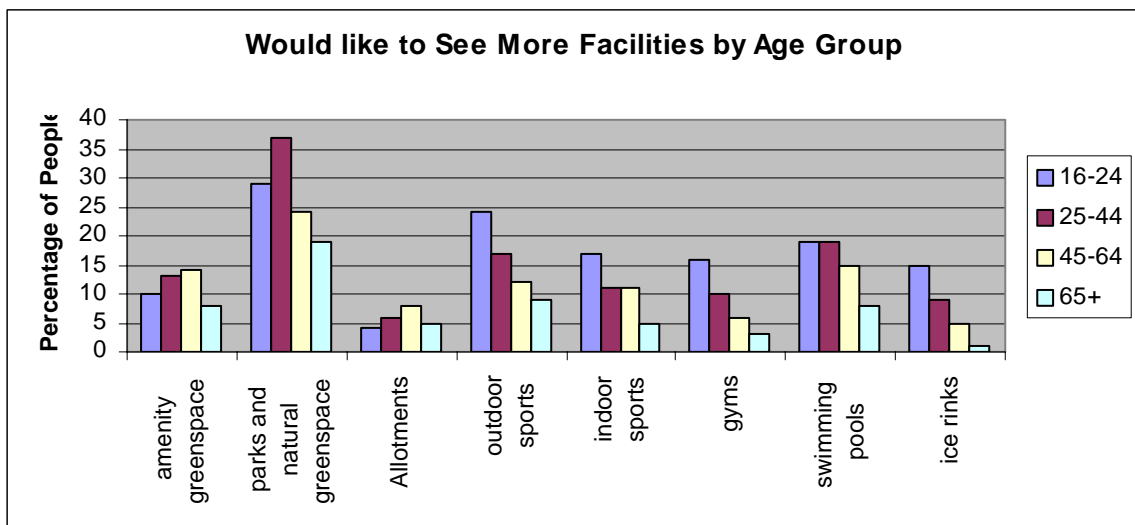
Housing Sub-area	Approximate number of dwellings (net)
Core Area	500-700
Stockton	300-400
Billingham	50-100
Yarm Eaglescliffe and Preston	50-100

11.10. The housing information suggests that much of the population growth will be housed in the Core Area and Stockton as a whole and in the early period up to 2016, in Ingleby Barwick. This demonstrates that most of the need for increased provision will be located in these areas.

11.11. The graph below uses information from the Sport Recreation and Leisure Survey and show what people said they would like to see more of

nearer to their home based on age. As previously discussed the general proportions of different age groups in the Borough are likely to stay the same with a slightly larger proportion of people in the retirement age bracket.

11.12. The graph shows that although people in that bracket are less likely to say there should be more of a facility, their priorities seem to be similar. For example, parks and natural greenspace is their priority as it is for all other groups. The retirement age group seems to think that allotments are required more than other age groups and that more ice rinks are less required than other age groups.



11.13. As the proportions of each age group are likely to remain similar and the age group that is to increase compared to the others seems to have similar priorities overall, it is not necessary to focus on increasing the provision of particular facilities but to aim to meet standards set in the assessment.

11.14. Due to the aim to locate new housing in the Core Area primarily and in Stockton as a whole, the increase in quality and quantity of open space and facilities is very important here, particularly in light of existing deficiencies in the area. Planning obligation contributions toward facilities here should be used to maximum advantage through pooling of contributions and through the use of match funding opportunities. The possibility of improving open space and facilities for the population increase in Ingleby Barwick shown above will not be possible through the use of planning obligations as development there already has planning permission. However, provision in Ingleby Barwick should be considered particularly in light of its existing deficiencies.

## **12. Next Steps and Monitoring**

### **Next Steps**

12.1. The PPG17 Guidance outlines a five-step methodology for undertaking PPG17 Assessments. This assessment has reached step four of this methodology; applying provision standards. The final stage of the methodology, drafting policies, will be undertaken as part of the production of the document where the policies will be located, the Environment DPD and Regeneration DPD. Policies will be drafted using this assessment and consulted upon and refined throughout the production of the DPDs.

### **Monitoring**

12.2. Standards have been set using open space information from 2008 and built facility information from early 2009. The standards set will be used into the future but the data itself provides a snap shot of provision at a particular time.

12.3. Due to this it is important to update this snap shot at regular intervals to identify changes in provision, where these are located and if they are positive or negative changes. This update will be used to feed into monitoring, which will identify if the provision of the quantity and quality of open space is improving or deteriorating over time. As the aim of this work and the policy, which will be based on it, is to improve the quantity and quality of opens space and sports provision to better support sustainable communities.

12.4. Monitoring will be used to assess the success of the policy against this aim and identify if the policy or Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD need to be improved in order to better support sustainable communities. Information from annual updates and monitoring will be included in the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDF.