

Appendix C – The standards for Accessible Natural Green Space (Policy I1)

Introduction -

C.1 The appendix identifies the standards of provision for publicly accessible natural green space and how the standards are to be applied to proposals for new development as required by Policy I1 of the VALP.

C.2 The starting point for calculating the green infrastructure requirement of a development proposal are the standards set out in the table below. The precise type of on-site provision that is required will depend on the nature and location of the proposal, existing open space provision in the surrounding area and the quantity/type of accessible natural green space needed in the area. This should be the subject of discussion/negotiation at the pre-application stage.

c.3 If either of the following apply:

(a) the proposed residential development site would be of insufficient size in itself to make the appropriate provision in accordance with the standards below;

or (b) taking into account the accessibility/capacity of existing open space facilities and the circumstances of the surrounding area, the open space needs of the proposed residential development can be met more appropriately by providing either new or enhanced provision off-site,

then proposals will be acceptable if the developer has first entered into a planning obligation to make a financial or in-kind contribution towards meeting the identified open space needs of the proposed residential development off-site. The precise contribution/obligation will be negotiated on a case by case basis.

C.4 Where appropriate, the Council will seek to enter into a Section 106 agreement with the developer for the future management and maintenance of the open space provision, before any grant of planning permission.

C.5 In addition to the standards in the table below, the quantitative and access standards for Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) (and Local Areas of Play – LAP), Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAP), Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks as set out in Tables 1,2 and 4 of the Fields in Trust publication “Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond The Six Acre Standard” (and any subsequent iteration) will apply as will the qualitative and design standards set out for MUGAs in the Sport England publication “Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport” and any subsequent updates.

C.6 Catchment distances are set out in the Quantity and Accessibility Standards in the table below. These distances are to be measured as the distance by car from any home in an applicable development. To meet the standard, an accessible natural green space of the required size or larger must be provided within the catchment distance. A category of accessible natural green space of a larger size, including a space with no catchment marked, will be deemed to meet the need of categories of smaller sizes of accessible natural green space as well, providing it is within the required catchment distances of the homes for these smaller sizes of accessible natural green space .

C.7 To apply the standards the population figure is the existing population plus the number of people living on the proposed development.

Quantitative/Accessibility Standard	Quality Standard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No person should live more than 300m from their area of natural green space of at least 2ha in size and that there should be at least 2ha of accessible natural green space per 1000 population 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the management, conservation and improvement of the landscape Contribute to the protection , conservation and management of historic landscapes, archaeological and built heritage assets Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ensure that development and its implementation results in a net gain of biodiversity as identified in Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species plans Deliver the enhancement of existing woodlands and create new woodlands and tree features Create new recreational facilities, particularly those that present opportunities to link urban and countryside areas Take account of an integrate with natural processes and systems Be managed to provide cost-effective and multi-functional delivery and funded in urban areas to accommodate nature, wildlife, historic and cultural assets, economic benefits and provide for sport and recreation activities Designed to high standards of sustainability to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits Provide a focus for social inclusion, community cohesion and development and lifelong learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one accessible 20ha of accessible natural green space within 2km of peoples’ homes 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One accessible 100ha of accessible natural green space within 5km of peoples’ homes 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One accessible 500ha of accessible natural green space within 10km of peoples’ homes 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4ha per 1000 population as incidental open space (a type of accessible natural green space that incorporates amenity/landscape planted areas, green corridors 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2ha per 1000 population as major open space (a type of accessible natural green space that incorporates parks, formal gardens and public open space) 	