

**Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
Borough Council
Local Development Plan**



PAPER 10: OPEN SPACE, RECREATION & LEISURE

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PURPOSE:

To provide the Council with an overview of open space, recreation and leisure provision in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and implications for proposed land use to 2030.

CONTENTS:

The paper provides:

- (i) An introduction to open space & recreation**
- (ii) An overview of the regional policy context for open space, recreation and leisure**
- (iii) General overview of organisations related to the provision of recreation / open space**
- (iv) An overview of Area Plans and ACBCBC Plans, Strategies & Masterplans**
- (iv) An assessment of the uptake of zoned recreation land within the existing Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area Plans**
- (v) An assessment of the adequacy of existing provision of sports pitches, children's play spaces and other recreation facilities in the Council**
- (vi) An assessment of the need for future provision of open space and recreation over the plan period to 2030**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** This is one of a series of papers being presented to the Planning & Regulatory Services Committee as part of the preparatory studies aimed at gathering the evidence base for the new local development plan.
- 1.2** The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the regional planning context in relation to open space, recreation and leisure and to provide information on existing open space and recreation provision. Although other formal, passive complementary areas of open space (e.g. parks and woodlands) and indoor leisure activities are included, the main focus of this paper is on outdoor recreation and children's play provision. Having considered the uptake of zoned recreation lands within the Borough, it then examines provision of open space lands within the Borough's larger settlements and the need for open space and recreation land in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area to 2030.

2.0 Definition and Types of Open Space, Recreation & Sport

- 2.1** The Council of Europe's European Sports Charter defines sport as "*all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships, or obtaining results in competition at all levels.*" There is wide recognition of the contribution that sport makes to a sense of local and national identity, to personal, moral and physical development, and individual enjoyment. Additionally, recognition needs to be given to the wider socio-economic and health benefits of sport and recreation including job creation, physical fitness and cross-community relationship building.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 8: Open Space, Sport and Recreation

- 2.2** Open Space is defined within PPS 8 as all open space of public value. The definition includes not just outdoor sports facilities, parks and gardens, amenity green space and children's play areas, but also natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, allotments, cemeteries, green corridors and civic spaces. It includes not just land, but also inland bodies of water that offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and which can also act as a visual amenity. Open space can serve different needs depending on its size, location, accessibility, landscape design and facilities.
- 2.3** This paper primarily relates to active, physical and mainly outdoor recreation, but also refers to levels of amenity open space provision - both current and future requirements. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS, NI) and Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 8 directs councils in preparing LDPs, to assess existing provision of open space in the plan area against the Fields In Trust (FIT) recommended minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of 'outdoor playing space' per 1000 population (commonly referred to as the '6 acre standard and formerly known as the National Playing Fields Association Standard (NPFA

until 2007)'. These assessments should consider both the level of 'outdoor playing space' provision in the plan area, and the distribution and accessibility of such land use. This is further explored in Section 6.

- 2.4** PPS8 states that the assessment of open space should be carried out for all large settlements while the SPPS states that the LDP should be informed by a survey/assessment of existing open space provision and future needs.
- 2.5** It should be noted that the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) has been rebranded in 2007 as Fields in Trust (FIT) and supersedes all previous editions of the 'Six Acre Standard'. The key benchmark standard recommendation of the NPFA 'Six acre standard' remain under the FIT guidance as 6 acres (2.4 ha) per 1000 of the urban population. This benchmark of 2.4 ha per 1000 of the population is identical to the NPFA recommendation (1.6 ha outdoor sport & 0.8 ha childrens playing space).
- 2.6** Each of the Borough's three Hubs and six Local Towns have been surveyed and assessed against the FIT (NPFA) recommended standard for outdoor sport and children's play space. This information has been captured on Geographical Information System (GIS) map basis and an audit carried out, detailing number of sites, their type and size in a spreadsheet for each of the nine larger settlements. Overall results for each of the nine settlements are presented at Tables 12 (a-c).
- 2.7** The Fields in Trust (FIT) guidance refers to open space as land and facilities used for outdoor sport and play. The FIT definition of outdoor playing space is 'space that is accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation and play'. Facilities falling within the FIT definition of outdoor playing space are:
- Facilities for pitch sports, including training areas;
 - Facilities for other outdoor sports, such as bowls, athletics & tennis, including training areas;
 - Designated areas for children's play containing a range of facilities, including play areas and playgrounds of all kinds;
 - Amenity open space suitable for casual or informal play, particularly in housing areas; and
 - Facilities for teenagers and young people.
- 2.8** Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is one of a number of bodies with statutory responsibility for the provision of adequate recreational facilities within the Plan area. Other bodies who contribute to the provision and development of sport, recreation and open space facilities also play an important role. These include local sports clubs, educational establishments, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Forestry Service, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Waterways Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland (in association with the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure and the National Lottery).

- 2.9** As well as having responsibility for sport and recreation provision, the Council is leading the community planning process for the borough, working in partnership with statutory agencies and the community, voluntary and business sectors to plan for and improve services that matter to local people, including sports and recreation facilities.
- 2.10** There are a range of parks and children's play facilities across Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. The area is presently well served by a wide range of formal private recreational clubs including gaelic games, soccer, rugby, athletics, cricket, tennis and golf. The extensive provision of school playing fields/facilities and their potential for public use throughout the area offers future potential. The Council's are also actively involved in community partnerships for the development and operation of recreational sites.
- 2.11** Although the Fields in Trust (FIT: formerly known as NPFA) Guidance and Standard are accepted as a useful means for auditing outdoor open space provision in urban areas, it is important to raise a number of qualifying points:
- The FIT (NPFA) is a more suitable model for large urban settlements where the countryside is not immediately accessible;
 - The FIT (NPFA) does not consider facilities located in a rural location and is not suited to consider amenities within smaller settlements (under 1000 population);
 - The FIT (NPFA) is solely a tool to consider the provision of outdoor sports land and children's play space;
 - The FIT (NPFA) assesses only outdoor sports land and children's play space. These recreational categories are mainly used by younger people. The NI population is ageing and the FIT Standard offers little guidance in relation to the typical recreational pursuits of older people.
 - The FIT (NPFA) does not consider the large areas used for amenity purposes such as parks with walking trails or golf courses;
 - The FIT (NPFA) recommends maximum distances for various recreation facilities but this does not consider the safety of the linkages (e.g. across a main road);
 - The FIT (NPFA) does not consider indoor facilities which are critical to meeting recreational requirements in our maritime climate;
 - The FIT (NPFA) makes no allowance for the level of use that facilities can endure (eg- Sports NI estimate that 3G pitches allow on average four times the use of a standard grass pitch);
 - The FIT (NPFA) minimum standards can be interpreted as a definite level of provision, without consideration of local context;
 - The FIT (NPFA) guidance offers benchmark recommendations for urban and rural councils. Their rural and urban area classification, devised in 2005, defined rural as settlements with a population under 10,000. This

definition is more suited to a more urban context as presents itself in England. NI presents a more dispersed rural context and our own Borough would only have the three Hubs with a population over 10,000. This classification arguably does not reflect our Plan urban / rural hierarchy and the role / function of our larger local towns such as Dromore with a population of approximately 6,000; and

- There are a number of formal 'dual use' recreational facilities used by both schools and the public. However, there are undoubtedly a number of 'informal dual-use' arrangements that enhance overall provision within the Borough that cannot be counted in the audit.

3.0 Regional Policy Context

(a) Programme for Government (PfG) 2011 - 2015

- 3.1** The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) published the Programme for Government (PfG) Building a Better Future on 12th March 2012. Included within the Strategic Priorities 1-4 set out for the Assembly term 2011 to 2015 are multiple references to improving the health, including mental health, and well-being of the population; unlocking the potential of the leisure sector as an instrument for positive change; and seeking to encourage greater involvement in sporting activities to advance social cohesion and integration – all of which have direct links to the provision and accessibility of open space and recreation.
- 3.2** The PfG specifically identifies the Play and Leisure Action Plan as one of the 'building blocks' to underpin the first strategic priority of creating opportunities, tackling disadvantage and improving health and well-being. Sports Matters, a strategy for Sport and Physical recreation is cited as a building block for Strategic Priority 4: Building a strong and shared community.

(b) Regional Development Strategy

- 3.3** The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 aims to support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential by offering opportunities in terms of their potential for growth in new sectors, the provision of rural recreation and tourism, their attractiveness as places to invest, live and work, and their role as a reservoir of natural resources and highly valued landscapes. The RDS also aims to promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities recognising that a healthy community is better able to take advantage of the economic, social and environmental opportunities which are open to it. Improved health and well-being is derived from a number of sources including easy access to appropriate services and facilities.
- 3.4** The RDS provides Regional Guidance in supporting urban and rural renaissance (RG7), which places importance on promoting recreational

space within cities, towns, neighbourhoods, and that new developments or plans should make provision for adequate green and blue infrastructure (green infrastructure include parks and green spaces; blue infrastructure includes ponds, streams and lakes). The amenity value of the natural environment, if linked to green infrastructure (RG11), provides opportunities for walking and cycling routes to heritage and other recreational interests and thus contributes to the health and well-being of people living in urban areas.

(c) Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for NI

- 3.5** A final form SPPS was published in September 2015 and is intended to consolidate 20 different planning policy statements into one document and set out strategic planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development. It sets the strategic direction for the new councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within future local development plans. Therefore the Council needs to be mindful of the SPPS open space, sport and outdoor recreation key policy objectives (regional strategic) which are detailed below.

Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (SPPS)

- 3.6** Government recognises that open space, sport and outdoor recreation is important to society now and in the future. It supports many cultural, social, economic, health and environmental benefits. Everyone, particularly children, older people and people with disabilities should have easy access to open space and the opportunity to participate in sport and outdoor recreational activity or simply enjoy and have contact with nature. This is recognised in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) which highlights the need to provide adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure in cities, towns and neighbourhoods, and new developments.
- 3.7** Open space, whether or not there is public access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban life by providing important green lungs, visual breaks and wildlife habitats in built-up areas. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas, listed buildings and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban and rural regeneration.

Policy Objectives (Regional Strategic)

- 3.8** The following strategic policy as set out in the SPPS (NI) in relation to open space, sport and outdoor recreation must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) and in the determination of planning applications:
- safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision;
 - ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity;

- facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside that do not negatively impact on the amenity of existing residents;
- ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities;
- achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities; and
- ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity.

The Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation strategic objectives detailed in PPS 8: open space, sport and outdoor recreation are identical to the SPPS (NI).

Local Development Plan (LDP) Preparation:

- 3.9** In plan-making, councils should bring forward an Open Space Strategy (OSS) that must reflect the aim, objectives and policy approach of the SPPS, tailored to the specific circumstances of the plan area.
- 3.10** The LDP should be informed by a survey/assessment of existing open space provision and future needs. This should include both public and private open space, and identify the different needs they serve. Councils should generally focus on open spaces within or adjoining urban areas, but may also consider outdoor recreational facilities in the countryside. Councils should liaise with other interested bodies such as the Sports Council as part of this process. Councils should also take account of the provision and role of other forms of open space, such as children’s play areas and the availability of indoor sports facilities. The distribution and accessibility of such spaces and facilities together with the amenity value, environmental assets and linkages they may provide will be important considerations. Arising from this, councils should bring forward appropriate local policies and proposals for the plan area.
- 3.11** PPS 8 and the SPPS take an identical approach to zoning for future needs, taking into account the following:
- Accessibility to and from existing and proposed housing areas;
 - The potential for any detrimental impact on biodiversity or on sensitive environmental areas and features;
 - The contribution that open space can make to the quality of the environment and community life;
 - The importance of protecting linear open spaces such as pedestrian and cycle routes, community greenways, former railway lines and river and canal corridors many of which are valuable in linking larger areas of open space, and providing important wildlife corridors / ecological networks; and, additionally in the SPPS:
 - Promoting and protecting public access to and along the coast;

- Making adequate provision of green and blue infrastructure; and
- Identifying and designating areas of open space which perform a strategic function, such as landscape wedges in urban areas.

Implementation:

- 3.12** In preparing LDPs councils should assess existing provision of open space in the plan area against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) recommended minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of 'outdoor playing space' per 1000 population (commonly referred to as the '6 acre standard'). These assessments should consider both the level of 'outdoor playing space' provision in the plan area, and the distribution and accessibility of such land use.
- 3.13** Where appropriate, key site requirements for zoned residential land should include guidance on the provision of areas of public open space (including formal and informal recreation areas) as an integral part of the development. Where residential zonings occur in close proximity to existing or zoned open space, plans will normally provide guidance on the need for linkages between the development and these areas in order to facilitate ease of access.
- 3.14** The Northern Ireland countryside lends itself to accommodating a wide range of recreational activities. LDPs should contain policy for the consideration of development proposals for outdoor recreation in the countryside. In doing so councils should have regard to a range of issues including:
- visual and residential amenity;
 - public safety, including road safety;
 - any impact on nature conservation, landscape character, archaeology or built heritage; and
 - accessibility.

(d) Regional Planning Policy Statements

- 3.15** Planning policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.
- 3.16** Local Development Plans should identify existing open space provision, including any proposals for future development of these areas, and the SPPS carries through the general policy presumption against the loss of open space to competing land uses set out in PPS 8.
- 3.17** PPS 8's objectives are identical to the SPPS and the PPS 8 mirrors the content and key direction of the SPPS. Until the Council adopts its Plan

Strategy, PPS 8 will be retained under the transitional arrangements and planning authorities will apply existing policy contained within relevant documents such as PPS 8 together with the SPPS.

- 3.18** Other relevant regional policy is contained in PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments which requires development proposals to integrate areas of public open space, including children's play spaces, as an intrinsic element of new residential development, to meet the needs generated by that development.

(e) Other relevant Government Strategies

- 3.19** The Northern Ireland Government has launched several important policy documents in recent years which promote the delivery of enhanced facilities for open space, sport and recreation. These strategies re-affirm the importance of sport and recreation and are expected to be delivered by a combination of Central Government Departments together with Council and the community/voluntary sectors.

- **Play and Leisure Policy Statement** for Northern Ireland was produced by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in 2009. The aim of this policy framework is to improve existing play and leisure provision for all children and young people from 0 - 18 years. As a result, the **Play and Leisure Implementation Plan** was produced in 2011. This specifies high level outcomes with emphasis on the value placed on play, and improved play and leisure facilities for all children and young people in order to support their development, enjoyment and growth.
- **Sport Matters: The NI Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019** outlines a broader Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. Its vision is for "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport..." It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period and informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: Participation, Performance and Places. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans.
- **Active Places Research Report 2009 'Bridging the Gap' & 2014 Update** provides an evidence base to inform the strategic development of sports facilities in Northern Ireland. The 2009 report identified unmet demand and shortfalls for sports facilities such as sports halls, swimming pools, tennis courts, athletic facilities and pitches in Northern Ireland at council level. The 2014 update presents facility shortfall tables for Pitches and Sports Halls only.

The facility shortfall tables presented in the 2009 Report excluded school sports facilities due to their limited availability for community use. However, in light of recent 'Community Use of Schools' guidance published by Sport NI and the Department of Education, it is important to recognise the potential value of school sports facilities in addressing the facility shortfalls throughout Northern Ireland.

- **Community Use of Schools (January 2014)**
The Department of Education produced this document to provide practical guidance to achieving community use of school sports facilities. There is a range of educational, recreational and sporting facilities which can be used to meet a variety of needs not only for pupils, but for their parents, families and local communities.
- **Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024**
This strategy was prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI in May 2014. The vision of this strategy is to make Northern Ireland a world class mountain bike destination. Craigavon Lakes & City Park has an existing 10km mountain bike trail.

(e) Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Council Corporate Plan 2015-2017

- 3.20** With regard to the Council's local plans and strategies, the overarching aim of the Council's Corporate Plan for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is to – 'Prosper the Place, Serve the People & Strengthen our Position'.
- 3.21** The Council's Corporate Plan Vision, Mission and Values includes a commitment that the Council will invest in state of the art leisure facilities and as outdoor and adventure activities using the beautiful environment.
- 3.22** The Council's Corporate Plan has identified within the 'serve the people' corporate priority to offer a varied leisure and recreational facilities and encourage recreational use of shared open spaces.

(f) Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Regeneration & Development Strategy (R&DS) Corporate Plan 2015-2017

- 3.23** The Regeneration & Development Strategy (R&DS) aligns itself to the Corporate Plan and builds upon the three strategic priorities to Prosper the Place, Serve the People and Strengthen our Position. The R&DS sets out a clear vision for the Council's future, a framework for a more joined up approach to economic development and regeneration and a process for effective implementation of a strategic action plan.
- 3.24** The R&DS main spatial considerations include:
- Leisure & tourism within the Craigavon Urban Area (CUA) including the potential South Lakes development opportunity (including Southern Regional College campus and Leisure Complex); and
 - Banbridge with its retail, sports and leisure facilities.

(f) Emerging Policy

- 3.25** Sport NI in partnership with the District Councils, is developing a Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland and 11 District Council Area Reports. As reflected in the key strategic actions for the Council within the Corporate Plan, the Sports Facilities Strategy will provide a framework for the prioritisation and development of facilities and the prioritisation of investment by a range of investors in sports facility provision.
- 3.26** The Strategy and Reports will be delivered in two phases. The facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland is expected to be published in Spring 2016 with the 11 associated District Council Area Reports expected to be finalised by Summer 2016. These have been drawn together by Sport NI with input from District Councils and other relevant bodies.

(g) Council Masterplans

- 3.27 Armagh City Centre Masterplan 2030 (Updated March 2016)**, refers to open spaces such as the Palace Demesne and the Mall as central features of Armagh's heritage. Included in the Masterplan aims and objectives are:
- Provide good open spaces and recreational facilities for exercise, relaxation and play.
- 3.28** In relation to community greenways, the Masterplan proposes a 'network of Greenways for the City, following the routes of rivers and former railway lines, thus providing valuable open space to adjacent communities, whilst safeguarding these routes from further development' and states 'Community Greenways afford the opportunity to provide linkage by connecting open spaces thereby enabling continuous foot and cycleways. These provide valuable open space for leisure and recreation, as well as the protection of wildlife habitats. In Armagh, greenway routes are proposed along the Callan and Ballynahone Rivers, with others following the routes of the disused Monaghan, Portadown and Castleblaney railway lines....'.
- 3.29** It refers to the potential for leisure/recreation uses and sports provision along Irish Street / Friary Road which will also be supported by a consolidated Sports and Leisure area. Scope exists to further develop first-class facilities for use by the public and all of the City's sporting bodies.
- 3.30** The Masterplan conclusions refer to enhancing the quality of life for Armagh's residents by creating a high quality city environment that provides the setting for new employment, commerce, residential, retail, leisure and recreational opportunities. Connections between the City Centre and its residents will be strengthened through new streets, spaces and greenways, encouraging healthier lifestyles of walking and cycling.
- 3.31 Banbridge Town Centre Masterplan (updated March 2016)** acknowledged that the River Bann is an under-utilised asset and referred to unlocking the connections between it and the Town Centre. It included a number of green space proposals as follows:

- The establishment of a riverside greenway between Solitude Park and the Leisure Centre;
- New footbridges / cycleways linking the Greenway with Solitude Park and the leisure centre;
- A boardwalk below the River Bann bridge;
- A new public park on Kenlis Street;
- An Upper River Bann canoe trail tied to the areas rich Linen heritage;
- A public plaza & tennis courts relocated to beside the Leisure Centre; &
- A new town centre pedestrian link along the old railway line (Rathfriland Road -Downshire Road) with further potential linkage to the Mournes;

3.32 The Craigavon Integrated Development Framework (CIDF: updated March 2016) offers guidance on a number of issues including a planned approach to retail, leisure, business, housing, infrastructure and community development.

3.33 It states that all three centres benefit from a range of natural and built assets including large open public parks and lakes that compete with the best in the country. The CIDF refers to one Craigavon with three distinct but closely linked town centres that will capitalise on their heritage and open space assets. The centres will be well connected with one another and easy to access by foot, cycle, public transport and car.

3.34 It specifically recommends the following opportunities for Central Craigavon town centre in relation to:

- Expansion to accommodate retail and leisure;
- Enhanced Leisure and Entertainment Offer; and
- Improved links with adjoining communities.

3.35 In Central Craigavon, the Council is developing plans for a Leisure Centre, while the Southern Regional College are progressing plans for a further education campus along the shores of South Lake.

3.36 The CIDF highlights the following opportunity recommendations in relation to Portadown Town Centre:

- Culture and leisure offer; and
- Riverside living, working and relaxing.

The CIDF states that the Council's Riversides Project will also open a range of opportunities and be a focus for development along the River Bann.

CIDF concepts for Portadown include:

- Improving connectivity between People's Park, surrounding communities, the Portadown Railway Station and Town Centre; and
- Opening up opportunities along the banks of the River Bann.

3.37 The CIDF summary points for Portadown include:

- The need for improved connections between the centre, the People's Park and the communities beyond; and
- The need for the town to properly address one of its key assets, the River Bann.

3.38 In relation to Lurgan Town Centre, opportunities exist for redevelopment along Castle Lane with a mixed use scheme on the west side of Castle Lane alongside a new retail led scheme on the eastern side of Castle Lane which would have major benefits to the town as well as developing large unattractive open spaces within the town centre. It states that Lurgan Town centre will be attractive to visitors by making the most of its heritage, open space (ie Lurgan Park) and by developing a niche arts and crafts offer and speciality interest.

3.39 The Dromore Town Centre Masterplan (May 2015) is built around 5 key themes for the future redevelopment of the Town Centre as follows:

- The place;
- The people;
- The challenges;
- The purpose; and
- The process.

3.40 The development themes for Dromore Town Centre includes:

- Theme 2: Creating a River Lagan corridor; and
- Theme 3: A pedestrian and cycle friendly town.

Other Council Strategies

3.41 The Council has agreed to develop a strategy for play and a strategy for health & recreation within the Borough. This is in keeping with the Council vision to invest in 'state of the art leisure facilities as well as outdoor and adventure activities using the beautiful natural environment'. This will be delivered through the development & implementation of a health and well-being strategy in line with the following Corporate Plan Priorities:

- Facilitate healthy lifestyle choices; and
- Encourage recreational use of open spaces.

3.42 The ACBCBC Sports Development Action Plan 2015-17 which was published in 2015 and the developing Play / Health & Recreation Strategies are strategies that will be considered to inform the LDP's Open Space Strategy.

4.0 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area Plans - Open Space Provision

4.1 The following are the most relevant objectives contained in the ACBCBC extant Plans regarding open space, sport and outdoor recreation:

Armagh Area Plan (AAP) 2004 & Alteration No 1: Armagh Countryside Proposals

- To identify land within defined limits in urban areas to meet planned future development requirements in respect of...Open space...and community facilities;

Banbridge / Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015

- to facilitate integration between land use and transportation in order to reduce congestion, the need for car journeys and to encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, particularly walking, cycling and public transport; and
- to conserve, sustain and enhance the area's environmental qualities, local distinctiveness and sites of environmental importance in terms of landscape character and diversity, wildlife and habitats, townscape and archaeology.

Craigavon Area Plan 2010 & Craigavon Town Centre Boundaries & Retail Designations Plan 2010

- the integration of land use and transportation to reduce congestion, the need for car journeys and encourage a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling;
- the protection and where appropriate, enhancement of the natural environment and man-made heritage; and
- the achievement of a high quality of layout, design and landscaping in new development.

Dungannon & South Tyrone Area Plan 2010

- the integration of land use and transportation to reduce congestion, the need for car journeys and encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling;
- the promotion of development within existing settlements which benefit from ease of access to an appropriate range of services and community facilities and maximise use of existing infrastructure;
- the consolidation of the network of open space, cycleways and walkways; and
- the promotion of opportunities for sustainable leisure and tourism development.

Open Space Zoned Lands in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Districts

- 4.2** In the Armagh Area Plan 2004 & Alteration No1: Armagh Countryside Proposals, open space was zoned in Armagh City and the three local towns (Keady, Markethill & Tandragee). Approximately 5.6 hectares of proposed active open space land was zoned at Ardmore (AAP 2004 Ref: 28.2.1), 4.8ha at Milford (AAP 2004 Ref: 28.2.2) and 4ha at Cathedral Road (AAP 2004 Ref: 28.2.3). All of this zoned land has been developed for and in use for active open space uses other than approximately 1.4ha of grassland at Milford. Further details of zoned open space land development are detailed in Tables 1 & 2.
- 4.3** In the Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan (BNMAP) 2015, open space land was only zoned in Banbridge town within the Banbridge District portion of the plan. The lands zoned as open space is the former hospital site, Ballygowan Road (BNMAP 2015 Ref: BE 38) which is in use as landscaped amenity public open space. Further details of zoned open space land development are detailed in Tables 1 & 2.
- 4.4** In the Craigavon Area Plan 2010, the main open space land zoned was within the Craigavon Urban Area. Approximately 31.5ha were zoned in the Craigavon Urban Area. This comprises 19.7ha within Portadown (Corcrain, Bann Meadows, Rectory Park, Edenvilla & Meadow Lane) 6.2ha in Lurgan (Gordon/Monbrief Playing Fields) and 6.7ha within the Central Craigavon sector at Aghacommon. Of the 31.5ha CAP 2010 open space land zoned within the CUA, the only open space use developed has been at Edenvilla (3G synthetic pitch: 0.76ha and the Woodland Trust community woodland amenity area at Corcrain: 4.3ha). Approximately 2.0ha of land has been developed for uses other than open space at Portadown (Health Centre at Meadow Lane:1.7 ha) and Aghacommon (Ballynamony Heights housing: 0.3ha). Further details of zoned open space land development are provided in Table 1.
- 4.5** There has also been areas zoned for open space in the following CAP 2010 villages and small settlements: Bleary, Donaghcloney, Magheralin, Derrymacash, Gibson's Hill, Maghery, Milltown (Co. Armagh), Tartaraghan and the Birches. These zonings total 10.68ha with the majority of this land zoned for open space (8.12ha:76%) in use as recreation or amenity open space. A small amount of land (0.21ha) has been developed for uses other than open space at The Birches (school car park) and Tartaraghan (hall car park). Approximately 2ha of zoned open space land remains undeveloped adjacent to Maghery Country Park, Maghery. Further details are provided in Table 3.
- 4.6** Three villages (Clonmore, Tamnamore & Derrylee) considered under the Dungannon & South Tyrone Area Plan 2010 have transferred to ACBCBC on RPA. None of these settlements had any zoned open space with only Tamnamore having any existing open space illustrated (riverside park).

Table 1: Uptake of Plan Open Space Zonings in ACBCBC Hubs

Settlement	Area (ha) Zoned	Area (ha) Developed for Recreation (ha)	Area (ha) Developed for Other Uses	Area (ha) Undeveloped
Armagh City	14.4	13 (90.3%)	00 (0.0%)	1.4 (9.7%)
Banbridge Town	0.49	0.49 (100%)	00 (0.0%)	00 (0.0%)
Craigavon Urban Area (CUA):	31.5	5.06 (16.1%)	2.0 (6.3%)	24.44 (77.6%)
• Central Craigavon	6.7	0.0 (0%)	0.3 (4.5%)	6.4 (95.5%)
• Lurgan	5.1	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)	5.1 (100%)
• Portadown	19.7	5.56 (28.2%)	1.7 (8.6%)	12.44 (63.2%)

Source: Planning Survey, ACBCBC 2015

Table 2: Uptake of Plan Open Space Zonings in Local Towns*

Settlement	Area (ha) Zoned	Area (ha) Developed for Recreation (ha)	Area (ha) Developed for Other Uses	Area (ha) Undeveloped
Keady	2.7	0.0 (00%)	0.38 (14.1%)	2.32 (85.9%)
Markethill	3.65	0.5 (13.7%)	00 (0.0%)	3.15 (86.3%)
Tandragee	9.7	6.7 (69%)	1.5 (15.5%)	1.5 (15.5%)
Dromore*	0	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)
Gilford*	0	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)
Rathfriland*	0	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)
Local Towns Total	16.05	7.2 (44.9%)	1.88 (11.7%)	6.97 (43.4%)

Source: Planning Survey, ACBCBC 2015

* No new O/S zoned in BNMAP 2015 local towns & no local towns in legacy Craigavon Borough*.

Table 3: Uptake of Plan Open Space Zonings in Villages / Small Settlements**

Settlement	Area (ha) Zoned	Area (ha) Developed for Open Space	Area (ha) Developed for Other Uses	Area (ha) Undeveloped
Bleary village	0.47	0.47 (100%)	0.00 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)
Donaghcloney village	0.67	0.67 (100%)	00 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)
Magheralin village	1.2	1.2 (100%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)
Derrymacash small settlement	0.44	0.44 (100%)	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)

Gibson's Hill small settlement	0.5	0.5 (100%)	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)
Maghery small settlement	4.85	2.85 (59%)	0.0 (00%)	2.0 (41%)
Milltown (Co. Armagh) small settlement	1.1	1.1 (100%)	0.0 (00%)	0.0 (00%)
Tartaraghan small settlement	1.05	0.64 (61%)	0.06 (06%)	0.35 (33%)
The Birches small settlement	0.4	0.25 (62.5%)	0.15 (37.5%)	0.0 (00%)
Settlement Total	10.68	8.12 (76.0%)	0.21(2.0%)	2.35 (22.0%)

Source: Planning Survey, ACBCBC 2015

** No new O/S zoned in BNMAP 2015 or AAP 2004 villages or small settlements **.

- 4.7** There are no local towns in the legacy Craigavon Borough Council area as reflected in Table 2. Furthermore, no additional zoned open space has been proposed in the legacy Banbridge District local towns within BNMAP 2015.
- 4.8** The Armagh Area Plan 2004 brought forward a number of zoned recreational proposals within the legacy Armagh District local towns. Within Keady, approximately 2.7ha of zoned open space recreational land was contained in the AAP 2004. Of this 2.7ha, no land has been developed for open space to date and 0.38ha has been developed as housing at Darkley Road. Within Markethill, approximately 3.65ha of zoned open space recreational land was contained in the AAP 2004. Of this 3.65ha, only 0.5ha have been developed as a local forest at Fairgreen Road. Within Tandragee, approximately 9.7ha of zoned open space recreational land was contained in the AAP 2004. Of this 9.7ha, approximately 6.7 ha has been developed as Tandragee Leisure Centre on the Madden Road. Within this zoning, approximately 1.5 ha was developed for a car park, amenity site and nursery school and 1.5ha undeveloped.
- 4.9** The Craigavon Area Plan 2010 was the only Borough plan to zone open space in villages and small settlements. Details of lands zoned are contained in Table 3. Of the 10.68ha zoned in villages and small settlements, 76% (8.22ha) is in use for recreation or amenity open space uses. Only 0.21ha (2.0%) has been developed for other uses and 2.35ha (22.0%) remains undeveloped.

5.0 Open Space and Recreation lands in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Introduction

- 5.1 A variety of open spaces in public and private ownership contribute to the quality of life for those who live within and visit the Borough. These include formal parks and gardens, sports and recreation grounds, children’s playgrounds, and less formal open spaces.
- 5.2 A general overview of open space and recreation lands within the Council area indicates that the Council and other bodies provide a total of approximately 186 hectares of outdoor recreation space within the hubs and local towns of ACBCBC, of which approximately 62ha are children’s play space and 124ha are outdoor sport (Tables 12 a-c). For the purposes of this paper, information presented will be on the basis of the legacy district council areas, with allowances for any open space within the three new settlements transferred from Dungannon District and the four Slieve Croob settlements transferred to Newry Mourne & Down council area.
- 5.3 In addition to formal sports and children’s play areas, there are other opportunities in the Borough for water-based sports such as canoeing, boating, water-skiing, kayaking and jet-skiing. Walking, cycling and passive recreational activities are often located along waterside locations. The numerous loughs /lakes/ rivers in the Borough and in particular, the southern shores of Lough Neagh, make the borough popular for water based sport and recreation. This resource is more difficult to quantify since it is not a land based activity.
- 5.4 Other opportunities exist for less-formal activities within the Borough, for example areas with public access to various outdoor facilities as detailed in section 9 of this paper.

Table 4: Borough Children’s Play Spaces

(Breakdown for legacy council areas)	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	ACBCBC
Children’s play space	9.29 ha	6.00 ha	47.18 ha	62.47ha

Source: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council 2015.

Outdoor Sports Provision

- 5.5 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough offers a full range of outdoor sports and activities. These range from sports to outdoor facilities as detailed in Appendix 2. The use of the FIT (NPFA) Standard for calculation of need for land for outdoor sport is primarily for urban areas with populations

in excess of 1,000.¹ Therefore, the audit focuses on the main urban areas within the Borough (ie our three hubs and the six local towns).

5.6 Care needs to be taken when applying the FIT (NPFA) Standard to the Borough as detailed above at paragraph 2.10. A council area with a significant rural component and relatively few settlements may have relatively few sports facilities. On the other hand, a community or village with a population of over 1,000 for example may have a wide range of facilities to provide for the rural catchment. Additionally, an area with a high dependence on passive recreation or on water-based outdoor sport would be expected to score poorly against the NPFA standard. The FIT Standard does not always consider the realities of rural areas or the role of small rural settlement as providing services/facilities for a wider catchment. Where, for example, the audit may suggest that the existence of two football pitches could suggest over-provision in a local town with 1800 people. Nevertheless, this standard does provide a useful starting point in assessing the overall level of provision

5.7 Sport NI's Active Places 2014 update has audited the grass pitch provision of the ACBCBC council area, excluding education grass pitches, to be 134 ha (331.79 acres). The synthetic pitch provision in the council is likewise indicated to be 9.7 ha (23.38 acres), but Sport NI determine a synthetic pitch to have 4 times the value of a grass pitch, therefore this becomes equivalent to 38.80 ha. Thus, ACBCBC has a combined area of almost 173 ha of grass and synthetic pitches, excluding education grass pitches.

Table 5: 2014 Quantity of playing pitches in District Council Areas (sports NI: including education synthetic pitches but excluding grass pitches).

			EXISTING PROVISION				SHORTFALLS	
			Grass	Synthetic		Total Acres SNI	SNI Standard	
District Council	2011 Population Projection	Acres Recommended by SAS	Total Grass Acres	Existing Acres	SNI by 4		Perceived Acres Shortfall	Pitches Required
Ards/North Down	155882	468	141	17	69	209	258	103
Lisburn City/Castlereagh	178544	535.632	168.97	19.03	76.12	245.09	290.54	116
Antrim/Newtownabbey	132389	397.167	121.05	15.44	61.76	182.81	214.36	86
Mid and East Antrim	132378	397.134	162.1	10.83	43.32	205.42	191.71	77
Derry City/Strabane	150592	451.776	206.22	11.41	45.64	251.86	199.92	80
Belfast	263313	789.939	377.41	49.07	196.3	573.69	216.25	86
Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	190559	571.677	331.79	23.38	93.52	425.31	146.37	59
Causeway Coast & Glens	140436	421.308	316.46	14.6	58.4	374.86	46.448	19
Newry, Mourne and Down	164514	493.542	370.5	15.15	60.6	431.1	62.442	25
Fermanagh and Omagh	112400	337.2	260.36	6.61	26.44	286.8	50.4	20
Mid Ulster District Council	129915	389.745	316.93	21.97	87.88	404.81	-15.07	-6
Totals	1750922	5252.77	2772.49	204.65	818.6	3591.09	1661.7	665

¹ Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play. Fields in Trust (formerly the NPFA) 2006.

*Six Acre Standard (SAS) calculates the value of a synthetic surface to be twice that of a grass surface.
 ** Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) calculates the value of a synthetic surface to be four times that of a grass surface.

5.8 In Table 5, the suggested shortfall which excludes education grass pitches, is 146.37 acres or 59 pitches. When converted to hectares, the shortfall figure for playing pitches is 59.23 ha. Table 5 was also completed based on a projected 2011 population of 190,559. However, the 2011 usually resident census population for ACBCBC is actually 199,693, a difference of 9134 which would require an additional 11 hectares of playing pitches when the FIT (NPFA) standard of 1.2 hectares per 1000 population is applied. This equates to a 2011 shortfall figure for ACBCBC playing pitches is 70.23 ha

Projection of Future Outdoor Sports Provision Need (Pitch) to 2030

5.9 An assessment of the future needs of the council area up to 2030 can be calculated using the NISRA projected population of 237,500 and applying the FIT (NPFA) standard as follows:

Projected 2030 population (A)	237,500
2011 Census Population (B)	199,700
Additional population growth to 2030 (A - B)	37,800
2030 Population increase & additional pitches required:	
$37,800 \div 1000 \times 1.2\text{ha}^* = 45.4 \text{ ha}$	45.4ha
Existing 2011 shortfall	59ha
Projected shortfall by 2030	94.4ha
$94.4 \text{ ha} \div 1.0 \text{ ha (average pitch size)}^2$	2030 shortfall of 94 pitches in ACBCBC

Therefore, ACBCBC requires approximately 94 hectares of outdoor space pitch provision which equates to 94 pitches.

* The FIT (NPFA) benchmark standard is 1.2ha of outdoor pitches per 1000 population.*

5.10 The range of pitch sizes from approximately 3.29 acres (1.33ha) for a GAA pitch to 1.93 acres (0.78ha) for a soccer pitch. Considering the number of GAA pitches within the Borough, this has the potential to have skewed the existing provision of pitches upwards, and, as a result, the final projection for pitches required downwards. However, as many of the GAA clubs and

² Based on Sport NI parameters of GAA pitches at 3.29 acres (1.33ha), soccer pitches at 1.93 acres (0.78 ha) and rugby pitches at 2.1acres (0.85ha).

pitches lie outside of the settlement limits within the centre of rural parishes, they are unlikely to require future zoned lands for any expansion.

5.11 It should be noted that using the same methodology as above, but including education grass pitches (Table 6), indicates a shortfall of only 7 pitches. Table 6 like Table 5 considers a projected ACBCBC population of 190,559. However, the 2011 usual resident census population for ACBCBC is actually 199,693, a difference of 9134 which would require an additional 11 hectares. Furthermore, discussions are ongoing in relation to the redevelopment of the two Southern Regional College (SRC) campuses in Armagh City, Banbridge town and a new SRC campus in Central Craigavon located within the south lake zone. It is also proposed that a large new leisure centre be developed alongside the proposed Central Craigavon SRC campus on the site of the existing water-sports centre. It is envisaged that these developments, although at an early stage, will contain open space elements that could potentially provide a significant amount of playing fields /recreation lands which would help address any potential shortfall.

5.12 In addition to a quantitative assessment, the Fields in Trust (FIT) /NPFA also addresses the distribution of open spaces. As a general guideline, it recommends that all playing pitches should be available within 1.2km of all dwellings in major residential areas. Additionally, FIT refers to accessibility benchmark standards for childrens playing space. It recommends a straight line distance of accessibility for local equipped areas for play (LEAP) as maximum 240m. In relation to neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAP), the recommended straight line distance of accessibility is 600m and tend to be of a quality / type that will attract older children such as multi-use games areas (MUGA).

Sports pitches should be within 20 minutes travelling time from all homes, using walking as the recommended mode of transport.

However, given that a significant element of the Borough is essentially rural in character and given that many people use vehicular transport to travel to these facilities, it is reasonable to argue that drive times are more appropriate in the rural, more peripheral areas. The vast majority of our settlements in ACBCBC are within a 20 minute drive time of the respective Hubs and Local Towns where most recreation provision tends to be focused.

Table 6: 2014 Quantity of playing pitches in District Council Areas (Sports NI: Including education synthetic pitches and education grass pitches).

			EXISTING PROVISION				SHORTFALLS	
			Grass	Synthetic		Total Acres SNI	SNI Standard	
District Council	2011 Population Projection	Acres Recommended by SAS	Total Grass Acres	Existing Acres	SNI by 4			Perceived Acres Shortfall
Ards/North Down	155882	468	180	17	69	249	219	88
Lisburn City/Castlereagh	178544	535.632	241.57	19.03	76.12	317.69	217.94	87
Antrim/Newtownabbey	132389	397.167	214.25	15.44	61.76	276.01	121.16	48
Mid and East Antrim	132378	397.134	257.79	10.83	43.32	301.11	96.024	38
Derry City/Strabane	150592	451.776	293.51	11.41	45.64	339.15	112.63	45
Belfast	263313	789.939	520.21	49.07	196.3	716.49	73.449	29
Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	190559	571.677	460.27	23.38	93.52	553.79	17.887	7
Causeway Coast & Glens	140436	421.308	498.64	14.6	58.4	557.04	-135.7	-54
Newry, Mourne and Down	164514	493.542	546.55	15.15	60.6	607.15	-113.6	-45
Fermanagh and Omagh	112400	337.2	352.45	6.61	26.44	378.89	-41.69	-17
Mid Ulster District Council	129915	389.745	456.19	21.97	87.88	544.07	-154.3	-62
Totals	1750922	5252.77	4021.35	204.65	818.6	4839.95	412.82	165

Source: Sport NI Active Places update 2014.

6.0 Children's Play Space Provision

(i) Children's Playing Space

- 6.1** Children's play contributes to the health, well-being and overall development of children. Outdoor children's play facilities vary from formal equipped children's playgrounds to kick-about areas, MUGAs and outdoor gyms. Most facilities provided by the Borough Council are located in the hubs and local towns with lesser provision in the villages and small settlements (See Table 7).
- 6.2** Children's play needs to be analysed on two tiers: the overall quantum and the spatial distribution. Table 8 below contains FIT (NPFA) recommended maximum accessibility distances for childrens play spaces. Considering the two factors, the spatial distribution is seen as more important as it relates to FIT reasonable access guidelines from home to childrens play facilities within the various settlements. Appendix 3 details the equipped children's play parks in the ACBCBC settlements.

Table 7: No. of equipped Children’s Play Spaces provided by the Council

Settlement	Number of Children’s Play Spaces	
	LEAPS (Local Equipped Playground)	NEAPs (Neighbourhood Equipped Playground, MUGA + Outdoor Gym)
HUBS		
Armagh City	4	5
Banbridge	5	0
Craigavon Urban Area (CUA)	<u>26</u>	<u>13</u>
• Central Craigavon	5	4
• Lurgan	10	5
• Portadown	11	4
LOCAL TOWNS		
Keady	1	0
Markethill	2	2
Tandragee	1	0
Dromore	4	2
Gilford	2	0
Rathfriland	3	1
VILLAGES		
Villages Armagh Area	8	2
Villages Banbridge Area	4	1
Villages Craigavon Area	8	1
SMALL SETTLEMENTS / RURAL AREA		
Small Settlements & Rural Area Armagh Area	10	2
Small Settlements & Rural Area Banbridge Area	10	0
Small Settlements & Rural Area Craigavon Area	3	3
ACBCBC Overall Total	91	32

Source: ACBCBC Council & Planning Survey 2015

6.3 The Fields in Trust’s “Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play” *sets out a standard of 0.8 ha per 1000 population of Children’s Play Space*. It further outlines a minimum standard of 0.6ha per 1000 population. Of the recommended FIT (NPFA) standard of 0.8ha per 1000 population for childrens playing space, the guidance suggested are 0.25ha designated equipped playing space and 0.55ha informal playing space.

Quantum of Children’s Playing Space

6.4 Given the information held by the Council, an assessment of existing children’s outdoor play space (both equipped play areas and casual play areas) is detailed below in Tables 10 (a-c) for the larger settlements (the 3 hubs and the 6 local towns). This level of provision quantum is assessed against the FIT (NPFA) recommended guidelines to determine if current provision is sufficient or a shortfall exists.

Distribution of Children’s Playing Space

- 6.5** In assessing the distribution of children’s playing space, distance needs to be calculated on the basis of walking time from children’s homes. Fields in Trust recommends different travel times, dependent upon the nature of the facilities and defines a three-tier hierarchy (Table 8) including Local Areas for Play (LAP), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) and Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP).

Table 8: FIT Walking Distances to Children’s Playing Space

Type of Space	Distance Criteria (Metres)	
	Walking Distance	Straight line Distance
LAPs: Local areas for play or ‘door-step’ spaces – for play and informal recreation	100	60
LEAPs: Local equipped, or local landscaped, areas for play – for play & informal recreation.	400	240
NEAPs: Neighbourhood equipped areas for play – for play and informal recreation & provision for children and young people.	1000	600

Source: Fields in Trust (Formerly NPFA), 2008

- 6.6** While the actual extent of the areas served by Local Areas of Play (LAPs) have not been analysed because the catchment radius of one minute (60 metres) is very small, their overall distribution within each settlement is detailed and assessed as part of the Hubs & Local Towns FIT open space audit. Therefore, the distribution of children’s play space is of most significance in the Hubs and Local Towns (Appendix 5). Due to the smaller size of the other settlements, it is likely that any play space is reasonably accessible to the whole settlement. A list of playgrounds within the Borough and a general overview of LEAPS, LAPS and NEAPS across the settlements are set out in Table 8 and Appendix 3. In addition to equipped play areas, there are a number of Multi-Use Games Areas within the Borough as detailed in Appendix 3.

Table 9: Children’s Play Space (NEAPS & LEAPs) within ACBCBC 3 Hubs and Local Towns

No of Children’s Playing Spaces	3 x Hubs	6 x Local Towns	Villages	Small Settlements & Rural Area
LEAP	37	14	20	21
NEAP	18	4	5	4

Source: ACBCBC 2015

- 6.7** Using settlement population projections to 2030 to assess existing Children’s Playing Space within the towns, a projection can be made for the need for future provision over the Plan period. This is detailed in Tables 10 (a-c) and illustrated on the children’s play area catchment maps at Appendix 5.

Tables 10 (a-c): ACBCBC FIT Children’s Play space requirements Vs provision 2015-2030 (Hubs & Local Towns)

10(a): Armagh City FIT Outdoor Childrens Play Area Need 2011-30 (FIT Benchmark standard recommendations (= 0.8ha/1000 popn).

Settlement Hierarchy	Armagh	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 0.8ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor childrens play area provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 * settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Armagh City	14,749	11.80	6.06	-5.74	17,541	14.03	-7.97
Local Towns	Keady	3036	2.43	1.54	-0.89	3,611	2.89	-1.35
	Markethill	1652	1.32	0.75	-0.57	1,965	1.57	-0.82
	Tandragee	3486	2.79	0.94	-1.85	4,146	3.32	-2.38
	Total City / Towns	22923	18.34	9.29	-9.05	27,262	21.81	-12.52

10(b):Banbridge FIT Outdoor Childrens Play Area Need 2011-30 (FIT Benchmark standard recommendations (= 0.8ha/1000 popn).

Settlement Hierarchy	Banbridge	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 0.8ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor childrens play area provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 * settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Banbridge	16,653	13.32	3.03	-10.29	19,805	15.84	-12.81
Local Towns	Dromore	6,011	4.81	0.36	-4.45	7,149	5.72	-5.36
	Gilford	1,927	1.54	2.15	+0.61	2,292	1.83	+0.32
	Rathfriland	2,472	1.98	0.46	-1.52	2,940	2.35	-1.89
	Total Towns	27,063	21.65	6.00	-15.65	32,186	25.74	-19.74

10(c) Craigavon FIT Outdoor Play Area Need 2011-30

(FIT Benchmark standard recommendations (Outdoor Sport)= 0.8ha per 1000 population).

Settlement Hierarchy	Craigavon	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 0.8ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor childrens play area provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 * settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Craigavon Urban Area (CUA)	64,193	51.35	47.18	-4.17	76,345	61.08	-13.90
Local Towns	No Local Towns in CUA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Urban Area	64193	51.35	47.18	-4.17	76,345	61.08	-13.90

* Source: ACBCBC Planning Open Space Audit 2015. Settlement 2030 projected populations not currently provided by NISRA. Therefore 2030 settlement populations estimated as 2011 census figure multiplied by ACBCBC Borough projected growth rate between 2011 & 2030 (NISRA 2012-37) as detailed in Appendix 4.

- 6.8** Tables 10 (a-c) illustrate how the ACBCBC three Hubs and six Local Towns outdoor childrens play space provision is compared to the FIT (NPFA) recommended level of provision (ie 0.8ha per 1000 population). This has been estimated for 2015 play provision against 2011 population and projected 2030 populations.
- 6.9** As detailed above in Tables 10 (a-c), when the ACBCBC three Hubs and six Local Towns are considered against the FIT (NPFA) recommended provision of childrens outdoor play space, only Gilford appears to have adequate space at 2015 and at 2030. All three Hubs and to a lesser degree, the other five local towns display a childrens outdoor play space shortfall in provision.
- 6.10** Table 8 above contains the FIT (NPFA) recommended maximum walking distances to various play areas, the key levels of provision are local equipped areas for play (LEAP: 240m catchment) and neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAP: 600m catchment). This recommended walking catchment has been applied to settlement maps of the three ACBCBC Hubs and six Local Towns at Appendix 5.
- 6.11** As illustrated on the maps in Appendix 5, The provision of equipped playgrounds and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) within the three Hubs and six Local Towns highlight specific provision issues. Dromore has good provision on the western side of town but lacks provision around the modern housing developments along the Hillsborough, Mossvale, Dromara and Diamond Roads. Gilford's main provision deficiency appears to be in relation to modern housing developments on the Tandragee Road. Keady has only one equipped play area in the central 'Glen' area leaving significant areas of peripheral housing beyond the recommended FIT walking distance but does benefit from the shared leisure facilities at St. Patricks High School. Markethill is well provided for in relation to play provision with only a small area containing housing at the edge of Main Street and Newry Street beyond the recommended NEAP walking catchment. Rathfriland is also well provided for in relation to play provision with only a small area containing housing at the edge of Newry Street and Castlewellan Road beyond the recommended NEAP walking catchment. Tandragee has only one equipped play area in the Town Park leaving significant areas of peripheral housing beyond the recommended FIT walking distance but does benefit from the leisure facilities provided at the Madden Road council recreation centre.
- 6.12** In relation to the Hubs, Armagh City has three clear areas which are not within the recommended FIT walking distance. These are principally along the Portadown / Newry and Keady Roads around the modern housing developments. There is however the Ardmore Recreation Centre off the Newry Road, which helps compensate for part of the shortfall.
- 6.13** Banbridge has five equipped playparks (LEAPs) and one neighbourhood play area (NEAP) which gives a reasonable provision throughout the town, other than the western and eastern edges of town along the Scarva / Ballygowan

Roads and Castlewellan Road / Dromore Street areas. The area around the Castlewellan Road / Dromore Street falls within the Ballydown 2 SOA (Super Output Area) which at 2010 had the highest percentage (25.41%) under 16 of any SOA within Banbridge Town.

- 6.14** Within the Craigavon Urban Area, consideration is given to Portadown, Central Craigavon and Lurgan. Within Portadown, a number of areas appear to be beyond the recommended FIT walking distance for outdoor play areas. These include portions of the Kernan / Old Lurgan Road area, Mahon Road/ Tandragee Road area and Moy Road / Garvaghy Road area. The area around the Moy Road / Garvaghy Road falls within the Corcrair 1 SOA (Super Output Area) which at 2010 had the highest percentage (26.07%) aged under 16 of any SOA within Portadown. It is also worth noting that the other Portadown areas that lack play provision are characterised by modern housing developments (such as those at Tandragee Road, Mahon and Dungannon Road). Although the Kernan / Old Lurgan Road area lacks specific childrens play provision, it benefits from the outdoor facilities provided at the Central Sports Area (Kernan Playing Fields).
- 6.15** Within Central Craigavon, two areas appear to be beyond the recommended FIT walking distance for outdoor play areas. One area is Balteagh Road / Lakelands housing area which benefits from direct access to the Craigavon lakes outdoor resource. The other area is the Moyraverty area that contains the established Drumellan and Garrymore housing developments and the more recent housing developments such as Larkfield Meadows and Deans Grange. This area falls within the Drumgask 1 SOA (Super Output Area) which at 2010 had the highest percentage (28.99%) aged under 16 of any SOA within the whole Craigavon Urban Area.
- 6.16** Within Lurgan, two areas appear to be beyond the recommended FIT walking distance for outdoor play areas. One is the area between the Banbridge Road and the Gilford Road whilst the other is the Lough Road / Annesborough areas. The Annesborough area falls within the Aghagallon 2 SOA (Super Output Area) which at 2010 had the highest percentage (26.24%) aged under 16 of any SOA within Lurgan.
- 6.17** Within the Borough, all the ACBCBC settlements with a population between 500 and 1000 (2011 Census) have an equipped children's playpark, except Poyntzpass (where a council playpark planning application has been submitted for dual access on the Poyntzpass Primary School site) and Drumnacanvy which is within 2km of Edenvilla Park and the facilities in Killicomaine . Of the ACBCBC settlements that have a population between 300 and 500 (2011 Census), Ballymacmaine, Blackscull, Derryhale, Derrytrasna and The Birches settlements do not have an equipped children's playpark. All ACBCBC playparks are detailed In Appendix 3.

Outdoor Sport Facilities and Pitches

- 6.18** Outdoor sport contributes to the health, well-being and overall development of people. Outdoor sport facilities vary from formal playing fields (eg soccer, gaelic games, rugby, hockey etc) to other outdoor sports such as those facilities used for athletics, tennis and bowls. FIT recommends that local playing fields are available within 1.2km (20 mins walk time), bowling & tennis within 20 minutes travel time (walking in urban area, driving in rural) and a floodlit synthetic athletics track per 250,000 people within 30 minutes drive time (urban). Most major facilities provided by the Borough Council are located in the hubs and local towns with lesser provision in the villages and small settlements (See Appendices 1-3).
- 6.19** The Fields in Trust's "Planning and Design for Pitches and Outdoor Sports" sets out a standard of **1.6ha per 1000 population for pitches and outdoor sports space**. Of the recommended NPFA/ FIT standard of 1.6ha per 1000 population for pitches and outdoor sports space, the guidance suggested are 1.2ha designated pitch sports space and 0.4ha other sports space.

Quantum of Outdoor Sports Provision

- 6.20** Given the information held by the Council, an assessment of existing outdoor sports space (both pitches and other sports) is detailed below in Tables 11(a-c) for the larger settlements (the 3 hubs and the 6 local towns). This level of provision quantum is assessed against the FIT (NPFA) recommended guidelines to determine if current provision is sufficient or a shortfall exists.
- 6.21** Using settlement population projections to 2030 to assess existing outdoor sports space within the Hubs & Local Towns, a projection can be made for the need for future provision over the Plan period. This is detailed below in Tables 11 (a-c).
- 6.22** All of our hubs present a shortfall in relation to current provision against the FIT benchmark recommendation of 1.6ha per 1000 population. This shortfall will grow by 2030 if our population rises as projected and the current provision is maintained. Armagh presents a shortfall of over 3 hectares (3 pitches) at 2015 which is projected to rise to 7 pitches by 2030 (7.7ha), Banbridge presents a shortfall of almost 17hectares (16 pitches) at 2015 which is projected to rise to almost 21 pitches by 2030 (22ha). The Craigavon Urban Area presents the largest shortfall of over 37 hectares (37 pitches) at 2015 which is projected to rise to 56 pitches by 2030 (56.7ha). Likewise, there are smaller shortfalls within the three Banbridge local towns (Dromore, Gilford and Rathfriland) when considered at 2015 and projected to 2030. The three Armagh local towns (Keady, Markethill & Tandragee) present a more positive scenario. All three are currently adequately provided for in relation to outdoor sport provision. However, with the projected population growth of these local towns to 2030, Keady & Tandragee will present a minimal shortfall with only Markethill remaining in surplus.

Tables 11 (a-c): ACBCBC FIT Outdoor Sports space requirements Vs provision 2015-2030 (Hubs & Local Towns)

11 (a): Armagh FIT Outdoor Sport Need 2011-30

FIT Benchmark standard recommendations (Outdoor Sport)= 1.6ha per 1000 population.

Settlement Hierarchy	Armagh	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 1.6ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor sport provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 1.6ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Armagh City	14,749	23.60	20.36	-3.24	17,541	28.07	-7.71
Local Towns	Keady	3036	4.86	5.7	+0.84	3,611	5.78	-0.08
	Markethill	1652	2.64	5.46	+2.82	1,965	3.14	+2.32
	Tandragee	3486	5.58	6.3	+0.72	4,146	6.63	-0.33
	Total City / Towns	22923	36.68	37.82	+1.14	27,262	43.62	-5.80

11(b): Banbridge FIT Outdoor Sport Need 2011-30

FIT Benchmark standard recommendations (Outdoor Sport)= 1.6ha per 1000 population.

Settlement Hierarchy	Banbridge	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 1.6ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor sport provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Banbridge	16,653	26.64	9.89	-16.75	19,805	31.69	-21.80
Local Towns	Dromore	6,011	9.62	5.83	-3.79	7,149	11.44	-5.61
	Gilford	1,927	3.08	2.09	-0.99	2,292	3.67	-1.58
	Rathfriland	2,472	3.96	2.62	-1.34	2,940	4.70	-2.08
	Total Towns	27,063	43.30	20.43	-22.87	32,186	51.50	-31.07

11 (c): Craigavon FIT Outdoor Sport Need 2011-30

FIT Benchmark standard recommendations (Outdoor Sport)= 1.6ha per 1000 population.

Settlement Hierarchy	Craigavon	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 1.6ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor sport provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Craigavon Urban Area (CUA)	64,193	102.71	65.56	-37.15	76,345	122.15	-56.59
Local Towns	No Local Towns in CUA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Urban Area	64193	102.71	65.56	-37.15	76,345	122.15	-56.59

Overall (FIT) Childrens Play & Outdoor Sports

- 6.23** Given the information held by the Council, an overall assessment of outdoor sports and children play space is detailed below in Tables 12 (a-c) for the larger settlements (the 3 hubs and the 6 local towns). This level of provision quantum is assessed against the FIT (NPFA) recommended guidelines of 2.4ha (6 acres) per 1000 population to determine if current provision is sufficient or a shortfall exists.
- 6.24** The Fields in Trust's "Planning and Design for Pitches and Outdoor Sports" sets out a standard of **2.4ha per 1000 population for pitches and outdoor sports space**. This FIT recommended total benchmark of 2.4ha per 1000 population is made up of 1.6ha outdoor sports and 0.8ha childrens play space.

Overall Quantum of Childrens Play & Outdoor Sports Provision

- 6.25** Given the information held by the Council, an assessment of existing outdoor sports space (both pitches and other sports) is detailed below in Tables 11 (a-c) for the larger settlements (the 3 hubs and the 6 local towns). This level of provision quantum is assessed against the FIT (NPFA) recommended guidelines to determine if current provision is sufficient or a shortfall exists.
- 6.26** Using settlement population projections to 2030 to assess existing outdoor sports & childrens play space within the Hubs & local towns, a projection can be made for the need for future provision over the Plan period as detailed below in Tables 12 (a-c).
- 6.27** All of our hubs present a shortfall in relation to current provision against the FIT benchmark recommendation of 2.4ha per 1000 population. This shortfall will grow by 2030 if our population rises as projected and the current provision is maintained. Armagh City presents a shortfall of almost 9 hectares at 2015 which is projected to rise to 15.69ha by 2030, Banbridge presents a shortfall of almost 14 hectares at 2015 which is projected to rise to almost 19ha by 2030. The Craigavon Urban Area presents the largest shortfall of over 41 hectares at 2015 which is projected to rise to over 70ha by 2030. Similarly, there are lesser shortfalls within the three Banbridge local towns (Dromore, Gilford and Rathfriland) when considered at 2015 and projected to 2030. Dromore has a current shortfall of over 8 hectares, Rathfriland, 2.38ha and Gilford, a minimal shortfall of 0.38ha. The three Armagh local towns (Keady, Markethill & Tandragee) present a mixed scenario. Currently, Keady presents a minimal shortfall (0.05ha) and Tandragee a small shortfall (1.13ha). These two local towns FIT shortfall are projected to increase by 2030 as populations increase. Markethill, which is the smallest of the local towns, presents a surplus of provision (+2.25ha) which is projected to continue to 2030 (+1.49ha).

Tables 12 (a-c): ACBCBC FIT Outdoor Sports & Childrens Play space requirements Vs provision 2015-2030 (Hubs & Local Towns)

12(a): Armagh City FIT Outdoor Sport & Childrens Play Need 2011-30 (FIT benchmark standard recommendations (Outdoor Sport & Play)=2.4ha per 1000 population).

Settlement Hierarchy	Armagh	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 2.4ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor sport & play provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Armagh City	14,749	35.40	26.41	-8.99	17,541	42.10	-15.69
Local Towns	Keady	3036	7.29	7.24	-0.05	3,611	8.67	-1.43
	Markethill	1652	3.96	6.21	+2.25	1,965	4.72	+1.49
	Tandragee	3486	8.37	7.24	-1.13	4,146	9.95	-2.71
	Total City / Towns	22923	55.02	47.1	-7.92	27,262	65.43	-18.34

12(b): Banbridge FIT Outdoor Sport & Childrens Play Need 2011-30 (FIT benchmark standard recommendations (Outdoor Sport & Play)=2.4ha per 1000 population).

Settlement Hierarchy	Banbridge	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 2.4ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor sport & play provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision 2015 Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Banbridge	16,653	39.97	12.92	-13.72	19,805	47.53	-18.77
Local Towns	Dromore	6,011	14.43	6.19	-8.24	7,149	17.16	-10.97
	Gilford	1,927	4.62	4.24	-0.38	2,292	5.50	-1.26
	Rathfriland	2,472	5.93	3.08	-2.85	2,940	7.06	-3.98
	Total Towns	27,063	64.95	26.43	-25.19	32,186	77.25	-34.98

12(c):Craigavon FIT Outdoor Sport & Childrens Play Need 2011-30 (FIT benchmark standard recommendations (Outdoor Sport & Play)=2.4ha per 1000 population).

Settlement Hierarchy	Craigavon	2011 Census Popn.	2011 FIT Requirement 2011 (ie 2.4ha per 1000 pop)	2015 FIT outdoor sport & play provision (ha) (audit findings)	Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision (ha) Vs FIT requirement)	Projected 2030 settlement population	Projected 2030 FIT outdoor sport Requirement (ie 2.4ha/1000 pop)	Projected 2030 Over / Under provision (2015 audit provision 2015 Vs FIT requirement 2030)
Main Hub (City/Towns)	Craigavon Urban Area (CUA)	64,193	154.06	112.74	-41.32	76,345	183.23	-70.49
Local Towns	No Local Towns in CUA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Urban Area	64193	154.06	112.74	-41.34	76,345	183.23	-70.49

6.28 PPS 8 directs that the ‘assessment of open space will be carried out for all large settlements’ whilst the NPFA does not require a quantitative assessment of recreation within smaller settlements of populations less than 1000. Therefore our full FIT assessment was carried out for the three ACBCBC Hubs and six Local Towns. An evaluation of the overall recreation provision (ie LEAPS/ NEAPs & Leisure/Recreation centres) within the Hubs and Locals Towns is detailed below in Table 13. Details of other Borough play parks and recreation facilities are provided in Appendices 1-3.

Table 13: Recreation & Play Provision in ACBCBC Hubs & Local Towns

Settlement	Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP): Y/N (No as detailed in Appendix 3)	Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP*): Y/N (No as detailed in Appendix 3)	Leisure/Recreation Facility: Y/N (No as detailed in Table 1)
Armagh City (HUB)	Y (4)	Y (5)	Y (3)
Banbridge Town (HUB)	Y (5)	Y (0)	Y (1)
CUA (HUB): Central Craigavon	Y (5)	Y (4)	Y (2)
CUA (HUB): Lurgan	Y (10)	Y (5)	Y (4)
CUA HUB): Portadown	Y (11)	Y (4)	Y (3)
Keady (Local Town)	Y (1)	N (0)	Y (1)
Markethill (Local Town)	Y (2)	Y (2)	Y (1)
Tandragee (Local Town)	Y (1)	Y (0)	Y (1)
Dromore (Local Town)	Y (4)	Y (0)	Y (1)
Gilford (Local Town)	Y (2)	Y (0)	Y (1)
Rathfriland (Local Town)	Y (1)	Y (0)	Y (1)

Source: ACBCBC 2015

* NEAP: Equates to a MUGA, an outdoor gym or varied larger playpark.

7.0 Passive Recreation Provision

- 7.1** In addition to outdoor sports, all three legacy districts have a variety of amenity / passive recreation areas within settlements such as parks and golf courses. While there is no established benchmark to appraise passive recreation provision, these areas are valuable in providing recreation opportunities for those who do not partake in formal outdoor sports and to help compensate, where a shortfall exists.
- 7.2** All three extant Area Plans (Armagh Area Plann 2004, Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015 and Craigavon Area Plan 2010) zoned additional lands for recreation and open space. Although over 60ha was zoned, just over 20ha has been developed or in use for recreation and open space uses. A small proportion of this land has been developed for other uses, such as housing, whilst over 36ha of land zoned for recreation and open space remains undeveloped. Further details of open space zonings within the settlements are contained within Tables 1-3.
- 7.3** There are a number of walks, canal /riverside walks and cycle routes across the Borough as well as incidental and larger areas of open space such as rural parks which serve as amenity open space. These are further consider in section 9.
- 7.4** In zoning for future needs, the LDP will have to take account of the importance of protecting urban linear open space such as pedestrian and cycle routes, community greenways, former railway lines and river and canal corridors many of which are valuable in linking larger areas of open space, and providing important wildlife corridors/ecological networks.

8.0 Existing Indoor Recreation and Leisure Provision

- 8.1** In addition to outdoor recreation provision, indoor sport-based recreation is primarily provided by Leisure Centres within the Districts (See Appendix 1). Some schools, football clubs, church halls and hotels also offer indoor facilities for public use e.g. indoor halls, gym facilities, swimming pools, climbing walls and bowling. Indoor recreation provision is generally good within the hubs and local towns, with others such as Richhill serving their own rural areas. There are also a number of privately run gyms located within certain settlements and indeed the rural area.
- 8.2** The ACBCBC Borough also benefits from a variety of other leisure facilities including museums, outdoor activity centres, heritage centres, art galleries and entertainment venues across the council area, some of which have links to tourism.
- 8.3** In addition to the above, there are restaurants, public houses, nightclubs and other entertainment facilities such as bingo halls and amusement arcades located across the Borough, though mainly concentrated in the borough hubs.

9.0 ACBCBC Site Based Facilities

This section of the paper contains information on the Borough's site based facilities with public access, their key features and ownership.

9.1 Public Access – Site Based Facilities

Public Bodies own or manage significant land holdings and there are two types of public access in the Plan Area:

- Accesses associated with site based facilities such as forest parks, urban parks and lakes that are generally owned and managed by public bodies as outlined below; and
- Accesses intended to provide opportunities to explore wider areas of the open countryside.

ACBCBC Facilities owned and managed by Public Bodies

9.2 Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Forestry Service):

Public Forests (NI):

The following are forests owned and managed by Forestry Service (DARD) with public access:

- Drumbanagher Forest is a small, mostly coniferous woodland close to a private estate near the village of Poyntzpass.
- The Fews Forest is a large conifer plantation of over 1,000 hectares, divided into three dozen or more individual forest blocks and bisected by numerous public roads.
- Gosford Forest Park comprises 240 hectares of mixed woodland and open parkland.
- Loughgall Forest is a mixed coniferous and broadleaf woodland located near the village of Loughgall.
- Seagahan Forest is a small coniferous woodland beside Seagahan Reservoir.

Examples of other ACBCBC parks/locations open to the public & containing forested areas/walks:

- Oxford Island Nature Reserve (ACBCBC);
- Edenvilla Park, Portadown (ACBCBC);
- Craigavon City Park (inc Tannaghmore Gardens & Craigavon Lakes: ACBCBC);
- Portadown Peoples Park(ACBCBC);
- Coney Island, Maghery (owned by National Trust & managed by ACBCBC);
- Maghery Country Park (ACBCBC);
- Loughgall Country Park (ACBCBC);
- Corcrair Community Woodland, Portadown (Woodland Trust);

- Taghnevan Community Woodland, Lurgan (Woodland Trust);
- Slantry Wood, Charlestown Rd, Craigavon (owned by NIEA & managed in Trust by ACBCBC);
- Lurgan Park, Lurgan (ACBCBC);
- Ballyrone Walk (Lackan Bog: asserted public footpath);
- Gilford Riverside Park (ACBCBC);
- Loughbrickland Park (ACBCBC);
- Whytes Estate, Loughbrickland (private owner offers access rights);
- Newry Canal Way (portion within ACBCBC owned and managed by Council);
- Ballymaganlis Wood, Dromore (Woodland Trust);
- Huntly Wood, Banbridge (ACBCBC);
- Solitude Park, Banbridge (ACBCBC);
- Markethill Wood, Markethill (Woodland Trust);
- Clare Glen, Tandragee (ACBCBC);
- The Palace Demesne Public Park (ACBCBC);
- The Mall, Armagh City (Owned by Mall Trustees & managed in trust by ACBCBC);
- Armagh Observatory Grounds (DCAL & ACBCBC);
- Address House, Address (National Trust);
- The Argory, The Moy (National Trust);
- Navan Fort Complex Grounds (ACBCBC); and
- Cranagh Wood, Armagh (Woodland Trust).

9.3 Northern Ireland Environmental Agency

NIEA manage the following nature reserve sites:

- Peatlands Park (containing Annagariff & Mullenakill Nature Reserves) is a 266 hectare area established in 1990. It is located east of Tamnamore (M1 Junction 13) in County Armagh provides visitor facilities, car parking, paths and a narrow gauge railway.
- Lough Neagh Islands National Nature Reserve (Lough Neagh islands comprises a series of small Nature Reserves around the shoreline of Lough Neagh. The council boundary splits Lough Neagh into sections with a portion within ACBCBC).
- Brackagh Bog (Moss) reserve is situated just off the A27, 2 miles south-east of Portadown and has two parking lay-bys along the Brackagh Moss road with an information panel and a path system north of the road.

9.4 National Trust

The National Trust manage two sites within ACBCBC:

- The Argory estate, east of The Moy; and

- Address House and grounds west of Portadown.
(Data Source: National Trust 2015).

9.5 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The RSPB manage Portmore Lough nature reserve within ACBCBC:

- Portmore Lough nature reserve is a small lough and reserve located 1km east of Lough Neagh approximately 3km north-west of Derrymore. It is owned and managed by the RSPB and a portion of the Lough is within ACBCBC Borough.

Other ACBCBC facilities intended to access the wider countryside

9.6 The Ulster Way

The Ulster Way, Northern Ireland's only long distance walking route, passes through the centre of the ACBCBC Borough. There are two sections, a quality off-road section between Portadown and Newry along the Newry Canal and an on-road link section between Scarva and Aughnacloy as detailed below:

The Newry Canal (Quality section)

The Newry Canal Way is an 18-mile long section between Newry and Portadown exploring the restored towpath of the historic Newry Canal. This is a journey through the industrial heritage as well as the rolling countryside of southeast Ulster, and it offers walkers the chance to see a variety of birds and aquatic life. The firm, flat surfaces make this route well suited to all levels of walker.

Scarva to Aughnacloy (Link section)

Link Section linking Quality Section – Newry Canal Way to Quality Section – Sliabh Beagh Way; following an intricate series of rural roads taking in Tandragee, Clare Glen, Armagh, Killylea and Caledon. There are transport links between these Quality Sections (Data Source: <http://www.walkni.com/ulsterway>).

9.7 The National Cycle Network

The National Cycle Network is a Millennium Project, the aim of which is to provide a safe, attractive, high quality network of traffic-free paths and traffic calmed roads running through and connecting to major urban centres of the United Kingdom. It will also provide a major new amenity for walkers and people with disabilities. The charity Sustrans is co-ordinating the project, which involved a partnership with District Councils, land-owning bodies, Government Departments and specialist and local interest groups.

The following is a list of the National Cycle Routes in the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough:

- **Newry Canal (Route 9)** – This cycle and walking route travels along the Newry Canal Towpath from the Bann Bridge in Portadown to the Town Hall in Newry along a 20 mile path. The towpath passes through Scarva and Poyntzpass.

- **Loughshore Trail (Route 94)** – This route starts at Maghery, travels through Portadown and back towards the Lough at Kinnego Marina (Oxford Island). The route then follows the Lough up towards Antrim past Aghagallon and Gawleys Gate past Portmore Lough where it leaves the ACBCBC Borough.
- **Ulster Canal (Route 11)** – The portion of this cycle route within ACBCBC starts at Maghery past Peatlands Park through Clonmore, Tamnamore, Collegeland and Charlemont before leaving the Borough at Blackwatertown.
(Data Source: Sustrans National Cycle Network website 2015).

9.8 Below are details of other local cycle routes within the Plan Area that contain elements of and link into one or more of the National Cycle Routes (Source: www.cycleni.com):

- Orchard County: A 33 mile route travels from Loughgall-Blackwatertown-Charlemont-The Argory-Clonmore-Maghery-Birches-Annahmore.
- Tassagh: A 25 mile route travels from Armagh City-The Navan Centre–Milford-Tassagh Viaduct-Seagahan Dam-Killycapple-Cavanacaw- Armagh City.
- Craigavon Cycle Trail: A 35 mile route travels from Portadown along the Newry Canal Towpath to Knock Bridge then Knocknamuckly-Bluestone-Bleary-Waringstown-Magherealin- Cranagh Bridge, Aghagallon along the Lagan Canal – Kinnego – Craigavon Lakes & Park – Portadown.
- Bann Montiagh Trails: This routes offers a number of trails that travel along three routes ranging between 5 and 13 miles between the River Bann and Lough Neagh southern shore. It includes points of interest along the way such as the Bannfoot where the Bann meets Lough Neagh, Lough Gullion, Ardmore Point, Derrytrasna and through the townlands of Derrytagh South, Derryloiste, Derryinver, Derrycrow, Derrytagh, Ardmore and Derrycor.
- Birches & Maghery Trails: This routes offers a number of trails that travel from Maghery Country Park – Milltown-Columbkille beside the Bannfoot-The Birches-Clonmakate-past Derryadd Lough on towards and through Peatlands Park – Maghery.
- Katesbridge: A 19 mile route travels from Katesbridge alongside the route of then former railway line runs close to Corbet Lough then into the Dromara Hills towards Waringsford-Fedany Road –Katesbridge.
- Drumlins and Canal. A 22 mile route that is a mixture of rolling drumlin countryside and flat canal towpath. The route starts with Banbridge-Loughbrickland. From here the route climbs steeply to overlook Loughbrickland Lake and then you descend towards Poyntzpass. The route joins the canal towpath here for a six-mile flat run to Scarva. Soon the route leaves the canal towpath at Madden’s Bridge and joins the main Gilford to Tandragee road for a short spell before turning into Gilford, where the route climbs to the north of the town before descending through

the village of Lawrencetown. You then cross the River Bann and follow the south side of the river to Banbridge.

9.9 Other Borough Networks / Greenways include:

- The Craigavon Community Greenway Project saw the revitalisation of the seven mile cycle corridor linking Portadown and Lurgan towns' train stations as well as the hospital and local communities. The Portadown to Lurgan project installed three toucan crossings, saw the refurbishment of eight underpasses as well as widening and enhancing the path with lights and signs, additional cycle lanes, resurfacing, markings and landscaping.
- The Craigavon 'Black Path' cycle & pedestrian network which links the neighbourhoods of the Craigavon New Town to Portadown and Lurgan in dedicated car-free pathways is illustrated below in Diagram 1.

Diagram 1: Craigavon New Town Network Map (cyclepath/footpath links)



Canals & Waterways Ireland

9.10 The following Canals run through portions of the ACBCBC Borough. The waterways linked Lough Neagh and Portadown to Newry and the Irish Sea (Newry Canal), Lough Neagh to Belfast Lough (Lagan Canal) and the Ulster Canal (Maghera to Lough Erne and the Shannon). Angling, boating, jet skiing, canoeing, cycling, walking, rowing and sailing are all available along these waterways. Service facilities along the route are provided at Oxford Island on Lough Neagh, Scarva Visitors Centre on the Newry Canal and various points along the Lagan Towpath. (Data Source: <http://www.waterwaysireland.org>)

9.11 Ulster Canal:

The Ulster Canal is a disused canal running through part of County Armagh, County Tyrone and County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland and County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland. The Ulster Canal links to Lough Neagh and the River Bann within ACBCBC and a portion of the Canal still exists between Charlemont and Blackwatertown. In the early 19th Century the idea of linking the lowlands around Lough Neagh with the Erne Basin and the River Shannon system became popular with the more progressive landowners and merchants of Armagh, Monaghan and Fermanagh. The Ulster Canal was built between 1825 and 1842 and was 74 km (46 mile) long with 26 locks. It ran from Charlemont on the River Blackwater to Wattle Bridge on the River Finn, south-east of Upper Lough Erne.

Planning permission was granted in 2010 to restore part of the historic Ulster Canal that has been disused since 1929. This involves two stretches: 5.5kms of river navigation from Quivvy Lough on the Erne System to Gortnacarrow in county Fermanagh and 8.5kms of canal from Gortnacarrow to Clones in county Monaghan. To date, no official proposals have come forward along the ACBCBC stretch of canal.

9.12 Newry Canal:

The Newry Canal was built to link the Tyrone coalfields (via Lough Neagh and the River Bann) to the Irish Sea at Carlingford Lough near Newry. It was the first summit level canal to be built in Ireland or Great Britain. It was authorised by the Commissioners of Inland Navigation for Ireland, and was publicly funded. It was opened in 1742, but there were issues with the lock construction, the width of the summit level and the water supply. Below Newry, a ship canal was opened in 1769, and both Newry and the canal flourished. The canal closed in 1936 and most of it was officially abandoned in 1949, with some in 1956. The ship canal closed in 1966 and the Authority was wound up in 1974.

Two sections of the redundant canal were bought by local authorities, for two pounds each, and the middle section was given to another two local authorities. The ship canal has been reopened for use by pleasure craft, and there have been attempts to reopen the Newry Canal, which have not yet been successful. The towpath between Portadown and Newry has become part of a long distance footpath and also part of the National Cycle Network. Some

restoration has taken place, and the canal has become a haven for wildlife. Parts of it are also used for coarse fishing.

9.13 Lagan Canal:

The Lagan Canal was a 27 mile canal built to connect Belfast to Lough Neagh. The first section, which is a river navigation, was opened in 1763, and linked Belfast to Lisburn. The second section from Lisburn to Lough Neagh includes a small amount of river navigation, but was largely built as a canal. At its peak it was one of the most successful of the Irish canals, but ultimately it was unable to compete with road and rail transport, and the two sections were closed in 1954 and 1958. The central section from Sprucefield to Moira was destroyed by the construction of the M1 motorway in the 1960s. Responsibility for most of it remains with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, although the section between Aghalee Bridge and Lough Neagh, including the final ten locks, passed into private ownership. There is an active campaign to re-open the canal, including reinstatement of the central section. The portion of the Canal between Aghalee Bridge and Lough Neagh is within ACBCBC Borough.

There are proposals to restore the canal to once again provide a navigable link between Belfast and Lough Neagh. The Lagan Canal Restoration Trust was a logical development of this group, and was formed as a company limited by guarantee in 2008 with representatives from the four legacy councils which administer the areas through which the canal runs, and six other key partners, including the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure, and the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland. There are also representatives on the Trust Board from other local interest groups representing issues such as natural/built heritage, engineering, farming, tourism and business and community groups. The principle objective of the Lagan Canal Trust is to re-open the Lagan Navigation from Belfast Harbour to Lough Neagh.

A small section of the canal near Lisburn Civic Centre, which includes Lock 12, has been restored to navigable condition, and there are three major sections of towpath which can now be accessed by the public. All of the locks and many of the other structures associated with the canal are scheduled monuments, which gives them some protection. A proposal for a £2.5 million scheme to build a new lock, weir and footbridge at Stranmillis Gateway, at the site of the original first lock, has been planned and is undergoing an economic appraisal. The project will include restoration of the second lock at Corby Wood. Lock 3 at Newforge has been restored, together with the lock keeper's cottage, with funding provided by the Heritage Fund, the Lottery Partnership Scheme and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure. A 0.95-mile stretch of the towpath has been reopened at Aghagallon, following work by Craigavon Borough Council to obtain access rights. Since the closure of the canal, the section between Aghalee and Lough Neagh has been privately owned, and this is the first part of that section where public access has been restored.

10.0 Conclusions & Key Findings

10.1 The purpose of this paper has been to provide an overview of open space provision within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area. An audit has been carried out of open space provision for the larger ACBCBC settlements against the FIT (NPFA) recommended standards, broken down into outdoor open space and children's play space provision. Having established the current provision, the paper has projected the future recreation needs for ACBCBC to 2030. The distribution and accessibility of such provision has also been assessed.

10.2 A summary of the key findings is as follows:-

- The evidence presented provides the basis for considering an Open Space Strategy which takes into account the objectives of the RDS and SPPS to provide adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure in towns, neighbourhoods and new developments;
- Within the main hubs of Armagh and Banbridge, all of the zoned open space has been developed, apart from 1.4ha of grassland at Milford.
- There still remains a significant amount of zoned open space in the Craigavon Urban Area where over 24 hectares have not been developed;
- Although the FIT audit findings suggest an outdoor sports and children's play space provision shortfall in the ACBCBC Hubs and Local Towns, there are other recreation facilities and opportunities for exercise that are not considered within the narrow FIT guidelines;
- The Borough benefits from a range of informal and passive recreation facilities distributed across the main urban areas and in parts of the countryside. These are not included in the open space calculations but do provide invaluable recreational spaces; and

- The Borough also benefits from a range of indoor recreational and leisure facilities, primarily in the Hubs and local towns.

10.3 In light of the current work that is being undertaken by Sport NI in partnership with the 11 District Councils to develop a Sports Facilities Strategy for NI and the Borough, it is recommended that the need for future pitch provision must be considered further once the outcome of that strategy is completed. Such information will also be used to inform the LDP's Open Space Strategy.

10.4 Taking into account the policy approach of the RDS & SPPS, key elements of the local development plan at strategy level should include a:

- (i) policy for the protection and safeguarding for public open space;
- (ii) policy to ensure there is adequate and well-designed open space in new housing developments as an integral part of the development;
- (iii) policy to protect environmental/amenity open spaces for example parks, gardens and linear open space such as pedestrian and cycle routes/walkways and river corridors that have open space value;
- (iv) a commitment to zone land for new open space where there are firm commitments;
- (v) a commitment to facilitate where possible large scale leisure proposals on zoned open space sites / opportunity sites within or near town centres and smaller scale proposals elsewhere within settlement limits in order to maximise the use of existing infrastructure; and
- (vi) Identify and designate open space which performs a strategic function, such as landscape wedges in urban areas.

10.5 Whilst the findings would suggest that there is a need for additional pitches and children's play areas, this should be considered further in the context of the age profile of the urban areas and access to other recreational and leisure facilities.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: ACBCBC Leisure & Recreation Centres

Appendix 2: Main outdoor sport activities in ACBCBC

Appendix 3: Outdoor Play-parks in ACBCBC by Legacy Council Areas

Appendix 4: Settlement Growth 2015-30 Projection Methodology

Appendix 5: ACBCBC Hubs & Local Towns Playpark provision (LEAPS & NEAPS) Maps & FIT Catchment Areas

Appendix 1

Table 1(a): Main Leisure Centres within legacy Armagh City & District Council

Facility	Orchard Leisure Centre, Armagh City	Ardmore Recreation Centre, Armagh City	Cathedral Road Recreation Centre, Armagh City	Keady Recreation Centre (St. Patrick High School)	Markethill Recreation Centre (Markethill High School)	Tandragee Recreation Centre	Richhill Recreation Centre & Village Park
Swimming Pool	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Sports Hall	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fitness Suite	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Free Weights	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Squash Court	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Health Suite (Steam Room/ Sauna / Jacuzzi)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Dance/ Exercise Studio /Relaxation Spin Room	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Multi-Purpose/ Committee/ Meeting/ Party Room/ Kitchen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kids Soft Play Area	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Physio	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Cafe	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Creche	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N

Table 1 (b): Main Leisure Centres within legacy Banbridge District Council

Facility	Banbridge Leisure Centre	Dromore Community Centre (Holm Park)	Gilford Community Centre	Rathfriland Community Centre
Swimming Pool	Y	N	N	N
Sports Hall	Y	Y	Y (inc climbing wall)	Y
Fitness Suite	Y	Y	Y	Y
Free Weights	Y	Y	Y	Y
Squash Court	Y	Y	N	N
Health Suite (Steam Room/ Sauna / Jacuzzi)	Y	N	N	N
Dance/ Exercise Studio /Relaxation Spin Room	Y	N	N	N
Multi-Purpose/ Committee/ Meeting/ Party Room/ Kitchen	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kids Soft Play Area	N	N	N	N
Physio	N	N	N	N
Cafe	Y	N	N	N
Creche	Y	N	N	N

Table 1 (c): Main Leisure Centres within legacy Craigavon Borough Council

Facility	Craigavon Leisure Centre, Central Craigavon	Cascades Leisure Centre, Portadown	Waves Leisure Centre, Lurgan	Portadown Public Park	Brownstown Park, Portadown	Lurgan Park	Golf / Ski Centre, Silverwood Lurgan	Kinnego Marina, Oxford Island, Lough Neagh, Lurgan	Watersports Centre & Tannaghmore Gardens, Craigavon Lakes, Craigavon
Swimming Pool	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Sports Hall	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Fitness Suite	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Free Weights	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Squash Court	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Health Suite (Steam Room/ Sauna / Jacuzzi)	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Dance/ Exercise Studio /Relaxation Spin Room	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Multi-Purpose/ Committee/ Meeting / Kitchen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kids Soft Play Area	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Physio	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Cafe	N (Closed)	N (Closed)	N (Closed)	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Creche	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Appendix 2: Main outdoor sport activities in ACBCBC

Activity	Facility
American Football	Chambers Park (Craigavon Cowboys)
Athletics	(Armagh Athletics Club) Palace Demesne Park (St. Peters Athletic Club) Lurgan Park & (Orchard County/Craigavon Athletics Club) Brownstown Park; (Banbridge Athletics Club) Havelock Park; (Dromore Athletics Club) Ferris Park
Bowling	Bowling Clubs: Banbridge (Linenhall St); Portadown (Pleasure Gardens); Dromore (Holm Park); Markethill (Seaboughan Road); Lurgan (Lurgan Park); Rathfriland (Orchard Park); and Gilford Dunbarton (Dunbarton Street).
Canoeing / Rowing	Craigavon Lakes, Lough Neagh, River Bann (Portadown Boat Club), Blackwater River, Cusher River, Lurgan Park, Corbet Lough, Lagan River.
Cricket	Armagh (The Mall), Laurelvale (Clare Road), Lurgan (Pollock Park), Victoria (Lurgan Park), Portadown (Chambers Park), Waringstown (Clare Road) Donaghcloney, Tullylish & Laurelvale.
Cycling	Cycling Clubs (CC): Apollo CC(Lurgan), Banbridge CC , Cuchulainn CC (Armagh City), Derrykeevan CC, Dromore CC, Orchard Wheelers CC, Portadown CC & Steady CC (Co. Armagh).
Fishing • Angling	Seagahan Dam, Clea Lake, Craigavon Lakes, Lough Neagh, Corbet Lough, River Bann, Blackwater River, Cusher River, Callan River, Lagan River, Kernan Lough (6km W of Banbridge) , Loughbrickland Lake, Loughall Country Park
Gaelic Games: • Camogie	St. Endas, Derrymacash; Clan Na Gael, Lurgan; St. Brendas, Ballymacnab; St. Johns, Middletown; Collegelands; St. Brigids, Armagh City; An Port Mor, Blackwatertown;. St. Marys, Aghagallon; Dromara & Ballyvarley.
Gaelic Games: • Football	Armagh County Football, Hurling & Camogie Teams use the Athletic Grounds in Armagh City as the county HQ. Annaghmore Pearses; Collegeland O' Rahillys; Tir na nOg, Portadown; Clan Na Gael, Clann Eireann, St. Pauls & St. Peters (all four in Lurgan), Wolfe Tones, Derrymacash; Sarsfields, Derrytrasna; Madden Raparees; Middletown Eoghan Ruadh; Armagh Harp & Pearse Og (both Armagh City); Grange Colmcilles; Tullysarran; Maghery McDermotts; Ballyhegan Davitts; Clonmore Emmets; Mullaghbrack; Eire Og, Craigavon; St. Marys Granemore; Keady Dwyers; Ballymacnab Round Towers; Clady Sean Sabhat; An Port Mor, Blackwatertown and Poyntzpass O'Hanlons; St. Marys, Aghagallon; Aghaderg; Tullylish, Dromara and Clann Na Banna, Banbridge.
Gaelic Games: • Handball	Clann Eireann GAC, Lake Street, Lurgan. Eugene Quinn Handball Club, Athletic Grounds, Armagh City.
Gaelic Games: • Hurling	Sean Treacys, Lurgan; St. Malachys, Portadown; Na Fíanna, Middletown; Keady Lamh Dhearg; Cuchullains, Armagh City; Derrynoose; Ballyvarley.
Golf	Clubs: Portadown; Silverwood, Craigavon; Lurgan; Armagh; Tandragee; Banbridge; Edenmore, Donaghcloney & Loughall.
Hockey	Portadown; Lurgan; Banbridge, Dromore & Armagh City.

Horse Riding / Equestrian	Venues include: Meadows (Lurgan); Portmore (Gawleys Gate); Mossvale (Dromore); Kidd's All Weather Gallop (Banbridge); Intouch Equestrian (Kilmore); Millers Hill (Markethill); Cooly Hill (Tandragee); Richhill & Silverwood (Lurgan).
Irish Road Bowls ('Bullets')	Focussed around area NW of Armagh City (Moy Rd, Killylea Rd & Monaghan Rd)
Rugby	Banbridge; Dromore; Lurgan; Portadown; & Armagh City.
Mountain Biking	Craigavon Lakes Trail
Soccer (Association Football)	ACBCBC Senior Teams (Irish League, Premier, Div 1 & 2): Portadown FC; Glenavon FC, Lurgan; Armagh City FC; Banbridge Town FC; Annagh Utd FC, Portadown; Lurgan Celtic FC; Loughall FC; Dollingstown FC. ACBCBC Mid-Ulster Intermediate Teams (1A & 1B Leagues); Hanover FC (Portadown); St. Marys YC FC (Portadown); Banbridge Rangers FC; Broomhil FC; Tandragee Rovers FC; Seapatrik FC (Banbridge); AFC Craigavon; Moneyslane FC; Craigavon City FC; Bourneview FC (Portadown); Richhill FC; Markethill Swifts FC; Lurgan Town FC; Seagoe FC (Portadown); Laurelvale FC; Rathfriland FC; and Oxford Sunnyside FC (Lurgan). There are also a number of youth and junior teams that play in the Borough. The main junior club team league in the area is the Mid-Ulster Leagues 1-4 and Mid-Ulster Leagues 1-4 Reserve Leagues.
Tennis	Banbridge Club (Linenhall St), Portadown Club (Eden Villa, Bachelors Walk), Lurgan Club (Lurgan park) & numerous courts within parks in local towns.
Triathlon	Tuna Triathlon Club (ACBCBC Area).
Watersports (jet-skiing / sailing / boating / banana boating)	Lough Neagh (Lough Neagh Sailing Club), Craigavon Lakes, Lurgan Park, Corbet Lough.

Appendix 3: Outdoor play parks in ACBCBC by Legacy Council Areas

ACDC: Play Parks

1. Cathedral Road Playing Fields, Armagh City
2. Drumbreda, Armagh City
3. Alexander Park, Armagh City
4. Kingston Memorial Playing Fields, Armagh City
5. Killylea
6. Milford
7. Middletown
8. Keady
9. Blackwatertown
10. Laurelvale
11. Annahugh
12. Richhill Village Park
13. Hamiltonsbawn Primary School
14. Drumnahuncheon, Broomhill
15. Glenanne
16. Darkley Primary School
17. Mullaghbrack
18. Loughgilly
19. Mountnorris
20. Tandragee Town Park
21. Recreation Grounds, Markethill
22. Loughgall Country Park (also outdoor adult gym & lakeside exercise stations)
23. Palace Stables & Demesne Park (also an outdoor adult gym)
24. Derrynoose
25. Tullysaran (Artasooly)
26. Clady Play Park (Cladymore)
27. Gosford Forest Park, Markethill

Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA):

1. Callanbridge
2. Drumarg
3. Mullacreevie
4. Kingston Memorial Playing Field
5. Recreation Grounds, Markethill
6. Loughall Country Park
7. Richhill Recreation Centre
8. Clady
9. Derrynoose

BDC: Play Parks

1. Fraser Park, Annaclone
2. Lissize Avenue, Rathfriland
3. Ashfield / Gowdystown
4. Locard Park, Tullylish
5. Aughnavallog (Between Rathfriland & Ballyroney)
6. Maglion Terrace, Ballygowan Road, Banbridge
7. Cline Road, Banbridge
8. Huntly Road, Banbridge
9. Seapatrick, Banbridge
10. Mount Charles, Banbridge
11. Fairhill (Kinallen)
12. McCandless Terrace, Dromore
13. Fairview, Dromore
14. Thornhill Drive, Dromore
15. Millstone Close , Ballyward
16. Hillside Crescent , Lenaderg
17. Mossvale (Dromore)
18. Mournview (Moneyslane)
19. Katesbridge
20. Knock Terrace, Lisnacroppan Road (2km N of Rathfriland)
21. Corbett Lough
22. Lawrencetown
23. Castleview Estate, Gilford
24. Woodlands, Gilford
25. Solitude Park, Banbridge (also an outdoor adult gym)
26. Dromore Town Park
27. Loughbrickland Park
28. Scarva Park
29. Rathfriland Park, Rathfriland
30. Cross Heights Rathfriland,

Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA):

1. Fairhill, Kinallen
2. Rathfriland Park
3. Holm Park, Dromore
4. Ferris Park, Dromore

CBC: Play Parks

1. Ardowen Community Centre, Craigavon
2. Clonmeen, Craigavon
3. Cranny Terrace, Cranny Rd, Bleary
4. Watsonville, Deans Rd, Bleary
5. Kinnego Marina, Oxford Island (also an outdoor adult gym)
6. Discovery Centre, Oxford Island
7. Pinebank Carrigart, Craigavon
8. Tannaghmore Gardens (inc maze, zipline & lakeside exercise stations)
9. Community Hub, Brownlow, (adj to Craigavon Leisure Centre)
10. Wolf Island Terrace, Derrymacash
11. Avenue Road Community Centre, Lurgan
12. Beaumont Square, Shankill, Lurgan
13. Dollingstown
14. Donaghcloney
15. Gibsons Hill, Gilford Road (1km south of Lurgan),
16. Lord Lurgan Memorial Park
17. Lurgan Park
18. Malcolmson Park, Magheralin
19. Mourneview Community Centre
20. North Lurgan Community Centre
21. Taghnevan, lurgan
22. Wakehurst, Charles Street, Lurgan
23. Waringstown
24. Abercorn Park, Killicomaine, Portadown
25. Ashgrove Community Centre, Garvaghy Road, Portadown
26. Brownstown Park, Portadown
27. Drumilly Green, Corcrair Estate, Portadown
28. Edenvilla Park, Portadown
29. Edgarstown Estate, Portadown
30. Killicomaine Community Centre, Festival Road, Portadown
31. Pleasure Gardens, Portadown
32. Portadown Peoples Public Park (also an outdoor adult gym)
33. Rectory Park Estate, Portadown
34. Tir na nOg GAC, Portadown (outdoor adult gym)
35. Maghery Country Park, Maghery
36. Milltown (Co. Armagh), Loughview Terrace, Maghery
37. Aghagallon

Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA):

1. Ardowen, Craigavon
2. Churchill / Woodside Green, Portadown
3. Clonmeen, Craigavon
4. Craigavon Leisure Centre, Brownlow
5. Corcrair (Hart Memorial), Portadown
6. Brownstown Park, Portadown
7. Killicomaine, Portadown
8. Portadown Peoples Public Park
9. Donaghcloney
10. Kilwilkie (North Lurgan)
11. Mourneview (Dixon PS), Lurgan
12. Parkmore, Craigavon
13. Taghnevan, Lurgan
14. Derrytrasna (Sarsfields GAC)
15. Francis Street (Clan na Gael GAC), Lurgan
16. Maghery Country Park
17. Scotch Street

Appendix 4: Settlement Growth 2015-30 Projection Methodology

Methodology to project settlement growth 2011-2030:

• ACBCBC Population 2011 (Census):	199700
<small>Source: Usual Resident Population: KS101NI (administrative geographies)@ 2011: 199693.</small>	
• ACBCBC Projected Population 2030 (2012-32 pop projections):	237500
<small>Source: 2012-2037 ACBCBC Borough projected 2015 population: 207800 & 2030 population: 237500.</small>	
• ACBCBC Projected Population increase (2011-2030):	037800
• ACBCBC Projected Population increase (%: 2011-2030)	18.93%

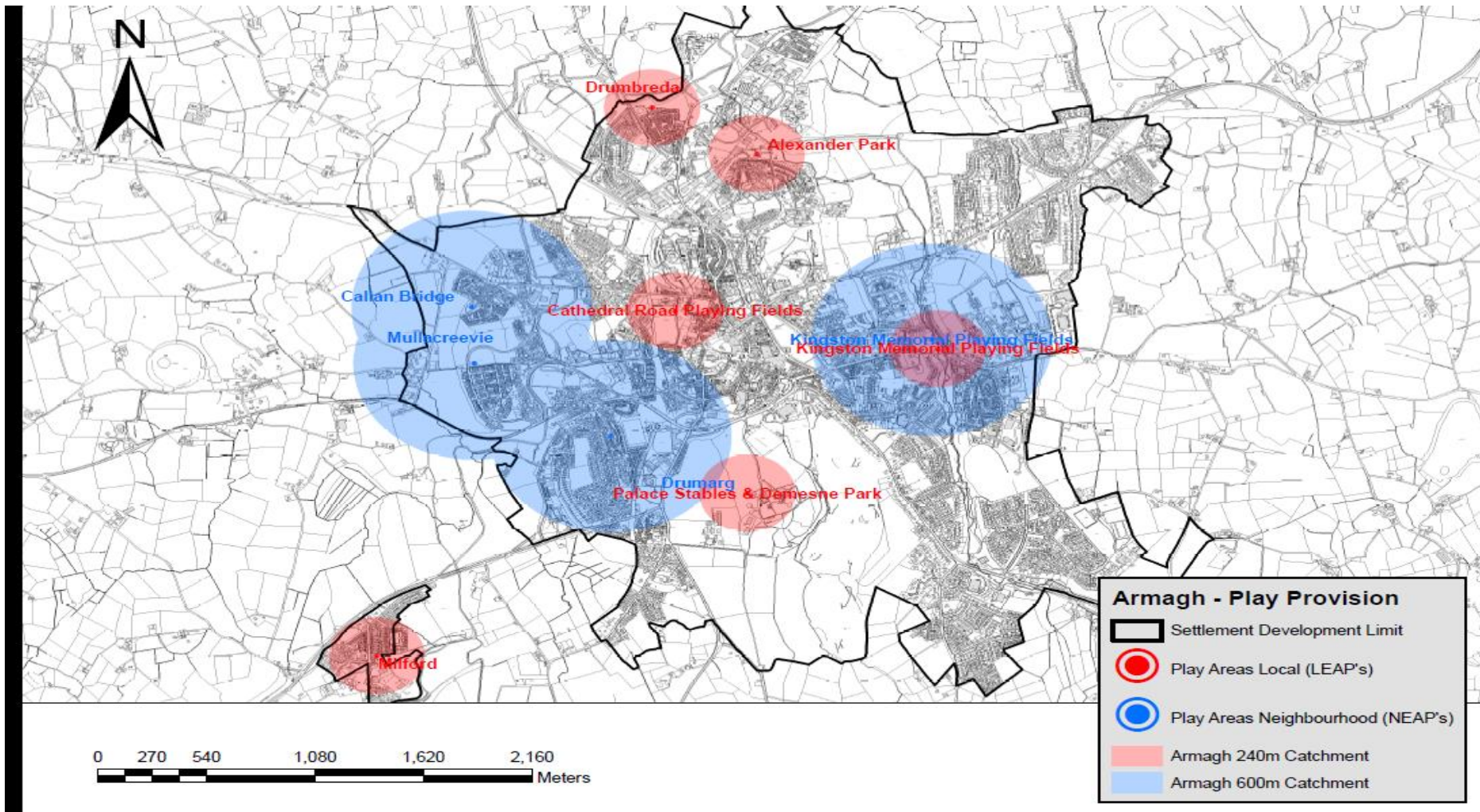
Worked Example:

1. Considering NISRA do not offer projected settlement populations to 2030.
2. We have estimated 2030 settlement populations by multiplying the individual settlement population sizes (2011 Census) by the projected Borough population growth rate (%).
3. This Borough growth rate (%) has been estimated between 2011 (Census figure) and projected population at 2030. It has been estimated as 18.93% growth.

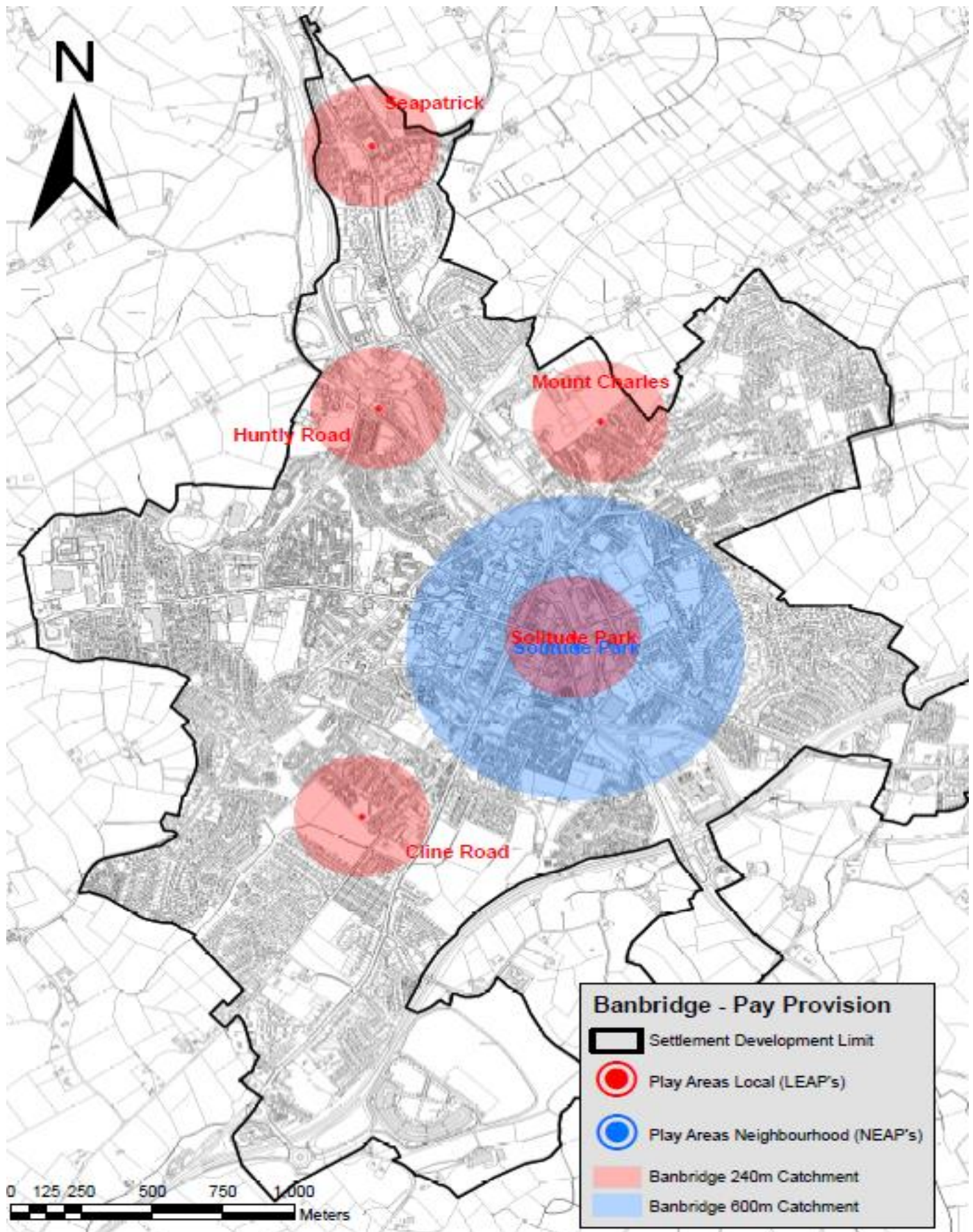
Eg: Armagh City population (2011 Census)=14749. Borough growth rate 2011-30=18.93%.
Estimated 2030 projected population = 17541 (ie 14749 x 1.1893).

Appendix 5: ACBCBC Hubs & Local Towns Play Park Provision (LEAPS & NEAPS) maps & FIT Catchment Areas

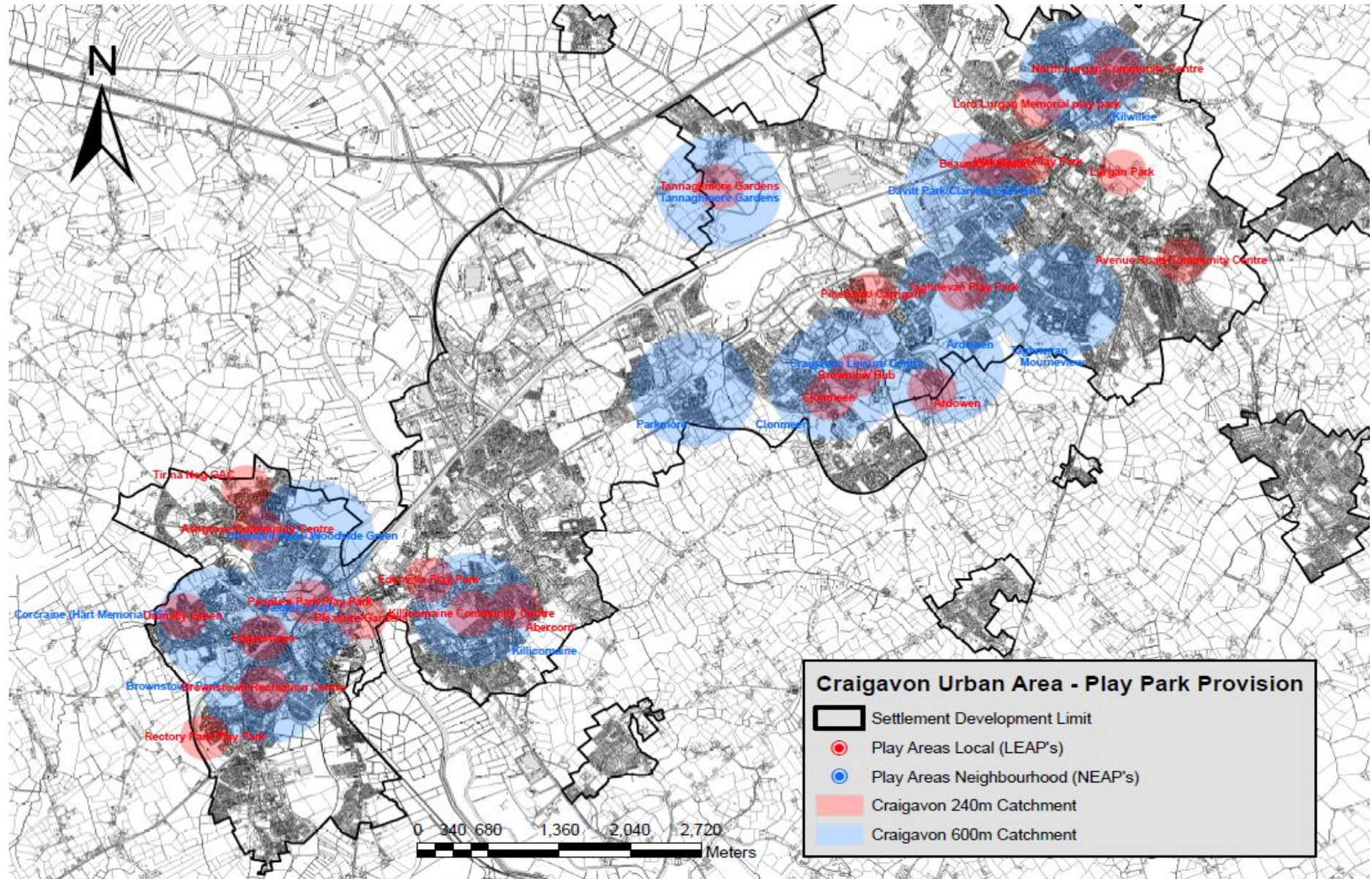
Armagh City: 5(a)



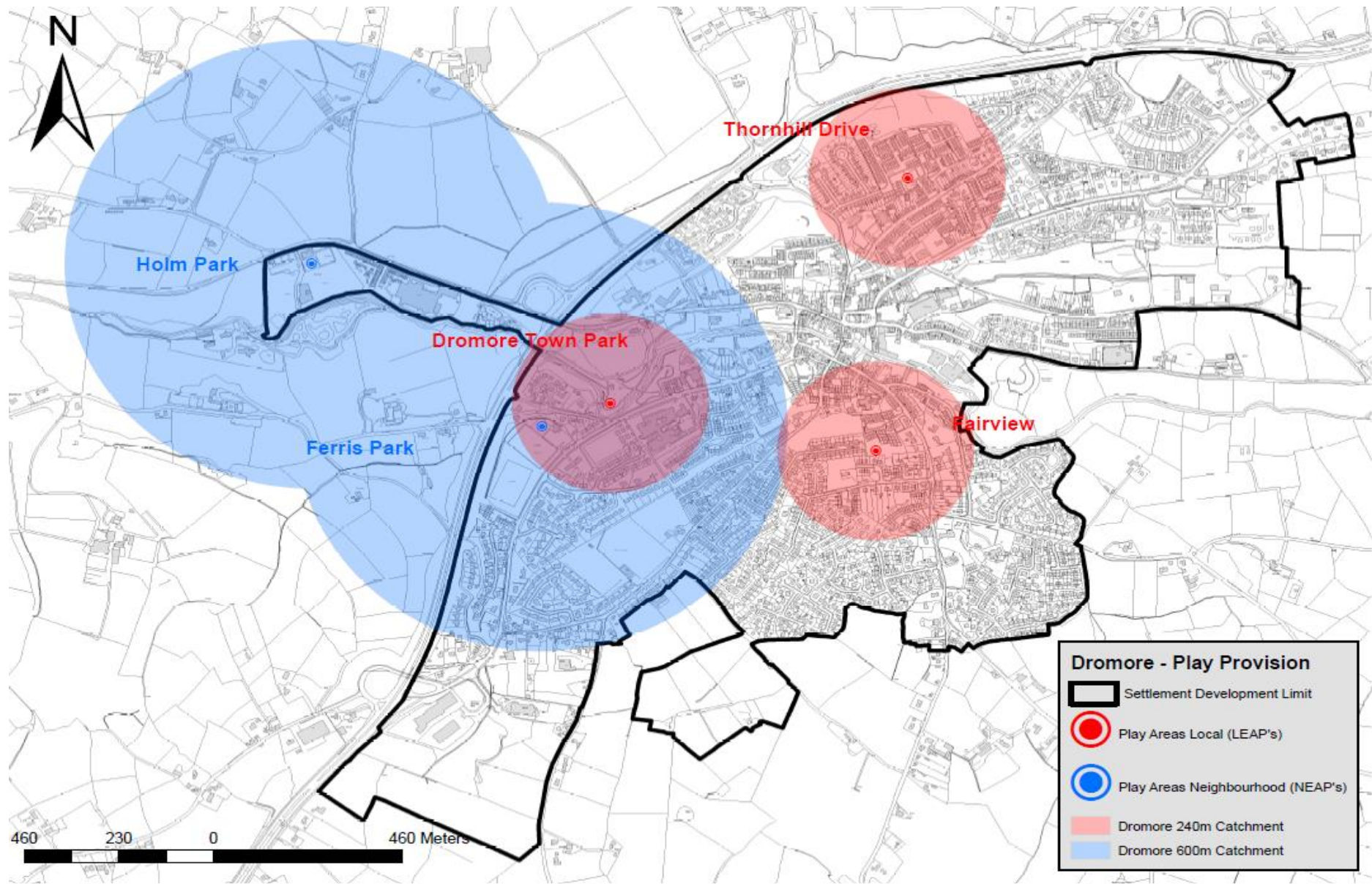
Banbridge Town: 5(b)



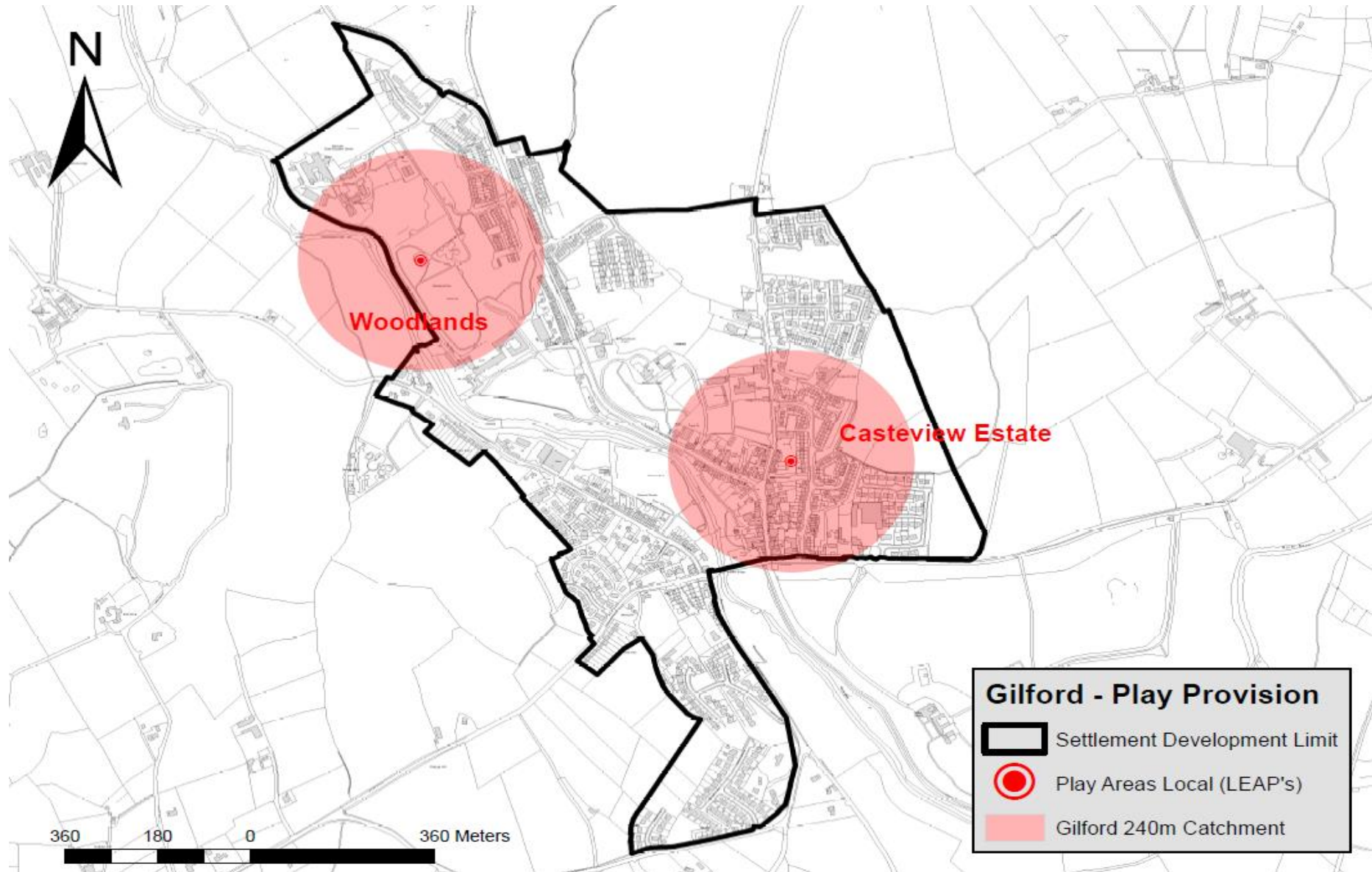
Craigavon Urban Area (Portadown, Central Craigavon & Lurgan): 5(c)



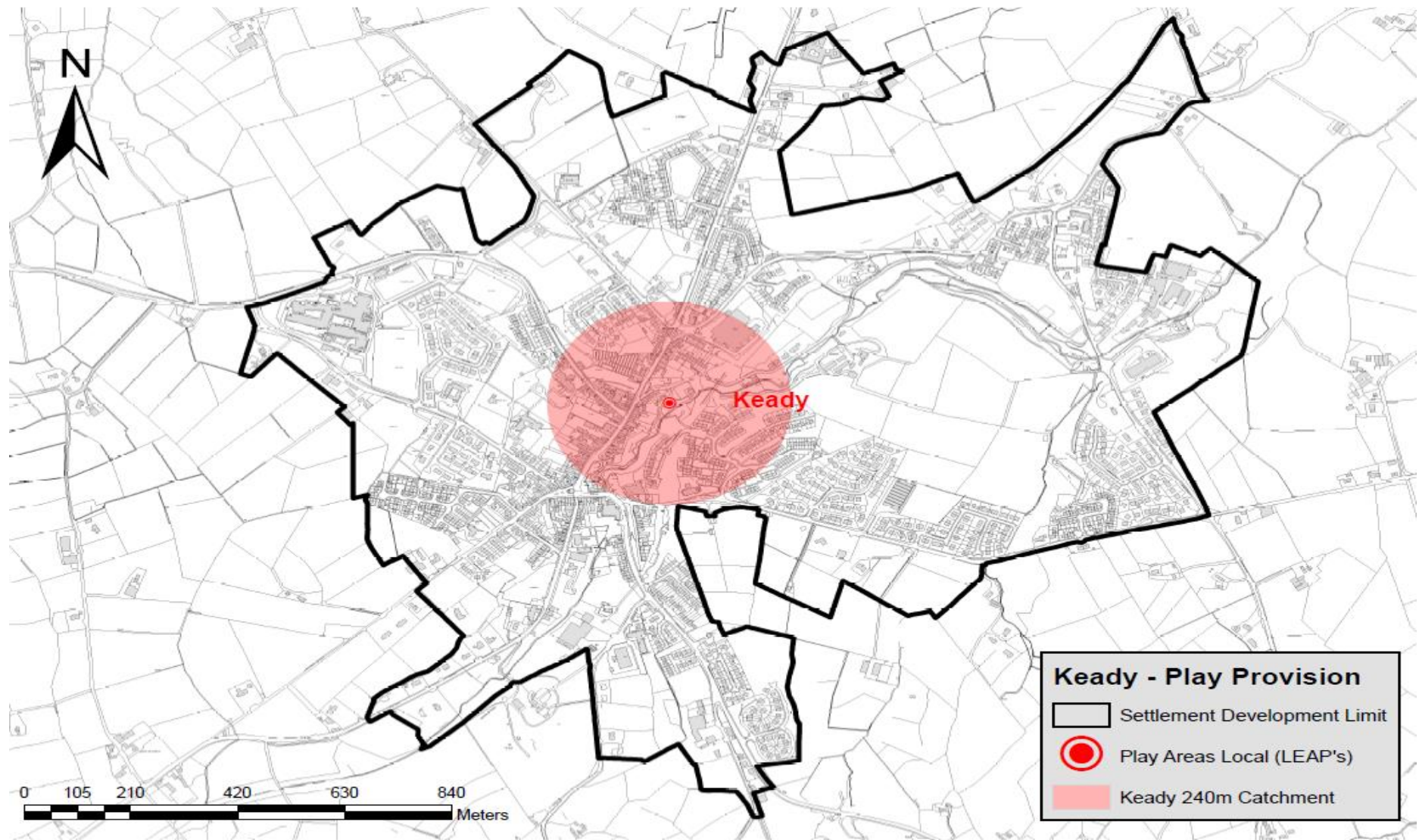
Dromore Town: 5(d)



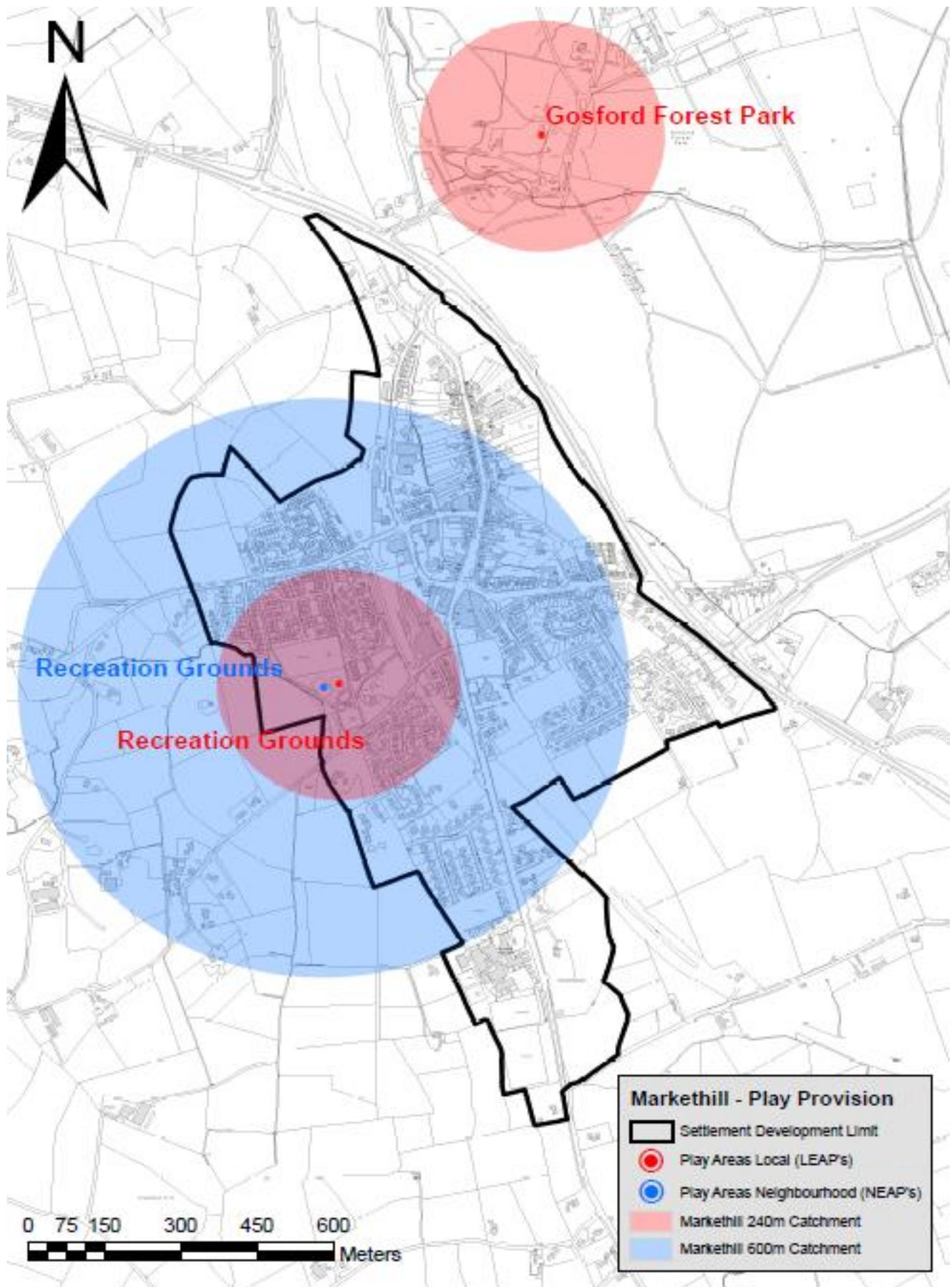
Gilford Town: 5 (e)



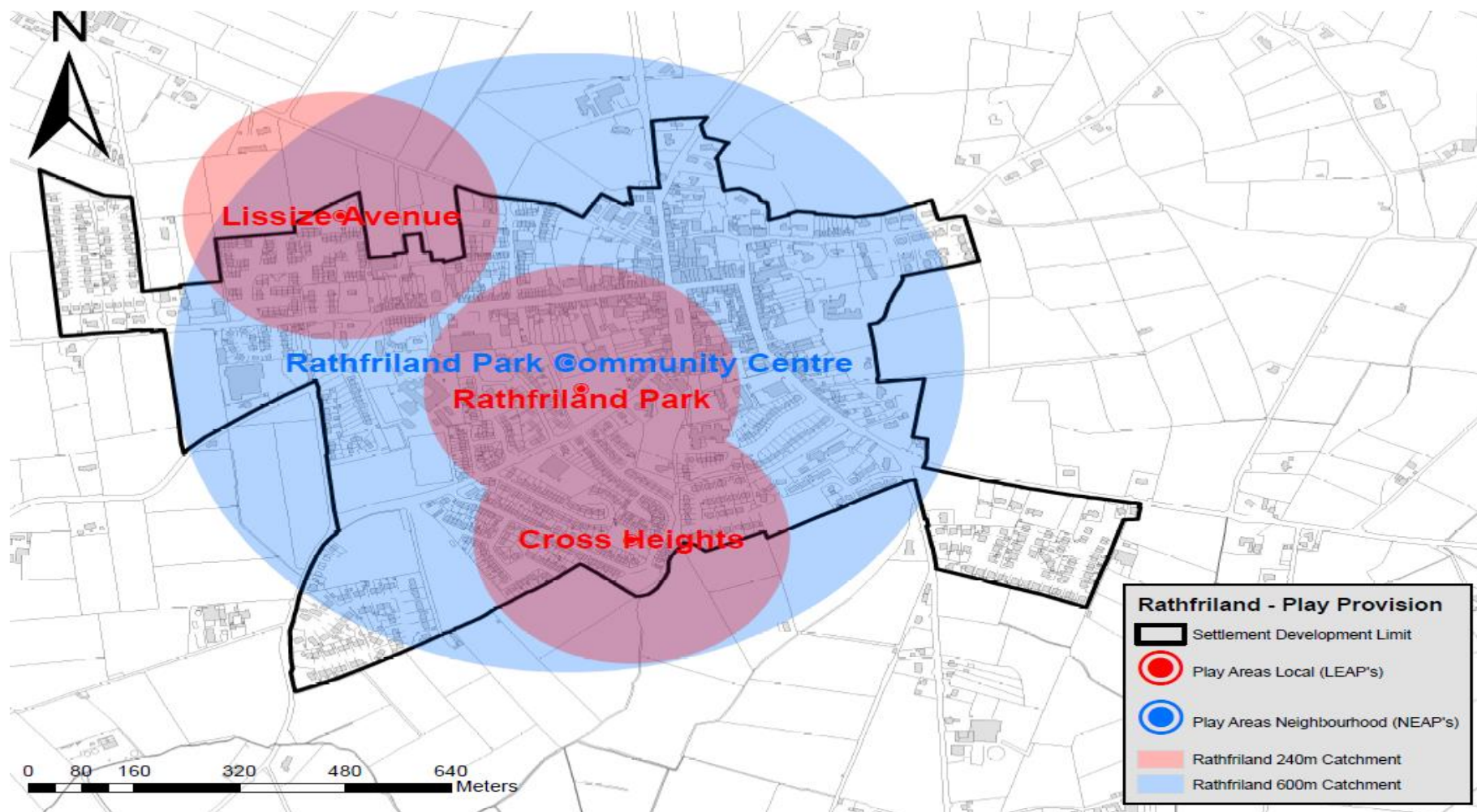
Keady Town: 5(f)



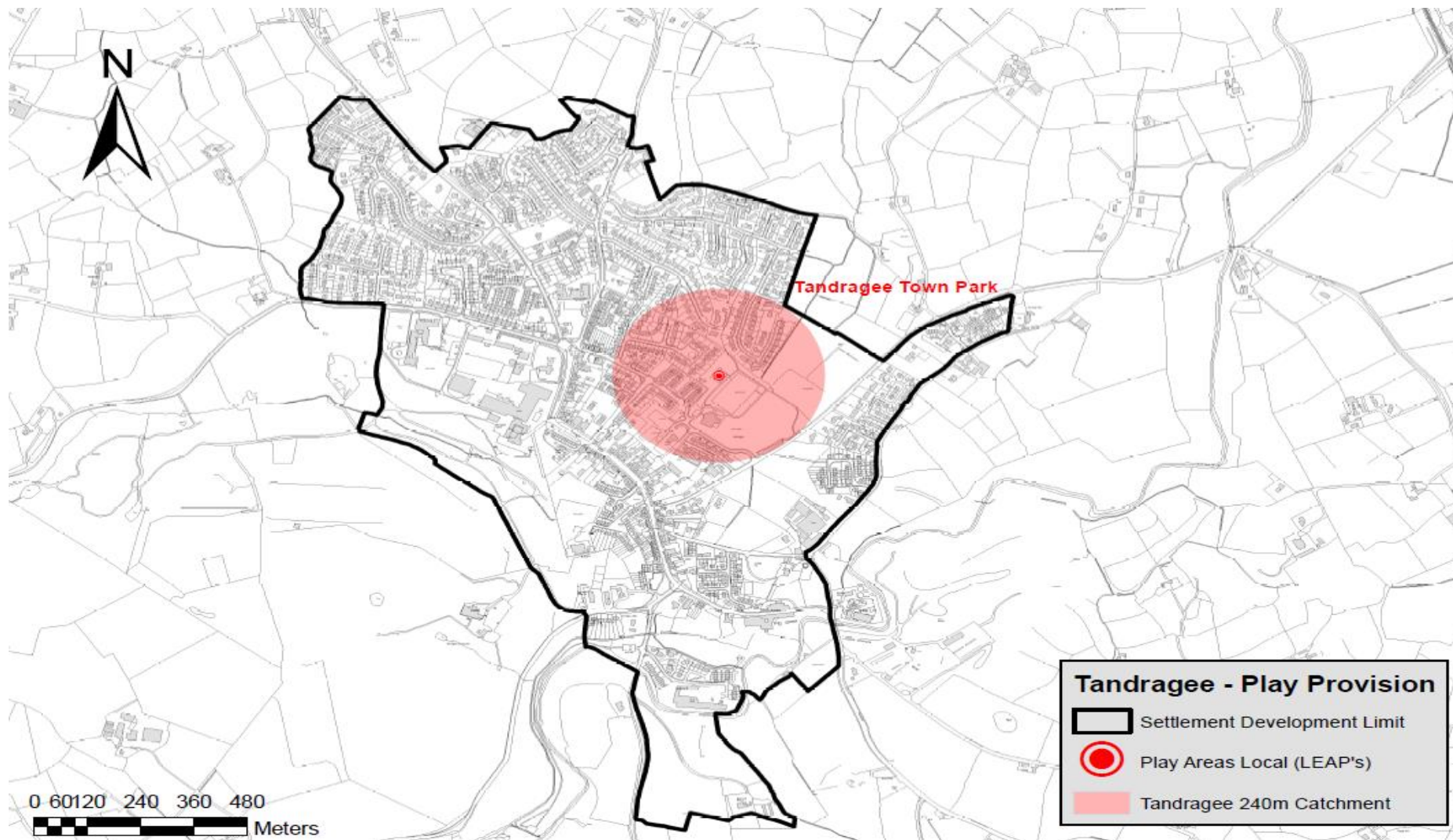
Markethill Town: 5(g)



Rathfriland Town: 5(h)



Tandragee Town: 5 (i)



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