

Addendum to Paper 10: Open Space, Recreation and Leisure

Methodologies used in the BNMAP & ADAP in the Calculation of Open Space

1.0 The purpose of the paper was to provide an evidence base on the provision of open space provision within the District. As part of this it provided detail on the two current development plans for the District. This included some background information on how the two plans had previously calculated the provision of open space in their respective plan areas.

1.1 The paper explained that the development plans had employed two different methodologies when calculating the existing provision. The intention of the paper had been to outline these methodologies and provide information on future projections for pitches and children's play areas for the whole District using SportNI information and NPFA guidance. The existing provision for the whole district will be established at the next stage of the development plan process, using one single methodology, which would include site survey work.

1.2 However, concern was raised by the SPR Committee regarding the open space calculations completed by the two extant development plans for the legacy Councils in that it appeared that the Down District experiences a larger deficit than the legacy Newry and Mourne Area. As detailed in the paper the development plans used two different methodologies for their calculation of open space provision. In summary:

1.3 ADAP calculated open space provision using those facilities and land that were located within the towns and villages (& the small settlement of Annacloy) and were in the legacy Down District Councils ownership. It then compared this provision to the NPFA standard using the total population of the plan area (i.e both urban and rural).

1.4 BNMAP calculated open space provision for each settlement using facilities and land (in both legacy Newry and Mourne District Council ownership and some private ownership) and the 2001 Census population for each settlement. This calculation was then compared to the NPFA target to determine whether there was a surplus or deficit for each settlement. The audit did not include small settlements, the countryside or facilities more than 1.2km from the settlement limit of the City of Newry, towns or villages.

1.5 It considered this to be best practice as these settlements were considered to be so small that the (urban based) NPFA assessment was not considered appropriate. Additionally it considered that the small settlements were located in the open countryside and benefited from access to the countryside and facilities in nearby towns and villages.

1.6 The differences in the methodologies led to a situation whereby it appears, at first glance, that the legacy Newry and Mourne Council Area experiences a much smaller deficit than the legacy Down District. However, this is not the case. Given that the two methodologies differ so greatly it would not be possible to ensure the accuracy of applying one of the methodologies to both areas. For this reason the paper did not include a rationalisation of the figures but rather provided detail on the two methodologies highlighting the variances. However, given the concerns raised by the Committee the calculations below have been completed for illustrative purposes.

1.7 Using ADAP approach: i.e Land and facilities located in the City, towns and villages that are owned/ maintained by the Council and the total population of the area. The ADAP also included 2.82Ha of outdoor sport space in Annacloy but did not include any other small settlements. To increase the ability to compare the two areas this has been removed and the calculation includes only City, towns and villages for both legacy council areas.

Newry and Mourne

Actual Provision of Outdoor Sport Space (calculated from BNMAP): 62.25 Ha

Total Population (2001 Census): 87058

NPFA Target: $87058 \div 1000 = 87.06 \times 2.4\text{Ha} = 208.94 \text{ Ha}$

NPFA Target - Actual Provision: $208.94\text{Ha} - 62.25\text{Ha} = 146.69 \text{ Ha deficit}$

Down District Council

Actual Provision of Outdoor Space: $63.05 \text{ Ha (ADAP)} - 2.82\text{Ha (small settlement of Annacloy)}$
 $= 60.23 \text{ Ha}$

Total Population: 64000 (ADAP) corrected for comparison purposes to 63828 (2001 Census)

NPFA Target: $63828 \div 1000 = 63.83 \times 2.4\text{Ha} = 153.19 \text{ Ha}$

NPFA Target- Actual Provision: $153.19 - 60.23 = 92.96 \text{ Ha deficit}$

1.8 Using the BNMAP approach i.e the facilities and land includes Council and some privately owned facilities within the settlements (i.e City, towns and villages) and the population includes only that located in the settlements in 2001.

Newry and Mourne

Actual Provision of Outdoor Sport Space (calculated by BNMAP): 110.54 Ha

Population of Newry City, Towns and Villages (2001-noted in BNMAP): 53349

NPFA Target: $53349 \div 1000 = 53.349 \times 2.4 \text{ (Hectares)} = 128.03\text{Ha}$

NPFA Target- Actual Provision: $128.03 - 110.54 = 17.49\text{Ha deficit.}$

Down

Actual Provision of Outdoor Sport Space (calculated by ADAP): 97.68 Ha – 2.82Ha (small settlement of Annacloy to improve comparison) = 94.86Ha

Population of Towns and Villages (2001): 39810 (Approx.)

NPFA Target: $39810 \div 1000 = 39.81 \times 2.4 = 95.54$ Ha

NPFA Target - Actual Provision: $95.54 - 94.86 = - 3.36$ Ha = 0.68 Ha deficit

1.9 As previously mentioned the information on the two development plans and the methodologies they employed were included to provide an evidence based background for the preparation to a Local Development plan for the Newry, Mourne and Down District. Survey work will be completed as part of the preparation of this plan to establish what is actually on the ground and a single methodology of data collection and calculation will be employed to ensure there are no discrepancies such as those displayed by the two current development plans. Issues such as access to facilities etc. will be teased out during the plan process with consultation with relevant stakeholders and periods of public consultation.