



SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAY SITE REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This report is a review of play sites produced by Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP) on behalf of Swale Borough Council (SBC).

Following the 2024 Open Space Assessment, the Local Authority has been tasked with investigating the possibility of making financial savings from its play budget - with a particular focus on reducing its play inspection and maintenance costs. Consequently, SBC want to explore the potential of closing certain play sites which are deemed surplus to requirements to make these savings.

To date, SBC has undertaken a quality assessment of all sites managed by the Authority focusing on the risk and technical aspect of sites (referred to as a RAG assessment). Criteria for the RAG assessment is presented in Appendix B. Sites have also been assessed through the Open Space Study (with a quality and value score).

Based on analysis, this report provides options for which sites could be removed to support SBC with its aim of reducing its maintenance budget. To achieve this, the report:

- ◀ Combines KKP's accessibility analysis and quality/value scores of each site, with the Council's own RAG assessment of all play sites.
- ◀ Using the above data, identifies sites which could be considered surplus to requirements. In addition, recommendations are provided on the potential upgrade of certain sites to justify the potential removal of others. For example, this could be enhancing a play site from a LEAP to a NEAP.
- ◀ Presents a scoring matrix, based on a series of data sets, including population density, Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), crime and obesity levels, and calculates a score for all identified 'at risk' sites to demonstrate the potential impact of losing a certain site.
- ◀ Identifies such sites with their calculated score against the criteria to provide a rationale for SBC to consider if a site could be removed.

The work is presented on an analysis area basis to reflect the different areas of the Borough. This report consists of the following sections:

- ◀ Part 2: Current play provision in Swale
- ◀ Part 3: Methodology
- ◀ Part 4: Faversham Review
- ◀ Part 5: Sittingbourne Review
- ◀ Part 6: Sheppey Review

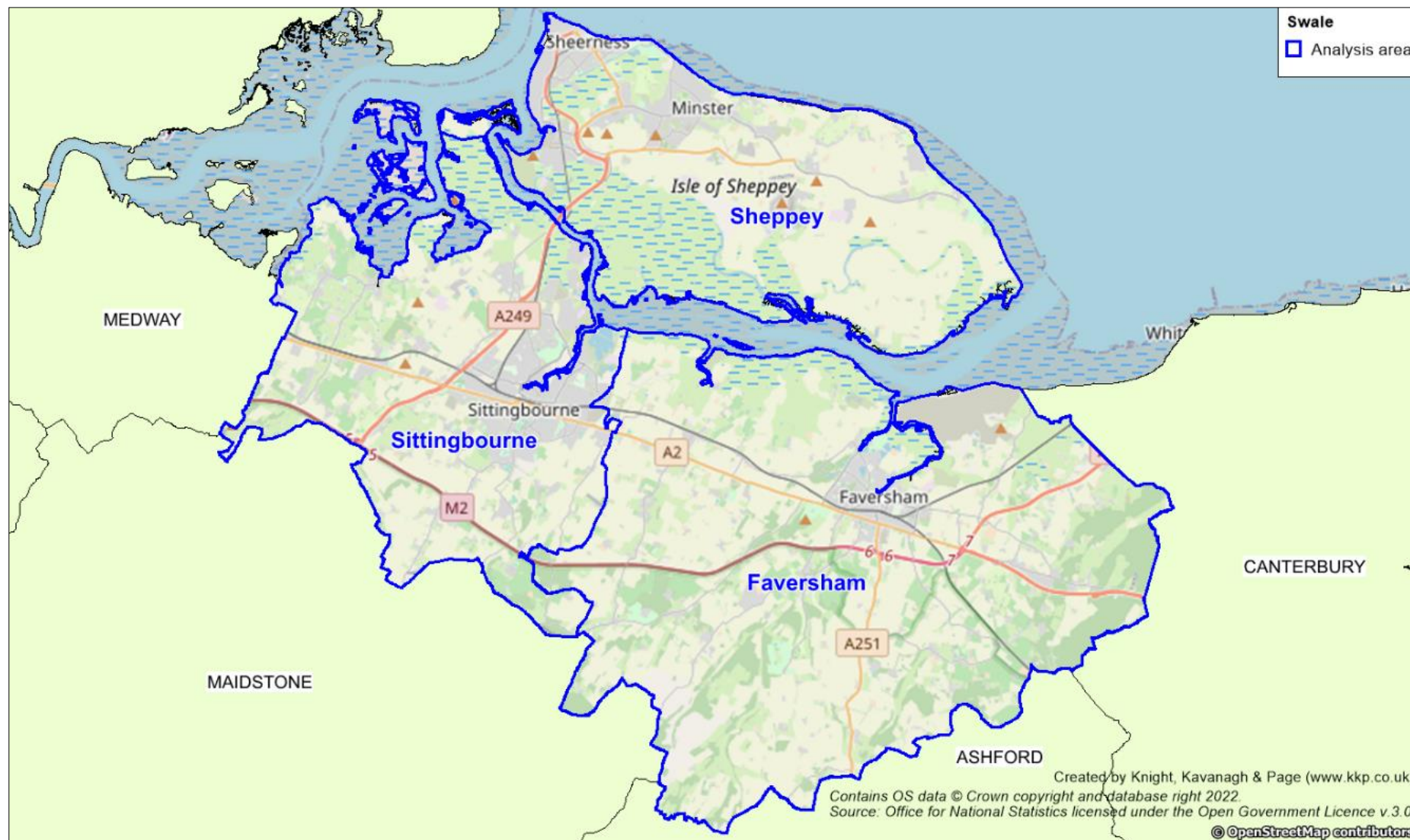
To view the existing play provision and the recommended options, interactive maps¹ have been produced (accessed via a link). Two maps are provided through the link. The first illustrates current provision (titled: **Swale Current Play**) with Scenario 1 map (titled: **Swale Scenario 1 Play**) demonstrating the recommendations. The maps allow certain data layers to be switched on and off to show, for example, how populated or the IMD of an area surrounding a play site. It is hoped this will better inform SBC when making a decision about which sites to remove. Both sets of maps are only radial catchments, (as identified through FIT) and do not acknowledge walk times etc.

Link to the maps. [Swale Play Maps - Knight, Kavanagh & Page](#)

¹ software used for this is a mixture of QGIS and Leaflet

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Figure 1.1: Swale Borough with the three analysis areas



PART 2: CURRENT PLAY OFFER

Provision for children and young people includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Play sites for children are deemed to be areas consisting of formal equipped facilities. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters and MUGAs.

2.1 Current provision

A total of 149 play locations are identified in Swale. For ease, sites have been split into three analysis areas. The areas of Sheppey (54) and Sittingbourne (57) have the greater number of play sites.

Table 2.1: Current provision for children and young people in Swale

Analysis area	Number
Faversham	38
Sheppey	54
Sittingbourne	57
Swale	149

2.2 Quantity Standards

Fields in Trust (FIT) guidance suggests a quantity standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population for designated playing space per authority.

The 2025 Swale Open Space Strategy calculates that the current standard across the Authority is currently 0.06 hectares per 1,000 population, as calculated below. This is significantly below the FIT standard. However, it is often recognised that children and young people can and do use the space surrounding the defined designated area for play. This is especially the case for amenity greenspace surrounding a play area. This is illustrated in Table 2.3, and demonstrates that, when accounting for amenity green space, all three analysis areas meet the suggested FIT standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 2.2: Current provision for children and young people in Swale

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Faversham	38	2.07	0.05
Sheppey	54	3.12	0.07
Sittingbourne	57	2.98	0.06
Swale	149	8.17	0.06

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Table 2.3: Current provision for children and young people (including surrounding amenity land) in Swale

Analysis area	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Faversham	10.61	0.32
Sheppey	15.71	0.37
Sittingbourne	23.19	0.38
Swale	49.51	0.36

2.3 Quality of all provision

Below presents a full list of all the play sites across the Authority, along with its analysis area it. The Open Space Assessment undertook a quality and value assessment of each site, and a RAG rating is given to all local authority managed sites. A RAG assessment has not been undertaken for other sites managed by parish councils or a management company/housing trust.

Table 2.2: RAG, quality and value score for all play sites

KKP ref	KKP Name	Analysis area	Rag rating	Quality	Value
1.1	Abbey Rise play area	Sheppey	Good	38.5%	25.5%
4.1	Agate Court play areas	Sittingbourne	Good	39.9%	21.8%
6	Colson Drive Play Area	Sittingbourne	Good	52.9%	12.7%
9.1	Amethyst Drive play area	Sittingbourne	Good	58.1%	25.5%
11.1	Anne Boleyn Close play area	Sheppey	Good	58.4%	29.1%
13.1	Anselm Close play area	Sittingbourne	Average	36.1%	12.7%
17.1	Balas Drive play area	Sittingbourne	Good	60.5%	29.1%
20.1	Bartons Point play areas	Sheppey	Average	53.3%	52.7%
22.1	Batteries Close play area	Faversham	Average	48.8%	29.1%
27.1	Beachfields Park play area 1	Sheppey	Average	61.2%	47.3%
27.2	Beachfields Park play area 2	Sheppey	Average	53.3%	30.9%
27.3	Beachfields Park court	Sheppey	Average	53.3%	30.9%
27.4	Beachfields Park splash pool	Sheppey	Average	57.0%	47.3%
27.5	Beachfields Park skate park	Sheppey	Average	62.5%	43.6%
43.1	Brook Road play area	Faversham	Poor	25.1%	12.7%
45.1	Buckthorne Road play area	Sheppey	Average	65.3%	60.0%
48.1	Bysing Wood Road Play Area	Sheppey	Average	40.6%	21.8%
239.1	Castle Site play area	Sheppey	Average	54.0%	20.0%
242.1	Chilham Close Play Area	Sheppey	Good	34.4%	25.5%
58.1	Chilton Avenue play area	Sittingbourne	Average	44.7%	12.7%
62	Colonels Lane Play Area	Faversham	Average	34.7%	25.5%
75.1	Dicksons Field play areas	Sheppey	Poor	60.5%	38.2%
77.1	Diligent Drive play area	Sittingbourne	Good	47.4%	16.4%
55	Eagles Close Fitness Zone	Sittingbourne	Average	41.6%	29.1%

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KKP ref	KKP Name	Analysis area	Rag rating	Quality	Value
89.1	Eleanor Drive Play Area	Sittingbourne	Good	54.6%	29.1%
84.1	Eveas Drive play area	Sittingbourne	Average	47.8%	20.0%
97.1	Faversham Recreation Ground play areas	Faversham	Average	79.7%	90.9%
100	Faversham Swimming Pool Play Area	Faversham	Good	68.4%	78.2%
103.1	Festival Field play area	Sheppey	Good	50.9%	38.2%
103.2	Festival Playing Field basketball	Sheppey	Good	45.0%	30.9%
104	Finch Close Play Area	Faversham	Good	60.8%	21.8%
200.1	Great East Hall play area	Sittingbourne	Good	64.6%	50.9%
326.1	The Grove play area	Sittingbourne	Average	67.0%	34.5%
326.2	The Grove Park (South) basketball	Sittingbourne	Average	37.1%	43.6%
118.1	Hazebrouck Road play areas	Faversham	Average	49.8%	29.1%
120	Hilton Close Play Area	Faversham	Average	68.4%	47.3%
124.1	Homefield Drive play area	Sittingbourne	Average	62.9%	38.2%
128.1	Hugh Price Close play area	Sittingbourne	Average	57.0%	43.6%
274.1	Iwade Recreation Ground Play Area	Sittingbourne	Good	64.6%	43.6%
316.1	Johnson Road play area	Sittingbourne	Average	47.8%	25.5%
141.1	Kemsley Recreation Ground play area	Sittingbourne	Average	57.5%	38.2%
141.2	Kemsley Recreational Ground MUGA	Sittingbourne	Average	44.7%	38.2%
141.3	Kemsley Recreational Ground skate park	Sittingbourne	Average	47.8%	29.1%
145.1	KGV The Mount Faversham play area	Faversham	Average	57.6%	30.9%
145.2	King Georges Playing Field basketball	Faversham	Average	40.5%	25.5%
146.1	KGV Queenborough play area	Sheppey	Average	33.3%	29.1%
146.2	KGV Queenborough basketball	Sheppey	Average	25.8%	29.1%
147.1	KGV Sittingbourne play area	Sittingbourne	Average	67.0%	25.5%
154.1	Leysdown Coastal Park Play Area	Sheppey	Average	62.5%	63.6%
154.2	Leysdown Coastal Park fitness equipment	Sheppey	Average		
154.3	Leysdown Coastal Park zip wire	Sheppey	Average		
154.4	Leysdown Coastal Park half MUGA	Sheppey	Average		
166.1	Lovell Road Play Area 1	Sheppey	Average	61.9%	41.8%
166.2	Lovell Road play area 2	Sheppey	Average		
169	Lower Road Play Area	Faversham	Average	60.5%	41.8%
173.1	Manor Grove play area	Sittingbourne	Good	46.0%	47.3%

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KKP ref	KKP Name	Analysis area	Rag rating	Quality	Value
175.1	Mansfield Drive Play Areas	Sittingbourne	Good	52.9%	21.8%
178.1	Maylam Gardens play area	Sittingbourne	Good	27.8%	40.0%
184.1	Millfield play area	Faversham	Good	51.4%	43.6%
189.1	Milton Creek Country Park play area	Sittingbourne	Average	72.2%	47.3%
191.1	Milton Recreation Ground play area 1	Sittingbourne	Average	71.1%	41.8%
191.2	Milton Recreation Ground play area 2	Sittingbourne	Average		
198.1	Minster Leas Beach gym	Sheppey	Good	69.5%	60.0%
204.1	New Road play areas	Sheppey	Good	31.4%	12.7%
157.1	New Village Hall Play Area	Sheppey	Average	67.6%	72.4%
211	Noreen Avenue play area	Sheppey	Average	41.6%	21.8%
162.1	Nunnery Close play area	Sheppey	Good	54.0%	21.8%
241.1	Nursery Close Play Area	Sheppey	Good	54.6%	25.5%
233.1	Power Station Road play area	Sittingbourne	Good	59.1%	29.1%
235.1	Premier Way play area	Sittingbourne	Average	50.9%	47.3%
240.1	Queensway Play Area	Sheppey	Average	37.5%	38.2%
247.1	Randle Way play area	Sittingbourne	Average	70.8%	41.8%
251.1	Recreation Way play area	Sittingbourne	Average	45.0%	29.1%
255.1	Rectory Park play area	Sittingbourne	Average	58.8%	52.7%
255.2	Rectory Park basketball	Sittingbourne	Average	38.8%	38.2%
256.1	Reedland Crescent play area	Faversham	Average	50.2%	38.2%
256.2	Reedland Crescent basketball	Faversham	Average		
256.3	Reedland Crescent outdoor gym	Faversham	Average	39.9%	43.6%
262.1	Rook View play area	Sittingbourne	Good	40.0%	12.7%
264.1	Rose Walk play areas	Sittingbourne	Average	62.5%	50.9%
264.2	Rose Walk MUGA	Sittingbourne	Average	53.3%	47.3%
267.1	Rushenden Hill play areas	Sheppey	Poor	42.3%	29.1%
267.2	Rushenden Hill MUGA	Sheppey	Poor	36.8%	29.1%
267.3	Rushenden Hill half MUGA	Sheppey	Poor	28.5%	29.1%
267.4	Rushenden Hill outdoor gym	Sheppey	Poor	34.7%	29.1%
269.1	Samuel Drive play areas	Sittingbourne	Average	32.3%	29.1%
351.1	Second Avenue play area	Sheppey	Average	53.6%	50.9%
293.1	Sittingbourne Recreation Ground play area	Sittingbourne	Average	50.9%	47.3%
290.1	Stangate Drive play area	Sittingbourne	Good	67.6%	60.0%
307.1	Stanley Avenue Bike Facility	Sheppey	Average	27.8%	21.8%
307.2	Stanley Avenue half MUGA	Sheppey	Average	27.1%	21.8%
307.3	Stanley Avenue youth shelter	Sheppey	Average		
313.1	Sumpter Way play areas	Faversham	Average	39.5%	29.1%
313.2	Sumpter Way basketball	Faversham	Average	33.7%	21.8%

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KKP ref	KKP Name	Analysis area	Rag rating	Quality	Value
323.1	The Glen play areas	Sheppey	Good	60.5%	43.5%
333.1	The Spinney play area	Sheppey	Good	70.1%	54.4%
338	Thistle Hill Play Area	Sheppey	Average	74.2%	63.3%
337.1	Thistle Hill Community Woodland Fitness Equipment ²	Sheppey	Good	58.5%	34.5%
347.1	Vincent Gardens play area	Sheppey	Good	38.5%	47.3%
357.1	West Faversham Community Centre Play Area	Faversham	Average	30.9%	21.8%
357.2	West Faversham Community Centre basketball court	Faversham	Average	30.2%	21.8%
354.1	Whiteways skate park	Sheppey	Average	62.5%	60.0%
354.2	Whiteways MUGA	Sheppey	Average		
354.3	Whiteways Road	Sheppey	Average		
164.1	Windermere Play Area basketball court	Faversham	Good	33.0%	21.8%
360.1	Windermere play areas	Faversham	Good	63.9%	37.2%
346.1	Iwade Village Park play area	Sittingbourne	Good	67.6%	43.6%
33.1	The Playstool Borden play area	Sittingbourne		66.7%	72.2%
34.1	Bull Lane play area	Faversham		66.0%	38.2%
34.2	Boughton play area	Faversham		58.4%	38.2%
34.3	Boughton basketball	Faversham		50.5%	47.3%
38.1	Bredgar Recreation Ground play area	Sittingbourne		49.1%	60.0%
42.1	Briton Court Play Area	Sheppey		31.3%	12.7%
42.2	Briton Court outdoor gym	Sheppey		34.4%	25.5%
52.1	Cavell Way play area	Sittingbourne		57.0%	29.1%
52.2	Cavell Way skate park	Sittingbourne		54.3%	12.7%
54	Ceres Court Ball Park	Sittingbourne		56.7%	38.2%
56.1	Chapel Meadow basketball	Sittingbourne		47.5%	23.4%
59	Clover Close play area	Sheppey		61.9%	38.2%
365	Conqueror Court Play Area ³	Sittingbourne			
73.1	Dennis Wilcocks Close play area	Sittingbourne		63.6%	56.4%
80.1	Doddington Rec Ground play	Faversham		38.8%	38.2%
80.2	Doddington Rec Ground outdoor gym	Faversham		25.8%	21.8%
90	Elm Grove Play Area	Sittingbourne		Closed	
115.1	Hartlip Recreation Ground play area	Sittingbourne		54.4%	38.2%
150.1	Lapwing Close play area	Sheppey		64.9%	47.3%
150.2	Lapwing Close basketball	Sheppey			

² Site offers fitness equipment only and is exempt from removal.

³ Not included in OSA

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KKP ref	KKP Name	Analysis area	Rag rating	Quality	Value
152	Leige Close play area	Sittingbourne		64.6%	29.1%
155	Liege Close	Sittingbourne		62.9%	50.9%
157.2	Linear Park outdoor gym	Sheppey	Average	67.4%	72.7%
157.3	Linear Park zip wire	Sheppey	Average		
159.1	Lionfield basketball court	Faversham	Poor		
167	Lower Halstow Memorial Hall play area	Sittingbourne		35.7%	60.0%
209.1	Nore Close play area	Sheppey		67.4%	29.1%
209.2	Nore Close basketball	Sheppey			
222.1	Oare Recreation Ground play area	Faversham		41.2%	30.9%
222.2	Oare Recreation Ground basketball	Faversham			
227.1	Newington Recreation Ground Play Area	Sittingbourne		62.9%	50.9%
227.2	Newington Recreation Ground Play Area MUGA	Sittingbourne			
230.1	Painters Forstal play area	Faversham		36.1%	25.5%
230.2	Painters Forstal basketball	Faversham		26.8%	25.5%
234	Play area adjacent to the Crown Pub, Upchurch ⁴	Sittingbourne			
366	Redgrove Avenue Play Area ⁵	Sittingbourne			
278.1	Selling Millennium Playground 1	Faversham		46.4%	29.1%
318.1	Teynham Village Hall Play Area	Faversham		50.5%	65.5%
318.2	Teynham Village Hall MUGA	Faversham		46.4%	56.4%
321.1	Hernhill Playing Field play area	Faversham		78.8%	54.4%
330.1	The Paddock Play Area	Sittingbourne		52.2%	33.0%
361.1	Woods Edge play area	Sittingbourne		64.9%	38.2%
367	Winter Gem Lane play area	Faversham		68.4%	36.4%
368	Tettenhall Way play area	Faversham		53.3%	32.7%
369	Rapson End play area	Sittingbourne		52.6%	18.2%
370	Watling Drive play area	Sittingbourne		64.6%	50.9%
371	Belgrave road play area	Sheppey		65.3%	41.8%

⁴ Private facility

⁵ Not included in OSA

PART 3: PLAY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1: Introduction

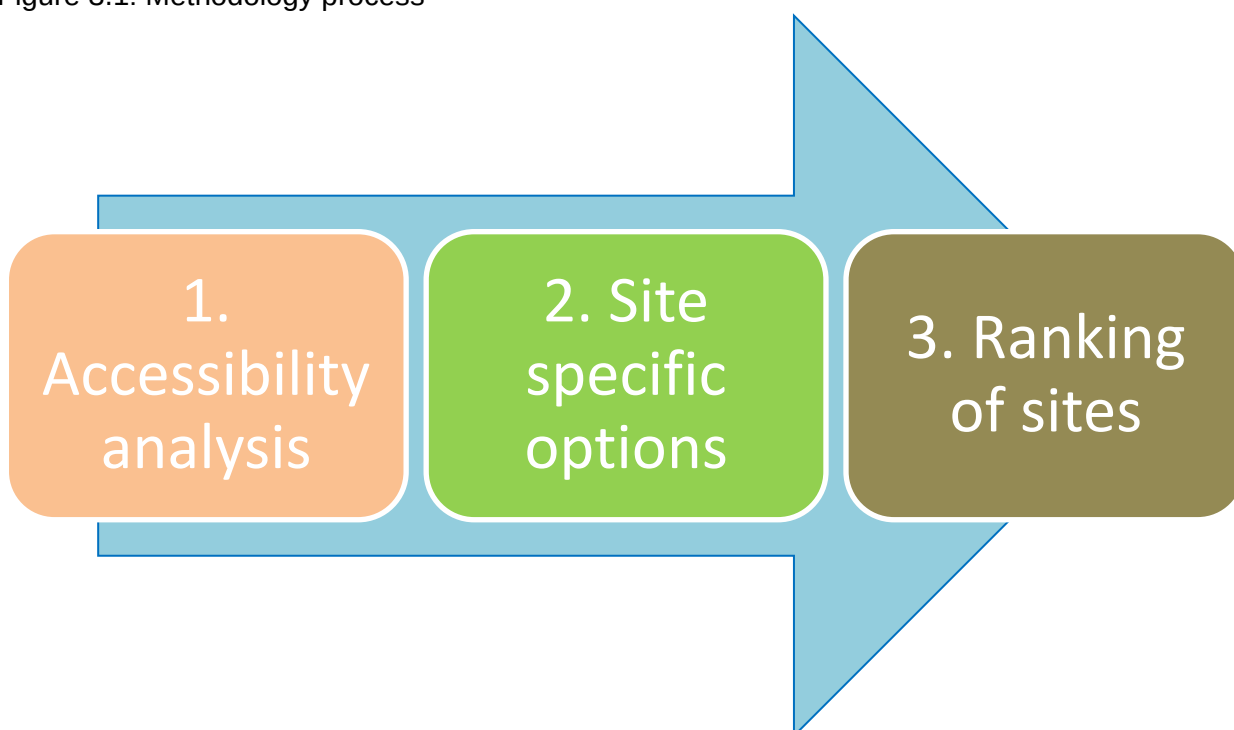
To identify which sites could potentially be removed, a three-stage approach is undertaken. Initially, a mapping exercise utilising the Fields in Trust (FIT) accessibility guidance helps identify which sites are in areas well served by play provision. For instance, if a smaller play site falls within the catchment(s) of another/larger play site.

Following this, the identified sites are then assessed through a scoring matrix to demonstrate the potential impact their removal could have. To do this, sites are ranked according to various social and health factors, including population density, indices of multiple deprivation levels and health data.

On this basis, the identified sites are given a recommendation as to whether to remove, upgrade or to improve. In addition, and where applicable, some sites are recommended to be considered for asset transfer. This is typically in areas where parish councils may be able to be responsible for site management.

It will be the decision of SBC as to whether these recommendations are actioned in order to reduce SBCs maintenance budget for play.

Figure 3.1: Methodology process



3.2: Accessibility guidelines

The size of a play area and equipment available is classified into four different sub types These sub types are illustrated below in table 3.1. Each sub type has a specific catchment utilising the FIT guidance.

This catchment gap analysis is one of the key tools when identifying which sites could be removed from the play offer, as larger sites, such as NEAPs can cover wider catchments, resulting in smaller sites, which fall in the larger sites catchment, becoming surplus to requirement. Below lists the subtype of a play area and the associated catchment distance.

Table 3.1: All play sites in Swale

Sub-type	Explanation	Catchment
Local Area of Play (LAP)	Usually small areas designed for very young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.	100m
Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)	Designed for children who are beginning to play independently; often catering for different play types and experiences.	400m
Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)	Cater mainly for older more independent children but potentially with opportunities for younger children or siblings; providing a wider range of play experiences. Such sites may contain space to play larger group games and seating/shelter.	1000m
Informal play	Facilities specifically designed for informal recreation such as pump tracks, parkour, social areas, ball courts, MUGAs or skateboard areas (referred to as casual provision in this study)	700m

3.3 Site options

Following the accessibility analysis, as mentioned above, a range of recommendations affecting certain sites are presented. The four options presented are:

Remove - If a small site falls in the catchment of a larger play area (LEAP or NEAP), it could be considered surplus to requirements regardless of quality.

For example, a LAP which is in the catchment of a NEAP will be identified for removal. This report, however, also considers other factors for sites considered 'at risk' such as the impact the loss of a site could have. These are detailed in Section 3.4.

Upgrade classification - certain sites may have a recommendation to expand the play offer on site, e.g., upgrade a LEAP to a NEAP, which will increase the distance catchment for that site. If a sites catchment is expanded, widening its appeal to users, it could help mitigate the removal of the site which falls within that new catchment.

Improve quality - all SBC sites receive a quality RAG rating. If a site has been rated poor or average, and there is a requirement to improve this rating, this is highlighted. This is particularly important for larger sites (i.e., a NEAP) rated average or poor, but which has potentially sites at risk of being removed in its catchment area.

Management transfer - certain sites, particularly in rural areas regardless of the RAG rating cannot be removed, as there is no other provision in the area. However, there may be an option to explore transferring the management of a site to another organisation, such as a Parish or Town Council.

3.4 Scoring of each site

As mentioned above, sites initially identified from catchment mapping which are potentially surplus, are then further assessed through a series of criteria to calculate the possible impact if removed. The criteria are as follows;

- ◆ Levels of IMD - is a relative measure of deprivation.
- ◆ Population density – measures how many people are living in an area.
- ◆ Obesity levels - levels of children year 6 (10-11 year olds) who are obese.
- ◆ Health deprivation - measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health
- ◆ Crime deprivation - measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level
- ◆ Excess weight - either overweight or obese (based on children in year 6)

All criteria are broken down into 10 percent range, and given a number based on the rank. IMD and population density data is taken from Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) data from the ONS, while the Year 6 obesity data is taken from Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) from the National Childhood Measurement Program (NCMP).

Table A1 (Appendix A) illustrates how a site is scored based on the above criteria. For example, a site in an area of high population density, deprivation, health deprivation, crime deprivation and had significant levels of obesity and excess weight would have an overall high score.

In addition, each site's RAG score along with the site's classification is also provided.

PART 4: FAVERSHAM ANALYSIS AREA

Introduction

There are currently 38 play sites in the analysis area of Faversham, with the majority located in the town of Faversham. Of the 38, 21 are maintained by the Local Authority. Of the Local Authority managed sites, the majority (15) receive an average RAG rating, with two sites rating poor; Brook Road play area and Lionfield play area.

Current provision in Faversham is shown here: [Swale Current Play](#)

As illustrated above, there are ten sites in the rural catchment, of which only two are managed by SBC. Both sites receive a RAG rating as 'average'. As these sites serve their respective local area, and there is no catchment overlap from other play areas, it is deemed that these are retained with the recommendation to explore for the management of the sites to be transferred to the respective parish council. The two sites are Batteries Close play area (22.1) and Horselees Road Play Area (62).

The town of Faversham currently has 23 play areas across 18 sites. When reviewing accessibility, there are certain smaller sites in both the southeast and west which are potentially surplus to requirements, as they are also covered by play catchments from larger sites. Following the recommendations presented, the south of the town will be served by the potential upgrade of site 145 (KGV The Mount), and the current existing provision will support the north.

Table 4.1 provides a summary to the sites for consideration and sets out the options for play into the four groupings. The interactive map illustrates the potential impact of the removal of certain sites [Swale Scenario 1 Play](#).

These potential sites 'at risk' are listed below and scored against the six criteria. The two lowest scoring sites are Finch Close Play Area and Hilton Close Play Area, both with scores of 33%. The highest scoring sites are Lionfield play area and Sumpter Way play area. Although both do not score highly for population density, they are in high areas of higher deprivation (IMD and health).

The site which scores the highest in terms of population density is Lower Road Play Area, however, this site does not score well for deprivation. It must be noted that Lionfield play area was removed and only currently consists of a basketball end.

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Table 4.1: Site analysis for Faversham analysis area

Id	Site name	Option	Description	Rational
145.1/ 145.2	KGV The Mount Faversham play area/basketball court	Upgrade/improve quality	It is recommended that this site be upgraded to a NEAP and the quality improved from average to good. There is space to the west of the current site to increase the offer.	If this play site is expanded, it would absorb the loss of surrounding play sites through a larger catchment area. The quality of the site needs to be improved to offset the potential loss of certain sites.
118.1	Hazebrouck Road play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	Should site 145.1 be upgraded to a NEAP, the increased catchment from the upgrade would cover the loss of these sites.
169	Lower Road Play Area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	
159.1	Lionfield basketball court ⁶	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	
313.1	Sumpter Way play areas	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	
104	Finch Close Play Area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from site 97.1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus to demand.
120	Hilton Close Play Area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	
360.1	Windermere play areas	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	
97.1	Faversham Recreation Ground play areas	Improve quality	Site 97.1 rates average. For sites 104, 120, 360.1 to be removed, it is recommended to upgrade 97.1 to good. This includes improving the quality of equipment and surfaces.	Improving the quality of site 97.1 with better equipment will mitigate the closure of sites 104, 120 and 360.1.
22.1	Batteries Close play area	Management transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Teynham Parish Council.	These sites are currently managed by SBC. It is recommended that the management of these sites be offered to another organisation, such as a Parish Council. This would create financial savings for SBC, subject to the respective Parish Council agreement.
62	Horselees Road Play Area	Management transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Boughton-under-Blean Parish Council.	

⁶ Current play equipment removed with only the basketball court remaining.

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAY SITE REVIEW

Table 4.2: Faversham Play area scoring index

Site ID	Site name	Current classification	IMD	Health Deprivation	Crime Deprivation	Pop density score	Yr 6 Obesity	Yr 6 Excess Weight	RAG rating	Overall Score	% score
118.1	Hazebrouck Road play area	LAP	2	3	3	8	2	3	Average	21	35%
169	Lower Road Play Area	LAP	3	4	4	10	2	3	Average	26	43%
159.1	Lionfield basketball court	Casual Play	9	8	9	6	2	3	Poor	37	62%
313.1	Sumpter Way play areas	Casual Play	9	8	9	6	2	3	Average	37	62%
104	Finch Close Play Area	LAP	3	3	4	4	2	4	Good	20	33%
120	Hilton Close Play Area	LEAP	3	3	4	4	2	4	Average	20	33%
360.1	Windermere play areas	LAP	6	5	8	9	2	4	Good	34	57%

PART 5: SITTINGBOURNE ANALYSIS AREA

Introduction

There are currently 57 play sites in the analysis area of Sittingbourne, with the majority located in the town of Sittingbourne. Of the 57, 32 are maintained by the Local Authority with 19 sites receiving an average RAG rating and 12 rating as good. Site 90 (Elm Grove) is currently closed and does not receive a rating.

Current provision in Sittingbourne is shown here: [Swale Current Play](#)

Of the 32 SBC managed sites, three are located in rural areas (away from the town of Sittingbourne) and five are located in the settlement of Iwade. All sites in Iwade rate good with the other rural sites rating average. For the sites in Iwade, the recommendation is to explore for the management of the sites to be transferred to the Iwade Parish Council.

For the three rural sites, these sites are not covered by any larger site and support local communities, it is therefore suggested that these are retained with the recommendation to explore for the management of the sites to be transferred to the respective parish council. In total, the seven specific sites are as follows:

- ◆ Homefield Drive play area (ID 124.1)
- ◆ Rooks View play area (ID 262.1)
- ◆ Randle Way play area (ID 241.1)
- ◆ Stangate Drive play area (ID 290.1)
- ◆ Iwade Village Park play area (ID 346)
- ◆ Red Admiral Crescent play area (ID 274.1)
- ◆ Alefe Way play area (ID 6)
- ◆ Mansfield Drive Play Areas (ID 175.1)

Of the SBC sites managed in the town of Sittingbourne, the key focus areas are around Kemsley Recreational Ground and Sittingbourne Recreation Ground, as these are seen as strategic sites.

The proposal is to enhance the quality of both sites from average to good, and to upgrade Sittingbourne Recreation Ground play area to a NEAP from its current status as a LEAP. Following this, both sites provide an opportunity to remove play areas which fall within the respective catchments. It will also ensure there is a key play area to the north and south of the railway line.

Table 5.1 provides a summary to the sites for consideration and sets out the options for play into the four groupings.

[Swale Scenario 1 Play](#) demonstrates the potential impact of site removal for this analysis area.

Of the sites identified 'at risk', the highest scoring sites are Anselm Close play area and Chilton Avenue play area. Both score highly for deprivation and population density. The sites with the lowest scores are Premier Way play area and Samuel Drive play areas. Both sites rate lower for obesity levels and population density.

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Table 5.1: Site analysis for Sittingbourne analysis area

Id	Site name	Option	Description	Rational
293.1	Sittingbourne Recreation Ground play area	Upgrade /improve quality	Play site needs to be upgraded to a NEAP and the quality of the existing play equipment to be upgraded to good. It is currently rated as average.	Site is currently a LEAP. If this was expanded, it would make several surrounding sites surplus to requirement. The site currently has a RAG rating of average. It is recommended that this is upgraded to good.
290.1	Stangate Drive play area	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Iwade Parish Council.	This site is currently managed by SBC. It is recommended that the management of these sites be offered to another organisation, such as a local Parish Council. This would create financial savings for SBC, subject to the respective Parish Council agreement.
346.1	Iwade Village Park play area	Transfer		
274.1	Red Admiral Crescent (Recreation Ground) play area	Transfer		
6	Alefe Way play area	Transfer		
175.1	Mansfield Drive Play Areas	Transfer		
141.1	Kemsley Recreational Ground	Improve quality	Improve the quality of the site from average to good. This will be through upgrading the quality of equipment and surfaces.	Site rated average through the Council's RAG rating. If surrounding sites are to be removed, it is recommended this is upgraded.
189.1	Milton Creek Country Park	Improve quality	Improve the quality of the site from average to good. This will be through upgrading the quality of equipment and surfaces.	Site rated average through the Council's RAG rating. If surrounding sites are to be removed, it is recommended this is upgraded to good.
77.1	Diligent Drive play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from sites 141 .1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.
89.1	Eleanor Drive Play Area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from sites 141 .1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.
251.1	Recreation Way play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from sites 290.1, 175.1 and 346.1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.

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Id	Site name	Option	Description	Rational
269.1	Samuel Drive play areas	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from sites 290.1, 175.1 and 346.1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.
235.1	Premier Way play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from sites 290.1, 175.1 and 346.1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.
173.1	Manor Grove play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from site 293.1 (if it is upgraded to a NEAP) covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.
13.1	Anselm Close play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from site 293.1 (if it is upgraded to a NEAP) covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.
58.1	Chilton Avenue play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from site 293.1 (if it is upgraded to a NEAP) covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.
124.1	Homefield Drive play area	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Upchurch Parish Council	This site is currently managed by SBC. It is recommended that the management of these sites be offered to another organisation, such as a local Parish Council. This would create financial savings for SBC, subject to the respective Parish Council agreement.
262.1	Rook View play area	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Bobbing Parish Council.	
247.1	Randle Way play area	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Bapchild Parish Council	
90	Elm Grove	Remove	Site is currently closed due to quality issues. It is recommended that this is removed permanently.	The catchment from site 255.1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus.

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Table 5.2: Sittingbourne Play area scoring index

Site ID	Site name	Current classification	IMD	Health Deprivation	Crime Deprivation	Pop density score	Yr 6 Obesity	Yr 6 Excess Weight	RAG rating	Overall Score	% score
77.1	Diligent Drive play area	LAP	8	8	8	10	2	4	Good	40	66%
89.1	Eleanor Drive Play Area	LEAP	6	6	7	5	2	4	Good	30	50%
251.1	Recreation Way play area	LEAP	6	7	5	4	2	4	Average	28	46%
269.1	Samuel Drive play areas	LEAP	6	7	5	4	2	4	Average	28	46%
235.1	Premier Way play area	LEAP	6	7	5	4	2	4	Average	28	46%
173.1	Manor Grove play area	LEAP	8	8	6	10	2	4	Good	38	63%
13.1	Anselm Close play area	LAP	8	7	9	10	3	5	Average	42	70%
58.1	Chilton Avenue play area	LEAP	8	7	9	8	3	5	Average	40	70%

PART 6: SHEPPEY ANALYSIS AREA

Introduction

The majority of play sites in the Sheppey Analysis Area are located to the west, in and around the town of Sheerness, Queenborough and Minster-on-Sea. There is limited provision in the east at Leysdown-on-Sea and also the village of Eastchurch. There are 54 sites in the analysis area, of which 44 are managed by SBC. The majority of sites rate average (23) as part of the RAG rating, with 14 rating good. Four sites rate poor, these are all located at Rushenden Hill play areas in Queenborough. Site 337.1 (Thistle Hill Community Woodland Fitness equipment) is a dedicated fitness area, and not a play site, therefore it is exempt from the analysis.

Current provision of play in Sheppey is illustrated here: [Swale Current Play](#)

Of the sites located in the east which are managed by SBC, all could look to be transferred to the respective parish councils of Eastchurch and Leysdown-on-Sea. In the west, there is only one site which falls in the catchment of other sites. This is Vincent Gardens play area.

Vincent Gardens play area falls in the catchment of one NEAP (Beachfields Park). It must be noted that the quality of Beachfields Park will need to be improved to justify the loss of the highlighted site as this is rated as average. This is particularly important as Beachfields Park is seen as a destination site on the coast for residents and visitors. The changes are illustrated in the interactive map: [Swale Scenario 1 Play](#).

Of the site identified 'at risk' Vincent Gardens play area rates highly for IMD, health and crime deprivation but low for obesity.

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Table 6.1: Site analysis for Sheppey analysis area

Id	Site name	Option	Description	Rational
347.1	Vincent Gardens play area	Remove	Option for site to be removed.	The catchment from sites 103.2 and 27.1 covers this site, resulting in it being surplus to demand.
27.1	Beachfields Park	Improve quality	Improve the quality of the site, based on current RAG rating.	Key site in the resort of Sheerness which supports day trippers and local residents. Site need to be upgraded based on the current RAG rating.
11.1	Anne Boleyn Close play area	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Eastchurch Parish Council	This site is currently managed by SBC. It is recommended that the management of these sites be offered to another organisation, such as a local Parish Council. This would create financial savings for SBC, subject to the respective Parish Council agreement.
157	Village Hall Play Area/Linear Park outdoor gym/Linear Park zip wire	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Warden Bay Parish Council	
333.1	The Spinney play area	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Leysdown Parish Council	
154	Leysdown Coastal Park Play/MUGA/Fitness gym/	Transfer	Seek to transfer the management of this site to another organisation. Possible option could be Leysdown Parish Council	

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Table 6.2: Sheppey Play area scoring index

Site ID	Site name	Current classification	IMD	Health Deprivation	Crime Deprivation	Pop density score	Yr 6 Obesity	Yr 6 Excess Weight	RAG rating	Overall Score	% score
347.1	Vincent Gardens play area	LEAP	10	9	10	6	2	4	Good	42	70%

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APPENDIX A: SITE SCORING CRITERIA

Table A1: Site scoring matrix

IMD		Pop density		Obesity		Health deprivation		Crime deprivation		Excess weight	
Band	Score	Band (people)	Score	Band	Score	Band	Score	Band	Score	Band	Score
Most deprived - 10.0	10	16600-45500	10	90.1% - 100.0%	10	Most deprived - 10.0	10	Most deprived - 10.0	10	90.1% - 100.0%	10
20.0	9	12800-16600	9	80.1% - 90.0%	9	20.0	9	20.0	9	80.1% - 90.0%	9
30.0	8	10000-12800	8	70.1% - 80.0%	8	30.0	8	30.0	8	70.1% - 80.0%	8
40.0	7	7400-10000	7	60.1% - 70.0%	7	40.0	7	40.0	7	60.1% - 70.0%	7
50.0	6	5700-7400	6	50.1% - 60.0%	6	50.0	6	50.0	6	50.1% - 60.0%	6
60.0	5	3200-5700	5	40.1% - 50.0%	5	60.0	5	60.0	5	40.1% - 50.0%	5
70.0	4	2100-3200	4	30.1% - 40.0%	4	70.0	4	70.0	4	30.1% - 40.0%	4
80.0	3	800-2100	3	20.1% - 30.0%	3	80.0	3	80.0	3	20.1% - 30.0%	3
90.0	2	500-800	2	10.1% - 20.0%	2	90.0	2	90.0	2	10.1% - 20.0%	2
Least deprived - 100.0	1	100-500	1	0.0% - 10.0%	1	Least deprived - 100.0	1	Least deprived - 100.0	1	0.0% - 10.0%	1

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APPENDIX B : RAG RATING SCORE

To attain a RAG assessment the criteria scoring is below. The numbering relates to the following:

Good- 1 point
Average- 2 points
Poor- 3 points.

Age of Playground and/or Date of Last Refurbishment:

0 – 10 years	1 point
11 – 20 years	2 points
21 years +	3 points

Play Area Type:

Destination	1 point
Neighbourhood	2 points
Doorstep	3 points

Play Area Availability (per Geographical Ward)

3+ per ward	1 point
2 – 3 per ward	2 points
1 per ward	3 points

Identified Defects

No identified defects	1 point
Category B identified defects	2 points
Category A identified defects	3 points

Maintenance Costs

Little or no maintenance costs	1 point
Anticipated maintenance costs	2 points
Significant maintenance costs	3 points

Risk Assessment

Low hazard/risk	1 point
Medium hazard/risk	2 points
High hazard/risk	3 points

Service Requests, Complaints, Anti-Social Behaviour

None	1 point
Infrequent	2 points
Frequent	3 points

Visual Assessment

No refurbishment required	1 point
Little refurbishment required	2 points
Significant refurbishment	3 points

RAG Rating

8 – 12 points – Green Rating – Low priority on Play Area Development Programme

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13 – 17 points – Amber Rating – Medium priority on Play Area Development Programme
18 – 24 points – Red Rating – High priority on Play Area Development Programme