

## 6.0 Current Provision Assessment

6.1 Assessment of current provision has been undertaken by overlaying a map of the Borough with the location of play facilities with a 500m radius around Local play areas and 1,000m around Main play areas and a population heat map. .

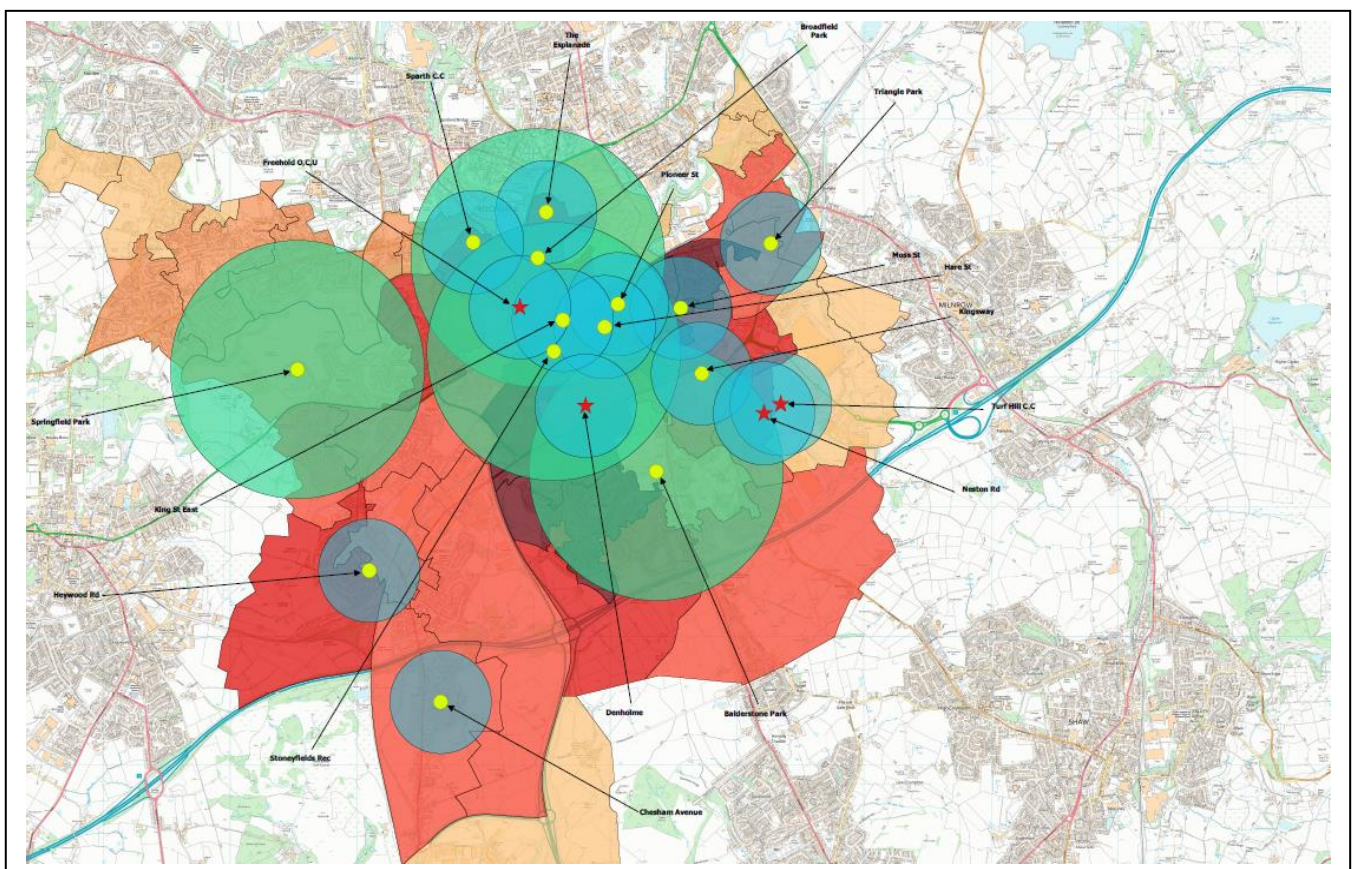
6.2 This spatial analysis is then combined with the condition analysis by the independent inspection and Officer / Member knowledge of gaps in provision by age / type etc to inform the assessment of current provision.

## 6.6 Rochdale South Township Assessment

6.6.1: Milkstone & Deeplish Ward is served by Main Play sites at Broadfield Park and Stoneyfield recreation ground. As a high population density area it is appropriate for overlapping Local play area provision at Sparth, King Street, Pioneer Street and Hare Street to be retained. Plans to revamp the Town Hall square will require discussions as to the merit of replacing play provision in the Memorial Gardens.

Castleton has satisfactory provision with Local play areas at Chesham Park and Heywood Road.

Map 4: Rochdale South Township Play provision map



Springfield Park serves North Castleton and Bamford but access from Bamford is poor and people of Bamford probably travel to Denehurst Park and Norden. This is therefore an area of under-provision but in an area that has relatively low population densities and is therefore a low priority to provide an additional play site. Improving access to Springfield Park from Bamford may be a better option.

Kingsway is served by Local play areas at Kingsway (Council) plus Turf Hill and Neston Road (RBH). There used to be a play area at Moss Street / Robinsons Common but this was closed a number of years ago, leaving under provision of play facilities in an area of high population density. New provision is a high priority.

Balderstone and Kirkholt is served by the Main play area at Balderstone Park and a satellite Local play area at Denholme (RBH).

6.6.2: Milkstone & Deeplish Ward Main Play sites at Broadfield Park and Stoneyfield recreation ground (see images below) have a good quality and range of equipment. In the next 5 years Broadfield Park will however require moderate level of investment to keep it up to date. Overlapping Local play area provision at Sparth, King Street East and Pioneer Street and Hare Street (Council) are all good.



6.6.3 Castleton Ward play areas at Chesham Park and Heywood Road are in good condition so no investment is required.

6.6.4 Springfield Park Main play area (Bamford and North Castleton) is in need of major investment to ensure it is fit for purpose, for example the main multiplay unit pictured below is at the end of its lifespan earlier than expected because of the erosion damage caused by the sand safety surface. The design of the space is also very fragmented as shown on the picture below with a springer for toddlers stuck out on its own. It might be able to be kept working until end 2020 but will need major overhaul by 2021 at latest. Methods to improve access to Bamford residents also need consideration.



- 6.6.5 Kingsway Ward Local play areas at Kingsway (Council) plus Turf Hill and Neston Road sites (RBH) are in good condition, so no investment is required.
- 6.6.6 Balderstone and Kirkholt Ward Main play area at Balderstone Park is good for age 2-11 but needs investment in the older children's play provision to ensure adequate provision. The satellite Local play area at Denholme (RBH) is good.
- 6.6.7 Disability access and inclusion is mostly poor, for example Broadfield Park has good access paths but no disability inclusive swing seat and roundabout is not flush mounted. Older children's provision e.g. at Balderstone Park is generally set in a field with no access paths. Considerable investment is required.
- 6.6.8 Skate / BMX provision in Rochdale South is excellent with the new concrete construction skate / BMX facility at Balderstone Park and the downhill cycle track at Mandale Park. The cycle track at Mandale Park is however under-utilised because there is no club to run the facility. The surface is maintained to the basic safety standards but an active club such as at Queen's Park bike track in Heywood would without doubt improve the condition of the track and usage levels.
- 6.6.9 Council MUGA are located at Broadfield Park, Denholme (Digby Rd), a new one at Moss Street / Robinson's Common and Sparth. This is a good spread of provision, justified because of the health deprivation statistics for the area.
- 6.6.10 Outdoor gyms are located at Springfield Park, Stoneyfield Recreation ground, Turf Hill, Moss Street / Robinson's common and Broadfield Park. This is an excellent spread of provision and can be justified because of the health deprivation statistics for the area. The condition is however variable with the equipment at Springfield Park being in immediate need of replacement and although the gym at Broadfield Park is relatively new it is in need of moderate investment due to vandalism and poor quality surfacing.
- 6.6.11 Summary Rochdale South current provision:
- Play areas in general are in good condition with most sites requiring only minor investment to ensure standards.
  - The main exception is Springfield Park which is in need of major investment in 2020 to ensure provision is safe and to the range and quality of equipment expected of a Main Play area. Access from Bamford also needs to be explored.
  - Disability access and inclusion is poor and major investment is required over the duration of this strategy.
  - Skate / BMX provision is good. The new Balderstone Park concrete construction skate facility is excellent. The bike track at Mandale Park is however in urgent need of a club to run it. Without that in place the long term future of the facility is a doubt.
  - MUGA provision is now good with the recent addition of the MUGA at Moss Street / Robinson's Common.

