



Hastings & St Leonards Play Space Strategy 2015 - 2017

Space to Play

A partnership approach to play spaces
Revised March 2015



Hastings and St Leonards Play Space Strategy 2015-2017

'Space to Play'

Foreword

Welcome to the refreshed Hastings and St Leonards play space strategy for 2015 – 2017. This strategy recognises every child has a right to play and sets out how we plan to achieve our aim of every child having a safe, good quality play area within a 600 metre straight line distance from their home.

The strategy has been developed in partnership with AmicusHorizon and Orbit South Housing Association who each have a role in delivering quality play spaces for children in Hastings and St Leonards. A number of play areas have been developed or significantly improved since this strategy was initiated in 2011 and the aim will be to continue these improvements despite a challenging financial climate. Joint working with other organisations to obtain funding has proven to be successful and we will look to continue this in the future.

Community involvement is key to this strategy and local people, and particularly children and young people will be a vital part of the planning, designing and managing of their play spaces for the future.

Cllr Dawn Poole

Lead Member, Amenities, Resort and Leisure Services

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1.0 Introduction

AmicusHorizon, Orbit South Housing Association Ltd (Orbit) and Hastings Borough Council (HBC) are the principle providers of publicly accessible equipped play spaces in Hastings and St Leonards. This strategy underpins a joint commitment and approach to children's play spaces.

In September 2011 the initial version of this joint strategy was agreed between AmicusHorizon and HBC¹. To inform the strategy an audit was carried out which highlighted the quality and value of equipped play spaces. It was clear that large numbers of low value sites could not be sustained as lifetime maintenance costs or improvement costs are very high, this remains the case.

This document is the 'refreshed' version of the 2011 Hastings & St Leonards play space strategy. This strategy now formally includes Orbit as a key partner. This latest version will continue to embrace the original agreed framework. The framework determines a realistic and sensible distribution of equipped play spaces that can be sustained within reducing budgets. This refreshed version includes updated mapping and audit information. The updated information will help to inform the development of a new partnership action plan..

To achieve improvement it will be necessary for all providers to work more closely together and adopt this strategy for play space provision. This joint strategy is led by the three principle partners. However it is important to recognise the responsibility of a much broader range of organisations in helping to ensure that our local children have the opportunity to enjoy quality play spaces. Further partnership collaborations to maximise opportunities and meet play needs are welcomed. Working closely with our residents, communities, schools and voluntary groups is vital to making this strategy work.

It is important to read this document in conjunction with HBC's play development strategy 'Right to Play', which has a broader focus than play spaces. 'Right to Play' includes a focus on the delivery of community play opportunities, including providing play workers for events and neighbourhood groups. It relies on revenue budgets and facilitates a

¹ Adopted by HBC Cabinet September 2011

partnership approach to deliver a range of initiatives and services².

2.0 Aims of this strategy

The shared strategic aims, listed below, have been refined to enable a focused approach. This approach uses the available resources in an effective way, in order to maximise impact on the provision of accessible quality play spaces.

Working in partnership we aim to:

- Improve and sustain existing key play spaces and subject to funding, develop new sites so that the maximum numbers of children can access good value and good quality rated equipped play spaces, within a 600 metre straight line distance from their home.
- Seek to provide informal space to play where there is an identified play need.

We recognise that greater understanding of our local neighbourhoods is essential in order to properly address local play need. With greater insight of where children and young people live and how they move around the locality, we can provide appropriate local informal space to play. We recognise that the strategy must have a flexible approach as in some neighbourhoods it may be appropriate to adopt a local play solution to address the specific local need, rather than rely solely on the 600 metre catchment mapping information.

² http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/community_living/pdfs/playstrategy_2014_19

3.0 Value of play

'The right to play is the child's first claim on the community. Play is nature's training for life. No community can infringe that right without doing enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens'³.

Every child has the right to Play. Outdoor play is essential in ensuring that all children are mentally and physically healthy. Increasing and maintaining the provision of good quality free outdoor equipped play spaces will enhance the quality and equality of all of our borough's children and young people's lives. It will contribute to the realisation of other local authority policy and service objectives. These include objectives around:

- Healthy children and young people
- Children and young people who feel safe
- Children and young people enjoying themselves and achieving their potential
- Children and young people making a positive contribution
- Community cohesion⁴

We recognise that views about the value of equipped play provision in particular have shifted significantly over the past few years:

- Play England, advisors to central government; believe the play value of equipped sites can be enhanced by spending less on expensive rubber surfacing, tarmac and fencing. The play value of equipped play spaces can be increased by ensuring access to the natural environment and the valuable 'loose parts' play that it provides.
- Achieving high value and good quality play spaces, must incorporate the need for children to learn from acceptable levels of risk. Designs should take into account the safety of children and families, whilst enhancing opportunities for adventurous play. Appendix G showcases the Hastings Adventure Playground, an exciting and very unique example of our staffed adventurous play site, located in Ore.
- Accessibility and usability must be considered to help inform us on to what extent any child can truly play in our equipped play spaces. Children of multiple abilities should be able to play together not just alongside each other.

³ David Lloyd George (1926)

⁴ Better Places to Play (2009) Play England

4.0 Local Planning Policy for Children's Play Provision

This Play Space Strategy has influenced and shaped the local planning policy for children's play provision (Policy C13 as set out in the adopted Hastings Planning Strategy). The Hastings Planning Strategy states 'that it is essential for every child to have access to quality play spaces' and acknowledges the role of not only Amicus Horizon Housing [*Orbit Housing Association*] and Hastings Borough Council in providing play provision, but also highlights the need for developer's contributions and the requirement for 'developers to design housing environments in which children have space to play⁵'. Furthermore, the associated supplementary planning guidance which relates to the 'provision of children's play space in housing developments' provides further guidance on the Council's expectations regarding play spaces. The guidance provides developers with details of standards and a code of practice regarding the provision of children's play space in developments of new family housing. The guidance is currently being revised in order to be in line with this refreshed play space strategy and emerging development management plan.

Play provision should be treated in the same way as other significant community infrastructure needs. If the play needs of a new development are to be properly addressed, the proposed dwelling type, changes in demographics and the geographical make up of a community should be considered. This strategy ensures we are building a frame work to identify the play need in areas of any proposed new development.

5.0 Play space audit 2014

In 2011 it was agreed between AmicusHorizon and HBC to look afresh at our play areas using a new audit model influenced through Play England guidance. Orbit followed suit and assessed their playgrounds using the same model in 2013. This model, amongst other things, more thoroughly tests a site's play quality & value. All sites were assessed using the same model and the results are combined to give us a new perspective from which to move forward. The assessment criteria used is illustrated in appendix C. The audit scores are based on three key areas:

⁵ The Hastings Planning Strategy: Proposed Submission Version, 2012 (10:13)

- i) accessibility
- ii) quality of maintenance
- iii) play value

The audit results are illustrated in appendix A and are coded as follows:

Green (GV/GQ) = A site that has good play value, good access and in good condition

Red(LV/GQ) = A site that has low play value but good access and in good condition

Yellow (GV/LQ) = A site that has good play value but poor access and poor condition

Blue (LV/LQ) = A site that has low play value, poor access and poor condition

5.1 Play space audit 2014 - summary of key findings

55 play spaces were audited in October 2014. The ownership of these is as follows:

Total number of equipped play spaces (including play trails)	Number of 'good' rated equipped play spaces	Ownership
29	15	HBC
16	8	AmicusHorizon
4	0	Orbit Housing
3	0	Remain un-adopted (from new developments) ⁷
3	1	Remain un-adopted (from new developments) and are currently leased and maintained by HBC ⁶

The full audit information is shown in a results table in appendix A. The information includes a detailed breakdown for each site and an overall rating, as outlined in section 5.0.

The map in Figure 1 shows locations and audit results for each equipped play space. A more detailed version is available at: http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map1

⁶ 5 of the un-adopted sites have been audited and they are depicted on the overall plan.

Figure 1. Equipped play spaces mapping showing locations and audit results

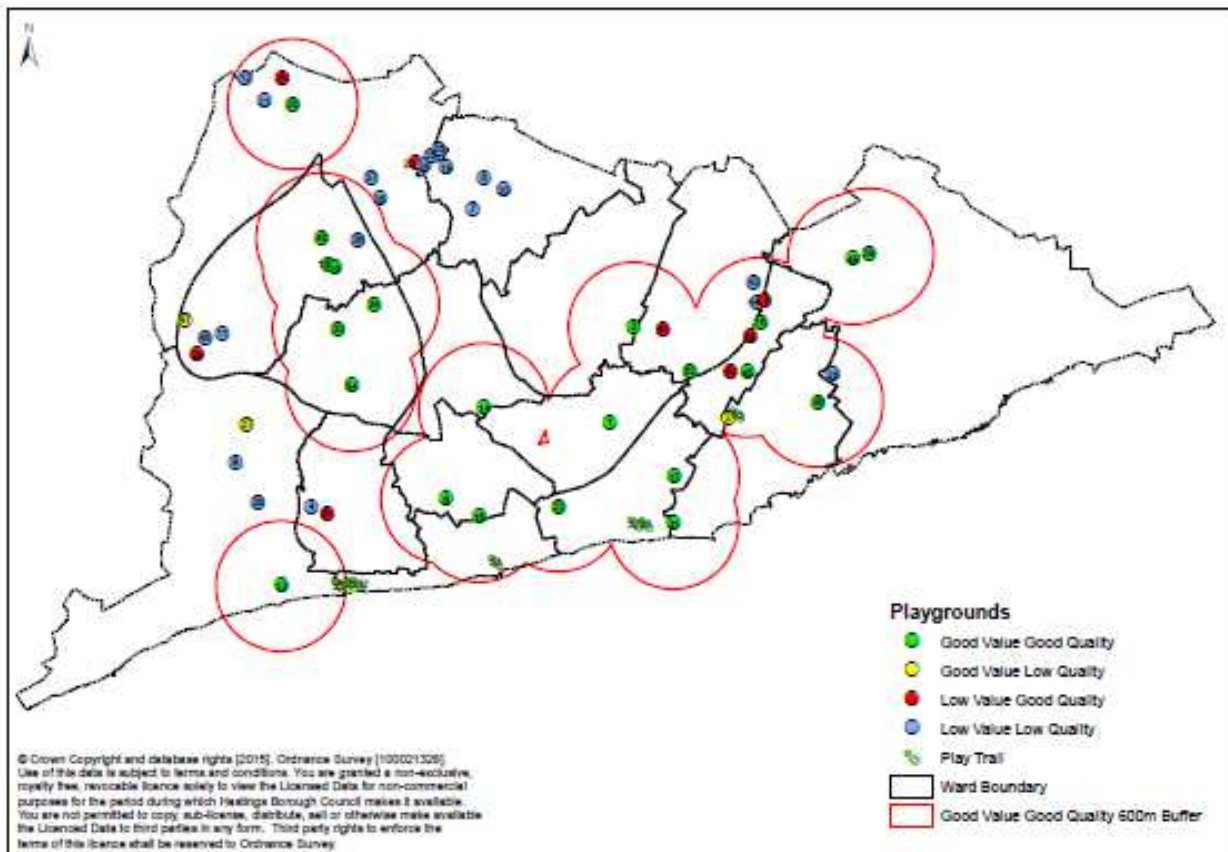


Figure 2. Equipped play spaces mapping showing 2011 and 2014 buffer comparison

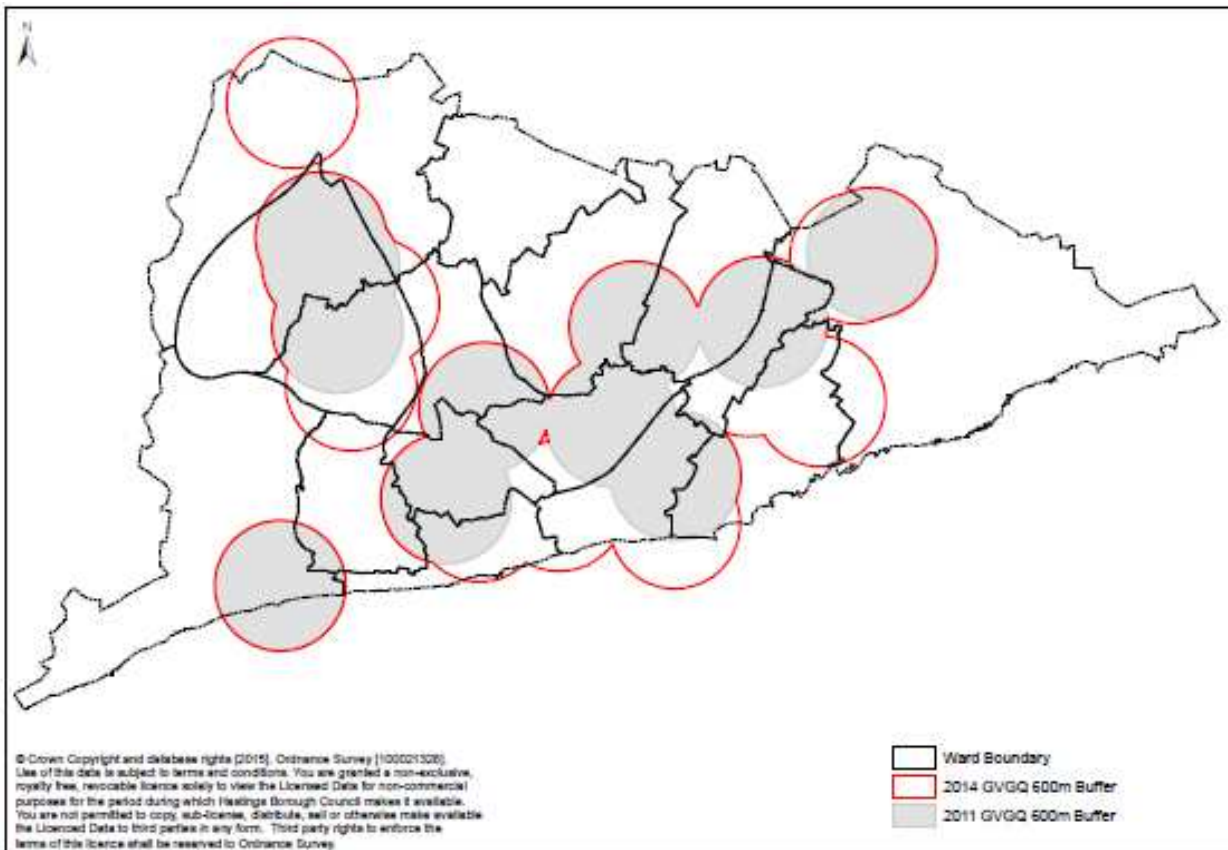


Figure 2 shows a buffer comparison between the initial 2011 audit and the latest 2014 audit. Buffers are based on the 600 metre straight line catchments for each good quality/good value rated equipped play space.

In February 2015, the number of residential properties which fell within a 600 metre straight line catchment of a good rated equipped play space were estimated for 2011 and 2014. The table below expresses this number as a percentage also. An estimation of the catchment is also expressed as hectares. A brief explanation of the methodology is summarised in the footnote below.⁷ When viewing the results as land area, it is important to acknowledge the large swathes of land that have no properties on them, such as the country park.

	2011	2014
Number of residential properties which fell within a 600m straight line catchment of a good rated playground	24,308	32,047
Above, as a percentage of the total number of residential properties within Hastings and St Leonards (43,421)	56%	73.8%
Proportion of Hastings and St Leonards within a 600m straight line catchment of a good rated equipped play spaces. (NB: The Borough is 3079 Ha)	34.4% (1059 Ha)	50.7% (1561 Ha)

Figure 2. Table showing number of residential properties which fall within a 600m straight line catchment of a good rated equipped play space.

Key findings of the October 2014 audit:

- All good rated equipped play spaces assessed in 2011 have been retained
- 5 new equipped play spaces have been built since the last audit in 2011

⁷ **Methodology for the residential properties calculation**

The residential properties are those defined as such on the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) as of 4th February 2015. The easting and northing centre point for each property (obtained from the LLPG) was added to the GIS as a point. The 600m buffer and the points were then analysed on the GIS to determine which points fell inside the buffer.

- 2 equipped play spaces have been removed since 2011
- 2 previously low rated equipped play spaces have been upgraded to a good rating since 2011
- The 600m straight line catchment of good rated playgrounds has been extended over the period to include an additional 7,730 residential properties

Further details of improvements since 2011 can be found in appendix F.

All of the equipped play spaces and their audit ratings are annotated on the maps in appendix D. As well as providing an overview of the current position, the maps will also be used to help inform the action planning stage. The maps show the catchment for each equipped play space and also demonstrate areas of inadequate provision, showing gaps in areas of the town where there is a play deficiency. Play spaces with a rating of less than good, which are located in play deficient areas will be considered as a potential priority for future improvement. The mapping, in appendix D, has been layered with additional information including:

- recognised cycling and walking routes
- numbers of children in each lower super output area
- indices of multiple deprivation
- locations of educational establishments
- identified housing development sites
- multi-use games areas, skate parks and open space

Additional leisure facility mapping is available in the Hastings and Rother leisure facilities strategy (currently being refreshed)⁸. This range of information will help to inform future decisions regarding play space development. However it is important to note that this information must be used alongside local insight and knowledge. Even with the investment since 2011, there is still a considerable amount of work needed to maintain the current levels of quality and to maximise the number of children living within 600 metre straight line walking distance of a good quality play space.

⁸ http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/how_we_make_decisions/policies_strategies/leisure_facilities_strategy/

5.2 Performance Indicators

To enable progress to be measured, the proposed action plan (section 11) will include SMART targets. In addition we have adopted one principle performance indicator described as;

- *the number of residential properties within a 600m straight line catchment of a good rated play space.*

A key aspiration of this refreshed strategy is to develop an additional performance indicator to effectively measure the impact of informal play spaces.

6.0 Maintenance and safety inspections

This is carried out by different appointed contractors in accordance with all the appropriate health & safety legislation and in compliance with British Standard EN1176 and other, associated standards. Each site is visited regularly and checked thoroughly to ensure items are safe for play by children. The frequency of regular inspection visits is based on site usage and level of risk. The playground inspectors are ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) accredited. Each year an independent inspector is commissioned by each of our organisations to provide a report on the safety of each play space and recommendations for the time scale to improve safety on all pieces of equipment which are in need of attention is included.

We aim to strike a common sense approach, balancing the need for children to learn from acceptable levels of risk. Play spaces should be designed with the following statement in mind: “Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury”⁹.

⁹ “Managing risk in play provision: a position statement” (2013) Children's Play Council (<http://www.ncb.org.uk/cpc>).

7.0 Developers contributions

In the case of developer contributions (section 106 planning agreements), scope exists to improve existing provisions (off site) in proximity to the proposed development, but where no suitable equipped play spaces exist within approximately 600 metres / approximately within a 15-20 walking distance, HBC will recommend on site play facilities. The mapping in this strategy will help to inform which play space site is most appropriate for section 106 funding, decisions will be based on strategic need, regardless of ownership. Wherever possible, space should be made within the new neighbourhood for unequipped, doorstep playable space. Development plan sites are illustrated in appendix D.

7.1 External funding

AmicusHorizon, Orbit and HBC recognise the need to continue to seek and apply for external funding in order to both sustain and develop new play areas. Big Lottery funding and government Play Pathfinder funding have been available in the past, however accessing future funding will prove more challenging in the current financial climate. Working together in an agreed approach will help strengthen any further application for future funding.

7.2 Boyne Road play space – case study

A recent example of AmicusHorizon and HBC jointly working to achieve external funds is Boyne Road Play Space. (Now known as Barley play space). In mid 2011 a local residents association voiced their concerns about the condition and variety of play in their neighbourhood. HBC and AmicusHorizon supported the residents association to apply for funding to refurbish the space with HBC and AmicusHorizon both supplying some match funding to support the bid. A successful bid to Veolia and a new partner Groundwork bringing in some extra funding, meant a total of 40k was raised, which helped to refurbish and extend the play space. This play space was previously rated low but now achieves a good rating.

8.0 - Consultation

Key local decisions will require community involvement. All consultation should have an agreed approach overseen by the project team (section 10). For any consultation the priority will be to engage children, young people and the community in planning, designing and managing play spaces.

9.0 - The removal of equipped play spaces

Where the audit indicates that a play area is not a priority for retention due to location, demographics or condition, then a decision may be made to close the site. Involvement of local residents and councillors is essential. A key consideration will be whether there is another accessible play area (that meets the quality/value standard) serving the community within an approximate 600 metre straight line threshold. An action plan for the site is to be agreed and alternative use is to be implemented and evaluated regularly. Even when a decision is taken to remove equipment from a play area, the site should be protected and remain dedicated spaces for play. They will be maintained to a standard acceptable for children's daily use to ensure no barriers to play are created.

10.0 - The project team

A project team has been established, initially consisting of officers from AmicusHorizon and HBC and soon to include representatives from Orbit to oversee our joint portfolio of play areas. Their contact details are listed at the end of this document. The project team will need to carry out the following:

- Review and maintain terms of reference and committed membership
- Continue regularity of meetings
- Revise administration and reporting methods
- Involve community and key partners including Hastings and St Leonards play forum
- Develop a SMART 2015-17 joint action plan
- Carry out regular monitoring and annual review

11.0 - Key Recommendations for 2015-17 action plan

The refreshed play space audit and mapping (appendices A & D) have helped to assess future priorities regarding play space investment. Officers recommend that a more detailed condition survey of each play space is carried out as a priority; this information will further inform and shape the proposed action plan.

The project team will produce a two year action plan covering the period 2015-17, incorporating SMART targets to accompany this strategy.

For the next two year period, the following have been identified as key actions:

- Promote awareness of the value of quality play spaces & children's right to play
- Continue to develop joint partnership between AmicusHorizon, Orbit, HBC and stakeholders (sustain joint project team)
- Carry out a condition survey of each equipped play space
- Plan for a response to life cycles of equipment and community play needs
- Identify annual budget for maintenance and repairs
- Maintain good rated sites (rated GV/GQ = good value/good quality)
- Improve the following HBC owned sites, which have been identified for investment:
 - Carnoustie Close (using S106 contribution)
 - Kensington Close (using S106 contribution)
 - Hare Way
 - Highwater View, whilst removing nearby Mare Bay
- AmicusHorizon and Orbit to review and prioritise their sites
 - AmicusHorizon seek to improve Farley Bank
- To identify potential future decommissioning (using aforementioned agreed consultation protocol)
- Seek further capital investment including external funding
- Agree section 106 planning gain funding and strategically distribute funds
- Identify candidates for community green spaces
- Review teenage facilities and combine findings into this strategy
- Investigate social return on investment for local equipped play spaces
- Support Bexhill Road Residents Association and Groundwork Trust with their fund raising efforts for a neighbourhood play space in Combe Valley Countryside Park.



12.1 - Appendix A

2014 Equipped Play Space Audit Results

Audit assessment tables and scores

Owned By
HBC Total 27

Site	Safety and Access		Maintenance		Combined Access and maintenance		Value	Colour key	Managed by:
Alexandra Park	70		84		76		60		HBC
Bembrooke Open Space	33		73		50		89		HBC
BOS Field	57		80		67		62		HBC
Carnoustie Close	40		28		35		26		HBC
Cookson Gardens	60		68		64		54		HBC
Gensing Gardens	58		77		66		60		HBC
Hare Way	42		37		40		17		HBC
Harvest Way	37		44		40		30		HBC
Heron Close	62		36		51		22		HBC
Highwater View	63		58		61		34		HBC
Kensington Close	50		58		54		60		HBC
Mare Bay Close	42		50		45		20		HBC
Seaside Road	60		78		68		80		HBC
Shornden (Alex. Park)	66		76		70		75		HBC
St. Johns Road	54		68		60		53		HBC
Waterside Close	63		80		70		72		HBC
West Hill	55		79		65		80		HBC
Wishing Tree OS	58		74		65		89		HBC/Amicus
Mayfield 5	65		69		67		58		HBC Newlyadopted
Redmayne Drive	58		70		63		63		HBC Newlyadopted

	Seafront Pelham place	121		100		110		85		HBC/Foreshoretrust
	Ore Valley Rd- The Sidings	77		70		74		61		HBC newlyadopted
	Celendine Drive	74		80		76		72		HBC newly adopted
	Fleetwood Close	56		67		62		17		HBC newly adopted
	Knowsley Close	48		67		58		24		HBC newly adopted
	Welton Rise 1	58		50		54		46		HBC newly adopted
	Welton Rise 2	46		64		55		19		HBC newly adopted
HBC trails Total										
2										
	Bembrook play trail									HBC
	Seafront play/exercise trail									HBC/Foreshoretrust
Private developers Total										
6										
	Fairfield Road	59		59		59		60		NotadoptedWimpey
	Honeysuckle Close	52		56		54		40		NotadoptedWimpey
	Harbour Way	45		50		47		30		HBC leased
	Darwell Close	54		47		51		67		HBC leased
	Harold Road Flats									Not adopted /audited
	Helsmans Rise	63		61		62		79		HBC leased

Amicus Total 16

	Blackman Avenue	78		66		72		70		Amicus Horizon
	Oxford Road	100		60		74		60		Amicus Horizon
	Thomas Brassey	64		54		59		37		Amicus Horizon
	Willingdon Avenue	41		54		47		36		Amicus Horizon
	Seven Acre	51		47		49		17		Amicus Horizon
	Edinburgh Road	47		36		41		29		Amicus Horizon
Decommissioned	Eversley Crescent	41		31		36		17		Amicus Horizon
	Brightling Avenue	75		75		75		77		Amicus Horizon
	Kent Road	69		67		68		67		Amicus Horizon
	Linley Drive	71		63		67		53		Amicus Horizon
	Farley Bank (end)	71		57		64		41		Amicus Horizon
	Mendip (a, b and c)	65		53		59		49		Amicus Horizon

	Quantock Gardens	71		44		57		47		Amicus Horizon
	Halton West View	68		76		71		70		Amicus Horizon
	Brightling Ave	70		75		72		60		Amicus Horizon
	Boyne Road	111		90		100		79		Amicus Horizon
Decommissioned	Rock Lane	47		31		39		25		Amicus Horizon
	Red Lake	54		71		61		69		Amicus Horizon
Orbit Total 4										
	Watermill Drive	60		53		57		67		Orbit Housing
	Flimwell Close	65		56		61		44		Orbit Housing
	Deepdene	45		56		50		50		Orbit Housing
	Merrimede	40		75		56		30		Orbit housing
	Good value/good quality									
	Good value/low quality									
	low value/good quality									
	low value/low quality									

12.2 - Appendix B

2014 Multi-use game areas, kick-about areas and skate parks

Audit results

Included here are details of other areas for play. These are areas that do not have traditional play equipment installed on site but are used in other ways.

Site	Description	Owner
Multi-use games areas		
Alexandra Park	3G sand infill surface	HBC
The Grove School	3G sand infill surface	ESCC (licence to HBC)
Torfield School	3G sand infill surface	ESCC (licence to HBC)
Firs	3G sand infill surface	HBC
Pelham Playa	Tarmac - multi use	Foreshore Trust
White Rock, Falaise Road	Polymeric coloured	HBC
Kickabout courts		
White Rock, Falaise Road	Tarmac - basketball	HBC
Seven Acre Close	Tarmac - multi use	AmicusHorizon
West Hill	Grass - football goals	HBC
Harbour Way	Tarmac kick about	Unadopted
Quantock Gardens	Tarmac kick about	AmicusHorizon
Farley Bank	Grass - football goals	AmicusHorizon
Oxford Road	Tarmac - Multi court	AmicusHorizon
Harkness Drive	Tarmac - Kick about	Orbit
Beckley Close	Tarmac - Kick about	HBC
Skatepark/BMX		
Farley Bank	Skate ramp	AmicusHorizon
White Rock Gardens	Large concrete bowl and skatepark	HBC
Wishing Tree Recreation Ground	Skatebowl - small concrete	HBC/Amicus
Hollington Recreation Ground	BMX trail	HBC

12.3 - Appendix C - Audit assessment criteria

Three assessors independently score each criteria. The maximum score is 4. The criteria is broken down under three headings.

Maintenance

Freedom from litter/ broken glass/other dangerous material

Freedom from vandalism

Freedom from dog fouling

Adequate litter bins and separate dog fouling bins

Condition of surfaces within play area

Signage

Condition of seating

Cycle racks

Condition of play equipment

Safety and access

Informal oversight

Well used by children (*How many children & ages, visible signs of use*)

Appropriate lighting

Entrances proximity and position to road

Non slip surface and buggy and wheel chair accessible

Are gates wide enough for wheel chairs (850mm)

Toilets /changing facilities

Parking bays adjacent to play space

Near to car park with drop kerbs at crossing points of any road

Does the site drain freely

Alternative exits with clear view for parents

Opportunities to shade from the sun

Play Value

Opportunities for imaginative play

Enticing for children to play

Meets the play needs of a range of ages and abilities

Opportunities to change environment (malleable materials, sand, twigs, den building)

Variety, choice and risk and challenge available to all

Places for social play

Access to the natural environment (*Green space, hills, trees, banks, twigs, mud & leaves*)

Opportunities for ball games

Multiple movement opportunities

(Sliding, balancing, swinging, jumpling, rotating, crawling, rocking, spinning)

Quiet and calm areas to sit or just to be

Aspects of multi sensory play *(Different types of movement, textile surfaces, sensory planting)*

12.4 Appendix D - 2014 Play space audit mapping

Map 1 – Equipped Playgrounds with MUGAs and skate park

Overview of all open access playgrounds and their audit rating. This map includes red circle buffer that depicts good rated play spaces, serving the community within an approximate 600 metre/15-20 minute walking distance threshold from their home.

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map1

Map 2 - Playgrounds with Local Plan Development sites and walking & cycle routes

Overview of playgrounds together with sites in the revised Proposed Development Management Plan and with Walking and Cycling Routes. This map shows the playgrounds and the sites in the revised Proposed Development Management Plan split into <50 dwellings and 50+ Dwellings, it also shows the walking and cycling routes from the Hastings Walking and Cycling Strategy.

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map2

Map 3 - Playgrounds with educational establishments

Overview of playgrounds with locations of educational establishments

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map3

Maps 4 - 7 - Playgrounds with number of children in each lower super output area

Overview of playgrounds with number of children in the super output areas aged 0-14 / 0-4 / 5-9 / 10-14 .Maps 5- 7 show the lower super output areas (LSOA) coloured to represent the % of children of the specified age within each LSOA. With green being lowest and red being the highest. The actual figures are illustrated in the overview maps 9-12. The figures used in

preparation of maps 4- 7 were taken from ESiF (Table Population by age groups and gender in 2001 and 2011 - super output areas).

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map4

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map5

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map6

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map7

Map 8 - Playgrounds with indices of deprivation

Overview of playgrounds with indices of multiple deprivation information.

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map8

Map 9 - Playgrounds with open space

Overview of all open access playgrounds with open space. Areas of ancient woodland, SAC, SSSI, AONB and private open space have not been included.

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map9

Map 10 - Playground catchment buffer comparison 2011 and 2014

Overview of all open access playgrounds in the 2011 and 2014 audits. This map includes red circle buffer that depicts good rated play spaces, serving the community within an approximate 600 metre/15-20 minute walking distance threshold from their home.

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/decisions_democracy/pdfs/map10

12.5 - Appendix E – Summary of national guidance for play space distance thresholds

The adoption of 600m straight line thresholds, as stated in section 5.2 has been influenced by national guidance. Fields in Trust are currently reviewing their national guidance regarding distance thresholds for children's play spaces. The final guidance is due in May 2015. Play England's guidance document 'Better Places to Play Through Planning' (2009) recommends that ideally children and young people should have access to three types of good quality play space:

- A doorstep playable space, such as a grassed area or open space, perhaps a home zone sufficiently close to their home with easy access within a 60m straight line distance from home.
- A larger space such as a grassed area, a small park or perhaps a school playground open to it's community out of hours which can be reached safely by children who are beginning to move around their neighbourhoods unaccompanied by adults. Ideally within a 240m straight line distance from home.
- A larger neighbourhood play space, with a wider range of play and informal recreational opportunities ideally within a 600m straight line distance from their home.

The guidance also states that, 'standards should, on the one hand, be a guide: there may well be circumstances where communities, in discussion with the local authority, partners and (where provision results from new housing) developers, agree provision at variance with the standard. Imaginative and popular play solutions may arise from such involvement at this very local, project specific level. In some areas it may be appropriate to adopt different or modified standards across the authority to reflect the particular circumstances of different parts of a local authority. On the other hand local standards can provide general parameters of expectations amongst residents'¹⁰.

12.6 - Appendix F Summary of equipped play space improvements 2011-2015

Several playgrounds have been improved or developed since initiating this strategy in 2011. Highlights are listed below:

- In 2011 HBC secured 10k external funding from East Sussex County Council for additional inclusive play equipment to the Hastings Adventure Playground.

¹⁰ Better Places to Play Through Planning (2009) Play England

- In 2012 HBC created one large play space, two smaller sites and a series of outdoor exercise equipment on Hastings and St Leonards seafront. These spaces were externally funded by the Foreshore Trust. HBC also installed some inclusive equipment into Alexandra Park's main play space, funded by section 106 contributions. In the same year Amicus Horizon and HBC worked in partnership with Clive Vale residents association to refurbish Boyne Road play space, Amicus Horizons also made improvements to Edinburgh Road play space and to Red Lake Natural play space. Orbit Housing commissioned the Hastings Recycled Wood Project to improve play opportunities at Watermill Drive play space.
- In 2013 HBC constructed a new playground at Celandine Drive funded from a S106 contribution, Oxford Road and Deepdene play spaces were refurbished by Amicus Horizons and Orbit Housing respectively. In the same year the 'Boyley Skate Park' at White Rock Gardens was extended with the addition of a street plaza facility, funded by HBC, Veolia and skate park users facilitated by the local Boyley Trust.
- In 2014 Amicus made significant improvements at Halton View play space. HBC added a feature crafted from a locally felled tree to the Shorden playground. HBC with support from Orbit opened a new play space, built by the developer, using 106 contributions in Ore valley Road .

12.7 Appendix G – Hastings Adventure Playgrounds – Case Study

Each Adventure Playground is unique but can be defined as 'a space dedicated solely to children's play, where skilled adults (play workers) enable and facilitate the ownership, development and design of that space – physically, socially and culturally – by the children playing there'.¹¹ Our local Hastings Adventure Playground, is a space which is constantly evolving and developing as directed by the children themselves as they chose how to play and use the space in their own 'free' way. 'Children should be encouraged and supported to encounter and manage risk for

¹¹, Play Pathfinder Briefing on Adventure Playgrounds, (2008) Play England

themselves through access to challenging play opportunities in a safe environment. The benefit to children of challenging play opportunities is balanced with risk when carrying out risk assessments'.¹²

In 2009 Hastings Borough Council received Play Pathfinder funding to develop our very own Hastings Adventure Playground located in Ore Valley. The playground is accessed by lots of children from the local community on a daily basis.

The playground offers a range of play opportunities and a variety of playable spaces including self built challenging play structures and features, informal sports areas, wild nature and planted areas. The playground is staffed to allow for regular access to fire play, cooking outdoors and for the use of tools and heavy materials to build and modify a flexible and evolving play space. The outdoor play space contains a zip wire, tyre swings, slides and lots of loose parts to build and play with. The indoor play space has room for cooking, arts and crafts etc. There are toilets on site including a best practice 'changing places' accessible toilet facility and free parking close by. The playground is aimed at 8 to 13 year olds and is open, free of charge, from 3pm every day after school. Family sessions also take place on a regular basis and the playground is well used during the day by a range of groups and users. The playground is currently staffed and managed by In2play, who are a local play focused community interest company. The running costs are covered by a combination of funding from Hastings Borough Council (£26k management agreement in 2014/15) and successful external fundraising by In2play.

12.8 Appendix H - Skate parks and multi-use games areas

This strategy acknowledges that facilities such as skate parks and multi-use games areas help to extend the variety of local play experiences often engaging older children and young people. In the same way children are involved in designing and developing local playgrounds, the town's largest skate park, known as the Boyley Skate Park at White Rock Gardens is another local example of young people designing and developing their own space.

¹² Play England, Play Pathfinder Briefing on Adventure Playgrounds, 2008

Like the innovative Hastings Adventure Playground, the BMX dirt trails at Hollington recreation ground have involved young people from design through to self build, allowing for evolution and change along the way.

Spaces to play are limited in some neighbourhoods. Grass surfaces often become unusable during winter months. Multi-use games areas help to extend 'playable' hours by providing a floodlit all weather surface. The areas can be booked for formal use, but significant periods are protected to enable local young people to enjoy informal 'free play'.

12.9 – Appendix I Primary Contacts

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