

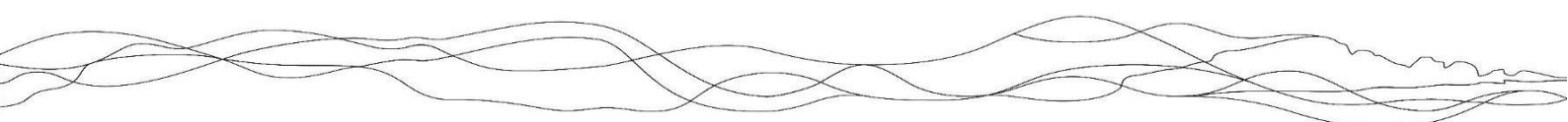


# **Open Space, Sports and Recreation Background Paper**

## **South Downs Local Plan**

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**November 2017**



# I. INTRODUCTION

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## Key policies covered:

- **Development Management Policy SD46:** Provision and Protection of Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Burial Grounds/Cemeteries
- 1.1** This paper outlines the basis upon which the open space, sports and recreation facilities standards of Policy SD46 in the Pre-Submission South Downs Local Plan have been formulated. It explains the context behind why the policy and standards are necessary to ensure that the Purposes and Duty of the National Park are met, briefly summarises national policy, and summarises the key evidence base studies which have fed into the policy.
  - 1.2** In producing the South Downs Local Plan, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), as Local Planning Authority (LPA), must include a policy for the provision of open spaces and sports facilities, as outlined in paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Paragraph 73 of the NPPF replaces Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17), which provided comprehensive guidance on assessment requirements.
  - 1.3** Although the LPA for the National Park, the SDNPA is not a sport and recreational facilities provider. The SDNPA works with the twelve local authorities who are responsible for the delivery of sports and recreation facilities within their district, borough or city, both in and outside of the SDNP. Policy SD46 sets out the standards currently used by the local authorities that are partly within the SDNP. The intention is to adopt these standards as part of the South Downs Local Plan.
  - 1.4** Where a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is in place, and if the NDP sets its own standards for the provision and protection of open space, then those standards will apply in place of the standards set out in Policy SD46. The list of NDPs in place within the SDNP can be viewed on the SDNPA's website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/community-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/>

## 2. PURPOSES AND DUTY AND SPECIAL QUALITIES TO WHICH THE POLICY RELATES

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- 2.1** In its role as LPA, the provision and protection of open space, sport and recreational facilities is particularly related to the duty of national parks: to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the national parks. The duty is articulated in the English National Parks Vision & Circular (DEFRA, 2010)<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2** This policy subject is related to two particular special qualities of the South Downs National Park<sup>3</sup>:
- (5) Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences; and
  - (7) Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area.

## 3. NATIONAL POLICY AND GUIDANCE

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### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.1** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in paragraphs 73 and 74, recognises that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.
- 3.2** These paragraphs require LPAs to include in their local plans a policy for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. The NPPF requires such policies to be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs and opportunities for open space, sports and recreation facilities, which identify both qualitative and quantitative deficits and surpluses in the local area.
- 3.3** The NPPF says that existing open space and facilities, including playing fields, should not be built on unless certain criteria are met:
- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
  - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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<sup>2</sup> English National Parks and the Broads: UK government vision and circular 2010 (Defra, 2010)

<sup>3</sup> South Downs National Park: Special Qualities (SDNPA, 2015):

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SDNP-Special-Qualities.pdf>

### **Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**

- 3.4** The national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) states that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and when considering proposals that may affect existing open space. Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure (see NPPF paragraph 114), as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development (see NPPF paragraphs 6-10).

### **Former Planning Practice Guidance**

- 3.5** The NPPF and PPG both replace Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17), however, its principles and approach are still seen as best practice by many local authorities. PPG17 stated that the main purpose of undertaking local assessment is to plan positively, creatively and effectively to ensure that there is adequate to meet the needs of local communities and visitors. A PPG17 assessment would usually consider accessibility, quality, the primary purpose and multi-functionality, and quantity.

### **Sport England Guide**

- 3.6** The Sport England Guide Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (2014) provides a recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and has primarily been produced to help Local Authorities meet the requirements of the NPPF. The guide recommends a review of the assessment no more than every five years.

### **Fields in Trust (FIT)**

- 3.7** Prior to PPG17 guidance standards set by Fields in Trust (FIT)<sup>4</sup>, provided the benchmark standards for the provision of outdoor sport and play. Since the 1930's their recommendations for open space standards have been known as the 'six acre standard' which is currently set out in their Planning for Design and Outdoor Sport and Play (2008) document. FIT standards are sometimes used by Local Authorities; however locally assessed standards are seen as preferable.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

- 3.8** Agreements may be made between the LPA and developers for the provision of on-site open space or contributions towards open space elsewhere in the community where it has been identified there is a need. In addition, funds generated through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be used to fund projects identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

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<sup>4</sup> the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association

## 4. LOCAL CONTEXT AND EVIDENCE

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### Role of the South Downs National Park Authority

**4.1** The SDNPA's understanding of its statutory responsibility for sports and leisure is that, as the planning authority, it needs to make provision for and protect existing sports and leisure facilities as it does with other open space provision, through its planning policy and development management functions. However, this needs to be in partnership with the sports and recreation staff at district authorities who provide the technical advice, link with Sports England and who typically undertake assessments of need jointly with the respective planning authorities. This joint working is linked to our socio-economic duty to local communities within the SDNP and our duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities.

### Methodology of determining standards for Policy SD46

**4.2** Each local authority within the SDNP have evidence studies, which have assessed local provision and need. Officers from SDNPA carried out a full audit of open space standards and studies for each of the local authorities partly within the SDNP to draw upon the evidence and standards that will form the standards set out in Figure 7.8 of the Pre-Submission Local Plan. A summary of these studies and standards is included in this background paper. The standards do not address all typologies; the following are categories of open space for the purposes of Policy SD46:

- Amenity space
- Parks and gardens
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Provision for children and teenagers (play)

**4.3** The SDNPA is grateful for all of the information provided and looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with the local authorities to ensure local people living in the National Park have access to open space.

**4.4** The SDNPA has circulated this background paper to the Local Authorities within the SDNP for verification of their current standards used for the Open Space typologies listed above in paragraph 4.2. Feedback has been received and has informed the final version of the policy. The current evidence and policy context along with any known future evidence gathering for the different local authorities in the National Park is set out in Section 4 and the actual standards can be found in section 5.

## Other relevant studies

- 4.5** In 2013 the Access Network and Accessible Natural Green Space Study was carried out<sup>5</sup> which focused on the provision of access to semi-natural sites over 2 hectares providing an initial evidence base for Green Infrastructure within and around the SDNP.
- 4.6** In July 2014 the SDNPA undertook a PPG17 GIS Data Assessment of the twelve districts within the SDNP and concluded that as there was such a wide variation of data it was not possible to use this to compare provision across all districts.
- 4.7** In October 2014 the SDNPA began the process of developing a South Downs Green Infrastructure Framework with its partners. The aim of the framework is to create, protect and enhance a connected network of green and blue spaces, which sustainably meets the needs of local communities and supports the special qualities of the SDNP. This is done by achieving a consensus about the strategic principles for planning, delivery and management of green infrastructure.

## Local standards

### **4.8 East Hampshire District Council (EHDC):**

- The adopted Joint Core Strategy (2014) contains *Policy CP17 Protection of Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Built Facilities*, and *Policy CP18 Provision of Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Built Facilities*. Policy CP18 states that standards are set out in the East Hampshire PPG17 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2008). The evidence study covers the whole of the District, including the NP.
- EHDC are in the process of updating the evidence and standards in joint working with the SDNPA, however, a draft document is not anticipated until the end of August 2018. The emerging updated evidence will replace the current standards.

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<sup>5</sup> Carried out for the SDNPA by Associates from the Environment Xchange. The study can be found on the website:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/national-park-local-plan/evidence-and-supporting-documents/access-network-and-accessible-natural-green-space-study/>

- In the interim, the most appropriate standards to adopt are those from the EHDC PPG17 study from 2008. These are shown in table 1 below:

**TABLE 1: EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

East Hampshire PPG17 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2008).	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000† <sup>6</sup>	Access within* <sup>7</sup>	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	1	700m	1	650m	0.5	650	0.25	480m/650m

#### 4.9 Winchester City Council (WCC):

- The adopted Joint Core Strategy (2013) contains policy CP7, which addresses open space requirements. Implementation of this policy is through the Council’s Open Space Strategy 2015. The Open Space Strategy is a ‘background paper’ to the adopted Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy, the ‘saved’ policies of the Winchester District Local Plan Review and the standards set out in Policy CP7.
- The Open Space Strategy is based on towns and villages within the District and outside the SDNP, where Winchester City Council is the local planning authority. Villages and parishes within the SDNP area are not included, however, where open space facilities in the SDNP are within easy reach of settlements outside the Park, they have been included.
- Policy CP7 sets out the standards for open space provision which apply to residential development of 15 or more dwellings. On sites accommodating less than 15 dwellings and sites for all other development, the City Council will require the provision of sufficient on-site amenity open space and landscaping.
- The Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study conducted in 2008 was produced in partnership with Winchester City Council and East Hants and does include the NP. The standards match those in Policy CP7 with the exception of the amenity green space access distance and there being no threshold on the number of dwellings that trigger the requirement for development to provide open space.
- The standards set out in the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2008) will be adopted by the SDNPA as that study included the SDNP. These are shown in table 2 below.

<sup>6</sup> †Hectares per 1000 of population

<sup>7</sup> \*The Accessibility standards provide the maximum distance a person would normally walk from their home and/or work to get to the respective type of open space.

**TABLE 2: WINCHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS PROPOSED TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2008)	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	0.8	700m	0.75	650m	0.75	650m	0.5	480m / 650m

#### 4.10 Adur & Worthing Councils (AWC):

- The most up to date standards are contained within AWC’s Open Space Standards Paper published in 2014 as part of a suite of documents making up the Open Space, Playing pitch and Indoor Sports Study 2014. No standards are included for Outdoor Sport facilities.
- AWC have advised that there are very few opportunities for new 'pitch' provision or significant new development sites which would be of a size that would (independently) result in the need for new facilities. In these instances, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) may be used from these developments to improve existing provision or (if pooled) could provide new facilities.
- However, where opportunities for more significant development do exist the Councils would revisit the study conclusions of the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report (2014) to determine any local deficiency in provision. In liaison with Sport England (and where necessary using their 'Sports Calculator') and using guidance such as the 'Fields in Trust' resource the Council would negotiate with the site promoter to ensure the needs for formal sports provision are met within any specific developments.
- The evidence study and standards cover both Adur & Worthing districts. The study does include land within the SDNP.
- AWC are in the early stages of considering a review of the evidence study to help inform the emerging Local Plans for Adur and Worthing respectively.

##### *Adur District Council*

- The current version of the Adur Local Plan is the Submission Adur Local Plan 2016 (with Main Modifications). Saved Policies AR5 (children’s play areas) and AR6 (public open space provision within residential development of 10 dwellings or more) of the 1996 Adur Local Plan carry little weight. The open space standards are contained within Adur’s emerging Local Plan *Policy 31 Green Infrastructure* and *Policy 33: Open Space, Recreation and Leisure*.
- The most up to date standards are contained within AWC’s Open Space Standards Paper published in 2014. As Lancing and Sompting are the only Adur parishes within the SDNP, it is these standards which are proposed to be included in the South Downs Local Plan and are set out in table 3 below.



**TABLE 3: ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Open Space Standards Paper published in 2014	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000† <sup>8</sup>	Access within* <sup>9</sup>	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	0.72	400m	0.22	1200m	/	/	0.04	1200m

*Worthing Borough Council*

- The current Plan is the Adopted Core Strategy (2011) containing *Policy 11 Recreation and Community Use* and *Policy 14 Green Infrastructure*. Policy 11 seeks to retain and enhance existing open space provision and Policy 14 refers to the standards set out in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment Study. These standards are set out in table 4 below.

**TABLE 4: WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Open Space Standards Paper published in 2014	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	0.78	400m	0.20	1200m	/	/	0.05	1200m

<sup>8</sup> †Hectares per 1000 of population

<sup>9</sup> \*The Accessibility standards provide the maximum distance a person would normally walk from their home and/or work to get to the respective type of open space.

#### 4.11 Arun District Council (ADC):

- Until ADC’s emerging Local Plan is adopted the current standards for Open Space provision are set out in the Open Space and Recreation Standards SPG (2000) and saved policy GEN20 of the Arun District Local Plan (2003).
- The saved Policy GEN20 requires residential development to provide public open space to the minimum standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 people and play equipment to meet the needs of the development. The Council will require the application of this standard and provision of play equipment as detailed in the supplementary planning guidance.
- ADC have committed to the preparation of an Open Space, Playing Pitch and Built Sport Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following the adoption of the emerging Local Plan. The SPD will set out the methodology for providing open space, playing pitches and built sports facilities. This SPD will be based on ADC’s most recent evidence study *Open Space Assessment Report (2016)*, and the standards derived from this evidence are contained within the *Open Space Standards Paper (2016)*.
- In the 2016 Report, for mapping purposes and audit analysis, Arun is divided into three analysis areas (reflecting the geographic and demographic nature of the area). The area within the SDNP is included as an analysis area for information purposes. The sites located within this analysis area are not used in the setting of standards later in the document as the SDNPA is a separate authority to ADC.
- This most recent evidence study and the open space standards have not yet been tested in ADC’s local plan examination. However, as the current adopted standards are very out of date the SDNPA will be using the standards from the 2016 study, and are set out in table 5 below. This may be reviewed following examination of ADC’s emerging local plan.

**TABLE 5: ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Open Space Standards Assessment 2016	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	0.82	400m	0.02	1200m	/	/	0.06	1200m

#### 4.12 Chichester District Council (CDC):

- The current study which forms the evidence base for the Chichester Local Plan (2014) is the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (2012). The standards are contained within the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- This study excludes the SDNP although those Parishes which fall partly within CDC and partly within the SDNP are covered in the study. This does present a gap in the evidence base. Nonetheless, when comparing CDC's local standards to the benchmark standards set by Fields in Trust (FIT) (shown in row 2 of table 6 below for information), the standards are either in line with those set by FIT or they exceed them. In this case the SDNPA deem it satisfactory to apply the same standards within those areas of Chichester that are within the SDNP and therefore CDC's standards will be adopted, as set out in row 1 of table 6 below.
- CDC are currently undertaking a revised Open Space study together with built facilities and a Playing Pitch Strategy to inform the Local Plan Review, but this review will not include the SDNP.

**TABLE 6: CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

CDC's standards 2012	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	0.50	480m	1.60	600m	1.60	600m	0.15	480m/600m
<b><i>FIT Standards shown for comparison only</i></b>								
<b><i>FIT's standards</i></b>	<i>0.60</i>	<i>480m</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>710m</i>	<i>1.60</i>	<i>1200m</i>	<i>0.25</i>	<i>100-1000m</i>

#### 4.13 Horsham District Council (HDC):

- The most up to date evidence is the Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment (2014). The study includes the area within the SDNP.
- HDC will be reviewing the Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment as part of the Local Plan review.
- On 27 November 2015 HDC adopted the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) for the land in Horsham District outside the National Park. The Core Strategy and General Development Control Policies which were both adopted in 2007 remain the adopted Development Plan Documents (DPDs) for the SDNP until the adoption of the South Downs Local Plan.
- Policy CP14, DC21 and DC22 of the Core Strategy (2007) refer to the HDC PPG17 Assessment for the standards for provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The HDC PPG17 Assessment is the 2005 Assessment which is not available on HDC's website as it was replaced by the 2014 Assessment. Some standards from 2005 were carried forward as follows:

- It recommends retaining the 2005 standard of 0.5 sqm per person and 300-400m access standards for play areas. For neighbourhood equipped play the minimum size standard is 0.4ha, for local equipped play areas the minimum size standard is 0.09ha and for Youth Activity Areas the minimum size standard is 0.4ha.
- For amenity green space and parks and recreation it also recommends that the 2005 walking distance standards of 1000m for parks and recreation grounds remains the same but amenity greenspaces be revised to 300m.
- The standards for provision of multi-functional green space is 1.7ha per 1000 population.
- Chapter 10 refers to Sports Pitches and states that provision standards for recreation grounds are covered under multi-functional greenspace. However Annex A of the assessment refers to sports pitches (minimum size standard of 2 pitches), and multi-use games areas and tennis courts (minimum size standard of 0.22ha).
- The Council's Community and Culture department provide advice on leisure standards in relation to individual planning applications on a case by case basis (including any relevant applications in the South Downs National Park). This takes account of the 2014 standards, guidance from Sport England and other locally available information.

**TABLE 7: HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Carried forward 2005 standards in the 2014 assessment	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	1.7	/	/	/	/	/	0.5	/

#### 4.14 Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC):

- The most up to date studies are the *Playing Pitch Strategy (2015)* and the *PPG17 Study (2006)* and are set out in table 8 below. The standards are for play space and playing pitches only and do not include amenity green space or parks and gardens.
- The *Playing Pitch Strategy* does not contain standards but does recommend in its *Action Plan* that additional playing pitches are required, and improvements to existing facilities should be made.
- These evidence studies do include the SDNP, however the access standards (or walking thresholds) relate only to the three main towns and not the rural areas of the District.
- The emerging District Plan contains Policy DP22 which refers to standards that will be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- MSDC are currently reviewing the standards for play space and playing pitches and new standards are likely to be included as an appendix to the above mentioned SPD.

**TABLE 8: MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Playing Pitch Strategy (2015) and the PPG17 Study (2006)	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	/	/	/	/	1.6-1.8	/	0.6 – 0.8	400-1000m

#### 4.15 Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC):

- The most up to date standards are contained within the *City Plan Part One* (policies CPI6 and CPI7) and accord with the recommendations of the *Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2008* (reviewed in 2011).
- The evidence study covers the whole administrative area of Brighton & Hove including land within the National Park. These standards are set out in table 9 below.
- BHCC have no current plan to update these standards.

**TABLE 9: BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS PROPOSED TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2008 (reviewed in 2011)	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	0.582	480m	0.92	720	0.47	960m	0.055	720m

#### 4.16 Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC):

- The most up to date evidence study is the *Open Space Assessment (2007)*.
- This assessment only covers the SDNP in part; it includes the open access downland owned and managed by EBC for public recreational use.
- EBC intend to begin preparation of an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment review this year; however this update will not include the SDNP.
- The current Local Plan is the *Eastbourne Core Strategy* (adopted February 2013); however saved policies from the *Eastbourne Borough Plan* still apply although are progressively being superseded by the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has 14 Neighbourhood Policies relevant to open space planning, and Policy D7, D9 and D11. Policy D7 is based on The Open Space Assessment from 2005, not the latest study, and only covers Children's Play and Outdoor Sports but the criteria for Ha per 1000 of population remain the same.

**TABLE 10: EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Open Space Assessment (2007) and Open Space Assessment 2005 for children's play and outdoor sports	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	0.6	1200m	0.75	1000m	1.5	1200m	0.10	800m

#### 4.17 Lewes District Council (LDC):

- The most up to date evidence study was undertaken in 2014 and will be published along with the *Proposed Submission Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD*. This study is not currently publicly available.
- Until these standards are published the current standards that will apply are set out in ‘saved’ Policy REI of the Lewes District Local Plan 2003 which are taken from the Fields in Trust standards and are therefore not locally assessed.
- This evidence study covers the whole of Lewes District including the area within the SDNP.
- LDC may review these standards through the Local Plan Part 2 in order to reflect the latest Fields in Trust benchmark standards. Any future review of these standards will only apply within the area for which LDC is the local planning authority and will not cover the area of the district within the National Park.

**TABLE 11: LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Policy REI of the Lewes District Local Plan 2003	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	/	/	/	/	1.7	/	0.7 <sup>10</sup>	/

<sup>10</sup> Of which 0.2-0.3 ha will comprise equipped play areas and 0.4-0.5 ha will be of a more informal or casual nature.

#### 4.18 Wealden District Council (WDC)

- The most up to date study is the *WDC Open Space Study* conducted in 2008 (with April 2010 amendments). The evidence study covers the whole of the District, including the SDNP.
- Wealden has an emerging Local Plan.
- Currently the Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) and saved policies from the Wealden Local Plan (1998) are applicable.
- WDC are in the process of updating the evidence and standards and this update will include the part of the National Park within Wealden. The draft standards are yet to be adopted. However WDC advise that they do not anticipate the draft standards changing at this late stage and therefore these have been included in the table below.
- The Draft Revised Standards in table 12 below will be adopted by the SDNPA as these standards are based on a more up to date evidence study which includes the SDNP.

**TABLE 12: DRAFT REVISED WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL POLICY OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIGURE 7.8 OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN**

Draft Revised Standards	Amenity Green space		Parks and Gardens		Outdoor Sports		Children/Teen Play	
	Ha per 1000†	Access within*	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within	Ha per 1000	Access within
	1.0	600m	1.4	600m	/	/	0.03 (children) / 0.02 (Teen)	480m/ 600m



## 5. ROUTE MAP FOR POLICY FORMULATION

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- 5.1** National policy requires Local Authorities to include in their local plans a policy for the provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities. In doing so there needs to be robust evidence which forms the basis of set standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities.
- 5.2** The SDNPA works with the twelve local authorities who are responsible for the delivery of sports and recreation facilities within their district, borough or city, both in and outside of the SDNP. The SDNPA has relied upon the evidence studies and assessments from each of the authorities to form the basis of the standards for open space, sports and recreational facilities for the SDNP by local authority area.
- 5.3** This background paper provides the review of the evidence and standards for each authority and therefore provides the standards which are to be adopted by the SDNPA, implemented through Criterion I of Policy SD46 and figure 7.8 of the emerging South Downs Local Plan. The standards for each local authority set out in section 4 combine to form figure 7.8 which is replicated below. Applicants will need to ensure that development proposals take into account the standards set out for the relevant area in figure 7.8, and any other requirements set out in the criteria of policy SD46 and following the guidance of the supporting text of this policy.

	<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>		<b>Parks and Gardens</b>		<b>Outdoor Sports</b>		<b>Children/Teen Play</b>	
<b>Local Authority</b>	Ha per 1000†	Prox. Within*	Ha per 1000†	Prox. Within*	Ha per 1000†	Prox. Within*	Ha per 1000†	Prox. Within*
<b>Adur</b>	0.72	400m	0.22	1200m	/	/	0.04	1200m
<b>Worthing</b>	0.78	400m	0.20	1200m	/	/	0.05	1200m
<b>Arun</b>	0.82	400m	0.02	1200m	/	/	0.06	1200m
<b>Brighton and Hove</b>	0.582	480m	0.92	720m	0.47	960m	0.055	720m
<b>Chichester</b>	0.50	480m	1.6	600m	1.6	600m	0.15	480/600m
<b>East Hants</b>	1	700m	1	650m	0.5	650m	0.25	480/650m
<b>Lewes</b>	/	/	/	/	1.7	/	0.7	/
<b>Horsham</b>	1.7	/	/	/	/	/	0.5	/
<b>Eastbourne</b>	0.6	1200m	0.75	1000m	1.5	1200m	0.10	800m
<b>Mid Sussex</b>	/	/	/	/	1.6-1.8	/	0.6-0.8	400-1000m
<b>Wealden</b>	1.0	600m	1.4	600m	/	/	0.03/0.02	480/600m
<b>Winchester</b>	0.8	700m	0.75	650m	0.75	650m	0.5	480/650m

- 5.4** Criterion 2 aims to ensure that proposals for new buildings providing local sport and recreational facilities and proposals for new or improved playing surfaces are located within settlement boundaries.
- 5.5** Criterion 3 aims to ensure loss of open space is avoided, or where it cannot be avoided then a like-for-like provision is made in close proximity.
- 5.6** Criterion 4 aims to ensure proposals for new cemeteries and burial grounds are appropriately sited, designed to enhance or provide new opportunities for biodiversity, habitats and green infrastructure whilst having no adverse impact on ground or surface water.

## 6. CONCLUSION

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- 6.1** This background paper provides robust explanation of the evidence supporting the open space standards in of the draft Policy SD46 and Figure 7.8in the emerging South Downs Local Plan.
- 6.2** The SDNPA will continue to review updated evidence studies carried out within the local authorities and will update the standards accordingly as the evidence studies change.