

consultation with children and young people in the design of new provision to understand their changing needs. The needs of parents and carers should also be considered in the design of these spaces. Appropriate arrangements for management and maintenance of play and communal facilities should be provided. Youth facilities for young people should also be incorporated where possible to ensure that young people have suitable spaces to meet and play and feel welcome and included in developments and the public realm.

- 5.4.5 Formal play provision should normally be made **on-site** and provide at least 10 square metres per child to address child occupancy and play space requirements generated by a development proposal. Supplementary Planning Guidance will provide additional detail on the application of this benchmark and other implementation issues. Where development is to be phased, there should be an early implementation of play space.
- 5.4.6 **Off-site provision**, including the creation of new facilities or improvements to existing provision, secured by an appropriate financial contribution, may be acceptable where it can be demonstrated that it addresses the needs of the development whilst continuing to meet the needs of existing residents. This is likely to be more appropriate for the provision of play facilities for older children, who can travel further to access it, but should still usually be within 400 metres of the development and be accessible via a safe route from children's homes. Schools, school playing fields and other facilities can also provide an important contribution to play and informal recreation facilities and should be encouraged to allow community access to facilities out of hours.
- 5.4.7 Through the development of **play strategies**, boroughs should ensure the integration of play provision and child-friendly neighbourhoods into other borough strategies. Boroughs are encouraged to collaborate when developing strategies to ensure play spaces are provided in an integrated way and to help create child-friendly neighbourhoods across borough boundaries.

Policy S5 Sports and recreation facilities

- A To ensure there is sufficient supply of good quality sports and recreation facilities, boroughs should:
 - 1) prepare Development Plans informed by a needs assessment for sports and recreation facilities. Needs should be assessed at the local and sub-regional level. Needs assessments should include an audit of existing facilities

- 2) secure sites for a range of sports and recreation facilities in Development Plans, as justified by the needs assessment
- 3) maintain, promote and enhance networks for walking, cycling and other activities including the Walk London Network shown on [Figure 5.1](#)

B Development proposals for sports and recreation facilities should:

- 1) increase or enhance the provision of facilities in accessible locations, well-connected to public transport and link to networks for walking and cycling
- 2) maximise the multiple use of facilities, and encourage the co-location of services between sports providers, schools, colleges, universities and other community facilities
- 3) support the provision of sports lighting within reasonable hours, where there is an identified need for sports facilities, and lighting is required to increase their potential usage, unless the lighting gives rise to demonstrable harm to the local community or biodiversity.

C Existing sports and recreational land (including playing fields) and facilities for sports and recreation should be retained unless:

- 1) an assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the sports and recreational land or facilities to be surplus to requirements (for the existing or alternative sports and recreational provision) at the local and sub-regional level. Where published, a borough's assessment of need for sports and recreation facilities should inform this assessment; or
- 2) 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
- 3) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

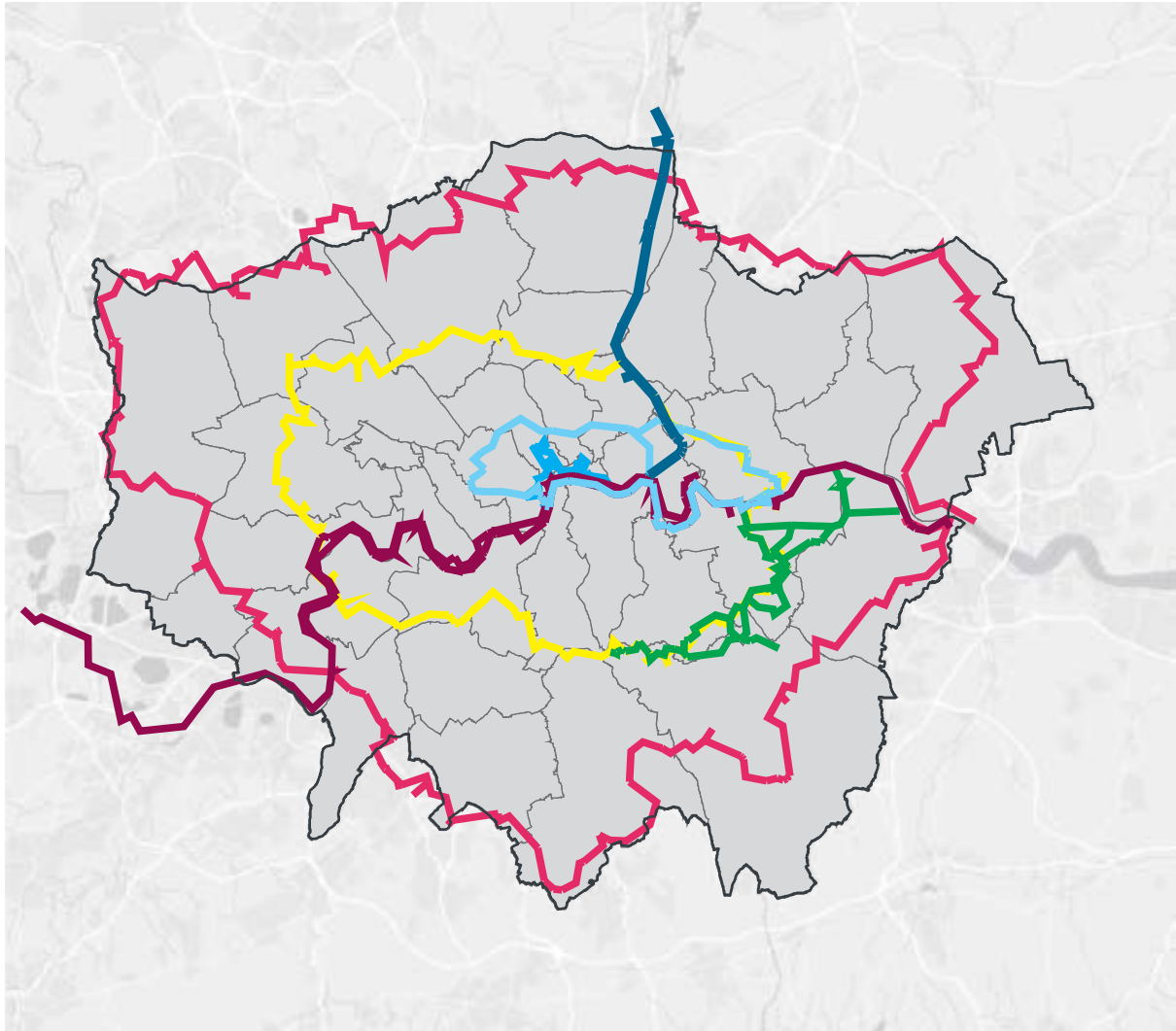
D Where facilities are proposed on existing open space, boroughs should consider these in light of policies on protecting open space ([Policy G2 London's Green Belt](#), [Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land](#) and [Policy G4 Open space](#)) and the borough's own assessment of needs and opportunities for sports facilities, and the potential impact that the development will have.

- 5.5.1 Sport and recreation facilities are important components of social infrastructure. Both **formal and informal facilities** should be provided, to encourage physical activity and deliver a range of social, health and wellbeing benefits to communities. People take part in various forms of sport and recreation which require a number of different types of facility. Many activities require minimal facilities, and often an open space or community hall can be sufficient.
- 5.5.2 Current provision of swimming pools, artificial grass pitches (AGPs), and sports halls is not meeting demand.⁹¹ The need is most significant for AGPs where only 55 per cent of demand is currently being met. Swimming pools currently meet 93 per cent of total demand across London and sports halls meet 85 per cent of demand. For all types of facilities, the level of **unmet demand is projected to increase** by 2041 if no new facilities are provided. Increasing the catchment areas of existing facilities by improving public transport accessibility and access by walking and cycling, plus extending their opening hours, could increase their availability and potential number of users. Where new facilities are to be provided, they should be located in accessible locations, with the ability to maximise opening hours.
- 5.5.3 It is essential that boroughs **plan strategically for future provision** of these core sports facilities. Boroughs should assess the need for sport and recreation facilities to ensure appropriate levels of provision and help tackle inequality of access in London, particularly in areas or for groups with low participation. By their nature, sports facilities often form a part of open space, so sports and open space needs assessments should have regard to one another. Built sports facilities should only be accommodated on green open space if that area has been identified as surplus to requirements as per an open space strategy or the development is for alternative sports and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss of green open space.
- 5.5.4 Up-to-date **playing pitch strategies** can be used to protect and enhance the use of existing playing fields and help to plan for where more are needed. Sport England provides guidance on the preparation of these strategies, which underscores the importance of a strategic approach to provision to take account of demand for facilities crossing borough boundaries, particularly in relation to specialist activities.
- 5.5.5 **Specialist sporting venues and stadiums** also have a role to play in providing facilities and enabling wider access to sport, as well as having an important cultural value.

⁹¹

Strategic Assessment of Need: Swimming Pools, Sports Halls and Artificial Grass Pitch provision in London 2017-2041 Facilities Planning Model, Sport England, July 2017

Figure 5.1 - Walk London Network



Walk London Network

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| ● Lea Valley Walk | ● Capital Ring |
| ● Jubilee Walk | ● Thames Path |
| ● Jubilee Greenway | ● London Loop |
| ● Green Chain | |

Source: Transport for London (TfL)

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- 5.5.6 The **co-location** of sports facilities should be encouraged, particularly within new and existing schools, colleges, commercial schemes and community centres. This will help ensure the right mix of facilities in the right places to meet sporting demand and to increase participation.
- 5.5.7 **Lighting** can be important for the accessibility of outdoor sports facilities and can help to improve their use. The form of lighting required will depend on the facility and its use, but efforts should be made to minimise the impact on the surrounding areas, and not to cause a demonstrable harm to the local community or biodiversity. The hours of use of lighting should be agreed early in the process.
- 5.5.8 Places that are designed for people to be active and to move around freely will also encourage more physical activity in people's daily lives. Existing networks, such as the **Walk London Network**, also help to encourage this further.

Policy S6 Public toilets

- A Large-scale developments⁹² that are open to the public, and large areas of public realm, should provide and secure the future management of:
- 1) free publicly-accessible toilets suitable for a range of users including disabled people, families with young children and people of all gender identities; and
 - 2) free 'Changing Places' toilets designed in accordance with the guidance in British Standard BS8300-2:2018.

These should be available during opening hours, or 24 hours a day where accessed from areas of public realm.

⁹² 'Large-scale' should be taken to mean developments that fall within Category 1B, Part 1 of The Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008, unless a development plan provides a local definition.

- 5.6.1 **Public toilets are a vital facility**, both for Londoners and visitors to the city. They are especially important for certain groups including disabled people, older people, people with babies and young children and pregnant women, as well as tourists and visitors who may be less familiar with their surroundings. Public toilets can support businesses in boosting customer footfall, by giving people