Ripon City Plan Submission Draft

Supporting Document: Enjoying Open Space and Providing Community Facilities

March 2018
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1 Introduction – Enjoying Open Space

1.1.1 This supporting document explains the approach to protecting open space and in particular evidencing Local Green Space designation and demand for playing fields.

1.1.2 This document complements the one following explaining the particular approaches to the provision of new community facilities.

2 National Planning Policy

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework 2012

2.1.1 This document recognises that access to high quality open spaces can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Paragraphs 76 to 78 introduce a new Local Green Space designation to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities. The NPPF specifically highlights local and neighbourhood plans as being the mechanism for identifying such green and open spaces.

Para 70. seeks to promote healthy communities by delivering,

“...the social, recreational and cultural services the community needs...” it also identifies the need to “...guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs...”. Furthermore para. 70 also states that planning policies and decisions should, “...plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as ...sports venues) ...to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments...”.

Para. 73. highlights that,

“...planning policies should be based on robust and up-to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreational facilities and opportunities for new provision...”.

Para. 74. seeks to prevent the unjustified loss of open space, sport and recreational buildings and land stating:

“...[they]...should not be built on unless

an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown that open space, building 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”.

Para 76.

“Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space communities will be able to rule out development other than in very special circumstances...Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is being prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period”.

Para 77.

“The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

2.2 Planning Practice Guidance 2014

2.2.1 Open Space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space Ref. ID 37 – 001-20140306

Para.001

“...Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and 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 recreational benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure...”.
3 Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents

3.1 Harrogate District Local Plan – (Augmented Composite – July 2009)

3.1.1 This plan is significant for this document because of the relevant policies 'saved' by Direction in 2007. Several policies from this plan are still in place: those relevant to this chapter include:

Policy HD12 – Amenity Open Space:

“Within settlements (as defined by development limits and their main built up confines) open sites which make a significant contribution to the visual amenity and character of the settlement will be protected from development which would lead to the loss of amenity open space, harm to the visual amenity or character of the area, or harm to the value of the open space for passive recreation. Small scale developments which are related to the function of the open space will be allowed if they cannot be located elsewhere.

Policy R1 – Existing Recreational Open Space:

“Development proposals which involve the loss of existing public and private recreational open space will not be permitted unless:

there is a surplus of recreational open space in the area and its loss would not adversely affect the existing and potential recreational needs of the local population; or

a satisfactory replacement facility is provided in the catchment areas which it serves; or

the land by virtue of its size, location and physical conditions is incapable of appropriate recreational use; or

In the case of playing fields, where sports and recreational facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the development of a small part of the site. Any loss of recreation land which may be acceptable under the above criteria will not be permitted where this involves the loss of open space of amenity value harmful to the character of the area (Policy HD12).

Policy R2
Development Proposals which involve the loss of existing public and Private recreational facilities not covered in Policy R1 will not be permitted unless:

- their loss would not adversely affect the existing and potential recreational needs of the local population; or
- a satisfactory replacement facility is provided in the catchment area which it serves; or
- they are incapable of continued recreational use.

Policy R5

Proposals for the development of new sports and recreational facilities will be permitted provided that:

- the facility is located in or adjacent to built-up areas wherever possible and is well served by public transport
- the property would not give rise to significant traffic congestion and road safety problems
- new buildings or structure are well designed and appropriately landscaped
- the proposal conforms with policies R2 and R3 of the County Structure Plan.

Policy R12

Proposals for Sport and Recreational facilities of an open nature will be permitted in the Countryside provided they:

- conform with policies R2 and R3 of the County Structure Plan
- cannot be located within a built up area wherever possible are accessible by foot or public transport
- do not involve a significant number or size of buildings or structures
- would not cause excessive noise disturbance to other uses of the countryside, land uses or residents in the area
- would not cause significant harm to the safety and free flow of traffic on the highway network

“...There are opportunities for water recreation at...Ripon Racecourse, and along the River Ure...the provision of a long distance footpath along the Rivers Ure and Ouse for canoe and kayak touring also encouraged...”
3.1.2 These policies acknowledge the importance of informal and formal open spaces for recreation, for enhancing the character and appearance of designated areas and as acting as a refuge for wild plants and animals. The aim of the Local Plan 2001 was

“...to promote the development of new sport and recreational opportunities whilst also safeguarding open space which is of recreational value...[it]...also recognises the importance of informal open space, including village greens, woodlands, common land, allotments, play-space and parks for activities such as children's play, walking and relaxation...”.

3.2 Harrogate District Core Strategy – February 2009

3.2.1 Policy EQ2 – The Natural & Built Environment & Green Belt.
This policy seeks to “...protect appropriate green space within the main built up areas of Group A, B & C settlements...”. The City of Ripon is one of three Group A settlements.

3.2.2 Policy C1 – Inclusive Communities.
This policy deals with proposals for the use and development of land, such proposals “...will be assessed having regard to community needs within the District...”. The policy provides protection for a wide range of land currently, or last in use, as parks, gardens, allotments, playing fields, tennis courts, bowling greens, natural and semi-natural green spaces (including urban woodland), play areas and golf courses, both in public and private ownership and in educational use.

3.3 Harrogate Borough Council – Green Infrastructure SPD – November 2014

3.3.1 This document identifies opportunities to strengthen and improve the green infrastructure within the district. Paragraphs 8.3 and 8.4 highlight that:

“...the majority of key opportunities within the main urban areas (Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon) are focussed on the need to strengthen links between town/city centre and the open countryside for access and biodiversity, to improve the setting of key tourist attractions and heritage assets, improve shopping and business environments and help to attract more inward investment...Applications for development within Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon will be expected to contribute to the delivery of the opportunities identified within this section...”.

3.3.2 In Ripon the following green infrastructure priorities were identified:

- Development of a greener core within the city
- Improvement to the quality of existing civic spaces, public places and access routes and:
• Better connections from the built-up area to the outskirts of the city and the surrounding countryside.

3.3.3 Of particular relevance when considering opportunities for designating areas of new open green space the Green Infrastructure SPD states:

“..The Museum Gardens, including an area of undeveloped land to the rear leading down to Tower Street, provide a valuable area of green space within the city. The museum and its surrounding open space lies detached from [the] Market Square and Cathedral and there are opportunities to provide better linkages and strengthen its presence in the city. Off Allhallowgate, hidden behind the BT telephone exchange, is a small garden created from a former chapel burial ground which could also be enhanced and incorporated into linkages across this area...”.

3.4 Harrogate District Draft Local Plan, November 2016

3.4.1 This document was published for public consultation. It includes draft policies that in due course could have a bearing on topics addressed in this chapter, notably (but not exclusively):

HP 6: Protection of Existing Sport, Open Space and Recreational Facilities
HP 7: New Sports, Open Space and Recreational Development
NE 6: Local Green Space

3.4.2 In addition to these draft policies the Draft Local Plan consultation documents included a detailed methodology for the assessment of sites put forward for designation as areas of Local Greenspace. This enabled the City Plan team to re-assess the seven sites which had been proposed in the Draft City Plan. The result was 'Analysis of Draft Local Plan Methodology & Sites within Ripon City Plan' (Appendix F.d).

3.5 Harrogate District Local Plan – Publication Draft 2018 - Representation for 'Ripon Sports Village' (Appendix F.e)

3.5.1 In response to proposed Policy DM3 – draft allocation site R25 – of the evolving Harrogate District Local Plan and having regard to the emerging Ripon City Plan a number of sporting clubs within the city came together to explore the possibility of forming the 'Ripon Sports Village'. Highlighting the significant shortfall in outdoor sports provision and no reserve for growth within the city, this representation proposes that the boundary of R25 should be redrawn to,
"exclude the existing sports facilities, both land and buildings and their retention as such, should be clearly identified to ensure their continued protection in accordance with draft Policy HP6".

(This representation can be found in Appendix F.e).

4 Ripon City Plan - Vision and Objectives

4.1 Extract from Vision:

To protect and where appropriate allocate, sites for community purposes including health, leisure and recreational uses.

4.2 Relevant Objectives:

4.2.1 To protect and where appropriate allocate, sites for community purposes including health, leisure and recreational uses such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The hospital and associated primary care facilities</th>
<th>Understand progress and possible output from Healthy Ripon initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public open space/amenity space</td>
<td>Consider existing proposals and local concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing fields</td>
<td>Review recent studies and development threats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>Understand local needs, demands and Harrogate Council position. Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental corridors (green/blue)</td>
<td>Meet Environment Agency, Canal &amp; Rivers Trust, Local Wildlife trusts and consider how to strengthen initiatives. CDI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Reports and information from public, practitioner and industry bodies

5.1 Sport England - “Planning for Sport: Aims & Objectives”

This document outlines the aims and objectives of Sport England through the planning system to:

“...Protect sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment; to enhance existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and
management; and to provide new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.”

5.1.1 Objective 1 seeks:

“...to prevent the loss of sports facilities and land along with access to natural resources used for sport. Sport England will:

seek to protect all existing sites and facilities and access to natural resources which are important for sport and recreation. Object to the loss of playing fields where one of the five specific exceptions set out in its Playing Field Policy applies require at least an equivalent replacement in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility if the loss of a facility is unavoidable, unless a robust and up-to-date assessment of need has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision and the facility is clearly surplus to requirements...”.

5.1.2 Objective 2 aims:

“...to ensure that the best use is made of existing facilities in order to maintain and provide greater opportunities for participation and to ensure that facilities are sustainable...”.

5.1.3 Objective 3 aims to ensure,

“...that new sports facilities are planned for and provided in a positive and integrated way and that opportunities for new facilities are identified to meet current and future demands for sporting participation...”.

5.2 House of Commons Library – Allotments – Standard Note SN/SC/887. 2012 (Appendix F.a)

5.2.1 This note describes the law on allotments. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 imposed a duty, still in force, on councils to provide allotments if six or more people say they want them. Where the population of a district or parish is 10,000 or upwards the council’s obligation is limited to the provision of allotment gardens not exceeding one-eighth of an acre – Allotments Act 1950 s9(b). Section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925 allows councils to build on allotment land if they provide alternative sites. In most cases allotment holders are persuaded not to object by being offered better sites after the move.

5.2.2 Section 4 of the note highlights Government arguments that the neighbourhood planning regime, under provisions in the Localism Act 2011, could lead to many more allotments.
“...In May 2011 the DCLG argued that neighbourhood planning could lead to more allotments. The Localism Bill (now the Localism Act) would provide for that regime:

New community powers giving people rights to shape development in their neighbourhood could provide a bumper crop of allotments, Planning Minister Greg Clark announced today:

There is a growing interest from the green-fingered wanting to grow their own fruit and vegetables but sites are becoming increasingly scarce. Research commissioned but unpublished by the previous Government that has been put online today reveals that in the period 1996 to 2006 the number of allotment plots fell by 50,630.

This legacy of decline has made it increasingly difficult for people to live the good life, Today 59 people are waiting for every 100 plots in contrast to 1996 when there was an average of 4 people waiting for every 100 plots.

The Government is committed to turning this situation around and ensuring that allotments remain available to communities for years to come.

New neighbourhood planning powers currently being trialed across the country provide communities with a means to boost the number of sites with powers to protect existing allotments and identify new plots...Mr Clark said, ‘people who get behind Neighbourhood Planning and develop a plan have real powers to not only protect existing sites but create more plots for the whole community to enjoy’. Donna McDaid, National Secretary of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners said, ‘...We are always being told to be environmentally friendly and to reduce our carbon footprint wherever we can and allotments can go a long way in helping us to achieve that. There is growing interest in community-grown food, and allotments have an important role in providing space for groups to grow their own produce’.

About 300,000 people are already using allotments, which have an important role to play in helping to reduce carbon emissions. The combined plots in England and Wales are capable of producing more than 240,000 tons of food. The same amount of imported produce is equivalent to 116 journeys by 40-ton articulated lorries each week“.
6 Harrogate Borough Council reports & commissioned evidence

6.1 Harrogate Borough Council – 'Sport, Recreation, Open Space & Village Hall Study' – Parts 1 & Part 2 – September 2011

6.1.1 Part 1 – Standards Assessment
This report formed part of the evidence base for the then emerging Development Plan Document.

6.1.2 Using set standards across 4km sq and 36km sq grids, an area for each type of open space was calculated according to the population of each grid. This identified the necessary minimum level of provision required. The amount of actual community accessible open space was assessed and the two numbers compared, giving either a deficit or surplus.

6.1.3 A table was produced for different geographical areas which was split between the 4km sq and 36km sq grids. The latter represented a wider area as the type of open space measured within it had a greater distance threshold as it was thought people were prepared to travel further for outdoor sports facilities and the natural and semi-natural green spaces.

6.1.4 Table showing results for Ripon City:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Open Space</th>
<th>Deficit or Surplus in provision requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4km sq Grids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotments &amp; Community Gardens</td>
<td>-1.39 Hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Greenspace (All)</td>
<td>-6.35 Hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Greenspace (Excluding verges)</td>
<td>-12.10 Hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Children &amp; Young People</td>
<td>-0.09 Hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Gardens</td>
<td>+1.17 Hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36sq km Grid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural &amp; Semi-Natural Greenspace</td>
<td>+10.47 Hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Sports Facilities</td>
<td>-4.39 Hectares</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1.5 The figure provided for the deficit for outdoor sports included just less than 5 ha of land within the security fence at Claro Barracks as it had been made available for community use.
If community access to this land was withheld, the future deficit for Ripon would increase to -9.33ha.

6.1.6 (It should also be noted that the outdoor sports figure also included the playing fields at the former Ripon Cathedral Choir School which is currently the subject of a planning application for housing development including the playing fields. If that application is successful, then the deficit will increase further).

6.1.7 Part 2 - Outdoor sports facilities in Harrogate, Knaresborough & Ripon

6.1.8 This section analysed the evidence on the surpluses and deficiencies of open space produced in Part 1 of the study in conjunction with an earlier 'Playing Pitch Assessment: Sept 2008'. (The earlier assessment took account of demand and supply of the pitch sports: football, rugby, cricket and hockey).

6.1.9 Section 6 addressed Ripon:

“Need and site options in Ripon:

the two assessments on need suggest that Ripon has a potential land shortfall for outdoor sports facilities of between 4.4 and 24 hectares.

this land shortfall may be reduced if the outcome of the Council's work on maximising the use of school playing fields and public open space for community sport brings forward additional supply. However, these sources of additional community sport are unlikely to provide for the above scale of deficiency. Therefore, new site provision for outdoor sport will assist in contributing to the identified shortfall.

6.1.10 Page 9 of the report notes:

“...the total forecast deficiency [for the Ripon Area] in 2018 is a minimum of 24.52 hectares...”.

6.1.11 Appendix 4 assessed 6 sites in the city which were considered for new sports pitch provision. However, none was found suitable to be carried forward to the Council's Sites and Policies DPD.


6.2.1 This is a district-wide analysis commissioned by Harrogate Borough Council. The area-specific summary contains the following comments regarding outdoor sports provision in the city.
Football - “...the quality of the pitches in Ripon varies more than in any other part of the district...all pitches demonstrate signs of overuse and wear and tear...clubs struggle to access facilities...there are no 3G pitches in the Ripon area...more than 50% of clubs also highlighted concerns about the lack of facilities for training...”

Cricket - “...there are only 9 cricket teams – this is lower than in other parts of the district...participation in junior cricket is particularly low...the pitch at Claro Barracks is not accessible...there is particular scope to increase participation at Ripon CC...”

Rugby - “...Ripon RUFC is one of three clubs in the district and runs 14 teams on three pitches. The club only owns one of these pitches and is reliant on the goodwill of the land owner for the use of the others...the club needs to expand to deliver its aspirations...the club also reports issues with the lack of training facilities in the area...”

Hockey - “...there is no hockey played in Ripon...anyone wishing to play hockey must travel to Thirsk...”

Tennis - “...Almost 50% of the existing courts are not accessible to the community (located at school/MOD sites that are not open to the public...).

6.2.2 The report suggests a number of priorities and recommendations for the city:

“...to support new facilities for rugby and football clubs to meet demand. It is important that plans for the football club and rugby club are viewed in the context of each other to ensure an overall sporting benefit for Ripon...”

“...Additional public playing pitches are also required in Ripon...”

“...Replacement of poor quality facilities with higher quality sites would better meet demand...”.


6.3.1 This report assessed the results of the earlier 'Sport, Recreation, Open Space & Village Hall Study' and the 'Outdoor Sports Strategy,' (Neil Allen Associates). It suggested options to address both the quantitative and qualitative deficiencies in order to formulate responses for the forthcoming Local Plan. When considering Ripon, the following responses are noted:
6.3.2 Football
In order to address the need for the replacement of poor quality facilities with higher quality sites, the new provision for a 3G AGP and to support new facilities for football clubs to meet demand whilst considering the needs of both Ripon City FC and Ripon RUFC:

“...The OSS indicates that one way of delivering a relocation site for Ripon City FC (and other new provision) would be for one or more land allocations for sport to be made in the Local Plan. The Council’s work for the Sites and Policies DPD has sought to identify additional sites. Unfortunately however it has not been possible to identify sites that are both suitable and deliverable. This does not prejudice discussions between the two clubs and the Borough Council on alternative sites, but one of the key constraints will be securing landowner support. Furthermore there may be opportunities to resolve these issues through the Ripon Neighbourhood Plan and/or when further information is available on the scale of land opportunities created by the closure of Ripon Barracks...”.

6.4 Harrogate Borough Council - Provision for Open Space in connection with new housing development. June 2006 (Revised September 2014)

6.4.1 This sets out local standards for the provision of open space in connection with new housing developments. There are seven objectives to this guidance:

- Retain and improve access for all to open space, sport and recreation facilities, including through the enhancement of links between urban open spaces and the countryside and the sustainable management of these facilities
- Integrate land-use and transport policies and locate new open space, sport and recreation development where it is accessible to a range of transport modes
- Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- Increase leisure opportunities for young people
- Improve accessibility to open space, sport and recreation services to those groups and individuals with greatest social disadvantage
- Deliver a wide range of high quality open space that is fit for purpose, throughout the District; and
- Provide an appropriate balance between the provision of new open spaces and the enhancement of existing open space, so that the needs and aspirations of local communities are met.

6.4.2 Seven types of open space have been identified:
• Parks and Gardens
• Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace
• Outdoor Sports Facilities
• Amenity Greenspace (including Green Corridors)
• Provision for Children and Young People
• Allotments and Community Gardens
• Cemeteries, Disused Churchyards and other Burial Grounds

6.5 Harrogate Borough Council - “Guidance for the designation of Local Green Space”, 2014

6.5.1 As part of the emerging Harrogate Local Plan, guidance has been produced which outlines the criteria for designation as required by the NPPF. The guidance states:

“...Where relevant an appropriate policy should also be included in neighbourhood plans...”.

6.5.2 Harrogate Borough Council carried out a consultation exercise to seek views on potential sites in the summer of 2015.

7 Ripon City Plan Reports & Studies

7.1 Ripon City Plan – Open Space Assessment (Appendix F.b) add link

7.1.1 The Preliminary Draft City Plan indicated over 49 separate sites as Protected Open Space. The approach taken at that stage was described as follows:

“Ripon enjoys open land within its boundary. Some is countryside and farmland on the edge of the city, whilst other sites are playing fields, school grounds, parks and playgrounds, allotments and undeveloped land. Additionally, some sites have nature conservation interest. The theme that is common to them all, whether in private or public ownership, is their contribution, often together, to the overall amenity of the city and you told us that they were important to you. Whenever development is proposed on any of these sites, the plan requires that the amenity value is explicitly taken into account.”

7.1.2 In analysing the responses to the Preliminary Draft City Plan, it was hoped to receive public comment and guidance as to how the general classification of open space outlined could be broken down into functional groups to which relevant policies could be proposed. The vast majority of respondents said that they either agreed or strongly agreed that existing open
green spaces within the city should be protected. One resident summed up the feelings of the vast majority saying

“... The smallest city in Yorkshire – but also the greenest should be our aim..”

7.1.3 Other examples were,

“...open spaces are essential - please protect them...”, “...open land should be protected as you indicate not only for its visual impact and balance to development but as lungs for the urban population...” and “...protect open spaces, once gone, gone forever...”.

7.1.4 Very few responses broke down open green space into any form of type; with the two most mentioned being public parks and sports pitches.

7.1.5 The wider landscape setting of the city and the blurring of the urban edge into the open countryside was a common theme in responses. Many people valued the ease of connectivity to the surrounding countryside and recognised and stressed the need to protect this and enhance it where possible - “...it would be good to be able to connect up open spaces for walking and cycling...” Likewise the role of the river valleys in providing “blue corridors” for recreation, access and biodiversity was also noted.

7.1.6 The primary concern regarding open space was the threat of development. There was little perceived threat to those sites which are in the ownership and management of Harrogate Borough Council or the allotments in the control of Ripon City Council. This was less so the case with those other sites in public and private ownership where there is no formal public access or recreational use. Some of these are managed for their amenity value whilst others suffer from long-term development aspiration. Several are areas of highly unstable land.

7.1.7 There was a feeling that the Preliminary Draft was only concerned with existing areas of green open space and that in going forward to the Draft version of the plan new sites should be identified and protected. In particular many residents commented that either all or part of the former Auction Mart site should not be developed because of the instability of the ground and that it could provide a new open green space within the city. For example,

“...regarding the Ripon Auction Mart, being unusable for building development should be converted into an accessible green space...”, “the unstable sections of land due to gypsum could be made into parkland and leisure space” and “...why isn't the site (former Auction Mart) being supported as one where open space can be the main use...”.
7.1.8 It was also evident that many residents were concerned that the provision of new open spaces should be a requirement of any new development, especially housing, and where possible these should “link” to provide a more coherent and connected green infrastructure network. In particular networks for walking, cycling and recreation were suggested.

7.2 **Ripon City Plan – Local Greenspace Assessments (Appendix F.c)**

7.2.1 Using Harrogate Borough Council's 'Guidance for the designation of Local Greenspace', 2014 the City Plan team drew up an assessment form for a number of potential sites in order to test their suitability, in particular the criteria laid out in NPPF para.77. Using local knowledge and documents available through HBC's Planning Portal a list of seven suitable sites was produced.

7.2.2 In November 2016 Harrogate Borough Council's Local Plan consultation published its assessment methodology for designating Local Greenspace. This allowed the Draft Ripon City Plan to re-assess the 7 sites which had been proposed within policy F2. (See Appendix F.d) add link

7.3 **Ripon Allotment Society**

7.3.1 The Society was founded in the mid-1970s and administers the six sites owned by Ripon City Council. The current management agreement between the City Council and the Society extends until 2030. There are at present 220 plots across the six sites and waiting lists at all. The Society has registered an interest in extending the allotments at Kirkby Road with North Yorkshire County Council who own the adjoining land.

8 **Analysis and Commentary**

8.1.1 Ripon sits in attractive countryside between the edge of the Pennines and the Vale of York. The countryside to the north and east of the city is defined by the grasslands and valleys of the Rivers Ure and Skell. Beyond the river corridors, especially to the east the landscape becomes more rolling with a diversity of land uses including woodland cover and field pattern. This area is also important in terms of its views to and from the city and cathedral. The western side of the city is influenced by the River Laver valley with its steep sides and belt of riverside woodland which stretches out towards the World Heritage Site at Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey. The River Skell winds its way from Studley Royal into the city across a wide, open area, Hell Wath. This is one of the most important open spaces within the city providing informal and formal recreation with important views of Ripon Cathedral and from and into the World Heritage Site. Much of this important countryside falls within the boundaries of the Special Landscape areas (SLA) designations. The Draft City Plan recognises that the SLAs serve several important functions not only in helping to protect the
character and setting of the city but by providing formal and informal recreation and by being an essential part of the city's green infrastructure.

8.1.2 In accordance with the Harrogate Borough Council 2011 Review of Local Landscape Designations, the Draft City Plan continues the designation of Special Landscape Areas and has extended the areas where the 2011 Review suggested (See policy A.2.). In light of the MoD's closure of the military estate in Ripon and the possible allocation of land south of the Clotherholme Road playing pitches for future development, the Draft City Plan proposes to extend the SLA around the Laver Banks Technical Area. This will protect this valuable amenity land on the north bank of the River Laver and provide a buffer for development at Clotherhome on this sensitive western landscape.

8.1.3 Within the boundary of the city there are many separate open green spaces. Some are areas of agricultural land, others playing fields, school grounds, parks and playgrounds, allotments and undeveloped land. Much open land has been historically left undeveloped due to its unstable nature because of gypsum dissolution. Public consultation including with numerous focus groups, at community events and at the Preliminary Draft Plan stage has revealed a constant desire to give strong protection to the city's open spaces. Land owned and managed by Harrogate Borough Council and Ripon City Council such as playgrounds and parks was not perceived to be at risk of loss. This was less so with regard to those other sites in public and private ownership where there is no formal public access or recreational use. The consultation stages of the plan have emphasized the need to protect sites in public and private ownership from development where these sites make a demonstrable contribution to visual amenity. No objections were received at the Preliminary Draft Plan stage for any of the protected open space sites on the Proposals Map, therefore all go forward to the Draft Plan.

8.1.4 One criticism of the Preliminary Draft Plan was that no new areas of open green space had been designated. Harrogate Borough Council's 'Green Infrastructure SPD' identifies a number of opportunities within the city. In addition, the results of the public consultation process into the designation of local green space carried out by Harrogate Borough Council is contained within 'Harrogate District Local Plan, Issues and Options', July 2015. Mindful of the advice in NPPF that the mechanism for identifying local green space is via local communities through local and neighbourhood plans, the City Plan commented:

“The Ripon City Plan is addressing green space and has carried out a full and comprehensive assessment of all existing and potential new green spaces. We are unable to bring forward candidate sites that have arisen through the City Plan preparations, as this work remains on-going currently and therefore these are unable to be part of the local green space process at this time. However, we would urge you to consider our proposals when the final draft is published later this year...”.
8.1.5 Issue 29, of the Harrogate document, examined how local green space was to be identified; Appendix 2 included all the proposed areas of proposed local green space within the district. Only one site, LGD53 – Tower Road, was identified in Ripon.

8.1.6 The NPPF notes that such designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space; the Draft Plan accordingly identifies 7 sites of particular local significance which meet the criteria for such designation. These sites are marked with a “G” on the Proposals Map they are:

- Goose Common
- Bishopton Fields
- College Lawns
- Kearsley Road
- Temple Gardens
- Tower Road
- The Workhouse Gardens

8.1.7 In addition, many responses to the Preliminary Draft Plan also recognised the need for open space provision particularly that of green infrastructure when dealing with new developments. The approach of the Draft Plan is to require the provision of new public accessible open space within new residential development on both allocated sites and windfall sites. In addition, it will support the integration of green infrastructure within development proposals.

8.1.8 It is clear from the reports analysing the outdoor sports provision in the city that the current allocation needs to be improved in terms of both quantity and quality. The Harrogate Borough Council – 'Sport, Recreation, Open Space & Village Hall Study', Sept. 2011 noted that the

“...total forecast deficiency [for the Ripon Area] in 2018 is a minimum of 24.52 hectares...”.

8.1.9 The 'Harrogate Borough Outdoor Sports Provision Report’ May 2013, also suggested that a more efficient use of open space could be achieved by perhaps viewing the needs of several sports clubs within the context of each other rather than individually. This is particularly true of Ripon FC and Ripon RUFC. Ripon City FC have shown a consistent interest in selling their pitches for development and relocating elsewhere within the city. (The site is included in the latest Call for Sites Document released by Harrogate Borough Council Jan. 2016). Ripon RUFC have outgrown their current site; weekend matches, competitions and practice sessions overflow onto the football pitches and visitor parking on Mallorie Park Drive and Studley Road causes severe disruption to residents and those using the B6265. The Report of 2013 also highlights that the SPD process evaluated sites in the city to try to find a suitable site for allocation in the forthcoming Local Plan. None was found but a suggestion
was made that existing recreational land at Ripon Barracks might be suitable if the site was ever made available.

8.1.10 Prior to the publication of the Preliminary Draft City Plan a number of events were held which included discussion of the possibility of retaining the playing pitches at Ripon Barracks for community use should the Barracks be disposed of by the MoD. There was a very clear and strong desire from both clubs and individuals to see these high quality pitches preserved. It was recognised by many that it would make sense for the rugby and football clubs to relocate – some even suggesting that it may perhaps even encourage other sports groups such as the athletics club, currently based at the cricket club, to move creating a sports hub/village. Unease over the possible impact of traffic movements along Clotherholme and Kirkby Roads was to some extent mitigated by the possibility of re-opening the military road – Chatham Road - to the public and providing a new link through to Galphay Lane.

8.1.11 In January 2016, Defence Minister Mark Lancaster formally announced the release of 12 MoD sites for development; including Claro and Deverell Barracks in Ripon. This allows the Draft City Plan to include policies to propose that the sports fields in their entirety should be retained for the creation of a sporting village (Policy B3 & B4). This is in line with para. 74 of the NPPF and would allow for the protection of the existing sport pitches within the military estate owing to their size and quality as well as their location. In creating a sports village at Clotherholme, the City Plan is very aware of the potential to create a disparity in sporting provision within the city. Sport England figures contained within the Ripon Neighbourhood Profile 2013 (Appendix A.a) show that adults in the east of Ripon are the least active in the district. It also records that obesity in Ripon's primary school children is higher than the district average. It is important that the Ripon Leisure Centre on Dalamires Lane is protected and if possible enhanced perhaps by new swimming baths and a 3G AGP provision.

8.1.12 The NPPF and Sports England rightly attach high priority to protecting existing sport pitches and facilities. This is an aim supported by the Draft City Plan. The redevelopment of the military estate will provide significant infrastructure challenges for the city due to the western location of the site and the constraints of the road network. Even with the opening up of Chatham Road and provision of a new link to Galphay Lane the presence of the majority of Ripon's schools in the west of the city and additional traffic created by redevelopment needs to be addressed. The Preliminary Draft Plan put forward the creating of a new relief road linking Mallorie Park Drive with Studley Road (on the assumption of the relocation of the football and rugby clubs to another site within the city). Whilst the public consultation showed strong support for the protection of outdoor sports pitches this proposal was understood and supported by a majority of respondents. In particular the idea to create a mix of housing types, social and carefully-designed homes for the elderly adjacent to the Spa Park alongside a new relief road with wide green edges, cycle-ways and
footpaths was accepted. This suggests that the Draft City Plan should include a policy for its provision (Policy B.5.).

8.1.13 Allotment and Community Gardens provision is another important element of open space within the city. The flourishing Ripon City Allotment Society provides secure sites for the production of home-grown food and flowers. Allotments are already protected through other statutory measures therefore the plan does not intend to duplicate such protection. However, the City Plan recognises the need to provide additional plots. The area generally bounded by Kirkby Road, Clotherholme Road, Park Street and Church Lane is an important green corridor and wildlife/biodiversity site; it acts as the West Ripon “green lung”. In addition, it provides high quality visual amenity for this part of the city. Due to the unstable ground conditions over much of the site, it has never been developed and includes the grounds of the secondary school The Outwood Academy and Ripon Grammar School as well as Holy Trinity and St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary Schools. Allocated as protected open space within the Draft Plan the area is identified for its educational and community purposes and it is therefore proposed that the present Kirkby Road allotments should be extended.

9 Policy Wording

Following the approach and conclusions in section 8 above the plan includes:

9.1 Policy F.1. Amenity Open Space and Other Land

9.1.1 Development proposals on open space and other land which are shown on the Policies Map and City Centre insert map for making a significant contribution to the visual amenity and character of the city, will not be supported where there is:

- a disproportionate and unacceptable harm to the visual amenity and character of the area, or
- harm to the value of the open space for informal recreation or
- Harm to wildlife including the linkage of sites performing as wildlife corridors.

9.2 Policy F.2. Local Green Space

9.2.1 The following sites shown on the Policies Map and City Centre Inset as 'G' shall be designated as Local Green Space owing to their proximity to their local community, significance and character:

  Goose Common
  Bishopton Fields
  College Lawn
9.2.2 Proposals for development on these sites will be resisted other than in very special circumstances; for example, if it is essential to meet specific necessary utility infrastructure needs and no alternative feasible site is available.

9.3 **Policy F.3. Protection and replacement of recreation open space**

9.3.1 Owing to the shortfalls in sporting provision and oversubscription in Ripon, development proposals that involve the loss of existing outdoor public and private sport and recreational facilities will not be permitted unless:

- the applicant can demonstrate that there is a surplus of similar facilities in the area and that its loss would not adversely affect the existing and potential recreational needs of the local population, making allowance for the likely demand generated by allocations in this plan; or
- a satisfactory replacement facility is provided in a suitable location, accessible to current users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality; or
- the land by virtue of its size, location and physical conditions, is incapable of appropriate recreational use; or
- in the case of the playing fields, where sports and recreation facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the development of a small part of the site, the benefits of which should clearly outweigh the loss of this land; or
- in the case of playing fields, where the proposal involves the development of an alternative indoor or outdoor sports facility that will benefit sports development in the District and clearly outweigh the loss of the playing fields
- Small-scale developments related to the function of the open space will be allowed if they cannot be located elsewhere.

9.4 **Policy F.4. Allotments**

9.4.1 Proposals will be supported for the laying out of additional allotment belts in the locations shown on the Policies Map
9.5 Extracts from Policies Map and City Centre Inset
10 Complementary Projects

10.1.1 Ripon Sports Development Strategy
11 Appendices

F.a House of Commons Library – Allotments – Standard Note SN/SC/887 2012
F.b Ripon City Plan – Open Space Assessment
F.c Ripon City Plan – Local Greenspace Assessments
F.d Ripon City Plan – An Analysis of Draft Local Plan Methodology and Sites Within Ripon City Plan
F.e Harrogate District Local Plan – Publication Draft 2018 - Representation for 'Ripon Sports Village'
1 Introduction – Providing Community Facilities

1.1.1 This supporting document provides evidence and background for the provision of new community facilities notably in education, healthcare and recreation.

1.1.2 The preceding supporting document regarding Enjoying Open Space complements this one.

2 National Planning Policy Framework

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

2.1.1 The NPPF policies most relevant to City Plan Policy F.5 (Education facilities), F.6 (Community facilities priority area), and F.7 (Ripon Close Leisure Centre) are:

9. Pursuing sustainable development involves seeking positive improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment, as well as in people’s quality of life, including (but not limited to):

- making it easier for jobs to be created in cities, towns and villages;
- moving from a net loss of bio-diversity to achieving net gains for nature;
- replacing poor design with better design;
- improving the conditions in which people live, work, travel and take leisure.

17. Supports the development of safe footpaths and cycle ways to school premises stating “actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.

37. Planning policies should aim for a balance of land uses within their area so that people can be encouraged to minimise journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities.

42. Advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

47. Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population (such
as for sport, recreation, and places of worship) including future changes expected changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and wellbeing”.

70. To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- ensure that established shops, facilities and services can develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and
- ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

72. The Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

- give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools; and
- work with schools’ promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.

73. 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. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

156. Local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk management
the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

61. Local planning authorities should use this evidence base to assess:
the needs for land or floor space for economic development, including both the quantitative and qualitative needs for all foreseeable types of economic activity over the plan period, including for retail and leisure development;

162. Local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to:
assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, waste, health, social care, education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands

171. Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population (such as for sports, recreation and places of worship), including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being.

2.2 Planning Practice Guidance

2.2.1 Health and wellbeing

ID 53 - 002 development proposals can support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do and create places and spaces to meet to support community engagement and social capital;

- the healthcare infrastructure implications of any relevant proposed local development have been considered;
- opportunities for healthy lifestyles have been considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity, and promotes access to healthier food, high quality open spaces, green infrastructure and opportunities for play, sport and recreation);
- potential pollution and other environmental hazards, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, are accounted for in the consideration of new development proposals; and
• access to the whole community by all sections of the community, whether able-bodied or disabled, has been promoted

ID 53 - 003 This paragraph advises contacting the Director of Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Board, if there is one, the local Clinical Commissioning Group(s) and NHS England, and engagement with the local community.

ID 53 – 005 A healthy community is a good place to grow up and grow old in, and supports healthy behaviour and reductions in health inequalities by encouraging active healthy lifestyles made easy through the pattern of development, good urban design, good access to local services and facilities; green open space and safe places for active play and food growing, and is accessible by walking and cycling and public transport. Also, the creation of healthy living environments for people of all ages which supports social interaction. It meets the needs of children and young people to grow and develop, as well as being adaptable to the needs of an increasingly elderly population and those with dementia and other sensory or mobility impairments.

2.2.2 Open space, sports and recreation facilities

ID 37 – 001 Open space should be considered in planning for new development and for 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 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.

2.2.3 Water supply, wastewater and water quality

ID 35 - 001 Adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to support sustainable development. A healthy water environment will also deliver multiple benefits, such as helping to enhance the natural environment generally and adapting to climate change.

3 Local Plan

3.1 HBC Local Plan

3.1.1 The policies relevant to RCP promote new local community facilities and services accessible by different forms of transport to reduce the number and distance of movements. They encourage reclamation and recycling of materials, and development of renewable sources of energy to reduce environmental pollution and consumption of fossil fuels, and
telecommunication and utilities infrastructure, while recognising the limits for opportunities of structures within, near to, designated areas of landscape and heritage value. The local Plan also aims to protect the environment and amenity of the District by minimising and controlling pollution, and unnecessary risks to the public from adverse effects of pollution and ensuring a high quality of environment and amenity. For the latter, the Plan requires the most efficient use of land, complementary to nearby buildings and spatial qualities and the form and character of the settlement and landscape. Protect visual, residential and general amenity, enhance if possible, and no loss of greenfield land, and not add to pre-existing problems of access, road safety or traffic flow. The plan also promotes recreational development acceptable in environmental terms, protecting existing public and private open space, facilities of recreation and amenity value, and improving provision for the sport and recreational needs, and recreational use of the countryside.

3.1.2 The Local Plan “aims to ensure that a satisfactory range of services is provided in the District” by:

- improving the provision of locally based community facilities to serve all people’s needs.
- ensuring new utilities development respects the plan’s policies for the natural and built environment.
- encouraging appropriate development of renewable energy resources.

3.2 Relevant Policies

3.2.1 POLICY CF5
This policy allocated land off Kirkby Road in Ripon for cemetery use.

3.2.2 POLICY CF9
This policy includes proposals for new community facilities, including community halls, schools, colleges, nurseries, places of worship, health services and public houses must be provided within developments. Sites should be easily accessible and for people without a car and have no adverse impact on amenity or significant loss of industrial, business or housing or recreational land or open space. Exceptionally redevelopment of an industrial site or a site on the edge of a settlement may be acceptable.

3.2.3 POLICY CF10
This one is when telecommunications development will be permitted. Only when there is no possibility of sharing existing facilities, or erecting antennae or mast on an existing structure, and the siting, design and landscaping measures must minimise the impact on the visual amenity and nature conservation value of the immediate area.
3.2.4 POLICY CFX
Introduced in 2004 addition to CF9 when developments with loss of land or premises in community use, including all mentioned in CF9, will not be permitted, except continued community use would cause unacceptable planning problems or where a satisfactory replacement facility is provided or where viable continuing or alternative use has been fully explored. The policy does not apply to community recreation facilities (see Policies R1 and R2) or local shops.

3.2.5 POLICY SG4
The scale, density, layout and design should make the most efficient use of land and be well integrated and complementary to nearby buildings and the spatial qualities of the local area. The development should be appropriate to the form and character of the settlement and landscape character protecting visual, residential and general amenity with no loss of greenfield land unless justified by national planning policy. The environmental impact and design of development should conform with Policies EQ1 and EQ2, and the travel impact of any scheme should not add significantly to any pre-existing problems of access, road safety or traffic flow.

3.2.6 POLICY R1
Development involving loss of existing public and private recreational open space will not be permitted unless there is a) surplus of recreation open space in the area and its loss would not adversely affect the existing and potential recreational needs of the local population; or b) a satisfactory replacement facility is provided in the catchment area which it serves; or c) the land by virtue of its size, location and physical conditions, is incapable of appropriate recreational use; or d) in the case of playing fields, where sports and recreation facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the development of a small part of the site. any loss of recreation land which may be acceptable under the above criteria will not be permitted where this involves the loss of open space of amenity value harmful to the character of the area (policy hd12).

4 Vision and Objectives

4.1 Extracts from Vision

By the 2020s the city of Ripon will be the acknowledged centre of the predominately rural area of western North Yorkshire between the A1 and the Yorkshire Dales National Park north of the Harrogate and Knaresborough urban area and south of Richmondshire and Bedale. It will be:

- a meeting place of choice for culture, leisure and tourism for residents and visitors
• a centre for financial and commercial services, well connected to high quality digital communications for business and home-working
• providing services and skills to the agri-economy and industry
• a convenient, accessible and attractive place for all to live including families, young people, the long-distance commuter, retirees, the elderly and native Riponians
• offering a predominately local, independent and specialist shopping experience including weekly markets and a choice of significant supermarket shopping
• a place that facilitates healthy living and life-long learning

...The city’s attractive countryside setting, including its waterways, the Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site and neighbouring villages, will be protected and enhanced to maintain its distinctiveness...

4.2 Relevant Objectives

To strengthen the city centre as the meeting place of choice for Ripon residents and visitors;
To improve accessibility within Ripon and beyond
To protect, and where appropriate allocate, sites for community purposes including health, leisure and recreational uses
To conserve and enhance the physical character of Ripon and its setting through policies for the design of new development; encouragement of high quality contemporary architecture, delivery of public art and environmental improvement action
To contribute to meeting the need for new homes
To facilitate the regeneration of Ripon
To identify the opportunities and constraints in attracting resources for the delivery of proposals
To identify opportunities that arise during the preparation of the plan for the City Council (leading through the City Development Initiative).

5 Reports and information from public, practitioner and industry bodies


“There is now greater variety in the manner and organisation of education in England than in any time since the 1944 Education Act. Schools can select from a range of options about their future: conversely schools may be directed into a variety of arrangements by the Secretary of State. As a local
authority which has for decades championed significant delegation of resource and responsibilities to schools, North Yorkshire has no ideological position on the status of schools. What we do hold strongly is a view that schools should be in arrangements that offer the greatest possibility of securing high quality education for children, and that those arrangements should be appropriate and make sense for local communities.”

“We are currently delivering a £58 million capital investment programme which will provide up to 1700 additional places by September 2017. This includes the development of two new school sites and some major expansions, as well as some smaller scale school expansions. There are a further 21 potential projects identified where initial options and feasibility assessments are being undertaken. This includes a number of further new school sites arising from major housing and some large scale expansions. A further allocation of just over £1 million has been made to North Yorkshire for 2017/18. Priority needs greatly exceed this and the County Council will consider how it can resource the level of demand by putting in funding directly from its own reserves.”

5.2 School provision in Ripon 2015 - 2017

5.2.1 NYCC has published information setting out the approach to primary and secondary school provision in the city. This appears as part of a report to the Council Executive on 30 September 2014 on Basic Needs Programme 2015 - 2017 and can be found in Appendix 2, Appendix 1 of which provides an analysis of demand for pupil places.

5.2.2 The essence of the report is to identify school planning areas in the county where additional provision is required in the short term. Simply, Ripon is not facing the needs of certain other areas. Information from the appendix is set out below.

5.2.3 What will be of concern in due course is demand for school places arising from housing development that come through proposals of the City Plan. The report considers the period for the coming three years and acknowledges that further work will then be required for future periods. Currently the focus is on primary school provision, but this will feed through to secondary school provision thereafter.

5.2.4 Ripon is a Planning Area for Primary Schools and there is a Ripon Outer Area. Ripon has a shortfall of places whilst Ripon Outer does not.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Area</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Shortfall/Surplus</th>
<th>RAG rating (red/amber/green)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ripon</td>
<td>1362</td>
<td>1399</td>
<td>-37</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripon Outer</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2.5 For secondary school provision there is a combined Ripon and Rural planning area. There is no current shortfall in places. It is worth noting that both Boroughbridge and Knaresborough planning areas have significant shortfalls contrary to the wider district and county positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Area</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Shortfall/Surplus</th>
<th>RAG rating (red/amber/green)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ripon and Rural</td>
<td>1718</td>
<td>1425</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.6 School provision March 2017

The current position for Ripon is presented below and the numbers of ‘Spare’ places with schools arranged in Ripon North and Ripon South wards respectively, which are County Council wards, and their current 2017 Ofsted rating. The information is taken from the Ofsted website where each school can be viewed, [https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/)

**Ripon North**
- Cathedral School: 25 (Good)
- Holy Trinity Infants School: -28 (Requires improvement)
- Holy Trinity Junior School: 4 (Good)
- St Wilfrid’s R/c School: -24 (Requires improvement)

**Ripon South**
- Moorside Infants School: -13 (Inadequate)
- Moorside Junior School: 18 (Requires Improvement)
- Greystones Primary School: 14 (Requires Improvement)

Both secondary schools are in Ripon North ward
- Ripon Grammar School: 47 (Outstanding)
- Outwood Academy: 243 (Outstanding)

*N.B. PFI schools, which includes Cathedral Primary in Ripon, are not likely to become academies as Government seemingly forgot they exist, and that C of E schools are unlikely to be put in special measures.*

5.2.7 The current position in school place provision is unacceptable as there is over capacity of 23 places in Ripon North primary schools and 19 places in Ripon South primaries, and this is skewed further as there are more houses in Ripon South than Ripon North and both outstanding secondary schools are in Ripon North, requiring a trek across the City twice a day for many students. This twice daily event adds greatly to the traffic congestion on the ‘school run’ and makes the use of cycles less likely due to the high levels of traffic.

5.2.8 There are changes in statistics from year to year, however the ‘spare places’ for 2017 demonstrates that there is insufficient capacity to provide for the possible 1,500 houses in
the City over the period of the City Plan. Using the current calculations for school places for a development (see 5.3.3) of 2 primary and 1 secondary child for every 8 houses gives approximately 560 places required for 1,500 houses.

5.3 **HBC Policy on Developer contributions to Education Facilities**

Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, enables planning authorities to seek to negotiate a contribution from developers towards the cost of meeting the infrastructure necessary to support their development. For education, this could mean asking developers of new housing estates for a contribution towards the cost of extending an existing school or building a new one. The planning authority is entitled to negotiate reasonable and appropriate financial contributions by way of buildings or facilities. In terms of developer contributions to education facilities this will apply to the pooling of contributions from developments of 25 dwellings or more, and until the CIL is introduced, contributions will continue to be collected by means of a S106 Agreement.

5.3.1 A housing development will, depending on its size and composition, give rise either in the short or long term to demands for school places and where no additional capacity is programmed by the Education Authority, then the proposed housing development imposes a burden or planning loss on the community which the developers should resolve either indirectly or directly. Calculations and Procedures where development briefs are being prepared for large housing sites will be addressed through consultation with the LEA.

5.3.2 The basis for calculating the contributions for primary school places (age 5-11) uses the Department of Education multiplier cost of £13,596 and calculates the cost per place by a formula $x \times 98\%$ regional factor + 10\% fees + £383 Cost for furniture and equipment = £14,273 per primary place, and for secondary schools (11 to 16 years) a similar calculation is used with an allocation of £18,469 per place and for post 16 education an allocation of £20,030 per place.

5.3.3 Where masterplans are proposed for larger housing sites, the need for any commuted payment for education will be addressed through consultation with the education authority who will be available from the county council’s School Organisation Plan. The education authority will also be able to respond to housebuilders queries for individual sites.

5.3.4 Calculations for school places in a development are based on one primary aged child from every four properties (two or more bedroom) and one secondary school aged child from every eight properties (two or more bedroom). The number of children generated by residential development will vary depending on the type and size of dwelling and by the location of the development. In some cases, a developer may argue that houses are built for a particular market, for example couples, starter homes or that a development is not within easy reach of a primary school. The local planning and education authorities will not normally reduce the basis for the calculations to account for variables such as these,
because, over time, any dwelling (excluding sheltered, elderly person only, or one bedroom units in any location, has the potential to accommodate children of primary school age.

5.3.5 Forecasts of future school capacity and national population growth are made by the education authority over a three year period. If, following these calculations the local primary school is deemed to be at capacity in year three, contributions will be sought at the full rate. If the school is “X” places short of capacity and the development generates “Y” places, contributions will be sought on the difference between “X” and “Y”. If “X” is greater than “Y” no contribution will be sought. Calculations will be based on the number of houses included in the detailed planning application. Any increase in the number of units approved through, for example, a revised application, will generate additional contributions. No account will be taken of the rate of house-building on the site as this is an uncertain variable.

5.4 Health

5.4.1 General practice.
All GP Practices in Harrogate and Rural District are operating with open lists, which means that they are all accepting new patients. GP practices do not have waiting lists for new patients wanting to register with the practice, so access for new registrations is not an issue. The only issues which occurs from an increasing practice population is around ease of access e.g. one consequence could be that the waiting time for a routine appointment at the practice may become longer if patient demand increases. GP practices are funded on a population basis and therefore for any additional patients registered the practice will receive an allocation of funding per head. The CCG regularly monitors appointment and telephone access of the GP practices through patient feedback and intelligence from other parts of the health system.

GP practices are not able to close their lists for new registrations without the CCG’s approval and it would be very rare for this action to be taken and would only occur after all other avenues have been exhausted.

The CCG as a fully delegated co-commissioner of GP Primary Care is developing its strategy for primary care which includes supporting the sustainability of GP practices, supporting practices to have the workforce and the premises needed to meet population demand both now and in the future. The CCG works with GP practices, the local GP Federation and Local Medical Committee as well as wider stakeholders on these strategies. The CCG has opportunity to comment on any new builds within its boundaries with ability to recommend what healthcare infrastructure would be required to meet any increase in population.

5.4.2 Healthy Ripon
Healthy Ripon and What Matters to Us (Vanguard New Care Models programme) are existing local initiatives which support the transformation of GP and Community Services to
ensure long term sustainability. The Healthy Ripon project started in March 2012 as a response to the North Yorkshire Strategic Review, and to ensure that Ripon Community Hospital (RCH) building was fit for purpose. The World Café event held at RCH engaged with local people and was followed up with a stakeholder event to shape a vision for the future of health provision in the Ripon Community area. A Wellbeing Collaborative was established with partners from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFDT), Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group (HaRDCCCG), Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), Harrogate Borough Council (HBC), Ripon City Council and local GPs to deliver a Community hub to address wider community needs, including prevention and individual wellbeing through the integration of health and social care. The initial focus was on small scale steps promoting health initiatives and improving access to existing services. In March 2013, the collaborative identified the possibility of integration through service co-location and delivery with a planned development of Extra Care Housing in Ripon on an existing site. This led to a high-level concept design for a Community Hub bringing together Primary Care, supported extra care housing, diagnostic and out-patient facilities, social care, rehabilitation, and leisure services. Work identified that healthcare, adult social care and the voluntary sector needs to be ‘more joined up’ to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and to enable people who are discharged from hospital to regain their confidence in living independently. The potential for more integration through co-location, and economies of scale was proposed to be achieved by bringing together the different providers and stakeholders in Ripon in one or two community hubs. Currently the Wellbeing Collaborative Partnership e.g. GP surgeries, HDFDT, etc, all provide services and facilities which overlap, and the Partners wanted to bring positive benefits to the community and secure and protect services into the future. A health hub on the site alongside Extra Care Housing could allow the transformation of facilities and services. Depending on the site that is used for this development it may need to be developed in two phases to enable existing services to stay operational.

5.4.3 First phase could consist of:

GP Facility – ideally utilising all 3 practices to include: 25 GP consulting rooms; 10 nurse rooms;
Out-patient Facility; Imaging. (X-ray, Ultrasound etc); Extra Care Housing; Housing for people with complex needs and LD (linked to the Extra Care); Bungalows for people with a physical disability (linked to the Extra Care); Beds for use within Extra Care as step up/step down or Rehab bed; Base for Integrated Care Team to accommodate 8 hot desks; Mental Health services provided in partners’ facilities; General needs housing (40% affordable 60% outright sale to provide subsidy to the Extra Care) and a Pharmacy.

Phase One could become a reality as the various members of the Wellbeing Collaborative each have projects that achieve the various elements outlined above.
North Yorkshire County Council wants to develop an extra care housing scheme of 40+ units with associated communal facilities i.e. supported accommodation blocks for those with a learning disability of 12 units, those with complex needs of 8 units, and 12 bungalows for those with physical disability.

Harrogate and Rural District CCG wants to commission integrated hospital community and social care services from an integrated facility providing flexible step-up step down beds provided through the extra care scheme (to include palliative care), Integrated community teams and Hospital based services that Harrogate Foundation Trust also seeks including the re-provision of hospital type services currently provided at Ripon Hospital into a new facility. Those services will include diagnostics, Out Patient services and Occupational Therapy.

Harrogate Borough Council is now to provide a new swimming pool facility on the current leisure centre site to facilitate improved integration between the Council’s leisure functions and Health and Wellbeing activities. The three GP Practices may still be considering a purpose-built modern practice that maintain independent contractor status but integrate elements of service provision and share some facilities.

5.4.4 Dentistry

There are three medium sized contracts in Ripon and one very small one. It is difficult to assess if this figure meets the need within the City of Ripon itself as the patients at the practices will come from the surrounding areas as well as within the city; however, the provision that is there currently should on average serve a population of 27,778 people – this is based on the premise that all patients on average require 2.5 Units of dental activity per year, which is the national figure used. The nearest practices in the area are Pateley Bridge, Boroughbridge – who only see children and exempt patients and then on the outskirts of Harrogate – e.g. Jennyfields and Ripon road and Thirsk. Dental practices do not have a catchment area like GP practices. There is currently no indication that patients are struggling to find a practice as we have not had any information on waiting lists or complaints from the area that patients cannot access a dentist.

Growing the population from 17000, to 20,000 would require an additional 7 to 7,500 Units of Dental Activity which is around what an average dentist does per year. The funding for this does not follow the patient so would need to be additional funding for the dental budget – NHS England the only commissioner of dental services does not get an additional allocation of funds for this and does not have funding within the budget for these changes.

5.5 Deprivation in Ripon

5.5.1 Supporting Document - Setting Ripon in Context includes evidence on this topic.

Superficially Ripon appears to be a stable, prosperous settlement. There are no obvious manifestations of social stress and ample indicators of wealth, culture and being a place
where many households live from choice. However, there are indicators that reveal a breadth of experience and opportunity that upon examination could support specific City Plan policies.

The most recent data to address the degree and extent of multiple deprivation in the city are the Indices of Deprivation 2015 England revealed at Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA). There are 11 LSOAs in Ripon being subdivisions of the city's three wards, Minster, Moorside and Spa. There are 32844 LSOAs in England. The more deprived an LSOA, the lower number the rank position; the less deprived, the higher number the rank position. In Ripon, this is shown by LSOA 004B in Minster ward with an index of 11634 suffering greater multiple deprivation than LSOA 002D in Spa ward with an index of 32663. The plan shows the location of LSOAs and their overall ranking. This is a general indicator of the location of the more deprived parts of the city.

There was no change in LSOA boundaries from 2010 to 2015 and the general pattern revealed in 2010 has been maintained. At national level all LSOAs are grouped by decile; the lower number the decile, the greater its multiple deprivation. Ripon LSOAs is presented in descending order of multiple deprivation with two LSOAs in decile 4 and one in decile 5. There are two LSOAs in the seventh decile, one each in the eighth and ninth and two in the tenth decile having the least multiple deprivation. Ripon has three LSOA in the upper half of national deprivation, one in Minster ward and two in Moorside ward.

The index can be analysed more deeply in terms of seven sub indicators: income; employment; education, skills and training; health, deprivation and disability; crime; barriers to housing and services; living environment. These are shown by LSOA in rows vxi of the table. The upper line is the national ranking with the lower line being the decile ranking.

These sub indicators reveal both absolute and relative deprivation. In absolute terms, identifying those LSOAs in the upper 10,000 parts of Minster and Moorside wards are in the second decile for education, skills and training. The same Minster ward LSOA suffers the same ranking as regards crime. (However, this may be a result of this LSOA including the city centre and incidence of public order offences.) One of the Moorside ward LSOAs is in the third decile for health, deprivation and disability. One Spa ward LSOA is in the third decile for crime. Each of these sub indicators shows the individual LSOA in a more deprived position than its national rank order.

Regarding relative deprivation, several LSOAs reveal a significantly more deprived ranking in particular sub indicators than their national ranking would suggest. Based on those where there is a ranking difference of more than two; education, training and skills is more deprived in one Moorside ward LSOA and in two Spa ward LSOAs, one of which also revealed barriers to housing and services; finally, there was relatively more living environment the two easterly SLOAs in Spa ward.
There are unexpected instances of generally more deprived LSOAs enjoying significantly a lesser deprived ranking in some sub indicators notably: less deprivation in one Minster ward and two Moorside ward LSOAs arising from barriers to housing and services 1 in Minster ward, 2 in Moorside ward, the more deprived of the latter also having less living environment deprivation.

In conclusion, there is clear evidence that parts of Moorside ward and Minster ward in the south of the city suffer relative greater multiple deprivation within Ripon than others parts. This is of particular concern regarding education, skills and training. It is important to note that this indicator is relatively significant also in certain of the less deprived LSOAs. Strategically this is a concern for Ripon. Health, deprivation and disability deprivation in parts of Moorside ward is a further concern.

Accordingly, as far as possible and having regard to non-spatial matters, proposals for new public facilities related to education, health and recreation might be located closer to these more deprived areas or include sustainable proposals for accessibility.

6 Harrogate Borough Council reports and commissioned evidence

HBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan - baseline report of June 2015 provides an overview of the spatial implications of public services. Some evidence has been obtained directly for the plan, which is a helpful comparison upon which to identify spatial implications.

6.1 Waste Management

6.1.1 Growth within the catchment area of Ripon Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) is likely to exacerbate pressure on the capacity of the site, although this is not deemed to be a ‘show stopper’ in terms of preventing growth in the area. Anecdotally the number of users is less than previously as the rather odd decision to charge for domestic building rubble and other waste at the site has increased fly tipping elsewhere and generates relatively little income, insufficient to cover the cost of remove the fly tipped material. Conversely as HBC has introduced a ‘green waste’ charge for kerbside collection it is likely that green waste ‘production’ will increase at Ripon HWRC.

6.1.2 There is currently no budget to redevelop/relocate the Ripon HWRC but consideration would be given to this should funding opportunities become available in the future. HBC has increased its curb side collection of recycling material and now has reached 40% from a low of 12% 10 years ago; there is still room for further improvement to reach at least 50% which other local authorities achieved a decade ago, and notwithstanding the NYCC’s Allerton Park
Waste Recovery Park, something of a misnomer as the ‘waste’ will be incinerated not recovered.

6.1.3 City Plan comment
This topic will not be pursued in the plan.

6.2 Education

6.2.1 Implications for the Local Plan:

6.2.2 Any significant housing growth across the District is likely to require additional primary school places and increasingly secondary school places. Actual requirements will depend on the location, timing, scale and phasing of development.

6.2.3 Harrogate town is a known hotspot where significant investment would be required to accommodate any growth at primary phase and moderate growth at secondary phase. Growth in Knaresborough and Ripon would also require investment.

6.2.4 Additional school sites may be needed at both primary and secondary phase in addition to financial contributions towards the delivery of additional school places on new or existing sites.

6.2.5 Growth comprising several smaller housing developments in existing urban areas would represent a worst-case scenario for school provision, as it would place additional pressure on existing schools with little or no space to expand. In theory, it would be easier to meet demand from large-scale development, but this depends on its location and scale.

6.2.6 Development outside urban areas may help protect and sustain rural schools and counterbalance pressure in towns.

6.2.7 There may be transport implications relating to school provision, with additional traffic in areas where increased/new capacity is created, and potentially issues with transporting students to schools further afield if increased capacity is not provided locally.

6.2.8 Provision of new low-cost housing / starter homes and employment opportunities is crucial in encouraging young adults to remain/settle in the district.

6.2.9 City Plan comment
Education provision has been pursued directly with NYCC and will be pursued in the plan. What is not understood is the role independent schools play in determining forecast and capacity. Whilst the primary school position is understandable, the secondary one is less well so and forecast shortfalls at Boroughbridge and Knaresborough.
Children’s participation in sport and physical activity in the Harrogate District is significantly lower than the England National average.

6.3 Health

6.3.1 HBC has been an active partner in the Ripon Partnership Group (Wellbeing Collaborative Partnership) which emerged from extensive community and stakeholder engagement in Ripon over the future development of facilities and services. A range of partners (including HBC, NYCC, Harrogate & Rural District CCG, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Property Services, and the 3 Ripon GP Surgeries) have been working together to establish a joint approach, through the Healthy Ripon project, to transform services to meet future community needs. The Healthy Ripon Project was given as an exemplar project at a ministerial event in the House of Commons on 1st July 2013.

6.3.2 Through the Ripon Partnership Group HBC has sought to progress plans for a new swimming pool as part of the wider partnership development of community, health and social care services in Ripon. HBC owns land adjacent to Ripon Leisure Centre on Dallamires Lane and this site remains the preferred location for a new integrated wet and dry leisure facility. There is also the potential to develop this site as a community health hub, combining leisure and community-based health services. With an emphasis on wellbeing, there is the opportunity to provide improved leisure services (including new swimming facilities), enhance links between services, and provide benefits to customers/patients. Bringing together partners’ ambitions into a shared vision, Ripon Partnership Group appointed consultants in April 2015 to appraise the project and produce a Project Initiation Document (PID) to support agencies in advancing their service development plans. The PID sets out an ambitious and complex programme which is made up of a number of inter-related projects. Whilst some elements of the proposed programme will need much more detailed consideration by partner agencies, it is proposed that the development of a new swimming/leisure facility could be managed by HBC as a discrete project. This enabled the Council to progress more quickly to develop project proposals to achieve its objectives, and a feasibility assessment and business case was made. This was the subject of a further report to Cabinet including costs and funding options for new swimming provision as part of an integrated wet and dry facility on the Ripon Leisure Centre site on Dallamires Lane. The report proposed a positive way forward to progress the development of new swimming provision in Ripon alongside improved leisure and wellbeing opportunities, as a discrete project managed by HBC within the context of the wider Healthy Ripon programme.

6.3.3 City Plan comment
HBC cabinet approved the proposal for a new pool in 2016, and a public consultation was undertaken in February and March 2017, with an expected finish date in 2019. Healthy Ripon’s Ripon Community Development Project’s second phase would be based at Ripon Leisure Centre providing Leisure facilities, Pool, Physiotherapy using existing gym, and
occupational therapy. This is appropriate as the hot pool at Lister House, Royal British Legion residential home has recently been taken out of use for outside visitors thereby reducing access to wet therapy provision, which the Leisure Centre development will replace.

6.4 **Air Pollution**

6.4.1 Air quality in the city is below average levels in the district and an Air Quality Management Area exists in the Low Skellgate area of the City Centre as a result of daily traffic congestion where the road from Harrogate crosses the B2651 Pateley Bridge to Boroughbridge, and arguably Ripon's busiest road junction. The poor air quality needs to be addressed as Ripon Community Hospital is 100 yards away from the junction.

6.4.2 Harrogate Borough Council is the responsible body for the monitoring of Air Pollutants in the District and the data below relating to Ripon is extracted from ‘Summary of Previous Reviews and Assessments’ dating back to 2006. In each of the Annual Progress Reports for 2007 up to 2010, Low Skellgate, Ripon was cited “as exceeding the nitrogen dioxide NO2 annual mean exceedance”.

6.4.3 Several recommendations were made for future monitoring in the 2010 report, and the 2015 report notes “Ripon Central Survey”.

6.4.4 Data capture is 92% or above for all sites in the Ripon survey. There are 2 locations which breach the NO2 Air Quality Objectives of 40ug/m3: both of these locations are within the current AQMA. There is one location for the future in the Ripon survey where the concentration has increased by 0.19ug/m3: all other concentrations have decreased, with the greatest decrease of 5.08ug/m3 at Low Skellgate. 6 locations within the Ripon AQMA did not breach the AQO in 2014 including all locations on High Skellgate.

**City Plan Comment**

Although there has been some improvement in 2014/2015 the City Plan Committee remains concerned as the Ripon AQMA straddles the major route into the City Centre. The volume of traffic that is forced to use this route is set to increase with the number of new homes proposed in planning applications in the Moorside ward. The City Plan Recommendation for the relevant highways authority committee of NYCC is for a relief road, see Policy G1. Recent research into NO2 (NOX) and particulates requires cities to seriously consider removing diesel cars from entering the centre, or at the very least reducing traffic flow and hence pollution. In Ripon the high NOX and particulate levels are caused by stationary traffic at the various traffic lights especially High Skellgate and Low Skellgate (AQMA). Closing Market Place South to traffic would immediately reduce standing traffic at the High Skellgate/ West Gate/Market Place junction as traffic would not be stationary on High Skellgate except when pedestrians wish to cross.
6.5 **Electric vehicles**

6.5.1 The provision of publicly accessible charging points in Harrogate District is currently limited. There are seven EVSE locations across the district, with a total of 17 charging points, however many these charging points have restricted access and are not readily available to the general public as they are either private residential or sited at hotels and generally reserved for the use of guests.

6.5.2 An electric vehicle strategy is being developed to provide charging points across the district. However, the budget available is restricted and HBC awaits grant funding opportunities through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles with a recent announcement of £35 million boost for ultra-low emission vehicles.

6.5.3 The soon to be complete Harrogate Civic Centre, Summer 2017, will have three Mode 3 or 4 rapid chargers with dedicated parking bays for a pay-as-you-go system. Possibly a Mode 4 rapid charger through grant aid from Highways England in Boroughbridge.

6.5.4 City Plan comment
HBC owns and manages several public car parks, both surface and multi-storey, and all of these should be fitted with charging points. NYCC as highways authority should approve any on-street charging points.

6.6 **Emergency services**

6.6.1 The emergency services, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and Yorkshire Ambulance Service, are not a significant driver or barrier to growth. The services will deploy their resources to serve the scale and location of new development. It has been indicated that a more scattered approach to growth would present more of a challenge to the deployment of resources, as opposed to one based on larger/strategic sites.

6.6.2 Increased housing will provide a corresponding increase in Council Tax revenue, and could provide the funds necessary to deliver required enhancements. It would also provide an increased pool of potential volunteers for NYFRS.

6.6.3 Traffic congestion issues can have a significant impact on the resilience of emergency service networks by affecting response times.

6.6.4 City Plan comment
Ripon has provision of all emergency services, in effect co-located, given the planned re-location of the Police Station on North Road to the Fire and Rescue Service and Ambulance station on Rotary Way, off the Ripon By pass.
This is not a matter to be pursued in the plan.

6.7 **Indoor sports facilities**

6.7.1 Any significant housing growth across this half of the District is likely to increase demand on existing indoor sport facilities and exacerbate the need for new facilities.

6.7.2 The Council should consider the need for the Local Plan to set out a standard for indoor sports provision to ensure that sufficient high quality indoor facilities are available to meet demand.

6.7.3 Ripon has several indoor sports facilities, including Ripon Grammar School Outwood Academy, Ripon Indoor Bowls, Ripon Tennis Centre, and Hugh Ripley Hall; these facilities can be hired by the public by prior arrangement. There are two public facilities for drop-in and booked use managed by HBC at the Spa baths and the Ripon Leisure Centre. The protection and enhancement of these facilities is considered in the plan.

6.8 **Libraries**

6.8.1 Library facilities should not be a key driver of, or constraint to development. They are, however, identified by residents as playing an important role in their local community, providing a range of services and reducing social isolation, and giving a sense of place and belonging. Increased population growth will generate an increase in demand for library services, which raise capacity and/or accessibility issues, given the lack of funding available for the enhancement of existing or provision of new services through the library authority, NYCC.

6.8.2 City Plan comment
Population growth will provide opportunities for increased funding/income and provide a boost to community/volunteer groups, and opportunities should be explored for co-location or co-funding with other community services or organisations, which can provide benefits to service delivery, operational efficiency and sense of place for the local community. Ripon is a “hybrid” library i.e. not a main service library, which are restricted to one main library located in each of the districts in North Yorkshire irrespective of the number of users. Ripon library is currently seeking volunteers to help maintain a Public library in the City. The implementation process and timetable is not a matter to be pursued in the plan.

6.9 **Public conveniences**

6.9.1 There is no evidence on the adequacy of this provision in Ripon.

6.9.2 Comment: This is not a matter to be pursued in the Plan.
6.10 Cemeteries and crematoria

6.10.1 An additional cemetery has been laid out recently in Ripon, Lark Hill Cemetery, that is planned to meet foreseeable needs. This is sited 400 metres to the north of the present cemetery on Kirkby Road which has reached capacity and cannot expand on its site due to the adverse ground conditions caused by gypsum dissolution, which results in standing water in freshly dug graves. The other large burial ground in Ripon Cathedral church yard was formally closed in 2014, and there are no further open burial grounds.

6.10.2 There is no crematorium in Ripon, the nearest being located at Stonefall on the southern outskirts of Harrogate.

6.10.3 City Plan comment
Residential developments can contribute toward the provision of facilities, and the Council’s Provision for Open Space SPD (Updated April 2015) lists ‘cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds’ as one of 7 types of open space for which developer contributions can be required.

6.10.4 Comment: This is not a matter to be pursued in the plan.

6.11 Telecommunications

6.11.1 Efficient networks are important to enable economic growth and responsiveness, and to residents’ quality of life especially as the number of the self-employed increases. Telecommunication networks are likely to be a key driver of, and potentially a barrier to development unless Fibre broadband replaces the current Fibre-enabled network that serves Ripon via several ‘green boxes’, where fibre bundles terminate and copper wires join consumers to the network, hence fibre enabled. The role of dark fibre, that part of the fibre caballing that is unused, is unknown and as far as known has not been developed locally.

7 Ripon City Plan reports and studies

There are no relevant reports and studies for this document.

8 Analysis, justification and commentary

8.1 Education Facilities Policy F.5

8.1.1 The growth in the population of Ripon will place pressure upon existing schools which are currently oversubscribed, especially with plans at Outwood Academy, currently
undersubscribed, to further extend the number on role. The current position in school place provision is unacceptable as there is over capacity of 23 places in Ripon North primary schools and 19 places in Ripon South primaries, and this is skewed further as there are more houses in Ripon South than Ripon North and both outstanding secondary schools are in Ripon North, requiring a trek across the City twice a day for many students. This twice daily event adds greatly to the traffic congestion on the ‘school run’ and makes the use of cycles less likely due to the high levels of traffic.

8.1.2 The ‘spare places’ in schools for 2017 demonstrates that there is insufficient capacity to provide for the possible 1500 houses in the City over the period of the City Plan. Using the current calculations for school places for a development (see 5.3.3) of 2 primary and 1 secondary child for every 8 houses gives approximately 560 places required for 1500 houses.

8.1.3 At some time in the plan period it will not be possible to provide additional school accommodation within existing sites, and the plan provides for that possibility. A significant part of the population growth will arise from the residential development of the military estate, and it is reasonable that this is accommodated on a site within that area, and the master plan exercise must take that into account.

8.2 Community Facilities Priority Area Policy F.6 & Ripon Leisure Centre F.7

8.2.1 There is clear evidence that parts of Moorside and Minster wards in the southern half of the city suffer greater multiple deprivation within Ripon relative to other parts. Particularly of concern is the low level of education, skills and training, deprivation and health, in both wards, and disability deprivation in parts of Moorside. Access to nearby health and leisure facilities would help to alleviate the deprivation.

8.2.2 Any significant housing growth across the northern half of Harrogate District is likely to increase demand on existing sport facilities, especially indoor provision, and exacerbate need for new facilities. The existing Ripon Leisure Centre is sited in protected recreational land, and this will be the site of the relocated swimming baths. It is in a reasonably accessible part of the city for those without access to private transport and could be the location for further investment in indoor recreation and associated facilities as well as replacement outdoor playing facilities such as all-weather surfaces.

8.2.3 The Harrogate Local Plan must set out a standard for indoor sports provision to ensure that sufficient high quality indoor facilities are available to meet demand from the present and future population.
8.2.4 This City Plan also considers Community Facilities in Policies C.5 Ripon Hospital / Spa Baths Regeneration Area, F.2 Protection and replacement of recreation open space, and Policy H.6 External lighting.

8.2.5 There are few sites available for allocation for community use. One exception is the Harrogate Road employment allocation where a planning permission has been granted that includes small scale business premises that would be suitable for community use. This would provide exceptional grounds to forego employment use on Ripon’s limited supply of allocated employment sites. Planning permission should be granted for such use if and when sought.

9 Policy Wording

9.1 Policy F5. Education facilities
In the event of additional education provision being required owing to growth in the school age population and where this cannot be provided within existing education sites without unacceptable overcrowding and/or loss of existing facilities such additional provision shall be made in the protected open land between Kirkby Road, Church Lane, Park Street and Clotherholme Road including the grounds of the present secondary school (Outwood Academy).
Additional education provision clearly required arising from any residential development of the military estate shall be provided on a site allocated within this area.

9.2 Policy F.6 Community Facilities Priority Area
Planning permission will be granted for the development of community facilities relevant to achieving improvements in community health and education in south Ripon, subject to meeting other policy requirements within the Local Plan and National Policy.

9.3 Policy F.7 Ripon Leisure Centre
Proposals will be supported for the further development of the Ripon Leisure Centre to include the provision of an indoor swimming pool and additional accommodation for indoor recreation. And outdoor all weather playing surfaces (such external illumination having regard to minimising impact on neighbouring homes).
9.4 Extract from Policies Map
10 Complementary Projects

There are no complementary projects relevant to this document.
Appendices:

There are no appendices for this document.