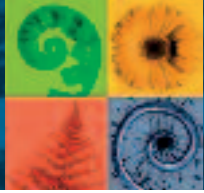


Ideas and Options Paper

Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Area Green Space Plan

A spatial and investment plan for the next 20 years





Ideas and Options Paper Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Area Green Space Plan

If you would like this information in a different format, for example, Braille, audio CD, large print, electronic disc, BSL DVD or community languages, please contact us on 0117 922 3719



Vision for Green Space in Bristol

A city with good quality, attractive, enjoyable and accessible green spaces which meet the diverse needs of all Bristol citizens and visitors.

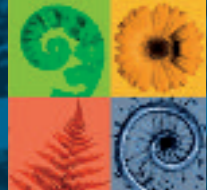
Source: Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008



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Section 1.

Introduction

This draft Ideas and Options Paper is for the Neighbourhood Partnership Area of Bishopston, Cotham and Redland. It sets out ideas for investing in green spaces over the next 20 years to ensure everyone has easy access to a range of good quality green spaces with new and improved facilities, such as children's playgrounds, sports pitches, young people's facilities and wildlife areas. It will also identify if any green space is no longer needed and can be disposed of to fund improvements to other spaces.

In drawing up these options local groups and experts have given their views. We would now like feedback from all Bristol residents - your views are important and will inform a final Area Green Space Plan for your area.



Consultation on the Ideas and Options Paper for Bishopston, Cotham and Redland - how to make your comments.

We would like your views on all the ideas and options presented. You can make comments and give us your own ideas. We will not be able to afford all the ideas presented in the plans so we would also like to know which spaces and types of facility you would like to see us invest in first. Your views will inform a final Area Green Space Plan which will set down improvements and priorities over the next 20 years.

To make the most of your opportunity to comment we suggest you look at the Ideas and Options paper before you start to complete the questionnaire. You can choose to comment on all the spaces or select those you are most interested in.

The public consultation is open for 14 weeks and will end on 29th October 2010

All ideas and options are open for comment.

How to make your comments

There are a number of ways you can submit comments to us; via a questionnaire online, by obtaining a paper copy of the questionnaire or by visiting one of our drop in sessions.

Online at www.bristol.gov.uk/agosp

You can view the Ideas and Options paper and complete a questionnaire online. If you do not have Internet access you can visit any of our libraries or customer service points which offer free Internet access.

Paper and cd versions

Alternatively paper and cd versions of the Ideas and Options Paper and questionnaire are available from:

Bristol City Council, Parks, Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4UA

Or by telephoning: 0117 922 3719

Or by e-mailing: Park.Strategy@bristol.gov.uk

Drop in sessions

A drop-in session is being organised for each Neighbourhood Partnership Area - this gives the opportunity to see the document and talk through the ideas with council officers. For details about when these drop-in sessions will be held go to www.bristol.gov.uk/agosp, call 0117 922 3719 or email: Park.Strategy@bristol.gov.uk

Available to view

Paper versions of the Ideas and Options papers are available to view at all Bristol libraries, customer service points and The Council House, College Green, Central Bristol, BS1 5TR.

What happens next

The views put forward during this consultation will help to inform a final Area Green Space Plan for your area. All views put forward by the public will be analysed and carefully considered, following the close of the consultation on 29th October. Final Area Green Space Plans will be drafted and further comment will be sought from key stakeholders and Neighbourhood Partnerships. The current aim is to adopt the final Area Green Space Plans early in 2011.

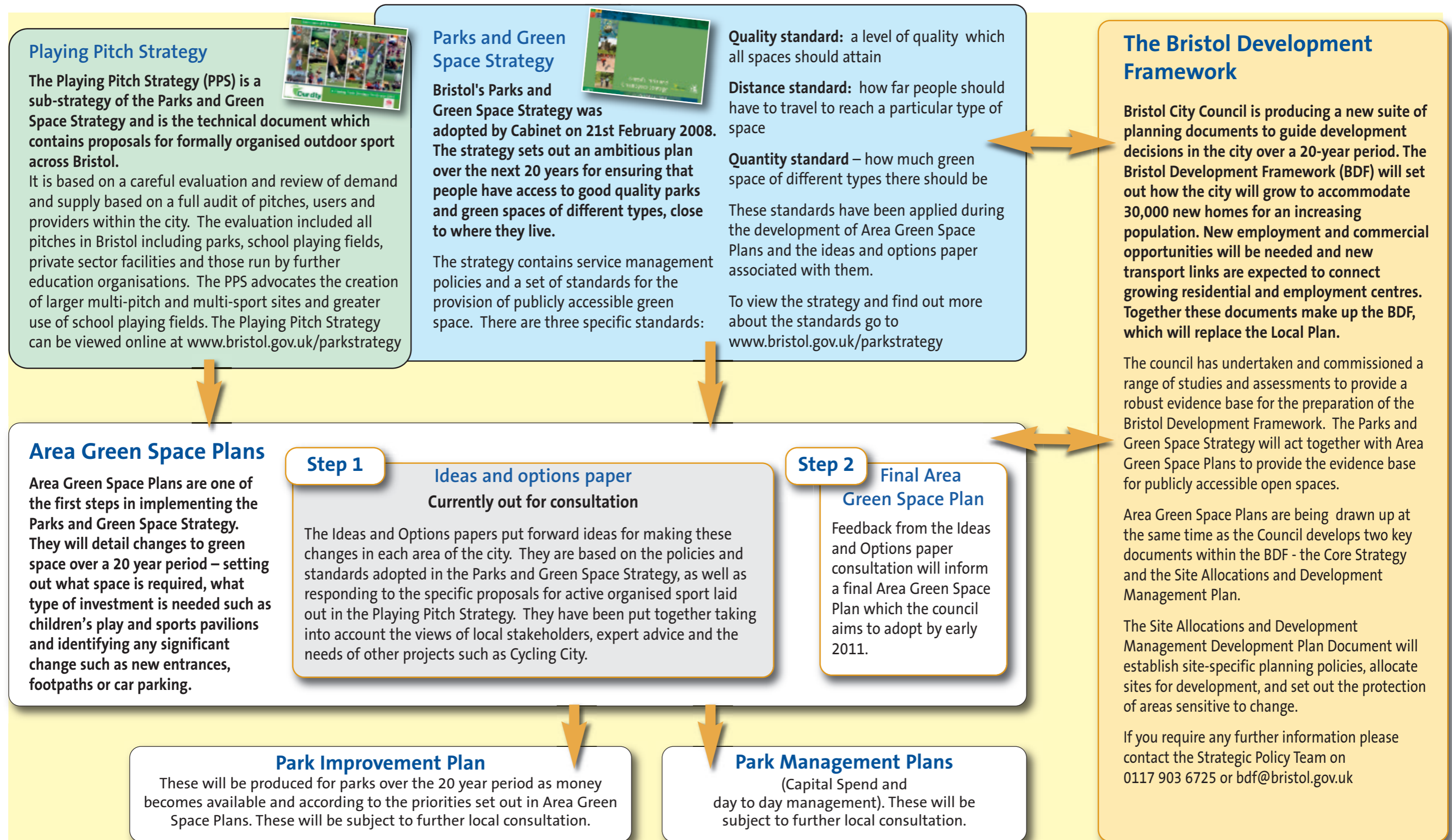
In addition to Bishopston, Cotham and Redland, ideas and options papers are also available for comment on the following areas:

- ? Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill
- ? Hengrove and Stockwood
- ? Hartcliffe, Withywood and Bishopsworth
- ? Bedminster and Southville
- ? Cabot Clifton and Clifton East
- ? Henleaze, Westbury on Trym and Stoke Bishop
- ? Brislington East and West
- ? Henbury and Southmead
- ? Avonmouth and Kingsweston
- ? Horfield and Lockleaze
- ? Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill
- ? Eastville, Frome Vale and Hillfields
- ? St George East and West

Other consultations you may be interested in

The Site Allocations and Development Management Options Document is also out to consultation up until Friday, 29 October 2010. This document suggests specific sites in the city which may be developed to provide new homes, jobs or shops in your area. It also proposes land to be protected for open space, industry, nature conservation and shopping. In terms of green space, while the Area Green Space Plans cover publicly accessible green space only, the Site Allocations will include consideration of a wider range of green space in the city including allotments and grazing land. Visit www.bristol.gov.uk/siteallocations or email bdf@bristol.gov.uk or call 0117 903 6725.

Section 2. How does the Ideas and Options Paper fit into the plans for green space and wider citywide planning?



What green space will the Area Green Space Plan cover?

An Area Green Space Plan will consider only green spaces for which there is legitimate public access and which provide recreational benefit (publicly accessible green space). In line with the Parks and Green Space Strategy the Area Green Space Plan will consider five different types of space described below. This Ideas and Options paper has been drawn up using these categories and definitions.

Type of space and key attributes Map key (Legend)

Children and young people's space



These are spaces specifically designed to increase opportunities for children and young people to play or meet safely within equipped and unequipped environments. Sub-types include, wheels parks, games areas, children's play space.

Formal green space



Sites with a consciously organised layout whose aim is aesthetic enjoyment. This can include sweeping landscapes such as the Repton landscapes of the historic estates, to ornamental gardens which include flower beds and features such as statues.

Informal green space



Informal in layout and character, where the emphasis is on informal recreation. They generally have few or no additional facilities.

Natural green space



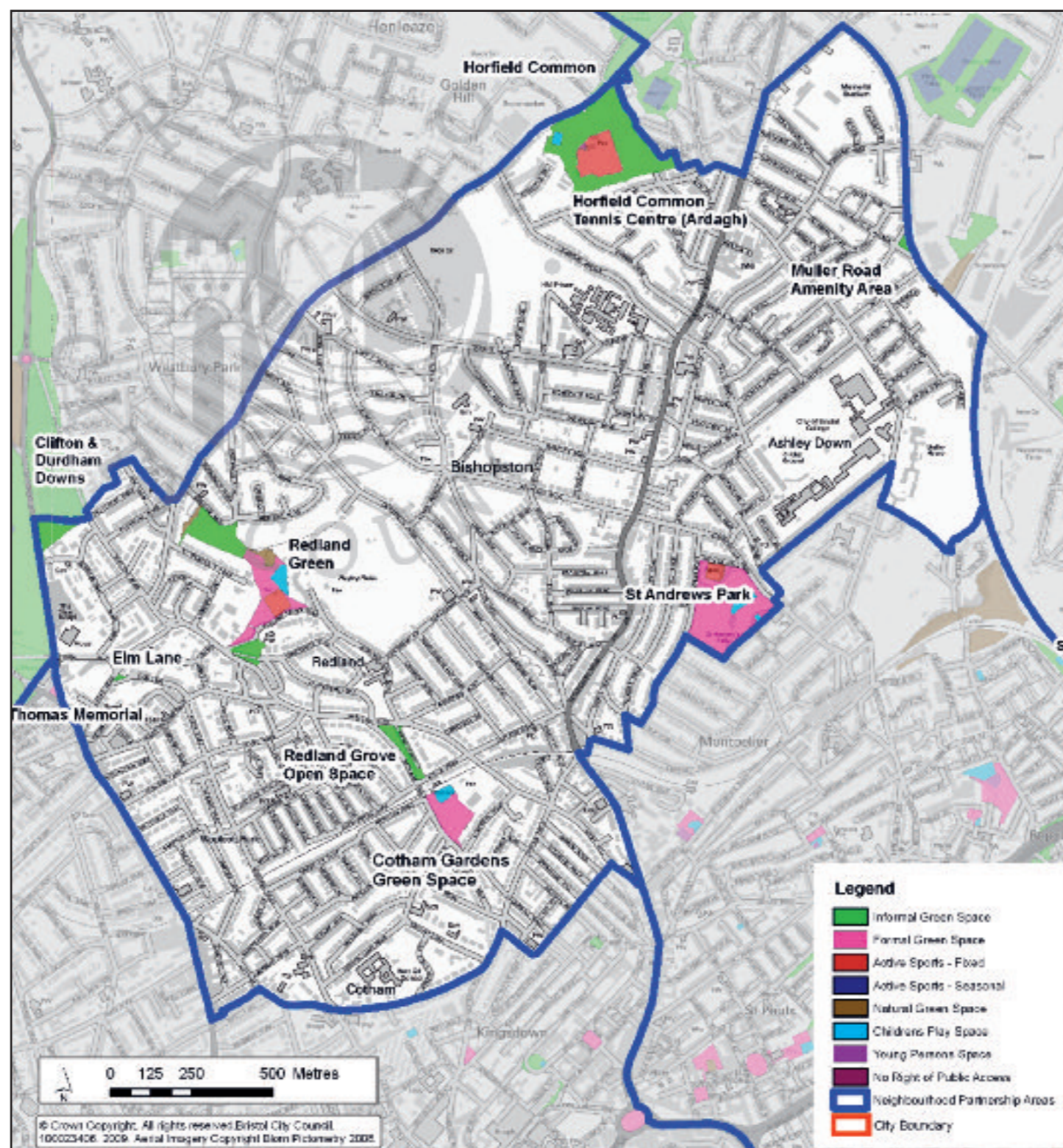
Sites providing people with access to, and experience of nature. It includes woodland, grassland, scrub, hedgerows and wetland.

Active sports space



Those areas which are used for a variety of organised and competitive sports.

The publicly accessible spaces considered by the Parks and Green Space Strategy as outlined in 2008.



What isn't included in an Area Green Space Plan?

The Area Green Space Plan will not consider green spaces that are not freely accessible to the public, including allotments, city farms, school grounds, or Sites of Nature Conservation in private ownership.

In addition it excludes small pieces of land that don't serve any recreational purpose such as road verges and small areas within housing.

However the contribution of all these spaces to the urban green infrastructure of the city for wildlife, leisure and gardening is recognised and taken into account when drawing up these plans.

Green Space in Bishopston, Cotham and Redland

The Area Green Space Plan is defined by the boundaries of the Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership Area - itself defined by the three electoral wards.

The Bishopston, Redland and Cotham Neighbourhood Partnership Area (NPA) has less green space than other NPAs but overall there is general public satisfaction with their quality. The NPA contains the large popular traditional parks of Redland Green and St Andrews Park, as well as Cotham Gardens and the lower part of Horfield Common that currently accommodates the Ardagh Sports Complex. The map of green space that will be considered by the plan, and therefore by this Ideas and Options Paper is shown here. These spaces are categorised into five different types as outlined in the Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008.

Spaces that have been included or excluded in this Area Green Space Plan

During detailed consultation with stakeholders and further analysis of the spaces, some changes have been made as to which spaces or parts of spaces are considered publicly accessible and which are not.

No spaces have been identified for exclusion in this area.

In addition to the spaces already identified as publicly accessible, the following spaces will be adopted and included in the Area Green Space Plan:

Space	Why?
Muller House Green Space	New space created within a new development
Station Road Green Space	Small pocket park created as part of the revamp of the cycle path



Muller House Green Space



Station Road Green Space

How does the Area Green Space Plan link to other Neighbourhood Partnership Areas

Although Neighbourhood Partnership Areas are used for open space planning, it is recognised they provide an artificial boundary in terms of where people visit. In drawing up this Ideas and Options Paper, the proximity and use of spaces in neighbouring areas has been taken into account.

It is also recognised that people from across the city use the destination parks of Ashton, Blaise and Kingsweston, The Downs, Hengrove Play Park and Oldbury Court Estate & Snuff Mills, city centre spaces and sports facilities for organized sport, and that often people travel to visit other spaces outside their Neighbourhood Partnership Area.

St Andrews Park is considered to be one of the more popular parks in the city attracting visitors from not only this Neighbourhood Partnership Area but from across the city. It sits on the boundary with the Ashley ward and is therefore used by people from across the boundary. Part of Horfield Common also falls within the Horfield and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Partnership Area so is again used by a wider catchment. During the stakeholder consultation it became evident that people travel to Purdown in Lockleaze and Narroways in Ashley to gain a more natural experience. The Downs is also popular with residents in this area.

In developing the Ideas and Options Paper green links have had a strong influence and care has been taken to ensure that different Area Green Space Plans 'talk to each other'. Specific cross boundary influences have been considered for:

- ? The role of St Andrews Park as a traditional park and the facilities it can offer to residents across the boundary
- ? The role of natural green spaces outside the area for the community.
- ? The strategic management of green spaces for the benefit of wildlife.
- ? How links between parks as well as across the boundary, can be utilised.
- ? Cycle and pedestrian routes
- ? The influence of neighbourhood sports facilities
- ? The provision of different types of space where the Neighbourhood Partnership Area's boundary is easily crossed

Who has been involved so far?

To inform the Ideas and Options Paper, a series of participation events took place with local community representatives and groups as well as relevant experts and professionals. These events included information sessions, meetings, workshops and site visits to gain information and thoughts about sites, to gauge their value to local people and get feedback on investment opportunities as well as possible disposal sites.

Those that we asked for comments in Bishopston, Cotham and Redland included:

- ? Representatives of the Neighbourhood
- ? local primary schools
- ? The Police and Community Safety Officers
- ? Members of the park groups affiliated with Redland Green, Cotham Gardens and St Andrews Park
- ? Bristol City Council Officers including park managers, landscape designers, archeologists, ecologists, highway engineers, Cycling City, planners and sports development workers

All ideas were considered and we are very grateful for the input from all those that attended sessions to discuss their green spaces.

We are now asking all residents and interest groups to give their views.

It is important to note that the options set out are the council's interpretation, and they take into account not only stakeholder views but the policies outlined in the Parks and Green Space Strategy, the emerging Bristol Development Framework requirements and other council initiatives. The options have not necessarily been endorsed by any of the above stakeholders, who also have the opportunity to give their views through this consultation

The role of park groups

There are a number of well established parks groups in this Neighbourhood Partnership Area who play a very active role in securing improvements to the parks in question. Some have already been involved in the drafting of, and consultation on, improvement plans for their parks.

In this Neighbourhood Partnership Area a number of community groups take interest in their local parks and green spaces. The Redland and Cotham Amenities Society take an active role in both Redland Green and Cotham Gardens, while the Friends of St Andrews Park and Friends of Horfield Common are closely involved in their respective space.

Representatives of all the groups have participated in the discussion sessions held and took the opportunity to share their experiences with one another.

Funding the proposals

The Parks and Green Space Strategy projected that achieving a 'good' standard of provision across the whole Bristol parks and green space network will cost £87million in capital funding (at 2006 prices) over 20 years. This is the cost of putting in new facilities (e.g playgrounds, sports pavilions) and infrastructure (e.g footpaths, railings) in to parks. The Strategy laid out how this funding would be raised based on knowledge in 2006. It identified the following funding sources: contributions from developers, external funding such as lottery grants, money from the disposal of green space and the council core parks and estates budget. Taking into account the more detailed work that has been done in drawing up this paper, the current economic position and changes to developer's contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy these figures will need to be revised following this consultation.

It is important to emphasise that investment will take place as and when funding becomes available based on priorities which will be identified following the response to this consultation. If not enough funding is available then options which are least important may not be taken forward. The consultation questionnaire accompanying the Ideas and Options Paper is designed to not only allow respondents to state whether they support ideas or not, but also to help them prioritise.

Sale of some green space to raise money to re-invest

Area Green Space Plans will propose which green spaces the council might dispose of to raise money to reinvest back into park improvements. The council's usual policy is that all receipts from disposals should go into a 'single capital pot' for distribution to overall priorities but in this case 70% will be ring fenced for reinvestment in to all parks.

There are no spaces in the Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership Area being proposed for disposal.



Section 3.

Investment ideas and options

This section presents a range of spatial and investment options for all accessible green spaces within the Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership Area, setting out what facilities are needed and where. The aim is to meet the policies and open space standards set out in the Parks and Green Space Strategy and respond to ideas gathered from members of the local community and professional stakeholders from consultation carried out in 2008/9.

Area Green Space Plan Officers considered all ideas against any constraints and an analysis of individual open spaces. For each open space or park, ideas and options are highlighted as a result of this.

Your comments, ideas and priorities will be used to inform a final Area Green Space Plan for Bishopston, Redland and Cotham.

Parks or open spaces for which proposals would result in significant change are presented in this section as 'concept plans'.

No decisions have been made and all ideas and options are open to comment and influence through the consultation.

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St Andrews Park

St Andrews Park is located on the boundary of the Bishopston and Ashley wards to the east of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. The park is very popular with people of all ages and is used in many different ways by the various groups that visit the park. Currently the park comprises large open spaces, a play area enclosed within a large dog-free space, a successful mobile café and a bowling green. Provision for children is good with the play space receiving investment through the Play Pathfinder Project which has extended the play facilities. In addition to this, the paddling pool offers a unique experience and is a popular feature.

Membership and use of the bowling green has been declining in recent years, there is no longer a club associated with the facilities and it is not currently in use. A storage depot is near the entrance at Effingham Road, close to the bowling green.

The park is used in a variety of different ways, such as: public events, a kickabout space, frisbee games, picnics and barbecues. This diversity in demand sometimes leads to a conflict of uses and it is important to address this without diminishing the variety of ways the park is used.

What we want to achieve

To retain the park as a traditional park and continue the multi-functional nature of uses. The park should offer facilities that reflect the diversity of uses and that reinforce the socially inclusive nature of the park.

Ideas and options

- 1 Maintain the children's play area and paddling pool. Look for opportunities to enhance and improve further, for example relocating the paddling pool closer to the playground
- 2 Introduce a new formal entrance at Effingham Road including signage and gateway arch. This should also include options to improve road safety at the entrance.
- 3 Improve the boundary of the existing storage depot facilities, with fencing and gates made of materials in keeping with the site
- 4 Erect a bandstand for use at public events and as a social meeting point, possibly at a central location within the park
- 5 Continue to provide a café but consider the possibility of expanding or making it a permanent structure
- 6 Explore opportunities for alternative uses for the existing bowling green area. This could include a multi-use events area, toilets or MUGA. (see page 9 for more options)
 - Introduce permanent barbecue facilities
 - Provide picnic area with robust seating and tables

"We are proud of the park and how so many different groups use it. It should be a place where everyone can mix together"

local stakeholder



St Andrews Park

Options for changes of use of the Bowling Green Site

With the removal of the bowling green there is an opportunity to bring the area 'back into the park'. As the space is relatively large, the Area Green Space Plan sets out options that attempt to best achieve the right use of the space. The ideas set out in each option are by no means exclusive and there is an opportunity to 'mix and match'. Please let us know what your priorities would be.

Option 1 - Create a young persons area

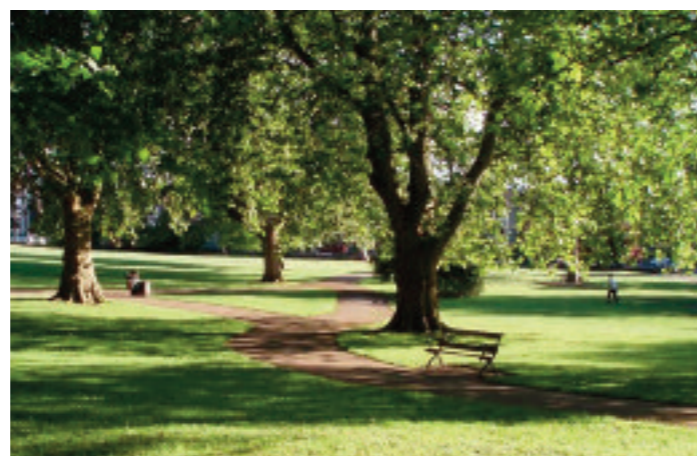
Although play exists in the park and at Redland Green, with play areas for younger children at Cotham Gardens and Horfield Common, these facilities do not offer a dedicated provision for young people. Through stakeholder consultation it became apparent that this type of facility is lacking in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area and this area could be a possible location. Ideas and options could include:

- More adventurous play equipment such as a climbing wall
- Social meeting area with seating
- Possibility of introducing a Multi-Use-Games-Area
- Small scale equipment for skateboarding/BMX riding
- Opportunity to provide a range of unique facilities such as freestyle wheels park or Parkour equipment

Option 2 - Create a sensory garden

This area is the only level part of the park which means that access is good for all groups in the community. A possible option for this area could be a self contained 'sensory garden' that can be enjoyed by all and would provide a wide range of sensory experiences. The space could be used for educational as well as recreational purposes and would encourage interactive participation through tactile plants and features. Such a provision would require a high level of maintenance and repair. Ideas and options for facilities could include:

- An interactive sensory trail that would make use of different sounds, smells, colours and textures, including varied surfaces
- Varied water features
- Planting that offers a wide range of colours and textures
- Interactive sculptures with levers and switches
- Varied surfaces with opportunities to climb and play
- Seating
- Potentially provide a permanent café utilising the current bowling pavilion, relocated from its current position
- Opportunity to provide a greenhouse/indoor area



Option 3 - Create an activity area

The space could be integrated into the wider park with facilities for all users. Through the stakeholder process, it is evident that users of the park value its inclusiveness and how the park has something to offer everybody. This could, therefore be an opportunity to enhance this experience with an area that provides for a wide range of activities that reflect the current use of the park. Ideas and options could include:

- Move café facility to this location, utilising the current bowling pavilion
- Seating area with ornamental planting
- Barbecue area
- Exercise equipment that can be used by all age groups, including equipment for older people
- Create a community events area



Option 4 - Create a wildlife area

Given the lack of natural green space in the Neighbourhood Partnership, this could be an opportunity to introduce this element into the park. Ideas and options could include:

- Wildlife pond or wetland area
- Landscaped mounds
- A variety of planting
- Seating
- Nature walk with information boards
- Explore the opportunity of introducing a community garden or allotments

"If the bowling green is going, it should be opened out so that everyone can use the space it uses."

local resident's ideas

These are ideas and options. We cannot afford to do all of these suggestions. Please tell us what your priorities would be and give us your ideas by completing the questionnaire at www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp

Redland Green

Redland Green is a relatively large space, currently designated as a traditional park, that is well used and popular with residents. It is very well regarded and attracts a variety of users with facilities for children and young people's play, sports provision in the form of a bowling green, a formal area adjacent to the church and informal green space to the north. The park also includes small areas of natural green space of benefit to wildlife.

A well used private sports facility directly abuts the park to the west and a cycle route runs through the park, which adds an element of passing supervision and creates a feeling of security. However, it is recognised that the busy cycle path sometimes results in a clash with other visitors. This is particularly evident where a blind corner exists at the western tip of the play area.

Another possible conflict identified through the stakeholder consultation process is vehicle access through the park and car parking and movement in Redland Green Road at the south of the space. Where cars travel through the park, this could represent a danger to visitors and must also be examined. Bollards will be introduced in the near future to prevent parking along the access road.

The Redland and Cotham Amenity Society have invested a great deal of time and money into the park and take an active role in ensuring improvements are taken forward.

What we want to achieve

To retain the park as a traditional park and continue the multi-functional nature of its use, while making the space safe for all users and enhancing the relationship with the surrounding environment.

"The park is a wonderful place to be, especially when it's sunny and all the children are playing."

local stakeholder



Ideas and options

- Provide a mobile café and toilets within the park. There is a possibility that toilets could be introduced into the existing bowling pavilion
- ① Enhance the formal area around the play area with light ornamental planting, seating and bins
- ② Improve pedestrian safety at Redland Green Road, such as traffic restrictions or sympathetic fencing adjacent to the road
- ③ Use the slope for a natural amphitheatre for possible events and social meeting area
- Create a clearly designated and dedicated cycle path to avoid conflict with pedestrians
- ④ Cut back or remove boundary hedges from the children's play area to improve visibility through the site and at the junction where pedestrian, cycle and vehicle routes meet
- ⑤ Enhance the natural valley area for wildlife and access into the area, including information boards and steps of natural materials. This area could also utilise the slope and natural area for natural play including slides and scramble nets
- ⑥ Keep playground in a good state of repair while enhancing and expanding the facility
- ⑦ Improve stepped access from Metford Road and Cossins Road - this should explore the possibility of new seating and lighting
- New lighting along footpaths, possibly ground level solar lights
- Retain bowling green
- Improve all footpaths to a good standard
- ⑧ Provide a kick about area with fixed goal posts

These are ideas and options. We cannot afford to do all of these suggestions. Please tell us what your priorities would be and give us your ideas by completing the questionnaire at www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp

Cotham Gardens

Cotham Gardens is currently designated as formal green space, along with children's play. It is a very popular space for local residents and is well used throughout the year. The park has been subject to some anti-social behaviour, resulting in seating and picnic tables being removed, but is generally a welcoming environment to all visitors.

The area in the eastern corner is less well used as it falls on a downward slope and is not visible from the rest of the park. Possibilities should therefore be explored on how to best use this area, potentially focussing on enhancing its wildlife value.

What we want to achieve

To retain and enhance the formal character of the site and children's play space, making it a safe and welcoming place for local people.

Ideas and options

- 1 Enhance the children's play space with varied equipment such as external table tennis tables and natural play equipment
- 2 Create an area of wildflower meadow or natural planting on the slope in the eastern corner
- 3 Improved pathways with some lighting
- 4 Provide a sheltered teen seating area
- 5 Create a picnic and barbecue area
- 6 Enlarge the dog free area to cover the majority of the park, leaving Lovers Walk free for dog walking

"There needs to be more for teens here, maybe a seating area by the road?"

local resident's ideas

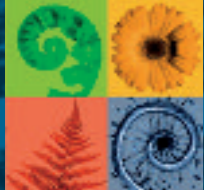


Lover's Walk



Sandplay area

These are ideas and options. We cannot afford to do all of these suggestions. Please tell us what your priorities would be and give us your ideas by completing the questionnaire at www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp



Other sites

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland have several other small green spaces. The following management is proposed for the sites listed below:

Name	Nature of site	What we want to achieve
Redland Grove Open Space	Redland Grove is a tree lined pedestrian avenue running south from the junction of Redland Grove and Redland Road to the Redland Train station, offering informal green space. The function of the space is predominantly visual, providing a green landscape amongst the residential properties, but is also used by dog walkers.	There are no proposals for this site other than the continued maintenance to a good standard.
Muller Road Amenity Area	This space acts as a visual break on the busy Muller Road and given this location, along with its restricted size, is not suitable for other uses.	The space is therefore proposed to be retained and enhanced for visual amenity with ornamental planting.
Elm Lane	This space acts as a green break in a residential area and given this location, along with its restricted size, is not suitable for other uses.	The space is therefore proposed to be retained and enhanced for visual amenity with ornamental planting.
Muller House Green Space	As part of the redevelopment of the Ashley Down Road college site, an area of green space was created to provide informal green space and a children's play area, which is to be implemented in the future. This space is located to the rear of Muller House in the far east of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area.	No further proposals are put forward for this site other than to maintain the space to a good standard.
Station Road Amenity Area	This amenity area has been recently created with funding from the Cycling City Project as part of the improvement works to the Northern Cycle Route. Works have included landscaping and a new planting scheme, with the future introduction of seating.	No further proposals are put forward for this site other than to maintain the space to a good standard.



The Ardagh, Horfield Common

This well used space falls on the edge of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area and forms part of the wider Horfield Common.

For the purposes of creating a comprehensive set of investment proposals for the whole of Horfield Common, the ideas and options for this part of the space are included within the Horfield and Lockleaze Ideas and Options document.



Section 4.

Future opportunities

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland, although not well served for in terms of the quantity of open space, has a very high resident satisfaction with the quality of open space. The ideas put forward by members of the local community were comprehensive and where possible the proposals in the Area Green Space Plan reflect this. As a result a draft strategic vision for open space that meets the aims and objectives of the Parks and Green Space strategy has been drawn up.

However, in addition a number of further opportunities could be explored in the future:

As the area has one of the lowest amounts of publicly accessible open space in the city, it becomes important to promote the spaces in the right way. How parks in the area link together as well as how they link to open spaces outside of the Neighbourhood Partnership could be enhanced. Direction signs, interpretation boards, set walks and trails could be promoted to make best use of the open space in the area. This could be enhanced further by creating 'green links' between spaces with additional planting along pedestrian, cycle and vehicle routes. The Neighbourhood Partnership has begun the process of identifying areas that require tree planting in order to encourage green links, including Gloucester Road and other key routes, and the Area Green Space Plan would encourage this process to be taken further. Making these links more attractive would create a network of green spaces that complement each other, and allow parks to work in conjunction with one another.

Under the current Cycling City project, key cycle routes are in the process of being enhanced. There could be further opportunity to create new spaces or routes in the future.

Availability of suitable land to create new, publicly accessible open space is short in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. Future housing developments in the area may create opportunities to provide new open space. Opportunities to bring existing open space that is currently not publicly accessible into public use could be investigated. A number of possible sites have been identified as follows:

Bishop Road Playing Fields

Currently used for education purposes, but could be investigated to see whether it was possible to allow community use or full public use. This would fill a gap in provision at the centre of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area and, if it were to become publicly accessible, could possibly accommodate a children's play area.

Local Schools

There would also be possibilities in using school grounds for public access and this has been raised by stakeholders in this Neighbourhood Partnership Area. This should be pursued within the lifetime of the Area Green Space Plan.



Appendix 1. How the Area Green Space Plan is meeting the Parks and Green Space Strategy standards

The Parks and Green Space Strategy adopted new minimum standards for the provision of publicly accessible green space. There are three specific standards:

1. Quality Standard – a level of quality which all spaces should attain.
2. Distance Standard - how far should people have to travel to reach a particular type of space.
3. Quantity Standard - how much green space of different types there should be.

A key aim of this Area Green Space Plan is to propose how these standards will be met in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area of Bishopston, Cotham and Redland.

Quality

A Bristol quality standard has been devised in consultation with national advisers and local parks users, which takes into account design, condition and maintenance, and assesses a comprehensive range of features of parks and open spaces. It takes into account a number of aspects which are of particular public concern such as entrances, safety feel, and facilities.

Before the adoption of the Parks and Green Space Strategy, each park and green space across the city was assessed for its quality. As a result the council was able to know which sites met the Quality Standard and which sites needed improving. On a 1 to 4 scale (poor, fair, good and excellent), where 3, or 'good', is the quality standard threshold, the quality assessment process revealed an average quality level across Bristol of 2 (fair).

The final Area Green Space Plan will be informed by a review of the quality of parks and green spaces - to take place this year. This is because the original assessment is now between 4 and 5 years old and does not take into account investment to improve spaces over this time. For this reason an analysis of quality in each Neighbourhood Partnership Area is not shown here.

Distance Standard

The aim of the distance standard is to protect and promote an accessible network of green space. The distance standards are based on research on how far Bristol residents feel it's reasonable to walk to get to the different types of space, combined with an analysis of Bristol's layout to ensure the standards are credible. A distance standard has been set for each of the five different types of space recognised by the Parks and Green Space Strategy.

The maps on the following pages demonstrate how well the standard for each type of space is currently met across the Neighbourhood Partnership Area and how proposals to invest in new types of space will improve access across the area.

When proposing a new type of space the Area Green Space Plan ensures that the existing value and character of a site is enhanced and not compromised. If it is clear that the existing type is of high value then no change is proposed and either an alternative site is found or it is accepted that the standards may not be met in that area.

The distances proposed are in the table below:

Distance Standard	Distance 'as the crow flies' (metres)	Estimated Time (minutes walk)
Distance to the nearest green space	400	9
Children's play space	450	10
Formal green Space	600	15
Informal green space	550	13
Natural green space	700	18
Active sports space	Determined by Playing Pitch Strategy	

Barriers to access

When applying distance standards barriers to getting to parks such as railways, rivers, major roads, hills and valleys and large industrial areas have been taken into account. When considering these barriers any legitimate crossing points - bridges or pelican crossings for example - have been located. The effect of barriers and crossing points is incorporated in to the application of each distance standard across the area.

The Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership Area is relatively free from barriers to access. Gloucester Road is a main arterial route running through the centre of the area, but with numerous opportunities to cross the road is not considered to be a barrier. Similarly, Whiteladies Road forms the western boundary of the NPA, but is also easily crossed. The railway line cuts through the Cotham ward from east to west, although, again, there are several opportunities to cross over or underneath this. All barriers to access have been considered when applying the distance standard.

Children and young people's space

Bishopston, Cotham and Redland is currently under-provided for in terms of children's play, with only 5 play sites in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area located at Horfield Common, Redland Green, St Andrews Park and Cotham Gardens and a new one at Muller House Green Space. The north eastern tip of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area, to

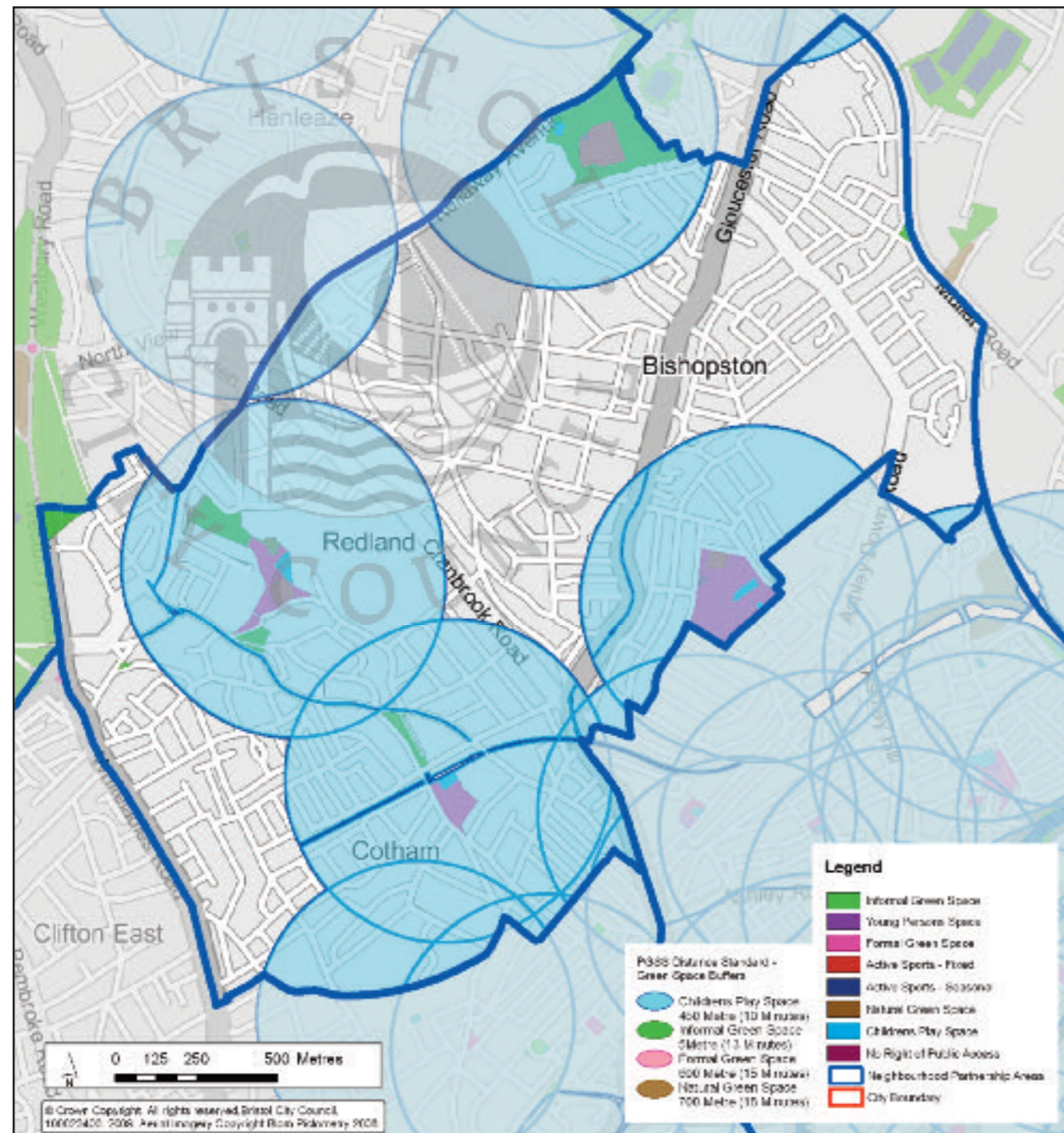
the west of Muller Road, will also benefit from a new play area at Muller Road Recreation Ground located in the Horfield and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Partnership Area.

This means that several areas will still be outside the distance standard, but it is not considered that there are any suitable, safe and accessible sites within these areas to accommodate play space to the necessary standards.

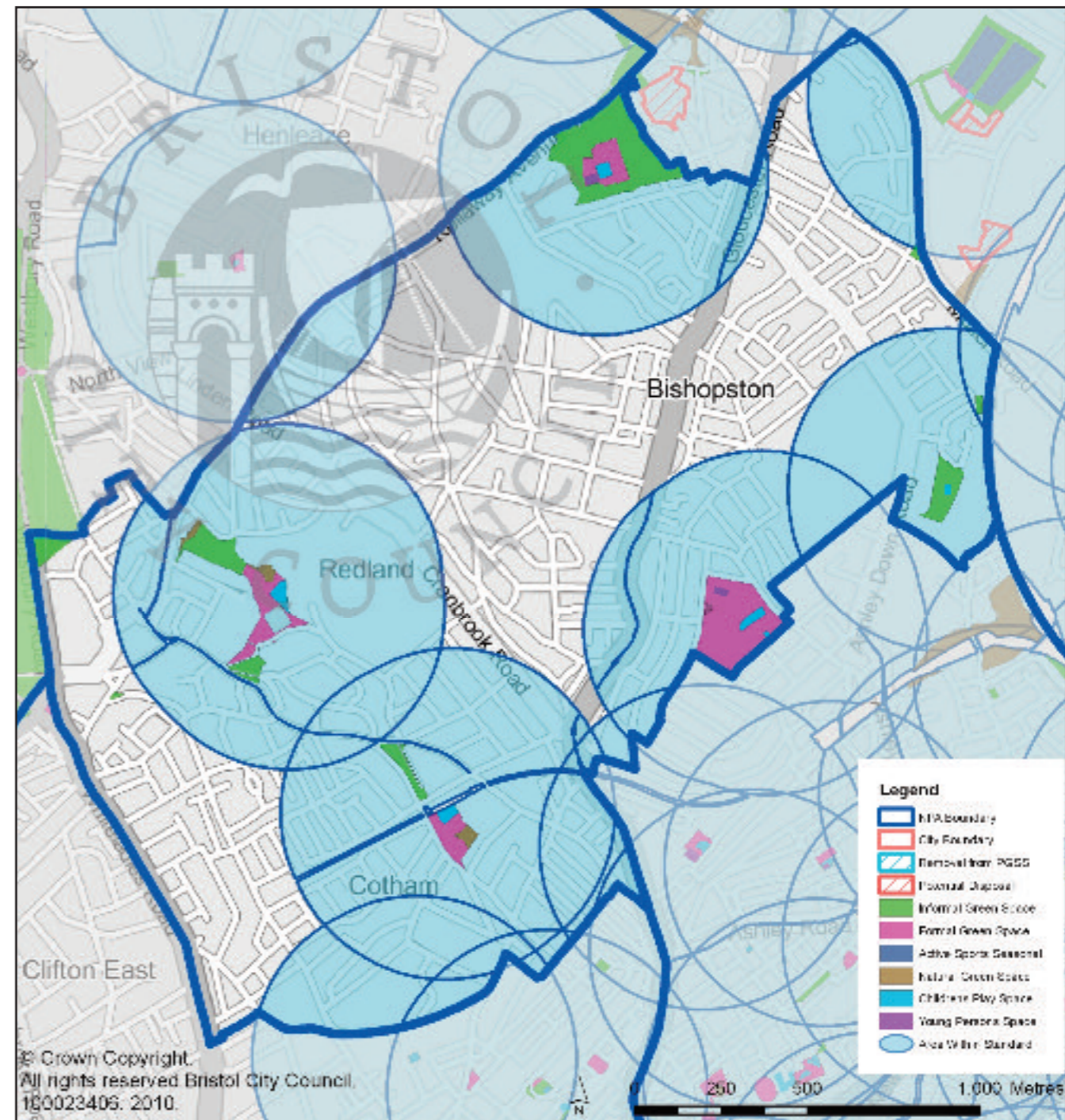
It could be investigated to see whether Bishop Road Playing Fields could become accessible for community use or full public use and could possibly accommodate a children's play area, which would fill a gap of provision in the centre of the area.

The total population outside the 450m distance standard will fall from 51% to 42%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years

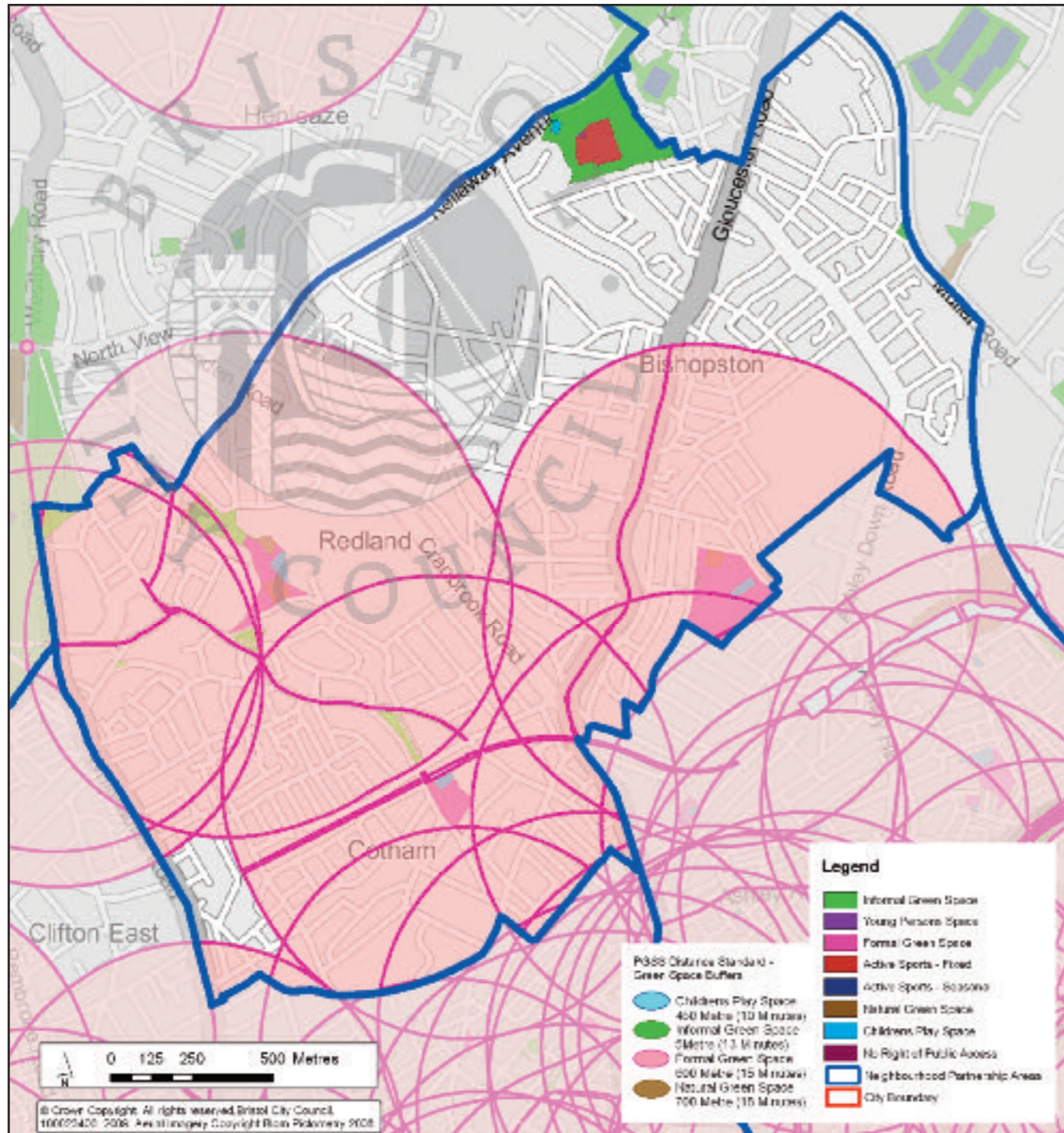


Formal Green Space

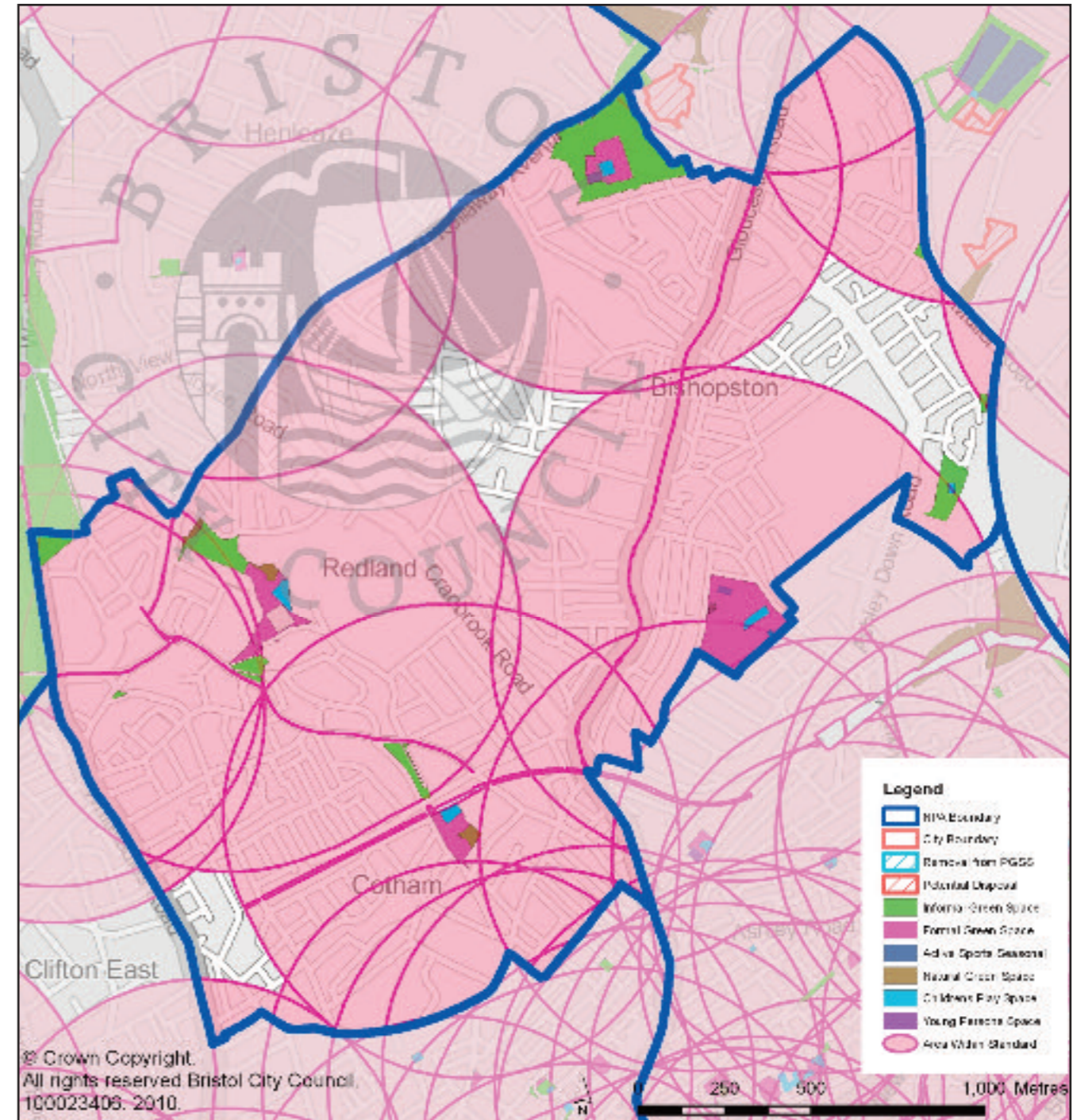
Formal Green Space provision in the existing spaces will remain largely unaltered, with a small area lost in favour of Natural Green Space in Cotham Gardens, though the effect of this on the distance standard with be negligible. New formal space at the Ardagh and at Muller Road Recreation Ground outside the Neighbourhood Partnership boundary will serve a large proportion of the northern area of Bishopston.

The percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standard for Formal Green Space will fall from 31% to 12%

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years

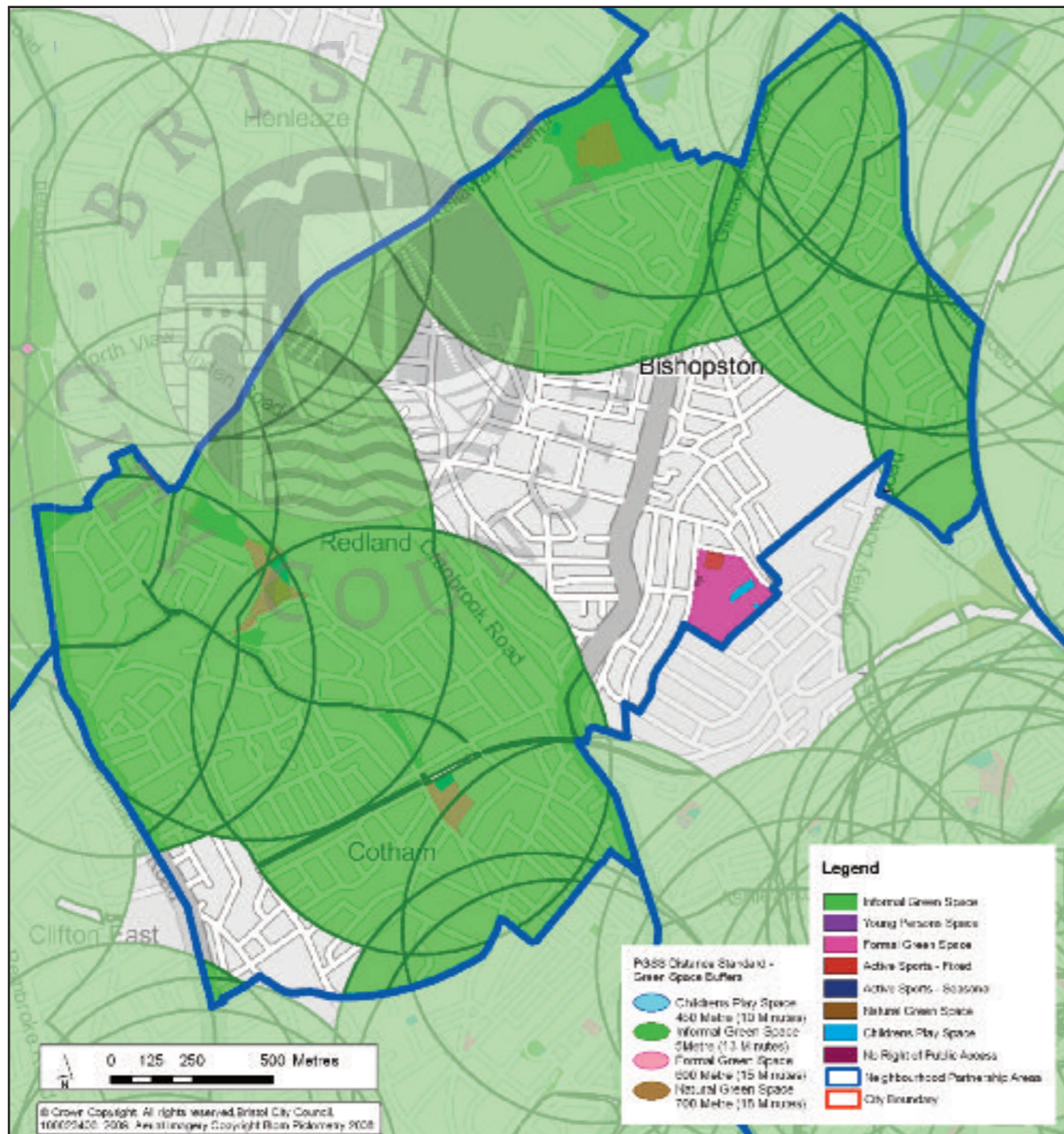


Informal Green Space

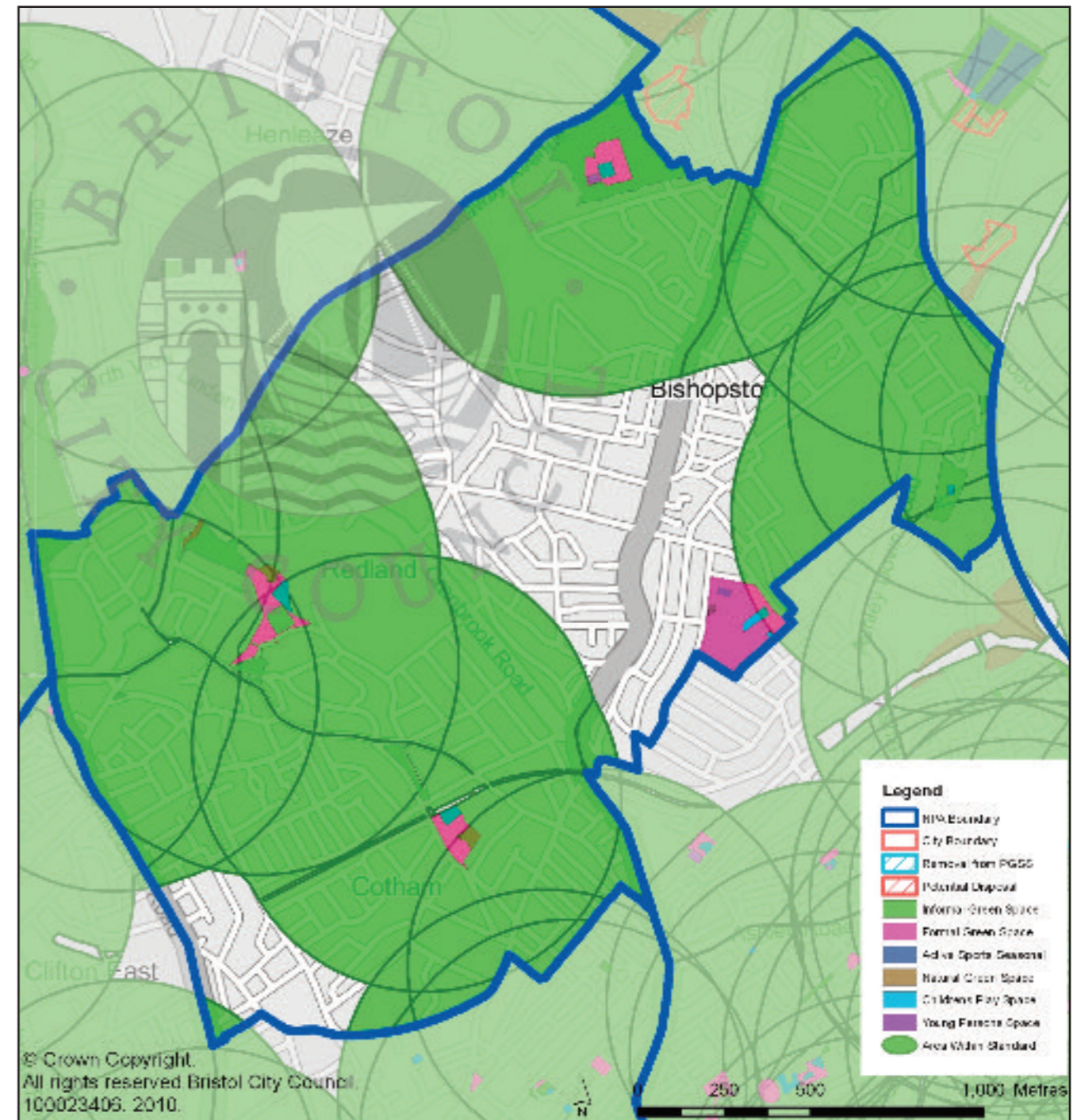
Informal Green Space provision has already increased with the introduction of Muller House Green Space and the area adjacent to Station Road. A small area of Informal Space will be lost at Redland Green in favour of enhancing the area for Natural Green Space on the northern boundary. The effect of this on the distance standard from this will be negligible.

The percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standard for Informal Green Space will alter from 26% to 24%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years



Natural Green Space

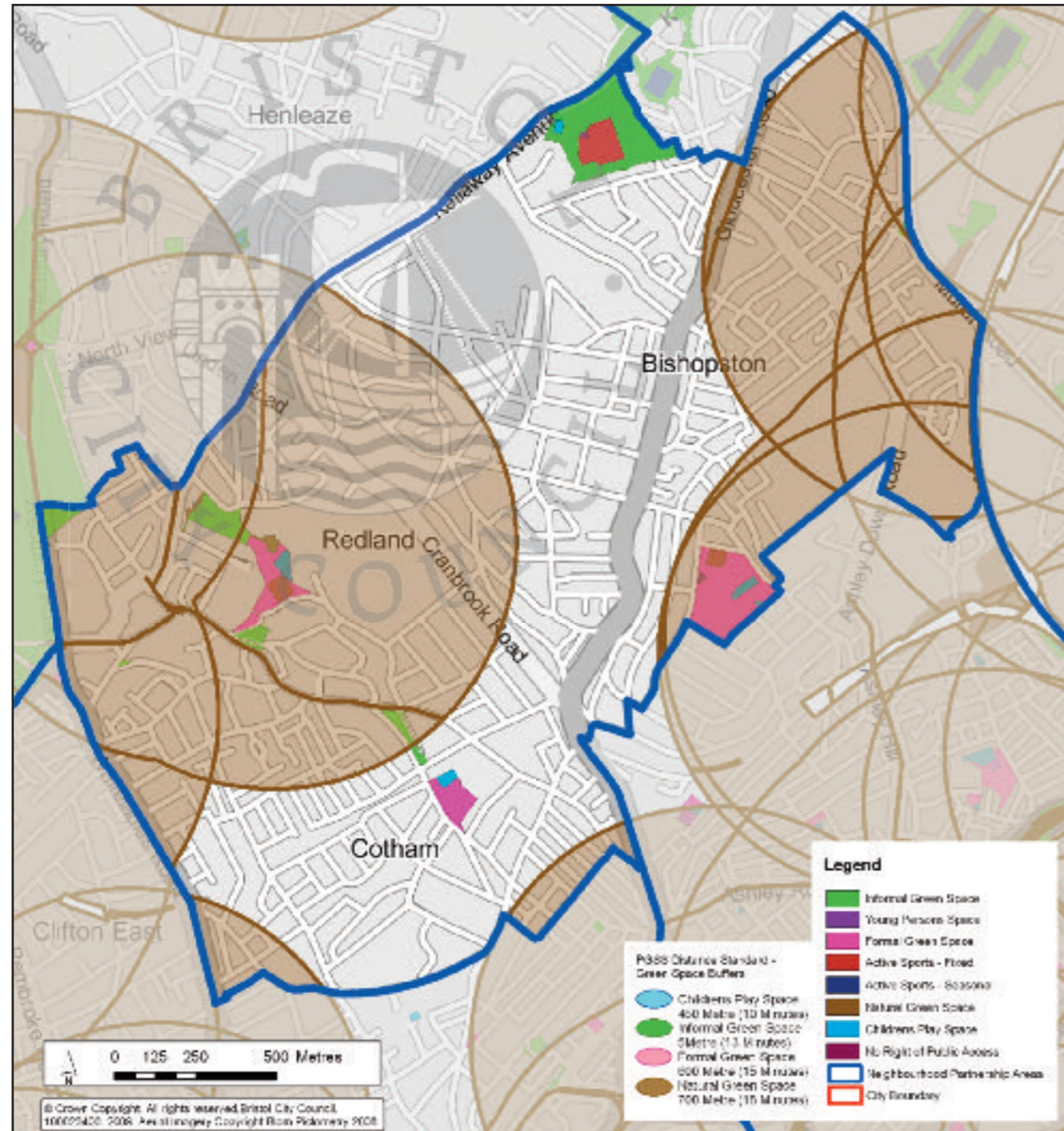
Natural Green Space is currently at a premium in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area with only a small area in Redland Green. Spaces outside the Neighbourhood Partnership Area including The Downs, Purdown Open Space and Narrowways cater for the population of Bishopston, Cotham and Redland. These large and easily accessible spaces

reduce the demand for large Natural Green Spaces within this Neighbourhood Partnership Area.

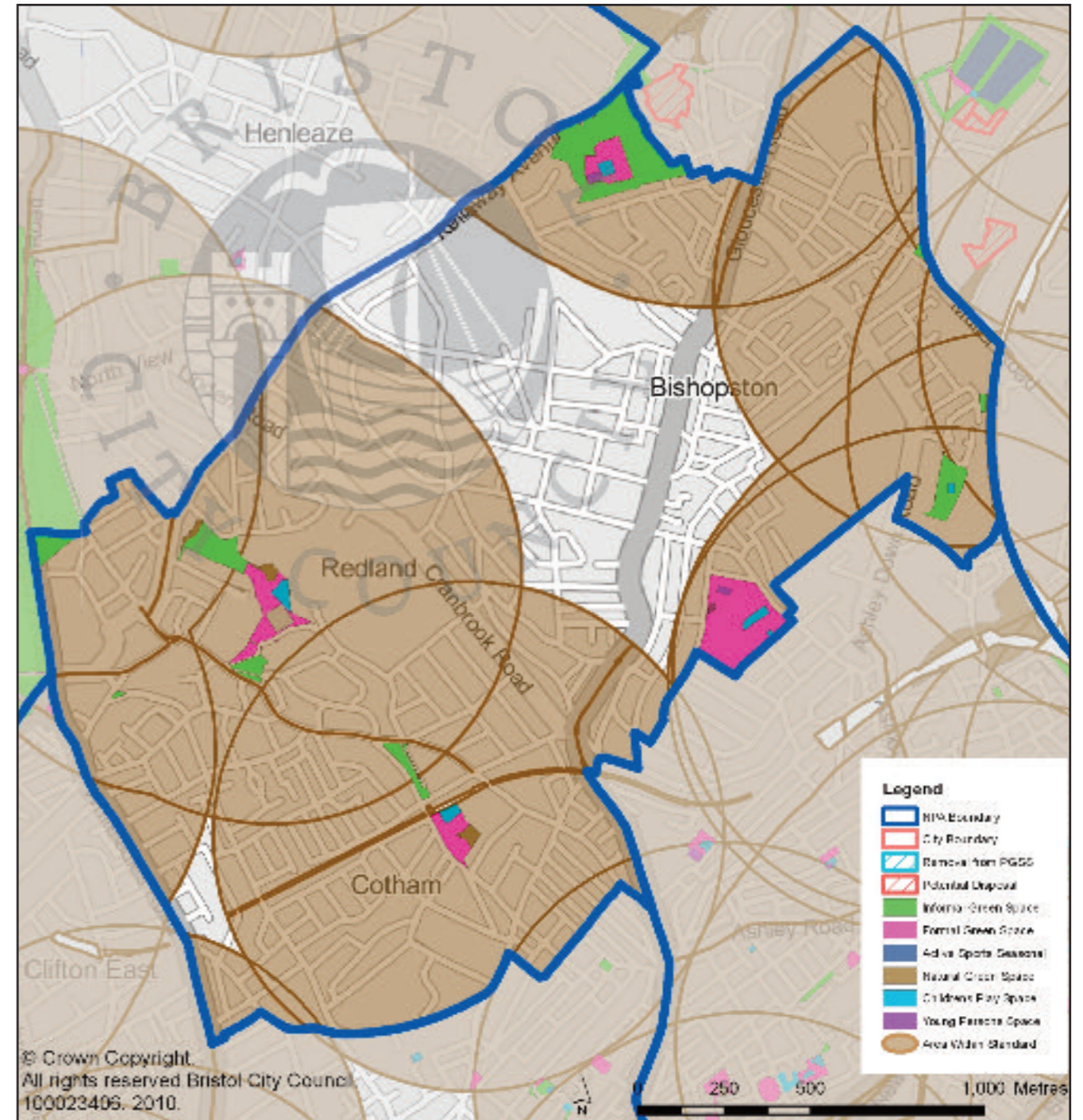
However, it is proposed to provide a small area of Natural Green Space in Cotham Gardens and to increase and enhance the Natural Green Space in Redland Green. There is also new provision within Horfield Common across the boundary that will serve this Neighbourhood Partnership Area. The

percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standard for Natural Green Space will fall from 49% to 18%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years

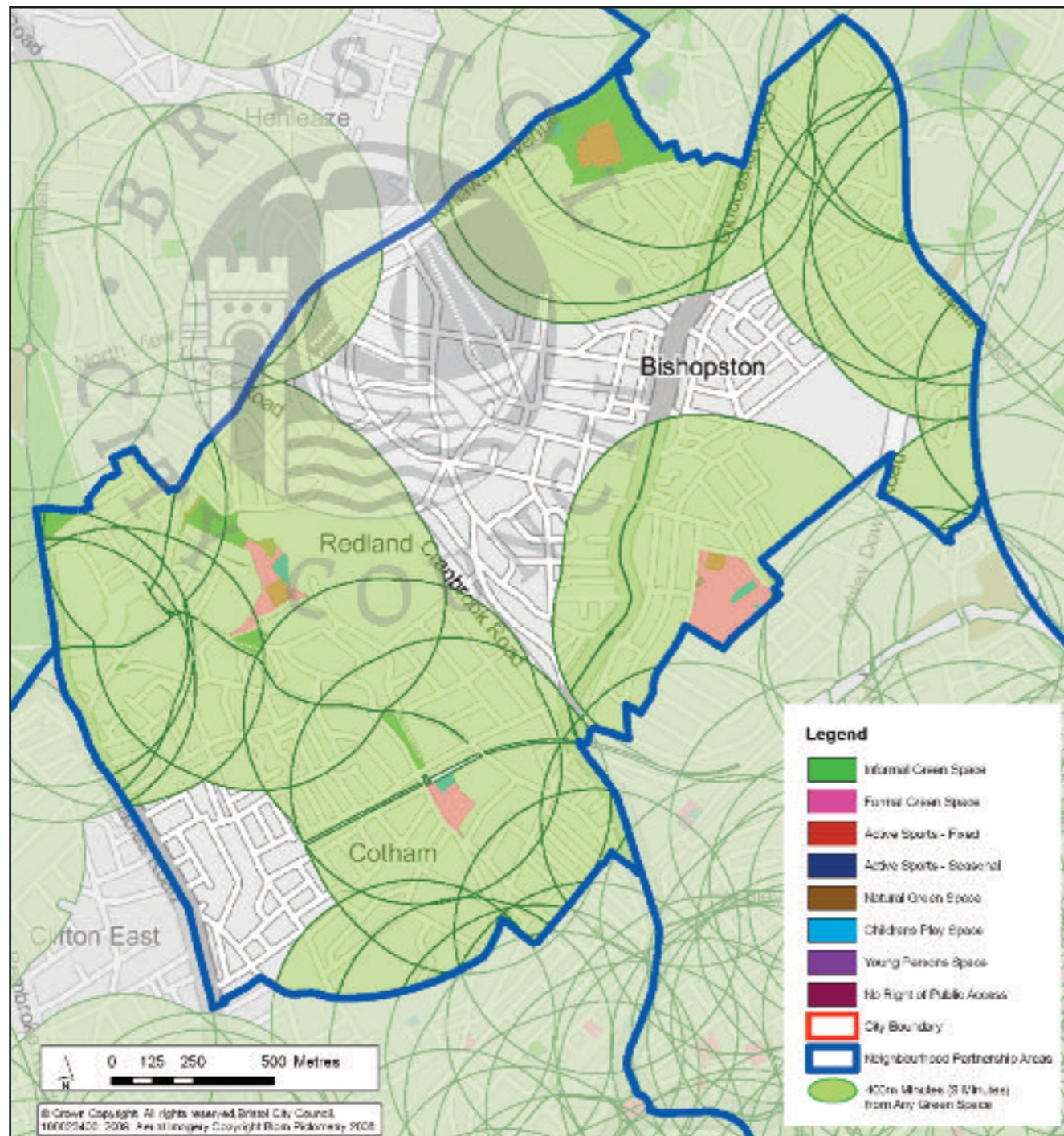


Distance to the nearest green space

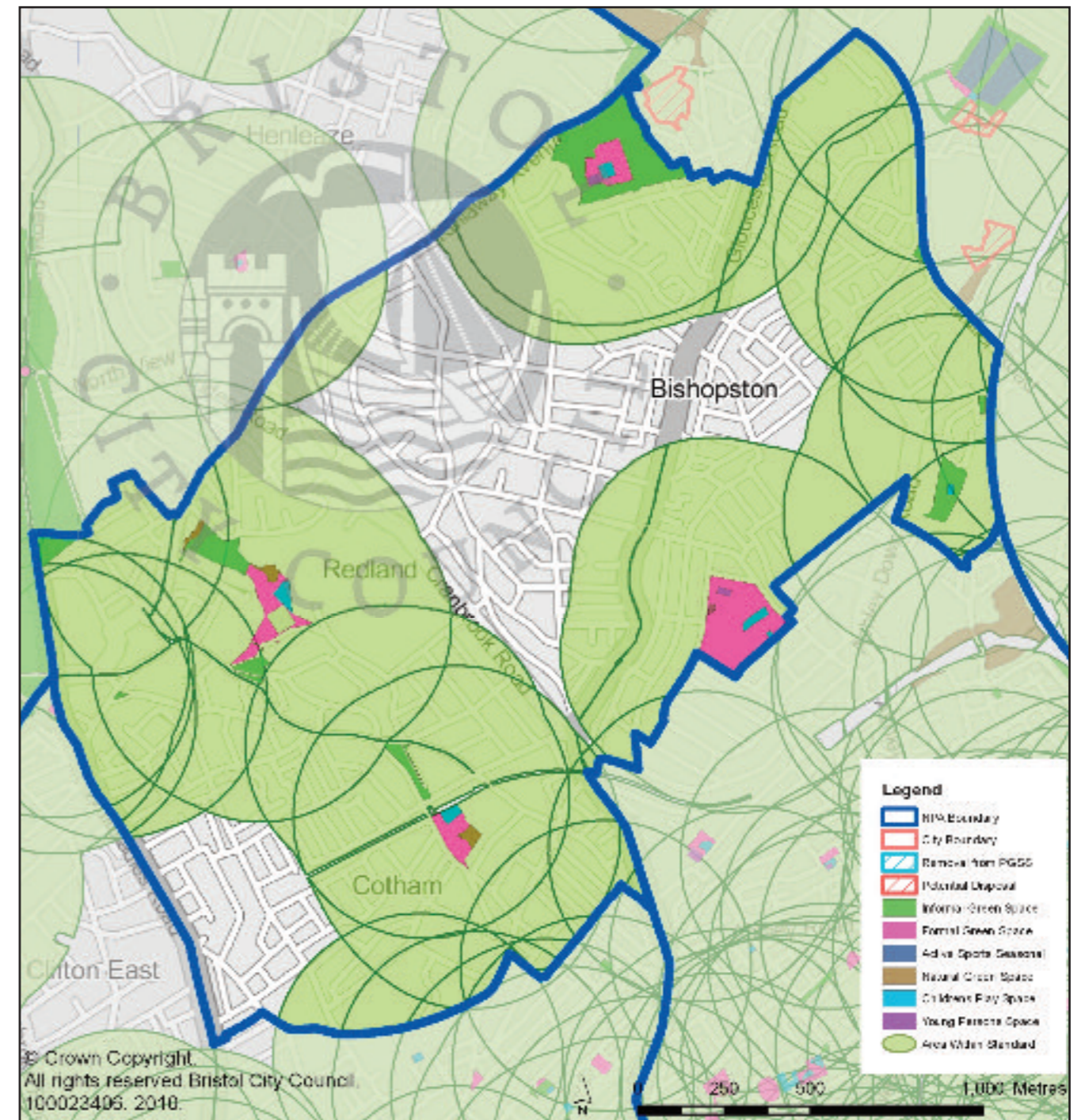
The Neighbourhood Partnership Area currently has restricted access to open space with 28% of the population outside the basic 400m standard for access to all public open space and gaps of provision can be found in the centre of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area.

New space has been provided at Muller House Green Space which accounts for increasing coverage to the east of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area, but given the lack of suitable, accessible sites, the central area remains under-provided for. This could be alleviated if other land were to become available (see Future Opportunities section on page 13). The percentage of the future population outside the basic distance standard will fall slightly from 28% to 27%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years



Quantity

The Quantity Standard relates to the amount of green space that should be in the city.

The Quantity Standard has both a citywide and a local component. The citywide Quantity Standard is the figure used to compare Bristol and its standards with other cities and is largely fixed. However, for planning and land management purposes the local component is more important because it ensures there is an adequate supply in every neighbourhood.

1. Local component – the minimum amount of green space that any area should have.
2. Citywide component – the total amount of space within all the city’s large destination parks. This includes Blaise/Kingsweston, Oldbury Court/Snuff Mills, The Downs, Hengrove Play Park, and the area of Ashton Court that sits within the city’s boundary. These are sites that attract citywide and regional visitors.

Proposed minimum quantity standard:

	sq m/capita	Hectares/1000 pop
Locality Component	18.0	1.80
City wide component (Destination parks)	9.8	0.98
Total Bristol Standard	27.8	2.78

Locality Standards for different types of space:

	sq m/capita	Hectares/1000 pop
Children’s play space	0.3	0.03
Formal green space	2.0	0.20
Informal green space	8.0	0.80
Natural green space	9.0	0.90
Active sports space	See Playing Pitch Strategy & notes below	

The changes in the type of open space proposed in the Distance Standard maps will ensure that the Quantity Standards set by the Parks and Green Space Strategy will be better met in this Neighbourhood Partnership Area.

When proposing the introduction of new types of space a projection of future population, size and location, has been considered and included in calculations. Population projection figures have been used using the latest information from the Office of National Statistics (ONS estimate). A further population projection has been generated using data informing the Bristol Development Framework, based on the city’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and Site Allocations (GLA estimate). This information makes it easier to target more precisely where new populations might be located in the future.

When open spaces are proposed for disposal, they are not included in the application of the Quantity Standard. In most circumstances, open space is not recommended for disposal if it is needed to meet minimum open space provision.


The table below sets out how well the Quantity Standard for each type of space is met at present, and the impact on this if the changes proposed were implemented. The table does the same with a future population projection included. Open spaces that are proposed for disposal are not included in these figures. In most circumstances, an open space cannot be disposed of if it is needed to meet minimum standards for the provision of publicly accessible green space.

How the Quantity Standard will be met in 2026 if related ideas and options are adopted:

	Standard sq m/person	Current provision sq m/person	ONS 2026 population estimate sq m/person	GLA 2026 population estimate sq m/person
Children’s play space	0.3	0.22	0.22	0.26
Formal green space	2.0	1.75	1.73	2.05
Informal green space	8.0	2.23	2.18	2.58
Natural green space	9.0	0.08	0.13	0.16
Locality standard	18.0	4.28	4.25	5.05

Appendix 2.

How the Area Green Space Plan is meeting the PGSS policies

Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
Children and young people		
	Developing a diverse range of children's play spaces including natural play	<p>CY1</p> <p>Since the adoption of the strategy a new play space has been provided at Muller House Green Space</p> <p>Introduction of natural play equipment in Redland Green</p> <p>Introduction of sand and water play in Cotham Gardens and an option at St Andrews Park</p>
	Provide diverse, exciting and challenging spaces for young people	<p>CY2</p> <p>One of the four options for the bowling green would provide new young people's facilities at St Andrews Park with a range of equipment</p> <p>Enhancing young people's opportunities at Redland Green and Cotham Gardens with new equipment</p> <p>Provision of youth shelters across the Neighbourhood Partnership Area</p> <p>Provision of MUGAs and Wheels Parks (see page 22)</p>
	Enhance the wider park environment for play	<p>CY4</p> <p>Opportunity to provide sensory garden, wildlife trail or other educational and challenging provisions within St Andrews Park</p> <p>The enhancement of natural play and trails in Redland Green</p>

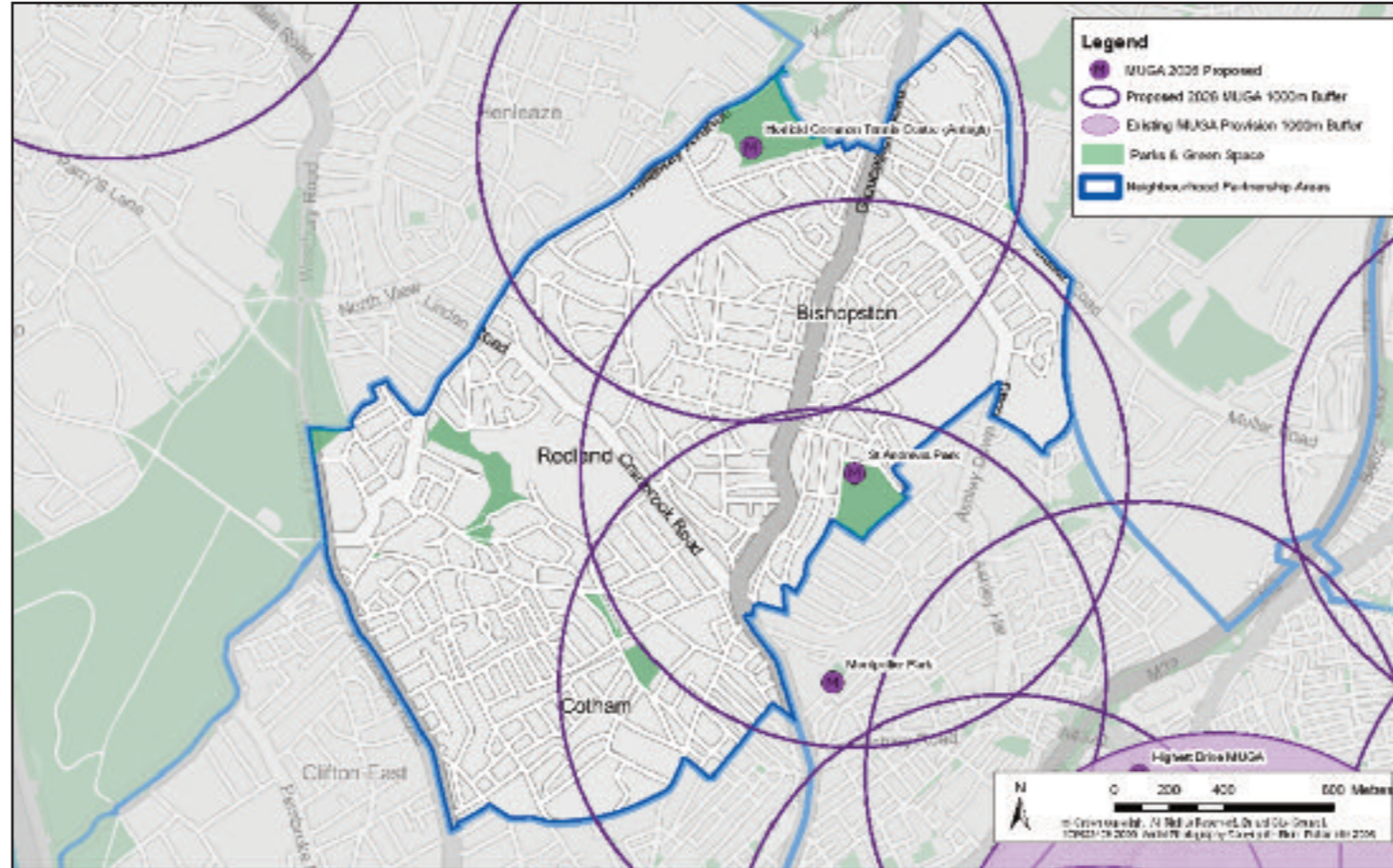
Wheels Parks and MUGAs

The Parks and Green Space Strategy sets out that young people should have access to a Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) within 1km of where they live and access to a Wheels Park within 2km.

A MUGA is an all-weather surfaced, fenced, ball court with goalposts and basketball hoops. They are commonly lit during the darker months to a set time in the evening.

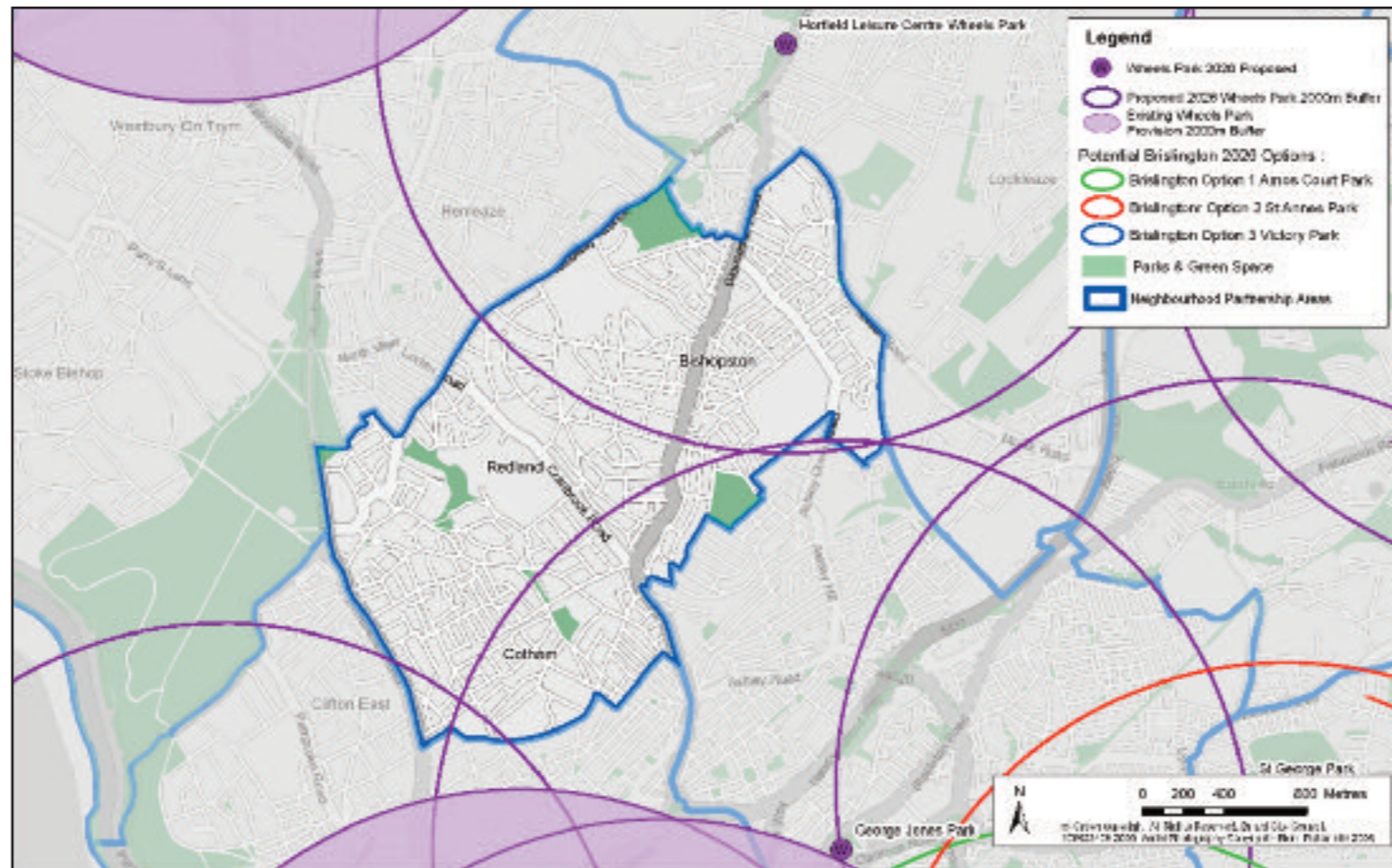
A Wheels Park is an area purposely designed for wheel sport activities. These can have a solo use like a stone chip covered BMX track or a be a multi-purpose concrete park. Wheels Parks attempt to offer a more secure setting to an activity that can be a medium to high risk activity.

The maps opposite identify the areas covered by potential facilities. The western section of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area remains outside provision.



Potential Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) with 1km Distance Performance Target

MUGA's at Montpellier Park and Horfield Common cater for this Neighbourhood Partnership Area. The option of a MUGA in St Andrews Park is also shown.



Potential Wheels Parks with 2km Distance Performance Target

The Neighbourhood Partnership Area is covered by Wheels Parks outside the boundary at Horfield Common Leisure Centre.

Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
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Formal Green Space



Ensure there is a good traditional park within easy reach of home offering a range of facilities (multi-functional park with a range of facilities including a Park Keeper)

FG1

Redland Green and St Andrews Park already act as a traditional parks.

Providing a Park Keeper in all main traditional parks as a minimum

FG2

A Park Keeper currently covers St Andrews Park full-time in summer, and in winter hours will also cover Redland Green Park, Cotham Gdns, Redland Grove O/S, Horfield Tennis Centre (Ardagh))

Enhance entry points and boundaries

FG4

The Area Green Space Plan proposes improvements to boundaries and entrances across the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. See individual proposals for more details.

Provide visual planting schemes in key formal green spaces

FG7

Planting schemes already exist in key formal spaces of Cotham Gardens and St Andrews Park - proposals will enhance these provisions. Other planting schemes will be proposed across the Neighbourhood Partnership Area, see individual proposals for more details.

Informal Green Space



Tackle anti-social behaviour focusing on prevention and greater responsiveness to incidents, access and visibility

IG1

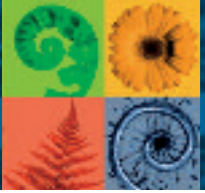
All investment proposals made in the Area Green Space Plan will act to reduce the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour in the long term by ensuring that the number of visitors increases.



Upgrade some areas of informal green space for safe play and sport, including enclosing them with railings and making them dog-free

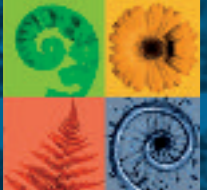
IG2


All proposals in the Area Green Space Plan will ensure the good quality maintenance of informal space.

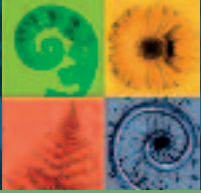
The dog-free area at Cotham Gardens will be extended to the majority of the park.



Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
Natural Green Space		
	<p>Improve maintenance and management regimes in natural green space to improve welcome and accessibility</p>	<p>NG2</p> <p>Proposals to introduce new areas of natural green space at Cotham Gardens and Redland Green will ensure better access to natural green space across the Neighbourhood Partnership Area.</p>
	<p>Improve entrances and routes through natural green space to improve welcome and security</p>	
	<p>The quality of experience and carrying capacity of a playing pitch will be enhanced by improving changing facilities, pavilions and pitch quality.</p>	<p>AS1</p> <p>Bishopston, Cotham and Redland currently has the following formal, active sports facilities: 1 x bowling green at St Andrews Park 11 (8 useable) tennis courts at the Ardagh; 1 x bowling green at the Ardagh; 1 x bowling green at Redland Green</p>
	Active Sports Space	
	<p>A smaller number of locations will provide tennis courts - but these will have multiple courts (ideally four or more) managed by either a club or someone to take bookings.</p>	<p>AS2</p> <p>Decommissioning or reducing the number of courts at the Ardagh Sports Centre is one of a number of options set out in the Horfield and Lockleaze Area Green Space Plan.</p>
	<p>Review and rationalisation of bowling provision.</p>	<p>AS3</p> <p>The bowling facility at Redland Green is to be retained, but due to low membership numbers, the St Andrews bowling club have chosen not to renew the licence and will not continue to function as such. Ideas for the bowling facility at the Ardagh Sports Centre are set out in the Horfield and Lockleaze Area Green Space Plan.</p>
	<p>Enhance the wider park environment for informal sport.</p>	<p>AS5</p> <p>See proposals for individual parks.</p>



Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
Other land management policies		
	Restore and develop park buildings for a range of alternative uses.	LM3/LM4 The current building associated with the bowling green at St Andrews Park has potential to become a permanent café with toilets as detailed in options put forward. The building would, in any case, need refurbishment as part of any improvement works.
	Provide good quality accessible toilets	LM4 A toilet facility is possible in Redland Green.
	Improve access to green spaces for a wider range of people by creating dog free spaces whilst ensuring dog walkers retain a varied choice of green space to visit	LM5 All new play areas should be fenced off and made dog-free spaces.



Ideas and Options Paper Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Area Green Space Plan

