



people spaces places



Sandwell Green Space Audit Borough Report Appendices

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Appendix A
All Green Space in the Borough

Site ID	Asset Ref	Name	Alternative Name	Hierarchy	Typology	Access	Town	Ward	Area (Ha)
1001	OS0249	Brierley Lane Open Space	Henn Drive Open Space	Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	3.59
1002	OS0033	Weddell Wynd Open Space		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	14.77
1003		Bilston Road Open Space	Bradley Bridge	Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	0.69
1004	OS0250	Tipton Linear Park	Gospel Oak Branch Canal/Linear	Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	4.99
1005	RK6	Tipton Sports Academy		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Tipton	Princes End	5.59
1006	QM3	Wednesbury Oak Play Area		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	2.11
1007	OS0034	Laybourne Park		Local	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	0.93
1008	OS0252	Princes End Branchline Walkway		Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	6.41
1009	OS0055	Lichfield Street Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	2.81
1010		Tibbington Playing Fields		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	2.28
1011	OS0376	Tibbington Open Space	The Cracker	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	14.83
1012	PB10	Stella Road Allotments	Lee Howl Allotments	Neighbourhood	Allotments	Limited	Tipton	Tipton Green	2.41
1013	OS0279	Bloomfield Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.38
1014	OS0071	Central Avenue/Upper Church Lane		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	1.94
1015		Moat Road/Grace Road Embankment		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	1.3
1016	OS0056	Henn Street Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	0.45
1017	OS0059	Hall Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	2.05
1018	QJ6	Jubilee Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	12.01
1019	OS0251	Oker Hill Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Tipton	Princes End	0.64
1020		St Marks Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	1.23
1021		Boulton Court		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	0.71

1022		Bayleys Lane	Marl Pit/Pool	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.89
1023		MEB Sports Ground		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Tipton	Great Bridge	4.59
1024	PC7	Beever Road		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Tipton	Great Bridge	1.01
1025	OS0277	Aston Street Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.38
1026		Great Western Street		Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	2.38
1027	OS0092	Haines Branch Canal		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	1.57
1028	PB6	Sheepwash Urban Park	Sheepwash	Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	39.07
1029	QJ1	Farley Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	4.1
1030	HAS0029	Farley Park Bank		Local	Green Corridor	Not Accessible	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.59
1031		St Peters Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.84
1032	PB9	Whitehall Road Allotments		Neighbourhood	Allotments	Limited	Tipton	Great Bridge	1.27
1033		Arnhem Way Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.41
1034	OS0281	Horseley Heath Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.28
1035	OS0101	Park Lane East Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.64
1036	PP7	St Martins Church		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.38
1037	PM7	Tipton Cemetery		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	8.71
1038	OS0286	Powis Avenue Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	7.05
1040		Alexandra Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.82
1041	QL1	Victoria Park (Tipton)		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	13.78
1042		Coneygre Youth Centre		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Tipton	Tipton Green	2.88
1043		Newcomen Drive Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Tipton	Tipton Green	7.55

1044	OS0098	Dudley Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.46
1045		Prestfield Railway Line	Beans	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.82
1046		Prestfield Railway Line Oxford Way	Oxford Way	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Limited	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.29
1047		Coronation Gardens		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.39
1048		Union Street Open Space	Elliot's Road/Union Street Walk	Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.53
1049	OS0280	Furnace Parade Open Space	Factory locks	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.5
1050	OS0087	Bullers Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	1.34
1051		Beaumont Close Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.71
1052	SCAD0004	RSA Academy	Formerly Willingsworth High School	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Princes End	10.63
1053		Wendesbury Oak Academy Trust	Wendesbury Oak Junior & Infants School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Princes End	1.41
1054		The ACE Academy	Alexandra High School	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Great Bridge	2.78
1055		Summerhill Primary & Locarno Junior & Infants School	Formerly Fitzwarren School / Westminster School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Princes End	1.89
1056		St Pauls C of E Primary School	St Pauls Primary School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.73
1057		Newtown Junior & Infant School	Greets Green Community Learning Centre	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Great Bridge	1.53
1058		Tipton Green Junior School & Silvertrees Academy	Tipton Green Junior School & Victoria Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.34
1059		Joseph Turner Primary School	Joseph Turner Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Great Bridge	1.32
1060		Glebe Fields Primary School	Glebe Fields Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Princes End	0.69
1061		Great Bridge Primary School	Great Bridge Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.47
1062		St Martins Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.21
1063	OS0282	Kerr Drive Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	1.46
1064		Wednesbury Oak Open Space		Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Princes End	0.48
1065	KD1	St Martins Memorial Park		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Limited	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.31

1066	OS0380	Upper Church Lane/Powis Avenue Walkthrough		Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.74
1067	KE8	Standbridge Way Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	3.71
1068		Johns Lane Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.58
1069		Bloomfield Park Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.56
1070	OS0376	Stella Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.38
1071	MOL/0130	Nicholls Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Tipton	Princes End	0.35
1072		Spring Street Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.31
1073	HAS0032	Toll End Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.16
1074		Charlotte Road/Weston Drive Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.5
1075	OS0381	Coneygre Canal Green Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.98
1076		Horseley Road SLINC	SLINC 99	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Tipton	Great Bridge	0.69
1077		Brookes Meadow	Upper Church Lane Open Space	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.41
1078	KE8	St Martin's Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	1.12
1079	OS0312	Oxford Way Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Tipton	Tipton Green	0.23
2001	MOL/0235	Tivdale Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.44
2002	OS0121	Gilbert Street Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.41
2003	QK8	Tivdale Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	11.62
2004	PB8	Tivdale Park Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.68
2005	SCAD0002	Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	Former Tivdale Comprehensive School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	13.1
2006		Upper Chapel Street Open Space		Neighbourhood	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.32
2007		Dudley Road West Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.29
2008		Temple Way		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.48

2009		Gladstone Drive Drive Proposed Community Open Space	Johns Lane (Osp2)	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not accessible	Oldbury	Oldbury	2.64
2010		Land at rear of Gladstone Drive Proposed Community Open Spac		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not accessible	Oldbury	Oldbury	4.53
2011	OS0377	Rattle Chain Urban Forest	River Tame west of Gower Branc	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	9.24
2012	OS0243	Brades Green Open Space	Brades Hall Neighbourhood Green	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	2.21
2013		Shri Venkateswara Balaji Temple Grounds	Blakeley Hall Open Space	Borough	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	3.89
2014	OS0315	Dudley Road Walkthrough		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.36
2015	OS0124	Dudley Road East/Temple Way Bank		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.47
2016	SCH500 02	Lower City Road Sports Ground	Brades Lodge School	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	2.86
2017		Ash Tree Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.31
2019		Salop Street Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.28
2020		Land adjacent to Langley Green Marshalling Yard		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.56
2021		Rounds Green Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.9
2022		Canal Side Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.5
2023		Christ Church C of E Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.66
2024	QH6	Broadwell Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	1.79
2025		Christ Church Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.3
2026	QH10	Former Birmingham Road Playing Fields		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Oldbury	Oldbury	2.39
2027		Albright & Wilson Sports Ground	Rhodia Sports Ground	Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	3.76
2028	QJ9	Langley Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	1.78
2029		Langley Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	1.5
2030	OS0164	Trinity Street Amenity Space	Rhodia Roundabout	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.21
2031	MOL/00 81	Old Park Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	2.44

2032		Portway Road Substation Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	6.92
2033		Birchley Sports Ground		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	2.67
2034	QX5	Lion Farm Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	13.48
2035		Birchley Sports Ground (Newbury Lane)		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	3.99
2036	PE4	Newbury Lane Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	0.8
2037	HAS1067	Hartlebury Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.82
2038		Badsey Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	1.09
2039		St James C of E Primary & Nursery School	Former Whiteheath Junior School ??	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	1.67
2040	KE9	Titford Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	6.01
2041		Titford Pools		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	4.25
2042	KF3	York Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.49
2043		Causeway Green Embankment		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.4
2044	HAS0153	Brookfields Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.25
2045	QH1	Barnford Hill Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	12.5
2046	LO0240	Barnford Hill Allotments	Barnford Park and Farm Road Allotments	Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.09
2047	SCAD0009	Q3 Academy Langley	Langley High School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.68
2048		Our Lady & St.Hubert's Catholic Primary School	Moat Farm Junior & Infant School ?????	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.43
2049		Bristnall Hall High Academy	Bristnall Hall High School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.25
2050	PM2	New Uplands Graveyard	Thimblemill Graveyard	Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	3.29
2051		GKN Sports Ground		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	6.43
2052	OS0208	Norman Road Walkthrough	Norman Road Dams	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	4
2053	PD5	Salop Drive Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.01

2054		Beeches Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.22
2055	OS0267	Hill Top Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.36
2056		Langley Reservoir	South Staffs Water Works	Local	Institutional Land	Not accessible	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.82
2057		Merton Close Sports Fields		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.99
2058	PA2	Brandhall Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.92
2059	PE5	Pound Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.26
2060	SCAD0008	Oldbury College of Sport	Former Warley High School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	4.54
2061	OS0205	Pound Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.3
2062	HAS0013	Brook Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.56
2063	OS0242	Ferndale Estate Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.25
2064	SPRC0007	Causeway Green Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	2.27
2065	PB5	Former Allotments Pencricket Lane		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not accessible	Oldbury	Langley	0.28
2066	OS0182	Ashes Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	1.49
2067		Oldbury United Football Club	Oldbury United Football Ground	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	2.24
2068	QU6	Grafton Road Playing Fields	Cakemore Playing Fields	Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	5.71
2069	PF7	Grafton Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	0.49
2070		Grafton Road Field		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not accessible	Oldbury	Langley	0.96
2071	PR1	Brandhall Golf Course		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Oldbury	Old Warley	35.41
2072	OS0296	Queensway Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	1.36
2073	SPRC0003	Brandhall Primary School	Brandhall Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Old Warley	8.79
2074	SJC0002	Bleakhouse Junior School	Warley Infact and Junior School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	1.5
2075		The George Pub Bowling Green		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.23
2076	PE6	Ramsey Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.64

2077	HAS053 1	Clent Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.22
2078		Lightwoods Primary School (Infants)	Former St Hubert's RC Primary School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.6
2079		Harborne Road Reservoir		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	1.22
2080	OS0406	Castle Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.21
2081	HAS000 8	Tame Rise Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.57
2082	HAS000 7	Tame Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.58
2083	QU4	M5/Tame Road Open Space	Pitfield Close	Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	5.47
2084		Perryfields High School Specialist Maths & Computing College & 6th Form	Perryfields High School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Old Warley	3.21
2085		Perryfields Primary School	Perryfields Junior & Infants School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Old Warley	1.64
2086		Kingsway Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.33
2087	HAS000 6	Norfolk Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.29
2088	OS0239	Lewis Estate Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.25
2089	OS0240	Lewis Road/Perryhill Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Old Warley	0.35
2090		Burnt Tree Primary School	Burnt Tree Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.57
2091		Oldbury Business Centre Open Space		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	0.26
2092		River Tame/Gower Branch Canal Green Corridor		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Oldbury	Oldbury	7.11
2093		Rounds Green Road Pond		Local	Natural & Semi- Natural Greenspace	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	2.81
2094		Shidas Lane Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.54
2095		Lane adjacent to Lower City Road Sports Ground (Gower Tip Co		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not accessible	Oldbury	Oldbury	2.97
2096		Land adjacent to Birmingham Canal		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Limited	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.95
2098	OS0183	Barlow Close Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.45

2099		TA Centre Amenity Space		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Oldbury	Langley	0.37
2100		Kestrel/Ferndale Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.39
2101		Embassy Road Play Area		Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Oldbury	0.21
2102		Old Park Lane Woodland		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Langley	0.27
2103		Bowling Green Drive Woodland		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Oldbury	Bristnall	0.27
3001	OS0011	Laburnum Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.68
3002		Yew Tree Junior & Infants School	Yew Tree Primary School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	4.37
3003	QP9	Redwood Road Open Space		Neighbourhood	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.47
3004		Birchfield Gardens Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Limited	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.65
3006	OS0008	Firtree Drive Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.32
3007	OS0007	Ladbury Grove Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.29
3008	OS0408	Woodruff Way Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.46
3009		Poppy Drive Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.77
3010	OS0264	Tamebridge Walkthrough	White Track	Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	7.03
3011		River Tame Corridor		Neighbourhood	Green Corridor	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	5.73

3012		Yew Tree Plantation		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	3.22
3013		MEB Substation Land		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	4.19
3014	OS0017	Biddleston Grove Open Space		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	12.81
3015	OS0016	Brooklands Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	2.46
3016		Brackendale Drive Playing Fields		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.8
3017	OS0015	The Grove Open Space		Neighbourhood	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.24
3018	OS0196	Hill Farm Bridge Fields		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	21.2
3019	SCAD0003	Q3 Academy	Dartmouth High School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	10.1
3020	OS0262	Wilderness Lane SLINC & SINC		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	5.25
3021		Peakhouse Farm		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	26.94
3022		Holiday Inn (Greenbelt)		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Limited	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	2.66
3023	OS0032	Whitecrest Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	4.93
3024		Whitecrest Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	1.99
3025	MOL/0012	Holly Wood & Pasture		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	8.61
3026		Whitecrest Wood		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.21

3027	QK5	Red House Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	18.09
3028		Hillside Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Great Barr with Yew tree	0.62
3029		Grove Vale Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	1.49
3030	OS0029	Longleat Spinney		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	0.37
3031	OS0047	Himley Close Pastoral Land		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	4.58
3032	LO0210	Ray Hall Pastoral Land		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	11.97
3033		M5 Embankment (Ray Hall)		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Limited	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	4.63
3034		Ray Hall Water Reclamation Works		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	24.85
3035	LO0052	Newton Road Pasture		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Limited	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	8.6
3036		Birmingham County FA Ground		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	4.48
3037	LO0052	Water Lane Pastures		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	41.31
3038	RG4	Forge Mill Farm		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Limited	West Bromwich	Newton	40.96
3039	LO0211	Forge Mill Lake & Nature Reserve	RSPB Centre	Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	63.02
3040		Tanhouse Avenue Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	0.77
3041	OS0083	Hamstead Junior & Infant School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Newton	4.16

3042		The Tanhouse Centre		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Newton	1.61
3043	OS0088	Hamstead Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	0.28
3044	HAS0660	Highfield Walkthrough		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	0.22
3045	OS0084	Ennerdale Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	0.84
3046	CC0013	Ferndale Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Newton	1.94
3047	QJ12	Gorse Farm Wood	Local Nature Reserve	Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	6.22
3048	PQ1	West Bromwich Crematorium		Borough	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	4.91
3049		Haypitts Woods		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	0.31
3050		Forge Farm		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	30.61
3051	OS0097	Swan Pool/Priory Wood		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	85.7
3052		Sandwell Park Golf Course		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	55.09
3053		Dartmouth Cricket Club		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	1.96
3054	OS0141	Sandwell Academy Sports Ground (L2)		Borough	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	3.14
3055	QK6	Sandwell Park Farm		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	28.85
3056	LO0142	Dartmouth Golf Course		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	21.27

3057	QX3	King George V Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	11.73
3058	QH9	Dartmouth Park		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	25.6
3059		Dartmouth Bowling Club		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.34
3060		Reform Street Bridge Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.23
3061		Newton Road Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	4.61
3062		All Saints Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	2.45
3063	PB4	Newton Street Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	1.15
3064	OS0049	Charlemont Farm Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	12.07
3065		River Tame Pasture		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	1.41
3066	OS0371	Stanhurst Way Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	0.96
3067	OS0026	Navigation Lane Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	0.56
3068	OS0025	Beaconview/Walsall Road Open Space	Bustlehome	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	5.69
3069	OS0065	Tompstone Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	0.41
3070	OS0064	Bird End Plantation	Bird End Open Space	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	0.67
3071	QW1	Stone Cross Open Space	Needwood Grove Open Space	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	3.15

3072	OS0039	Hall Green Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	2.5
3073	PF2	Manor House Allotments	Moorland Allotments	Local	Allotments	Limited	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.61
3074	GY2	Manor House		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Limited	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.45
3075		Menzies Open Space		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	17.83
3076		The Phoenix Collegiate	Formerly Menzies High School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	6.79
3077		The Bridge Centre / Woden rise PRU	Formerly Millfield School / Wodens Rise PRU	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.86
3078	QX8	Marsh Lane Open Space (Proposed play area)		Neighbourhood	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	3.03
3079	PM3	West Bromwich Cemetery		Borough	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	12.78
3080	OS0079	Lindsey Road Open Space	Kesteven Green	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	1.28
3081	HAS072 2	Worcester Green Amenity Area		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.27
3082	HAS072 3	Radnor Green Amenity Area		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.28
3083	HAS001 5	Bedford Road Walkthrough		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.22
3084		Hateley Heath Primary School	Hateley Heath Playing Fields	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	3.01
3085	HAS071 8	Denbigh Crescent Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.44
3086	HAS072 6	Sussex Avenue Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	3.65

3087		All Saints C of E Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Charlemont with Grove Vale	1.1
3088	OS0259	Lily Street Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	3.76
3089	OS0306	Okehampton Drive Play Area		Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.47
3090	QK4	Oakwood Park/Jesson Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	7.34
3091		Hargate Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	0.8
3092	OS0109	All Saints Way Amenity Area		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.41
3093		Tildasley Street Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.24
3094	MOL/0246	Billhay Lane Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.2
3095		George Salter Academy	George Salter High School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	3.72
3096	QX1	Greets Green Playing Field		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	11.31
3097	OS0258	Delta Gardens		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	1.6
3098	OS0126	Milward Street/Bull Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	1.41
3099		Guns Village Primary School	Guns Village Junior School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	1.22
3100	OS0113	Hamblets Open Space	Marl Hole	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	4.21
3101	OS0127	Brandon Way Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	1.18

3102	OS0131	Clifford Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.26
3103	QK3	Oak House		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Limited	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.78
3104	OS0354	Mason Street Walkthrough		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	1.16
3105		Harwood Street Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.23
3106	SH9A	Garden of Remembrance	Highfields	Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.76
3107		Trinity Way Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.53
3108	QJ13	Europa Avenue Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	1.02
3109	OS0138	Express Way Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.3
3110	QJ7	Kenrick Park		Local	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	5.91
3111	PA9	Kendrick Park Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	1.07
3112	OS0369	Constance Avenue Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	1.55
3115	PA3	Bromford Lane Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	4.01
3116		Lyng Primary School	Lyng Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	1.22
3118	RG6	Hill House Farm		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	51.01
3119	OS0096	Sots Hole Wood		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	4.42

3120	OS0300	Hobhouse Close Play Area		Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Newton	0.31
3121		Holy Trinity Primary School	Holy Trinity Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.64
3122		Bromford Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.26
3123		River Tame Corridor - Cornwallis Road		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	1.05
3124		Brandon Way/Albion Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.32
3125	OS0130	Oak Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.51
3127		Lyng Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.46
3133		Kyngston Road Open Space	Churchfields Way Open Space	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.26
3134		Churchfields Playing Fields	Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields	Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	3.98
3135		Churchfields Play Area		Local	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.6
3136		West Bromwich Parkway SINC	SINC 12	Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	West Bromwich Central	0.47
3137		Ridgeacre Branch Canal SINC	SINC 10	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Hateley Heath	3.37
3200		Maud Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng	0.65
4001	OS0197	Fowler Close Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.25
4002		Roebuck Lane Open Space		Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.29
4003		Smethwick Summit		Borough	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	10.67

4004	OS0370	Galton Valley Heritage Centre		Borough	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.64
4005	GY8	Galton Valley Canal		Borough	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	7.39
4006	QK1	Lewisham Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	3.69
4007		Galton Valley Primary School	Albion Junior School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.45
4008	OS0272	Bridge Street Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	1.8
4009	QH4	Black Patch Park	Black Patch Recreation Ground	Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	6.55
4010	PB1	Perrott Street Allotments	Merry Hill Allotments	Neighbourhood	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	3.6
4011		Smethwick Railway Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.47
4012		Tollhouse Way Amenity Area		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	0.26
4013	PP1	Holy Trinity Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	0.58
4014	PD6	Stoney Lane Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	Smethwick	2.35
4015		George Betts Primary School	George Betts Junior School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.51
4016	PM5	St Pauls Cemetery	Oldbury Cemetery	Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	7.19
4017	PD9	Cemetery Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.8
4018	QL4	West Smethwick Park		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	20.61
4019		Ruskin House Centre	Ruskin House Amenity Space	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.28
4020		Holly Lodge High School College Of Science	Holly Lodge (foundation) High School	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	St. Pauls	4.2
4021	OS0146	Holly Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Limited	Smethwick	St. Pauls	1.27
4022	QW5	St Johns Recreation Ground		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	3.05
4023		Vicarage Street Play Area		Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.18
4024	HAS0393	Mushroom Hall Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.2
4025		Basons Lane Playing Fields		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	1.58

4026	PD8	Basons Lane Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	St. Pauls	1.08
4027	PM4	Holly Lane Cemetery		Neighbourhood	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Not Accessible	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.53
4028	PD3	Londonderry Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	Smethwick	5.34
4029	SIC0003	Devonshire Infant and Junior Academy	Devonshire Infant & Junior School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	Smethwick	4.89
4030	QK7	Smethwick Hall Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	3.5
4031		Londonderry Lane Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	0.3
4032	QX6	Londonderry Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	5.4
4033	PD2	Hall Road Allotments		Neighbourhood	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	Smethwick	0.24
4034	OS0169	Smethwick Cricket Club		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Smethwick	Smethwick	1.94
4035	QJ4	Harry Mitchell Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	1.82
4036	QK9	Victoria Park (Smethwick)		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	14.5
4037	KC7	St Mathews Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.3
4038		Unett Street Open Space		Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.77
4039		Smethwick Old Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	1.27
4040	PM8	Uplands Cemetery		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	10.75
4041		Uplands Manor Primary School	Shirelands & Uplands School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	Smethwick	1.16
4042	OS0185	Thimblemill Brook		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Smethwick	1.27
4043	PA1	Bearwood Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	Abbey	3.43
4044		Thimblemill Pool		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Smethwick	Smethwick	0.96
4045	RK3	Hadley Stadium		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	4.21

4046		Montague Road Open Space	Ada Road Open Space	Neighbourhood	Provision for Children & Young People	Limited	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.65
4047	PA8	Hamilton Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Smethwick	Abbey	0.73
4048	SPRC0001	Land rear Bearwood Gospel Hall	Calthorpe Haven	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	Abbey	0.2
4049	QL9	Warley Woods Golf Course		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Smethwick	Abbey	18.2
4050	QL8	Warley Woods		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Abbey	26.31
4051	QL7	Lightwoods Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Abbey	11.82
4052		Galton Valley Play Area	Grenville Drive Play Area	Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	Smethwick	St. Pauls	0.55
4053	PC4	Former Bearwood Allotments	Waterloo Road Allotments	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Limited	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.3
4055		St Phillips RC School	St Philips Community Centre	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.33
4056	HDS0098	Rosedale Avenue Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.54
4057		Abbey Infant School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Smethwick	Abbey	0.3
4058		The Maltings Open Space	Cape Hill Brewery Open Space	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	1
4059		Merry Hill SLINC		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Smethwick	Soho and Victoria	0.9
5001		Tividale Football Club		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Tividale	1.39
5002		Barncroft Road & Red Lion Close SLINC		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Tividale	0.73
5003	OS0332	Fairway Avenue Amenity Greenspace	Fairway Avenue Amenity Greenspace	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	0.79
5004		Darbys Hill Quarry Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	10.95
5005	OS0140	Poplar Avenue		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	0.71
5006	OS0144	Grace Mary Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	5.54
5007		Oakham Primary School	Oakham Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Tividale	1.93

5008		Grace Mary Junior & Infant School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Tividale	0.82
5009	QH8	Bury Hill Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	5.65
5010	RK4	Oldbury Sports Centre		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Tividale	1.21
5011		Rowley Hills Strategic Open Space - Portway Road SOS		Borough	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	39.01
5012		Dudley Golf Club SOS		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	34.52
5013	OS0142	Darbys Hill Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	3.81
5014		Gleneagles Drive Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	0.23
5015		Warrens Hall Farm SOS		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	8.43
5016	QL3	Warrens Hall Park SOS		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	21.4
5017		The Knowle SOS		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	4.92
5018	OS0157	Springfield Estate Embankments		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	2.84
5019	MOL/0088	Dudley Road Open Space (North)		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.54
5020		Springfield Primary School	The Knowle (School)	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.81
5021		Springfield Junior School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.49
5022	OS0170	Walton Close Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.25
5023		Wallace Road Walkway		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.37
5025		Rowley Hall Primary	Rowley Hall Junior & Infant School / Windsor Road Open Space	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	1.51
5026		Majestic Way Walkthrough		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.23
5027		Angela Avenue Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.97
5028	OS0173	Rowley Hall Open Space	Maer Close OS	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	1.86
5029	QP8	Wylde Crescent Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.5

5030		Hanover Road Open Space	Alsopp's Hill SLINC	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Rowley	4.93
5031		Sandwell Pines Golf Centre		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	9.24
5032		St Giles Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	1.72
5033	QJ14	Curral Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.63
5034	DS7	Whiteheath Education Centre and St.Micheal's CofE High School	Former Dudley College, Rowley Regis Campus	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	8.42
5035	OS0181	Brickhouse Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	4.79
5036	HAS0860	Farm Road Walkthrough		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.23
5037		Harvest Road Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.4
5038	QJ11	Brickhouse Farm Open Space	Brickhouse Field	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	2.93
5039		Doulton Road Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.78
5040		Gawne Lane Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	1.31
5041	OS0372	Warwick Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	2.45
5042		Bluebell Road Sports Ground		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	3.27
5043	OS0177	Moor Lane Open Space		Neighbourhood	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	3.33
5044	PM6	Rowley Regis Cemetery		Neighbourhood	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	5
5045	PM6	Powke Lane Crematorium		Neighbourhood	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	4.32
5046	QH5	Britannia Park		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	6.42
5047	PE8	Britannia Park Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.3
5048	SPRC0002	Blackheath Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	1.12
5049	OS0202	Regis Heath Road Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.64
5050		The Grove Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.29
5051	OS0198	Waterfall Lane SINC		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	6.92

5052	OS0224	Higgsfield Crescent		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.34
5053	PF1	Perry Park Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.3
5054	OS0225	Perry Park Playing Field		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.45
5055		Cinder Bank Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Limited	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	1.12
5056	HAS0009	Perry Park Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.56
5057		Highfield Crescent Amenity Greenspace	The Tump	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.95
5058	HAS0996	The Wharf Pub Open Space	Grange Road Open Space	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.96
5059	OS0221	Wrights Lane Open Space		Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	4.81
5060		Temple Meadow Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.5
5061		Cricket Ground Heathfield Close		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.48
5062		Ormiston Forge Academy	Former Heathfield High School	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.97
5063	OS0217	Church View Drive Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.44
5064	OS0218	Spring Meadow Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.33
5065	PE9	Cherry Orhard Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.5
5066	QU1	Ashtree Mound Playing Fields	The Pig & Whistle	Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	1.58
5067		Reddal Hill Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.26
5068		St Lukes Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	1.63
5069	QU2	Bearmore Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	4.41
5070	QU10	Bearmore Road Open Space	Bearmore Mound	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.83
5071	QK2	Mary MacArthur Gardens	Whitehall Gardens	Local	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	1.62
5072	OS0333	Mousesweet Brook LNR		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	4.46

5073		Mousesweet Brook SLINC		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	2.24
5074	PB7	Silverthorne Lane Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.38
5075		Mousesweet Brook/River Stour SLINC		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.65
5076	OS0289	Cradley Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.34
5077		Charlton Drive Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	4.24
5078	HAS0017	Corngreaves Walk Embankment		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.39
5079	OS0246	Barn Close Open Space		Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.35
5080		Corngreaves Road Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	1.15
5081	KD9	Timbertree Open Space SLINC		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.65
5082		Timbertree Crescent Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.54
5083		Timbertree Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	1.11
5084		Timbertree Road Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.32
5085	HAS0005	Corngreaves Public Open Space	Corngreaves Golf Course	Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	13.82
5086		River Stour Valley & Furnace Coppice		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis		1.1
5087	QJ2	Haden Hill Park		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	13.58
5088		Old Hill Cricket Club		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	2.03
5089		Old Hill Tennis Club		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.43

5090	OS0230	Codsall Coppice		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	2.68
5091		High Haden Road Open Space	Beauty Bank	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	1.75
5092		Sherbourne Road Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	2.37
5093	OS0247	Chatsworth Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.59
5094		High Haden Woodland		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	6.08
5095	OS0329	Woburn Road Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.88
5096	OS0269	Marquis Drive Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.42
5097	QJ11	Cornfield Road Youth Centre Open Space		local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.42
5098	QP6	Spring Vale Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.2
5099		Tividale Hall Primary School	Former Regent Special School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Tividale	0.21
5100		Green Park Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	1.69
5101		Stokesay Close Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Tividale	0.28
5102		Whiteheath Pupil Referral Unit		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	0.38
5103		Brickhouse Primary School	Brickhouse Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.62
5104	MOL/0092	Moor Lane Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.46
5105		Rowley Regis Community Hospital		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Blackheath	1.77
5107		Graingers Lane Amenity Greenspace		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Rowley Regis	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	0.21
5108		Mousesweet Brook / River Stour SLINC		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not accessible	Rowley Regis		1.19
5109		The Knowle Grazing Land		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not accessible	Rowley Regis	Rowley	1.29

5110	OS0149	Warrens Hall Farm Grazing		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not accessible	Rowley Regis	Rowley	19.75
5111		St Micheals C of E School		Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Rowley Regis	Rowley	0.46
6001	PM1	Fallings Heath Cemetery		Neighbourhood	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	6.82
6002	PA4	Black Horse Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	0.98
6003	OS0001	Black Horse Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.2
6004	OS0001	Wednesbury Rugby Club		Borough	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.84
6005	SPFT0004	Old Park Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	2.45
6006	PA5	Dingley Road/Wood Green Allotments	Woodgreen / Barlow Road Allotments	Local	Allotments	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	0.49
6007	PC2	Dingley Road/Barlow Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	2.4
6008		Stuart Bathurst RC High School		Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.27
6009	SCAD0007	Wood Green High School		Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.98
6010	LO0002	Wednesbury Sports Union		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.72
6011	QM6	Goldicroft Playing Fields	Goldicroft Park	Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	0.9
6012	PM9	Wood Green Cemetery		Neighbourhood	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	4.93
6013	QH7	Brunswick Park		Borough	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	8.45
6014	MOL/0267	Woden Road West Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.77
6015	QU3	Norman Deeley Playing Fields	Bilston Road Playing Fields	Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	2.43
6016		Holyhead Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.17
6017	QN7	Blakedon Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	0.58
6018		St Mary's RC Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.12
6019	KC8	St Bartholomews Church		Local	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.04

6020	OS0012	Church Hill Open Space		Neighbourhood	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.82
6021	OS0325	Tame Avenue Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	4.04
6022	OS0005	Coronation Road		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	2.63
6023		Park Hill Primary School	Park Hill Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.84
6024		Kent Road Playing Fields		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.6
6025	QU9	Friar Park Playing Fields		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	3.95
6026	PA7	Friar Park Road Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	1.05
6027		The Phoenix Collegiate	Formerly Manor High School	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	5.61
6028	OS0014	Sandy Lane Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.91
6029	MOL/0141	Worleys Wharf Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.48
6030		The Priory Primary School		Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	1.03
6031	PB3	Mesty Croft Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.41
6032		William Green Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.62
6033	OS0020	River Tame Corridor North (Wednesbury)		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	8.71
6034		Tameside Primary School	Tameside Infant & Junior School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	1.11
6035	SPFT0006A	Walton Road Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.22
6036		River Tame Corridor Johnson Road (Wednesbury)		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	2.2
6037		Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	Formerly Wodensborough High School	Neighbourhood	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	4.62
6038	QX2	River Tame Corridor Hydes Road Playing Fields		Neighbourhood	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	8.86
6039	QX15	Hydes Road Pool		Neighbourhood	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	4.13

6040		Joseph Ashe Copse		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.4
6041	PF5	Paul Street Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Wednesbury	Friar Park	0.21
6042	PC1	Woden Road South Allotments		Local	Allotments	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	1.47
6043	QX11	Mounts Road Play Area		Local	Provision for Children & Young People	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	1.34
6045		Great Western Street Amenity Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.21
6046		Basin Sidings SINC	Banister Road OS	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.87
6047	SJC0005	Ocker Hill Academy	Formerly known as Ocker Hill Junior School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	1.45
6048		Wednesbury Waste Repository	Sleipner's Mound	Local	Amenity Greenspace	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	4.43
6049		Ocean Drive Amenity Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	4.2
6050		Shaw Street Green Corridor		Local	Green Corridor	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	2.62
6051		Metro Line Hill Top		Local	Green Corridor	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	4.33
6052	OS0074	Bagnall Street Walkthrough		Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	1.17
6053	MOL/0242	Eagle Lane Coppice		Local	Green Corridor	Not Accessible	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.74
6054	OS0334	Brickhouse Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	1.19
6055	QM4	Ebenezer Street Open Space	Ratcliffe Park	Local	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.95
6056		Harvills Hawthorn Primary School	Harvills Hawthorn Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.54
6057	OS0078	Nobury Road Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.68
6058	OS0077	Hawkes Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.63
6059	QJ5	Hill Top Park		Neighbourhood	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	4.57
6060		Balls Hill Open Space		Local	Parks & Gardens	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	2.74

6061		Moorlands Primary School	Moorlands Junior & Infant School	Local	Institutional Land	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.89
6062	OS0061	Wyntor Lane Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	2.39
6063		Millfields Walkthrough		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	0.25
6064	OS0323	Lakeside Open Space		Local	Amenity Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	1.62
6065		Metro Line West Bromwich Parkway		Local	Green Corridor	Limited	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	7.76
6066	OS0260	Ridgeacre Branch Canal Walkthrough		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	1.89
6067	OS0298	New Gas Street Open Space		Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury South	2.26
6068		Bradley Locks	SLINC 80	Local	Green Corridor	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	1.95
6069		Wood Green Road SINC	SINC 1	Local	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Wednesbury North	0.5
6070	OS0006	Kent Road Playing Fields		Local	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Unrestricted	Wednesbury	Friar Park	2.16

Appendix B
Household Survey

Have your say on the parks and green spaces in Sandwell!

The fastest way you can complete this questionnaire is online. Please visit: www.sandwell.gov.uk/greenspacesurvey

Throughout this questionnaire we refer to 'green spaces' which include:

- Parks and green spaces = public green spaces used for recreation or community events.
- Outdoor sports facilities = recreation grounds, bowling greens, tennis courts etc.
- Provision for play = equipped play areas, multi-use games areas, skate parks and shelters
- Allotments and community gardens = opportunities for people to grow their own food.

1. **What is your home postcode?** Please provide your FULL home postcode - we will use this to help us to understand how far people travel to green spaces. It will not be linked to anything that could identify you.

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2. **Which town in Sandwell do you live in? Please tick ONE box only.**
 Oldbury Smethwick Wednesbury
 Rowley Regis..... Tipton West Bromwich.....

3. **How frequently, if at all, do you use / visit ANY green space in Sandwell? Please tick ONE box only.**
 Daily..... **Go to 4.**
 More than once a week (on average over the year)..... **Go to 4.**
 Weekly (on average over the year)..... **Go to 4.**
 Monthly (on average over the year)..... **Go to 4.**
 Less Frequently..... **Go to 17.**
 Never used..... **Go to 17.**
 Don't know..... **Go to 17.**

About the green space you use / visit most frequently

4. **Which green space in Sandwell do you use / visit most frequently? Please state ONE only.**

5. **How do you usually travel to the green space in Sandwell that you use / visit most frequently? Please tick ONE only providing a response for the majority of your journey.**
 Car / taxi..... Cycle Train..... Motorbike
 Walk..... Bus..... Metro.....

6. **How long does it usually take you to get to the green space in Sandwell that you use / visit most frequently? Please tick ONE box only.**
 0 - 5 mins 11 - 15 mins..... 21 - 25 mins
 6 - 10 mins..... 16 - 20 mins..... More than 25 mins

7. **Why do you use / visit green spaces in Sandwell? Please tick all that apply.**
 Informal sport(s)..... For walking.....
 To walk the dog..... For jogging / exercise.....
 To visit the children's play area Trees and plants.....
 As a through route..... Picnics
 To relax Skate / BMX / youth facilities
 To experience nature / wildlife As a place to meet friends
 To attend events and activities To visit a café / visitor centre and attractions.....
 For formal organised sport(s) For peace and quiet
 Other (please state)

8. **How much time do you usually spend (per visit) using Sandwell's parks and green spaces? Please tick ONE box only.**
 Less than 30 minutes 1 - 2 hours More than 4 hours.....
 30 minutes - 1 hour 2 - 4 hours

9. **How would you rate the overall quality of the green space in Sandwell that you use / visit most frequently? Please tick ONE box only.**
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| <i>Where 1 is poor and 10 is excellent.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10. **Thinking about the green space in Sandwell that you use / visit most frequently, what has been the change in quality over the last three years? Please tick ONE box only.**
 Improved Stayed the same..... Declined Don't know

11. **Can you think of anything that would encourage you to visit this green space more often or stay longer?**
-

12. **Which parks within Sandwell do you visit for events? Please list.**
-

13. **Have you ever attended the Bonfire Night at Dartmouth Park? Please tick ONE box only.**
 Yes No..... Don't know

14. **Have you ever attended the Sandwell Valley Christmas Event? Please tick ONE box only.**
 Yes No..... Don't know

15. **Within Sandwell's parks, what other events / types of events do you go to see? Please list.**
-

16. **Do you visit any of the following parks or green spaces? Please tick all that apply.**
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Baggeridge County Park..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Clent Hills <input type="checkbox"/> | Telford Town Park..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Barr Beacon..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Himley Hall..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Walsall Arboretum..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cannock Chase Country Park..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Lickey Hills Country Park <input type="checkbox"/> | West Park - Wolverhampton <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cannon Hill Park <input type="checkbox"/> | Sutton Park <input type="checkbox"/> | Wrens Nest <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Other spaces outside of Sandwell (please state)
-

Your views on green spaces in general

17. **What if anything, prevents you from using / visiting green spaces in Sandwell or using / visiting green spaces more often? Please tick all that apply.**
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Lack of time <input type="checkbox"/> | Poor quality facilities <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of site-based staff..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Too far away..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Car parking charges <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of outdoor fitness equipment. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vandalism / graffiti..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Age / illness / disability <input type="checkbox"/> | No one to go with..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of facilities..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Anti-social behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> | Not interested <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog fouling <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of transport..... <input type="checkbox"/> | Nothing prevents me <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Too many roads to cross <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of information <input type="checkbox"/> | Use private garden..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Don't feel safe <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of lighting <input type="checkbox"/> | |
- Other (please state)
-

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
Control of dogs and dog fouling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organised events and activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer opportunities for local people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access for disabled people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access using public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. To what extent do parks and green spaces contribute to your health and well-being? Please tick ONE box only.

- A great deal Not at all
 To some extent Don't know
 Not very much

25. How do you benefit most from green spaces? Please tick all that apply.

- Enable participation in physical activity Improved property values
 Provide pleasant places to relax / better mental well-being Create stronger neighbourhoods
 Contribute to better local environment and more diverse wildlife Contribute to better local air quality
 Promoting greater levels of social / group activity Maintain a higher quality of life
 Don't know

Other (please state)

26. How much do you support funding parks through the following ways? Please tick ONE box only per row.

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Greater external funding e.g. National Lottery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More sponsorship of parks by businesses e.g. planting areas and facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More funding from planning and local development e.g. contribution from new housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greater fundraising by local communities and park user groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More commercial use of parks e.g. ticketed events, fairs and shows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased charges for using park facilities e.g. tennis courts / car parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More funding from the local authority and health sector to support wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Resources for green spaces may be in short supply in future years. If you had to choose between the following two options which would you prefer? Please tick ONE box only.

- Fewer green spaces but of higher quality Neither option
 More green spaces but of lower quality

28. Do you have any other comments?

About you

These questions are voluntary. Your answers to the following questions will help us to better understand the green space needs and usage patterns of different groups of people. Your responses will not be linked to anything that could identify you.

29. Are you? Please tick ONE box only.

Male..... Transgender
Female..... Prefer not to say.....
Other (please state)

30. How old are you? Please tick ONE box only.

Under 16 25-34..... 45-54 65+
16-24..... 35-44..... 55-64 Prefer not to say

31. To which of these groups do you consider you belong? Please tick ONE box only.

White (British, Irish, Other White) Mixed / Multiple ethnic group (White and Black, White and Asian, Other Mixed).....
Black or Black British (Black British, Black Caribbean, Black African, Other Black) Any other ethnic background, state below
Asian or Asian British (British Asian, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Other Asian)..... Prefer not to say.....
Other ethnic background (please state)

32. Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do (including problems which are due to old age)? Please tick ONE box only.

Yes No Prefer not to say.....

33. How do you rate your overall physical health? Please tick ONE box only.

Very good..... Very poor
Good..... Don't know
Neither good nor poor..... Prefer not to say
Poor

Please tick the box to confirm that you are happy for us to use your details below only for the purposes of the prize draw.

Please refer to our privacy statement for further details.

To enter the prize draw, please provide your contact details below.

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Statement

Sandwell Council takes your privacy seriously and will only collect your personal information for statistical research and to administer the prize draw. Community First Partnership (CFP) Ltd will, on behalf of Sandwell Council, process and analyse the data you have provided. To understand more about why we collect your information, what we do with your information, how you can access your information, your personal information rights, how and to whom to raise a complaint about your information, please visit our privacy notice page at <http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotices>

Family tickets to Sandwell Park Farm will be awarded to six lucky respondents. The winners will be drawn at random by computer after the closing date. The prizes will be awarded to a single respondent from each of Sandwell's six towns. The prize draw will be administered by CFP on behalf of Sandwell Council, strictly one entry per person, no cash alternative available. Late responses will not be entered into the prize draw.

**Thank you for your time in completing this questionnaire, please return by
Sunday 17th March 2019**

Appendix C
Open Question Responses

Q7 – Why do you use/visit green spaces in Sandwell? Please tick all that apply

Photography
Educational purposes with the children I mind
my children like to play Pokémon
volunteer litter pick
walk baby in pram
keen photographer
Taking photos.
Being a disabled grandmother of 3 we take the children to feed the ducks, geese & birds. As there's no benches I have to sit on a disgusting wall while Granddad helps the girls.
Cycle too
Cycle
To leave decorated rocks. 'Sandwell rocks' encourages people to decorate and hide rocks and post to Facebook. My children love doing this and have found a few of other peoples
Children play on one of the last remaining places to play
Fun Fair
I find it very relaxing
You have sold off the area for business build
A short country walk and fresh air
To experience peace and quiet and get away from roads and traffic in our 'built-up' area and breathe fresh air
I am spiritual so I love nature
To meet my children and grandchildren
fishing and cycling
To get fresh air into my lungs
Use exercise equipment
We live in the park
To use multi gym equipment
If they have any adverts on the park
Sunday League football at Lion Farm
to ride bike
Baby Birds
To tend plot
And Play Golf
feed the duck
Jonathan's Tea room in Lightwood park an excellent resource/facility.
To take our children as we home educate
Take visitors by car for a visit
To promote health and well-being for us and our 3 young children
I am a volunteer at Warley Woods
son's football training
daily walk before going to work
mainly through work, clients with LD and autism, challenging behaviour

There are a lack of benches around Forge Hill lake where you can sit to enjoy the wildlife and peace and quiet
Volunteering
walk with grandchildren, play ball ride bike or scooter, use gym equipment
birdwatching
Views are amazing and 360 degrees
Grow my own vegetables and socialise with other plot holders, both important for wellbeing
great granddaughter loves to feed ducks, baby geese and see the horses, she calls the walk an adventure
to get away from continual traffic
to sit on a bench bought when my husband passed away
farm and to feed ducks (Sandwell valley) Cycling (Warley woods)
I take my kids to ride bike. I also use it to get to Bradley train stop
it's the only green space with trees and I love to walk through it in summer when all the leaves come out
I can only walk a short way
To use the work-out machines/facilities available for fitness
My wife's memorial bench is in park
mountain/off road cycling
bike riding
football sports
Hill top library in the park
Ride our bikes and use tennis courts
grandchildren
cycling
volunteering
meditation
Fishing
If we had a decent café in Dartmouth Park that was open
cycling, use the exercise areas, history
to chat to other visitors
For a healthy lifestyle for the family
Photography
Great information by Sandwell
education of animals

Q11 – Can you think of anything that would encourage you to visit this green space more often or stay longer?

a bench or two to sit on and enjoy the views
A better (longer) mountain bike trail, similar to Cannock Chase
A better play area for children, for the pond to be cleaned and areas surrounding the pond and for there to be Canada's placed as there is always ppl leaving there rubbish and t

A café like at Hednesford Park Zip line for the children
A café open most weekdays and weekends also clean toilets
A café or somewhere to have a cup of tea at the top of the park
a cafe would be great to meet with other mum's in the area, especially as there is now a baby class ran at Haden hill leisure centre, would be great to have somewhere to go afte
A café, place to have tea, coffee, cakes. A working toilet properly maintained
A check on unwanted people i.e. nuisance teenagers and drug users
A childrens play area would be good as there isn't one round here and multi sports play area
A combine dog/ordinary waste bins on the actual open space especially for those who play football during the week or a weekend and especially a dog/ordinary waste bin for rubbish
A fully fenced off, secure/dedicated part of a field/area so dogs can run freely without the worry of getting lost, injured.
A general tidy up
A larger/additional children's play area
A link from bus station to farm car park. Rangers to make lone walkers feel safe
A nice little tearoom
A park warden/keeper with suitable powers to detain/move on /report unreasonable behaviour.
A place to sit and have a drink and snack, without having to pay to get into the farm. The kiosk by the childrens playground and climbing wall has never been open since we have
A really nice cafe would definitely bring us more often and arrange to meet friends there instead of Mary Stevens Park STOURBRIDGE.
A shelter, more branches, music festivals, concerts
A small café in the summer months, when we were kids the pavilion was great for tea, cakes ice cream etc
a small café or a place with refreshments. Nothing close there to buy a drink and toilets
A tearoom facility which is more in keeping with the Park and family friendly. Security cameras to deter damage and trouble makers. Children play area could be improved as some
A toilet block near to Abbey Road entrance
Activities are already good
Activities for children
Additional toilet facilities. Cafe type outlets for food and drink. Think SPF cafe should be accessible to general public without actual farm entry
After 5pm try park doesn't feel a nice place to visit. Lots of people smoking cannibis and older kids in the play area swearing and being annoying. Too much dog mess. Not keen o
All Good
Although the groundsmen work hard, litter is a terrible problem in the park and surrounding streets
Always burnt out cars and litter. No bins and no dog poo bins. Feels unsafe at times.
An enclosed play space for under 5s please! Most of the play equipment is geared towards and/or overrun by big kids! Nowhere safe to let my young children play freely. On a sunn
An outdoor café open at weekends Bandstand sunday
As a disabled person more comfortable seating area near the children's facilities to help me keep an eye on my grandchildren
As a disabled person some type of shelter to use when weather gets bad
at 88 yrs old I have played on this park since the age of 10

At certain times of the growing season lack of staff/attention - means it does not have all of the areas looking as though they are being maintained.
Ban on alcohol being consumed within the park and strategies deployed to ensure the rule is upheld
Barrier it so people with dirt bikes and off roaders cant tazs around there all night and ruin it.
Basketball Club created, improved access into the Park from Tividale Road, increase in wildflower planting such as Lavender etc
Beauty, facilities there as sports exercises
Better / more play equipment (16)
Better barriers to stop horse and carts getting g through onto the fields and to stop youngsters on motorbikes terrorising the dogs
Better care of the grass - to enable picnics perhaps better lighting for evening/night walks
better children's facilities Better seating maybe better dog playground tunnels etc
Better childrens play area, more lighting especially in darker months, cafe or some sort of community hub, more community events like a community fayre with stalls etc, skate pa
Better facilities
Better footpaths (2)
Better landscaping and ban on fishing the pool
Better lighting around forge mill lake, we often use this as a nice walk however during some of the wooded areas it can be very dark and off putting.
Better mainenance (3)
Better maintained gardens. Park warden to feel more secure and ensure dogs are controlled. Café Put on more events
Better pathways, develop part of it to attract more wildlife. Create some wild meadow areas and picnic space. Put in an outdoor play area.
better picnic areas Better park areas for older children More activities for all ages
Better playground (maintenance and newer playground items) Other sports facilities (tennis/courts etc) Picnic areas
Better playground for kids .more swings will be great beacue always small kids have to wait when secondary kids used it
Better security and safety (16)
Better sitting, benches, if it was cleane/safe due to glass and litter if park wasn't broken
Better toilet facilities Café/Tea Room open more regularly
Better toilet facilities Something other than an ice cream van to buy refreshments.
Better toilets (cleaner/safer) larger kids play area
Better toilets , if haden hill house is closed the other toilets are not very nice
Better up keep of the area in general. Grass cut more regular and cutting cleared and no left to rot and stink proper litter picks/more bins for litter/broken glass is a big pro
Better use of Bandstand, Availability of water/refreshments, toilets. less litter
Better visabiliy of people who work there or patrol people as I often feel vulnerable visiting there when it is quiet
Better visitor guides
Better weather - plus some dog walkers let their dog or dogs off the lead and have caused problems for me and others because they have no control
Better weather (but you can't change that!)
Better weather, more activities based in the park for the whole community

Better weather, toilet facilities
bigger, wider, like Mucklow Hill
Bird hut to look at birds
Bowls
Brass bands, more charity events, communities events
Brick back the park at Smethwick West as it used to be in the 70s and 80s
Brittania Park would maybe benefit from having a café or youth centre
Brunswick Park Sandwell Park (Valley)
build a park there for children
café - somewhere to sit and have a drink or snack
Café / room (46)
Cafe and toilet facilities. If I felt safer there. Less dog mess.
Café events
Café, community centre
Café/teashop be open (pavilion)
Cameras/ police presence. There has been a lot of anti social behaviour and incidents involving younger people been robbed and abused
Can give classes (exercise) ones for young people and adult to get fit or treasure hunt, kids activities
car parking charges dumping of rubbish
Car parking improved
CCTV in park
CFe in the park open more hours
cheaper food and drink cleaner and more toilets
cheaper parking
Cheaper parking and fair costs
Cheaper Rents
Children's park but would be concerned @antisocial behaviour
Children's play area including disabled facilities such as sensory garden More events and activities
Clean areas up more bin areas more activities to do
Clean goose mess Cut trees back
Clean it up of rubbish and dog mess leaves over paths and over grown weeds
Clean it up. Do something about the people peddling drugs on carparks. Do something about the teenagers drinking in there on an evening and leaving glass everywhere. Do somethin
clean the place up (no Litter) and stop the workers and lorry drivers using it for a toilet
clean toilets that are open and open café with reasonable prices
Clean up the broken glass
Cleaned up - litter and fly tipping removed would improve area massively
cleaner areas, less litter cut grass make it look more attractive - less dull and less vandalsim
Cleaner as in removal of litter. Maybe a coffee stand that's open when I'm there!
Cleaner paths
Cleaner paths of mud, beer cans, dog mess and general rubbish dumping
cleaner, feel safer after dark to job through
cleaning area of Geese excrement

Cleaning updated and also stop dogs being without leads
clear the islands of scrub for wading birds and terns.
coffee shop to open regularly
Complete circumferential pathways in both parts.
Completion of flood defences Removal/Trimming of fallen trees and some weeds
Continual improvement
Could they have green space nearer to where I live
Craft Markets
Cut the grass, clean it up, put the dog mess bin back on the lamppost
Cutting of trees in the wall through from Bloomfield terrace to Bloomfield Rd
Cycle routes and segregated cycle lanes
Dartmouth Park Coffee shop to re-open
Discouraged of people feeding the birds and leaving discarded food
Do something about the pond. Last year it was filthy, dead geese left for days. No ducks, geese left now.
Do the edges around the park pool because you cannot see the wildlife in the pool
Dog park - area for dogs to play in smaller enclosed space with 'play area' type equipment for dogs. These are very common in Australia and America
Dog walker should clean up after their dogs, kids using the green space can easily step on dog poo I've seen this lots of time (Dog Fouling)
Dogs being kept on leads, they can be a nuisance at times, the extended leads give them plenty of room to run about but you are in control
Dogs kept under control not running round wild.
Dogs should be on leads round the pools we have lost swans because of dogs May last year the male swan got killed by a dog Nothing is taken of over the last few years The smell
Don't allow it to be built on
easier and safe steps to footpath, the public footpath underfoot improved and rough hedgerows trimmed back
Easy Parking
Employing park rangers, tackling litter, vandalism and fly tipping and crime, giving families a chance of a good time also putting better facilities on site and more play areas
enforce the rules on dog walkers to clear excrement
Ensure dogs are kept on leads
everything good for me at the moment
Exercise equipment Brunswick Park
Exercise machines were in excellent condition, however they are poorly maintained, 5-6 months swing machine not working others need oiling, repair. Please have separate designat
Far Field used to have hedge running down one side containing loads of wildlife and shelter from the wind this was raised to the ground and left fallow
farm animals toilets cafe
fear of not getting mugged or stabbed! Sad world we live in
Feeling safer there would encourage me to use it more in the winter months Having benches near the skate park could encourage me and other users to stay longer Having a cafe t
fenced area where dog could run free. Park has no fences and there are four busy roads surrounding the park
fewer dogs

fire car parking charges and better toilet facilities
Fitness equipment (2)
Flowers. Local volunteers could plant and maintain flower beds.
Flowers. Maybe local volunteers could plant and maintain some flower beds?
Food Outlet
Football pitch
For it to stay the way it is as we feel its a safe place to take our daughter
For the children, a better play area, there are only 2 swings which are for toddlers and no swings for bigger children. Also my children have expressed and desire for a splash p
Free parking clean and safe environment
Free parking Toilet facilities free evnts
Free parking. Playground equipment in working order - toilet facilities cleaner
Fun days, More activities
Get rid of all the drug addicts and unsavoury teenagers
Get rid of drug dealing
Get rid of loitering groups of teenagers who make you feel uncomfortable. Regular patrols to make you feel safe. There used to be a Park Keeper on hand in past years which was g
get rid of rubbish Clean pond out
get rid of the gangs and men who hang around shouting trying to grab women and dogs
getting more time to go out bur will be increasing our time going to parks in the future
good litter collection, some security petrols like the old park keeper who would exercise some authority in controlling any unruly youth. more events its lovely to see the parks
grass cut more regularly for clearer footpaths Improved children's play area (small and bland)
Grass is always long, needs more regular cutting
Green space Goldcroft road - clean up litter and put in children play area
gym equipment in Pleck - fenced off dog area to all dog to run
Has long as its kept the same I will keep going
Have more sports and events
Having an outside space at a cafe
I already visit as often as possible
I keep planning to walk more and use the exercise facilities at Victoria Park, but have not yet got round to it.
I like to see the trees and grass it reminds me of the courtyside
I only go in the morning or up to early afternoon. I don't think I would feel safe in the later afternoon/evening
I think it would be better if you use the farm cafe without having to pay an entry fee to the farm. At the moment there is no alternative.
I think we use it enough
I think you should do more activities at this park has it' has never been used to it's best
I walk around park for exercise would do more often when weather OK and if I had the time
I would stay longer if it was larger
I would visit more often if I didn't have to pay to park.
If all dogs were kept on a lead.
If an area was developed to seat and eat. Also that area can be used to just view the park

if dog owners can control their pets - some dogs are aggressive and go wild
If I didn't have to pay for parking I would be encouraged to go more often
If I felt less worried about anti social behaviour I might explore more of the Woods instead of always following the same path
If I had more energy - I'm wrong side of 80
If I had more time
If I lived nearer
If it had toilet facilities and was maintained better. Too much rubbish and broken glass
If it was cleaner and safer
If it was cleaner, less dog poo on the grassed area. Maybe if it had a warden
If it was more clean. The toddlers area need to be replaced. straight monkey bas not circles. another court (tennis/basketball)
If it wasn't having a big pool plonked in it.
If it were better looked afte - grass mown more often - pathways cut regularly etc
If it were closer, as not to have to drive to get there
If it were policed more frequently
If more was done about the antisocial behaviour
If the area was safer at all times If dogs had a specific area where they were unleashed instead of anywhere
If the car park was still available, my disabled wife would like to visit the park
If the children could interact with animals more
If the council showed more interest in maintaining the park
If the gates weren't locked so early
If the museum by the park farm was reopened
If the park is locked overnight it would stop litter antisocial behaviour
If the park was tidy and clean. Over the last 12 months I have only seen council staff once. Previous to that I used to see them most days.
If the park were bigger
If the parking at the farm was free or the entrance to the farm, I think the café would be used more often
If the space would have been cleaner, safer and more child friendly. Park is always dirty and child's area is poorly equipped and dirty
If there was a café there that you could use without having to pay to visit the farm first. Other than that its a beautiful park that we love to visit, Sandwell Council should b
If there was a nice café with inside and outside tables with toilets serving meals and drinks. The café at Walsall Arboretum is lovely and also has an information area
If there was less litter
If there was less litter in some parts if antisocial behaviour was policed more
If there was more going on or I had more time I would stay longer
If there was rides to go on like funfair for kids for free If more kids area to play on
If there were slightly more activities available in the play area.
If you cleaned up broken glass in exercise area and around the field
If you didn't sell it!!!
improve seating areas - with flowers/plants
Improved cleanliness (7)

improved exercise area and lights at night/winter time, improvements to children play areas, more patrols from wardens to stop anti-social behaviour
Improved facilities, toilets being open, would be happy to pay for parking as a funding route
Improved leisure equipment, fitted properly proper dog area
Improved pathways and benches More cleaning of play area floor
Improved playground Maybe some bins for dog's litter to encourage people to use it It'd be nice if it would be cleaned more often
Improved security
Improved security, safety features in the playground, more entertainment activities
Improved surface of walkways, childrens park is in desperate need of repair the flooring is very slippery due to the surrounding trees and most of the features have been vandalise
In winter there is no lighting when gets dark early. I remember when younger we had boats, bicycles and lots of activity centres but not anymore
Increase the feeling of safety as sometimes it can be a worry about crime
Interactive animal sessions
It keep you healthy, feel fresh, good for well being
It needs more events, sandwell always use other parks for events and there's a perfectly good space here
It needs to be maintained to a higher standard litter seems to be a big problem
It would be a great help if the reporting process for fly tipping and rubbish removal was less obstructive and long winded. The operatives on the ground do there best, but are
It would be nice to maybe have a few more activities throughout the year, not too many though as I enjoy it just as much for its peacefulness. Also site based staff in the woods
It's a beautiful place to visit but needs some tlc as lots of rubbish is getting dumped and trees need looking after
Its all about safety and as long as there are no youths hanging around I would stay
I've not but there is always room for improvement, Keeping the parks litter free is important
Just more of my time
just the weather!
Keep away drinks, little removal
Keep it as it is
keep motor bikes from the site
Keep motorbikes/scramblers off the area
Keep the drug users and thugs out
Langley park grass to be cut properly - not leave grass cuttings behind, less litter
lean up litter, get rid of resident drunks
Leave it alone.....the proposed changes will leave us with NO green spaces for the activity of kids so necessary in the development of young minds
Leave it as it is - natural
Less dog mess (2)
Less dog poop on the canal, it's a nightmare
Less Dogs
Less Dogs, they are intimidating and often off the lead and uncontrolled, sometimes feel Dogs and their owners are given more priority than non dog owners.
Less Drug Users and the drug rubbish they leave

Less gangs
Less glass and hazardous objects so my son is safer
Less litter (11)
Less litter everywhere, our open spaces are becoming eyesores
Less litter on the floor No car parking charge Not so high price for the pitch and putt
Less rubbish left by fisherman around the pools. Trees and plants regularly maintained to avoid fires spreading quickly and foot paths being more passable.
Less rubbish left by the Sunday football teams that use it.
Less rubbish Less dog fouling More wardens better access for disabled
Lessen fees for parking and entrance
let people swim in some of the ponds
Lighting (3)
Lightwoods park extension paths need resurfacing - parts have not been done for 50+ years!
Litter and dog mess is disgusting, rangers would be good ut they should be able to issue fixed penalties for litter dropping, dog fouling etc
Litter clearage Tree/shrub maintenance
litter sometimes is bad play area vandalised and not safe
Local signage na
make it more safer. Regular patrols by police or wardens
Maybe more children's equipment in the play area.
maybe more social events where you can meet with there people
more activities for kids more safeguarding
more activities going on for all ages
more adequate lighting at entrances
more baby swings - currently there is only one
More barriers to stop motorbikes and horse and carts - barriers have been put in but they are still getting onto the park.
more bedding, correction, any bedding
More benches and more social activities in the café to combat loneliness and toilets!!!
More benches in quieter area of park
More benches, outdoor equipment area, playground area better litter bins, more of them, emptied more regularly, better pathways
More bins (3)
More children activities during school holidays
More choice for children at the farm cafe, now unable to purchase warm milk for children, especially on cold days
More cleaning of canal walks. Cameras over parks for fly tipping and bullys
More climbing frames for kids
More colour
More colour and some light/lamppost if it was to get dark Maybe some work on making it more appealing
More community events
More community events Patrol this area
more control over dogs / more responsibility from dog owners

more control wardens about
More council run events
More craft fairs or events for younger children.
More disabled friendly
more dog bins and rubbish bins barriers to prevent off road motorbikes from accessing the field
More dog events
More dog poo bins Access via footpaths improved by cutting plants back more regularly in summer
More drinking facilities No Parking feed Opened more early in morning
More eating and drinking facilities that are not too expensive and open more for those that are there already
More equipment
more equipment and a cafe
More equipment for younger children to play on, age restrictions on play area, cameras and a park attendant, duck pond, toilets
More equipment suitable for younger children in the play area
More events and activities (18)
More events Market stalls, festivals, Bandstands
More Events, more for children to do, play areas
More events, more things for children to do
more events/car boot sales
More exercising equipment's and safety about all age groups
more facilities - for these to also be affordable
More facilities like in Sandwell Valley like a visitors centre, toilets etc, this nature reserve is constantly overlooked, while Sandwell Valley seems to boast new facilities al
More family things to do
More farm animals
More flowers and planting (11)
more flowers/shrubs to look at and watch grow/flower throughout the year
More food options
More for younger children and cleaned more often
More fore children where dogs can't go and adults with out children and park inspectors
More free time
more gym for the adult
More investment to purchase the hills for WTBBC for people to enjoy
More lights in park when u get off metro
More litter bins and dog bins. More facilities, less ASBO namely quad bikes, motor bikes racing round park, more police presence.
More maintenance. Although the grass is kept short and bins are employed emptied regularly. The weeds grew massive last summer and were not taken of which made the park look a r
More patrols to tackle the gangs of lads
more place for children to enjoy
More place to sit around the park. Which are in good condition information posts with the storys of the two houses the gates and the memorial to the fallen pilots and toilets
More plant rangers and patrolling and get rid of parking charges

More planting of shrubs, flowers, an orchard, wild flower meadows for the bees, more seating in areas with lovely views. Barbecue areas, and small sectioned areas for family gro
More planting, picnic benches, wild flower planting. More things for young children to play on. Daily mile.
More police patrols to stop off road bikes
more police to move the alcoholics
More pooh bins, but otherwise well maintained.
More provision for people to deposit litter Possible park rangers patrolling
more recreational activities I could enrol/engage in for instance yoga room
More refuse bins Area left after building demolished put to good use Tree planted
More safe lights Less dog fouling, grass gets to be cut often
More seating and benches (26)
More seating and picnic area. Some school holidays the park can be quite full with all seats taken
More seating around the park. Although parking space outside park, this is often taken up by work vans
more security to stop motorbikes
more shows/activities older folks
More sport and better grounds staff
More sports equipment e.g table tennis, soccer table
More staff
More stuff to put on the green space other than the park such as a football pitch, skate park,etc
More things for children
More things for children to do
more time (2)
more times open for a snack
more to see/do less rubbish/dog fouling courts/park areas to be updated
more toilet facilities building for playgroups or community events Music performances during summer
More toilet facilities More outdoor games areas
More toilet facilities. More cafe opening hours
more toilets and sitting benches round the park (specially for disabled person/people)
More tree planting
More tree planting and better maintenance of seating etc
More trees and hedgerows
More trees planted, to set up a wild flower garden for insects to thrive, patrols by a park warden to ensure dog fouling doesn't happen with on the spot fines + to control teena
More wildlife (2)
More wildlife advantage points of view
motorbikes are a daily problem, they will discourage most people from using any of the greenspace (near canal and powerstation)
Motorbike's racing (gangs of youth's drugs)
Mt children would like to see more added to the wooden gymnastics park e.g. climbing web also we love zip lines
My granddaughter loves it there but the childrens playground could be improved I am glad the climbing frame has reopened but the children s trampoline needs repair. Plus th

n/a attend sons football games
Nature walks, more planted flowers, upkeep of the ground and maybe a decent park so I could take my children to play on.
needs a café such as Mary Stevens Park in Dudley. A coffee shop would be used frequently. Rats are a problem in the park often seen and health hazard especially for children
Needs wardens over there to tidy the place up needs maintenance as very overgrown
No - it is pretty much perfect!
No as keeping it natural is best
No as mostly its for walking/dog walking and looking at birds/nature - we stay as long as we want to
No as poor health limits my walking time
No Buildings! Don't need shopping centre on Lion Farm Green Space
No car parking charges More benches in Sandwell Valley
NO GLASS, NO LITTER. Very dangerous for pets, but for some people it's the only large open grass space they can get too.
No it is perfect as it is.
No perfect in every way
No, I'm happy with the park
Nolightwood
None, because council work has been done to improve walkway through the pool
NOT BUILDING UNWANTED AND UNNEEDED RETAIL PARK ON IT.
Not its perfect as it is
Not on this park
Not really although somewhere to sit and have a coffee by the half door at park farm would be good without having to go all through the farm
Not really its closest to where I live
Not really, happy with how it is now
nothing at the moment
Nothing except to keep surrounding pavements cleaner especially near the Hagley Road traffic lights
Nothing I can think of.
nothing it suits me perfectly
Now I have a child a playground would be perfect. There used to be one before it all got torn up and I used to play there as a child too
Often full of yobs/drugtakers so security
Only finding the time!
open car park up again at Tividale Park
Opening up the water park more often
organised activities, updated equipment for children and public
out door craft fairs or car boot sales
Outdoor activities for kids especially in Summer Walking and Jogging Outdoor gym
Overgrown with brambles. Poor maintenance. Leaves blown over paths. Pond edges overgrown. Needs clearance
park area - summer pool and sand
Park keeper

Park keeper/patrol for greater safety
park warden on patrol as I do not always feel safe visiting on my own
paths around the park pool to be cleaner. Litter on the floor instead of the bins annoys me
paths cut into grass by mowers. No cut often enough at present
pathways are overgrown and therefore would stay longer if passable
People should walk the dogs with lead. Lat year there were three incidents where the dog bit
People would use the park more I think if the school used them i.e. sports days football
perhaps a café on the OTHER side of the park too. And if you would kindly reinstate the gates and car park on the Abbey Road side of the park. There is no enough parking now we
Picnic areas (6)
Planting of more vegetation in the park lake.
plenty of seating, designated walks, toilets (clean!)
Plenty to do here
pond with ducks, with fencing to protect small children from falling in
Prevent motorbikes accessing park Better facilities for toddlers
Prevent motorbikes and mopeds (7)
preventing motorbikes using the park. Keep dogs under control Monitor groups of youths on park
Provision of a café that is actually open and free to enter, rather than having to pay an entry fee to Sandwell park farm
public toilets
Public toilets, gates open properly, better play area for children
Put the bowling green back and toilets
reduce amount of cyclists allowed to use paths. will stop erosion of said paths
Reduce cost of parking
Refreshment of play area Refurbishment and cleanliness of toilets - including toilet loo roll
removal of litter - from land and canal removal of graffiti
Removal of litter (the park wardens work really hard but people still drop litter)
Removal of mess from Canada Geese on walkways (culling, there are too many of them)
Removal of parking fees (34)
Remove litter replace trees
Remove the fly tipping
Remove the litter or provide more bins for litter Park facilities are in disrepair and the wooden café building is in disrepair
Removing litter beer cans left by the trees
Repair of perimeter fences to stop fly tipping! And also to stop off road motorbikes getting on and causing a nuisance o dog walkers
Replace climbing frame for teenagers
Replanting new trees rather than cutting them down
RSB Centre to open more days a week
Rubbish removed Motorbikes stopped racing ruining grass Wild horses grazing
Safer paths to allow MORE access to ALL of the paths. Not just one path being the only accessible for wheelchair or motorised scooter. Benches to rest as my disability I suffer
safer play areas, better goals
Safety issues a relatives 8 year son was shot in the head last years!

Sandwell Valley in some areas is isolated so park rangers would encourage more people to visit
Sandwell Valley is still a lovely place to be but is being spoilt with all the work that's going on
Sandwell Valley has improved tremendously over the years - I salute you for the time and effort you have put into this
Seating, children's play area, more trees and plants to encourage even more wildlife, could do with a clean up of rubbish more regular, possibly develop the canal side area
Security guards Coffee shops open all year and later in summer
SERCO collecting the rubbish The teenagers leave more often
Shelter for families when its raining
Shelter form rain
Should be more benches, dog waste bins with special bags for dog waste and more bins for normal waste
Sit down café (have to pay entrance fee for the one within the farm)
Smoking
so long as nothing changes its perfect
Some activities, festivals, facilities for hot/cold healthy eating places
Some flowers would be a great improvement when I see motor bikes, horse and traps and quad bikes in the park I do not feel safe
some type of activity space
Some varied events and repairs to the children play area equipment
Sometimes number of dogs off lead annoying as owners unable to control them. Scary for young children especially. Poo problem improved but still an issue.
Sometimes stay longer than 2 hours, its all weather dependent which you of course you can't do anything about
Sometimes when I take my grandchildren to the play area the pool smells really terrible
Somewhere to have a drink. Toilet facilities. More seasonal activities i.e. bonfire night. xmas events for children. easter egg hunt for children
Somewhere to suit and have a snack drink. There is a café in Sandwell Park Farm, but you have to pay to get into the farm to access café. There are facilities at Forge Mill Farm
Splash pads need to be back on in summer and hot weather.
stop gangs of youths gathering causing a nuisance
Stop motorbikes driving over grass, too much drinking beer around children. Park and drug taking, broken glass in children play area
Stop off road motor bikes entering the space. Encourage dog owners to control their dogs.
Stop people having sex on the benches. Reduce people drinking alcohol to the point of getting aggressive. Reduce litter. Clamp down hard on the people who leave dog shit regular
Stop people with dogs that don't clean up their mess CCTV needed to get rid of young teenagers who broke the gates/play area and smash glass
Stop the alcohol drinking every day Dog fouling
Stop the fishermen taking the fish home
Stopping alcohol would be a good thing to do and there is no park warden in the park at any time.
stopping all the broken glass bottles that are over all the paths also dog mess getting worse even though there have been more bins provided - both our dogs have been cut by the
Stopping anti-social behaviour, better warden presence, clearing of dense tree cover in certain areas.
the area by the duck pond needs new grass - its currently very muddy

the car park could be attended as it is often used as a meeting place instead of jist a car park and does not feel secure
The lower pool is very overgrown now. The general upkeep of the flowerbeds/ornamental features could be better
The only concern, I have is people letting their dogs run free it becomes quite scary sometimes when children around. You see dog excrement quite frequently has some dog owners
The only thing that spoils this park is unruly teenagers and quad bikesto improve a park ranger permanently situated would be a good idea
The park it self is lovely but I think the play ground area could do with being checked on regular as teenagers use this area and many times there is glass and all sorts everywh
The park needs to get Green Flag Status. There needs to be additional time spent on maintenance particularly an investment in the flower beds which used to be beautiful in Red H
the pathways need to be refurbished with stone or gravel as they can get quite muddy in parts caused by the torrential rain a couple of years ago washing the mud/grass onto the
The play area always needs fixing
The play area needs to cater for children I Under 5. The 1 swing is not sufficient. As a childminder who looks after mainly under 4s a younger play area would be a massive incen
The Presence of an old style Park Keeper would give added security .
The rubbish is an issue for me, bins are overflowing rubbish all in the pool. Those poor ducks and swans, more equipment for toddlers.
The toilets being open longer - they close mid afternoon and they are not clean and café never open
The water feature for children being open as last couple of years hasn't been and maybe more food facilities
The water splash pad needs to be updated doesn't work in summer months
There future is secure
There is a lot of dog poo. Need more bins and supervision
There is a lot of rubbish about, particularly at holiday times. There seems to be a lot of barbeque rubbish left over the past 5 years or so
There is nothing on the Park for children to come to Laybourne Park for, there is nothing on for them to use
things to do make the park cleaner
Tidy up outer areas improve play area
Tied up and closed at night
Time to go
To be kept clean and tidy Less anti-social behaviour (like drinking of alcohol) Possible wardens to discourage antisocial activity, vandalism
To get the pool back to what it was to get more mallards and geese and swans back on the pool
To have more play apparatus for children more activities during non school holidays
Toilet facilities and café accessible without visiting farmyard
Toilet facilities Refreshments Bigger play area Splash Pad
Toilets (43)
Toilets, more activities and the cafe open later.
Trees need pruning and rubbish removed. Grass needs cutting more in the summer
type of public of people you get sometimes
Unfortunately there are more and more people smoking cannabis in the park. This deters me and others, especially families from staying longer in the park. The tennis courts, onc

update of childrens area More organised activites
Use it to help me walk and for exercise
use the green space more frequently in Warmer seasons
Vandalism to park benches
Victoria Park - geese and duck poo, cannot walk due to this especially with children
WALLACE CLOSE PARK HAS NOT BEEN CHANGE IN OVER 25 YEARS. IM A YOUTH WORKER AT DARLEY HOUSE. I HAVE APPLIED FOR FUNDING BUT CANT GET LEASE ON LAND...THIS PARK IS NEED OF A COMPLE
wardens more visible - fines for dog fouling
Warley Woods is lovely. Lightwoods can sometimes be a bit threatening when there is lots of youth there. Maybe the presence of a community police officer might help
We already visit several times a week
We can only go weekly as it is too far
Weather - unfortunately there's nothing you can do to help this
weather not good
Wednesbury Tennis club courts need improving/restoring
West smethwick park should be cleaner around the pool,
when events organised, do not change so much (Christmas lights)
when I feel safe
Wildflowers in woods
Working water play area as closed all summer
Workout area with chin up bars
Would be a much more used place if the kids wasn't riding motor bike over there . More events
Yes - ensure all dogs are kept on leads! There has been too many complains via media highlighting this need!
Yes a cafe to buy drinks as kids often get thirsty and hungry and there in no shops around. Also there is mo enough seating could do with more benches rather than picnic bench a
Yes build a big park with splash pads and excercise stuff with big sand pits to for both older children and toddlers. It would be exactly what they need on lion farm maybe even a
Yes cut the grass and not leave the cuttings everywhere also litter pick
yes dogs kept on a lead and more litter collections and broken glass cleaned up would be nice to see a warden occasionally
yes trees and shrubs need cutting down. Mostly shrubs, kids in them not safe, adults hiding in them, shrubs need taking up
Yes we can't stay as long as we would like due to there being no toilets (Brunswick Park)
Yes/More closely monitored i.e. motor bikes, travellers

Q12 Which parks within Sandwell do you visit for events? Please list

Sandwell Valley / Farm	375
Dartmouth Park	262
Victoria Park	108
Lightwoods Park	105
Warley Woods	82
Brunswick Park	80
Haden hill	70
Jubilee Park	39
Wednesbury Park	19
Red House Park	18
West Smethwick Park	17
West Bromwich Park	15
Brittania Park	14
Tividale Park	12
Langley Park	11
Victoria Park Smethwick	10
Barnford Park	8
Lion Farm Playing Fields	8
Warrens Hall	7
Himley Hall	5
Baggeridge	5
Oak House Park	5
Other	72

All parks
As above
B park
Balls Hill, Dial Lane, Sandwell valley
Barnford Hill park, Dartmouth park, Victoria park, West Rd park
Bearmore
Brandhall Golf Course Barnfold park
Brandhall golf course lightwoods park Sandwell valley
Britannia park Allotments Haden Hill park Rowley Hills Warley Woods
Britannia park/Sandwell valley/Berry Hill park and Tividale park
Brunswick park Sandwell Valley Manor House Friar park
Brunswick park, Arboretum park
Brunswick park, Sandwell Valley, Moorland allotments
Bumble hole Sandwell Valley Himley/Baggeridge
Dartmouth park and Lewisham park
Dartmouth park Red house park Oakwood park/Jesson Recreation Ground
Dartmouth park Sandwell park Farm Forge Mill Farm
Dartmouth park Swan Pool Sandwell park Farm

Dartmouth park Tipton park
Dartmouth park, West park Smethwick Sandwell Valley
Dartmouth park, Hill Top park, Sandwell Valley
Dartmouth park, West Bromwich Victoria park Smethwick Summer hill park, Winson green Sandwell Valley park
Don't go to organised events as they seem more related to families/children not single adults
don't visit events due to travel
Friar park Rd
Haden Hill park Mary McArthur Memorial Garden Dartmouth park Sandwell Valley
Handsworth park, Dartmouth park
Hill Top only
I refuse to use Dartmouth park as it seems SMBC only care about Green Flag parks and the people who use them. Farley park is nearest yet only one half of the par
I visit Victoria park for its beauty although the (Tipton) geese make a terrible mess
Jubilee park Dartmouth park Brunswick park Walsall arboretum Victoria park (Tipton)
Jubilee park Tipton park Sandwell Valley/Dartmouth park
kenrick park (walk through to my golf course)
King George Victoria Jubilee park
King George Dartmouth
Laybourne park
Londonderry West Smethwick park Bury Hill
None - used to go to the fireworks events but now put off due to violent incidents and entrance problems
None Used to visit Lightwoods, for the picnic in the park? Can't remember the name. Used to be yearly in May. Maybe May Bank Holiday
None for events, but as a change of scenery, we visit Sandwell valley park
None for events. I also go to Lightwoods park, Leasowes, Sandwell Valley (occasionally), I don't necessarily know the names of where I visit! I don't know what ar
None too far away
none we don't hear about any sometimes we notice things going on at Mary McCarthy driving past
Not aware of events taking place at Brunswick. Nice bandstand but never seen only events taking place there, what's happened to the bands>
Not sure may try Bearwood
Oak House Dartmouth park Manor House Lightwoods park
Over the past years the Vintage Vehicle and the August Show but that wasn't on last year
Ratcliff park, Hill Top park
Sandwell farm Barr Beacon Sutton park Walsall Arboretum Licky Hills
Sandwell park and Farm West Bromwich West park Smethwick Victoria park
Sandwell Valley Baggeridge park Dartmouth park Walsall Arboretum
Sandwell Valley Dartmouth park Bury Hill park Tividale park
Sandwell Valley Lion Farm Fields Tividale park Rowley Hills Langley park
Sandwell Valley park, Walsall Arboretum
Sandwell Valley Wednesbury park Hydes Road
Sandwell Valley, Dartmouth park, Red house park, Oak House and Manor House

Sandwell Valley, Hill Top park
Telford Town park, Sutton park
The jesson, West Brom park, the park on dial lane
Tipton park Sandwell park/Kings Georges Farley park Gt Bridge
Tipton park Victoria park
used to go to the show end of August
Used to visit Jubilee park for events, but they don't have many these days.
Victoria park, Coronation Gardens
Victoria park, Lightwoods park, Warley Woods, Sandwell Farm, Forge mill Farm, Swan pool
Victoria park, Sandwell farm (park), Warley Woods, park on Stoney lane
Walsall Arboretum Sutton park Sandwell Valley
West Bromwich park, Sandwell Valley, Victoria park, Hydes Road Pool
West park Sandwell park
West park, Victoria park
Woden Rd South/Hydes Rd

Q15 – Within Sandwell’s parks, what other events/types of events do you go to see? Please list

Summer Events	16
Show	3
Fairs, Fetes and Markets	99
Concerts and Music Events	73
Funfairs and circuses	49
Sandwell Show	45
Dog Shows	43
Children's and Family Events	40
Picnic in the Park	37
Bank Holiday Events	34
Christmas and Seasonal Events	32
Car shows / Bus Rally	32
Bonfire Night and Fireworks	26
Animal Shows	25
Other Sporting Events	25
Charity Events	24
Carnivals	23
Football	22
Nature Events	15
Boat Show / Canal Fesitval	14
Tipton Carnival	14
Community Days	13

Car Boot Sales and Markets	12
Remembrance Services	11
Parades (st George's Day)	11
Party in thte Park	10
1940s / History Events	9
Wednesbury Carnival	9
Bearwood Festival / Shuffle	8
Events at Haden Hill House	8
Birmingham Mela	7
Festivals	6
Shape Youth Festival	4
Air Balloon Festival	3
Armed Forces Day	3
Diwali	3
Food Festival	3
Mayors Show	2
Other	21

Asian events in July Victoria Park Bonfire night Victoria Park
Asian games, Fun Fair
Bearwood shuffle, Food events, Father Christmas, picnic in the park, Dog show.
Events at 'Lion Farm fields'
Events organised by social services
Group walk. Summer events.
Lightwoods - tea in the park
Manor House Events Museum and art gallery
Meeting and friends of parks events
More events in Tividale park - Christmas events, family sporting activities, Diwali events, Eid events, music events
Museum, gallery art
Museums. Children's events. Christmas and Halloween events.
Nothing to do with children. I want peace and quiet in a park! I have been to the spring thing in Lightwoods Park in the past. I have been to events at the Mano
Park summer events, museum
Pokémon community days carnival days
Sandwell park
Sandwell Valley
Victoria Park - Tipton/ Jubilee Park Tipton Sandwell Valley Dartmouth Park
Victoria Park (Tipton) Sandwell Park (West Bromwich)
Visit Sandwell valley in the summer
Warley Woods picnic in the park, theatre, walks

Q16 – Do you visit any of the following parks or green spaces? (Other spaces outside of Sandwell (please state)

any good park
any park with golf facilities
Anywhere away from traffic and shopping centres. I live in a built up area on a main road and enjoy getting away from the fumes and pollution.
Arley arboretum
Arley Arboretum
Attingham Park (N.T)
Attingham park, Atcham, Shrewsbury, Hanbury hall, droit ich
Avon croft museum and grounds
Beacon Park, Lichfield.
Bentley Pool, Reeds Wood Pool
Birmingham parks
Blackstone Park Bewdley
Botanical Gardens
Botanical Gardens
Bournville
Brecon Beacons, Lake district
Bridgenorth
Britannia Park
Britannia Park
Buffery park/ netherton park/ Mary Stevens park
Bumble Hole
Bumble Hole Nature Reserve Leasowes Park
Bumble hole, netherton
Burselm, Stoke-on-Trent - love this park - well lit, feel safe even at night.
Canals and reservoirs all over the country
Chasewater
Chasewater
Cofton Park
Cotteridge Park Farm, Sedgley,
Drayton Manor Park Tamworth Coomb Abbey Park Coventry
East Park (Wolverhampton)
Edgbaston
Edgbaston Reservoir
Edgbaston reservoir
Exmoor National Park
Gheluvelt Park Worcester Sycamore Adventure centre Brinton Park Kidderminster Stourport Park by the river
Grand Union Canal
Greenhill gardens, sandfoot gardens - Weymouth
Grove park, Harborne

Haden Hill
Haden Hill Button Oak - Bewdey
Haden Hill Park
Haden Hill, Woodgate Valley, Sanders Park
Hadsh Hill Park
Handsworth park, hamstead park
Handsworth park, Victoria Park -Smethwick, West Smethwick Park, Cannon hill park, Warren's hall, Britannia Park
Harborne Walkway
Harborne Walkway
Hednesford Park
Himley plantation Highgate common
Himley, Malvern Hills, Waseley Country Park
Himley, Wednesbury park, Moxley field
Indian games in different towns and city in summer time
Kidderminster - Brinton Park Stourport
Kings Heath Park, Highbury Park, Warley Woods, Perry Common Park, Edgbaston Reservoir, Forge Mill Farm, Swan Pool Park (just before Forge Mill Farm)
Kingsbury Water Park
Kingsbury Water Park
Kingsbury Water Park
Kingsbury water park. Chasewater. The mill pool by rydding lane west Bromwich.
Kingsheath park
Kinver Edge
Kinver edge
Kinver Edge
Kinver Edge
Kinver Edge Bodenham Arboretum
Kinver edge Stourport Bradley Bridgenorth
Kinver edge, Kingsford country park, Abberley Valley, The Wrekin
Kinver Malvern Hills
Kinver Wrekin
Kinver, Bridgnorth river
Lack of park benches for the elderly
Lake Vrnwy Powys
Leasowes
leasowes
Leasowes
Leasowes and Warley Woods
Leasowes Park
Leasowes park
Leasowes Park Clapgate Lane farm Harborne Park West Smethwick Park
Leasowes Park Halesowen

Leasowes Park Halesowen Stourbridge Park Romsley Country Park Netherton Bumble Hold Canal Area
Leasowes Park Waseley Country Park
Leasowes Park, Woodgate Valley
Leasowes, Four Dwellings Park
Leasowes, Waseley
Leasows
Leasows Country Park. Woodgate Valley Country Park.
Leasows park, woodgate valley, Highfields lane rec ground, somers sports/social club
Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
Lion Farm Playing Fields, Gorse Farm Wood, Sheepwash Lane Nature Reserve, Merrion's Wood, Sots Hole.
local Tipton park
lots of children's farms, Sutton area
Malvern Hills
Malvern Hills
Malvern hills/not enough green spaces in Sandwell too much built up area
Mary Stevens
Mary Stevens Park
Mary Stevens Park
Mary Stevens Park
Mary Stevens Park Stourbridge
Mary Stevens Park Stourbridge
Mary Stevens Park, Bodenham arboretum, arley arboretum, Severn valley country park, botanical gardens, winterbourne gardens, leasowes park
Mary Stevens Park, Sandwell Valley, Warley Woods, Leasowes Park, Warrens Hall Nature Reserve, Priory Park.
Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge
Mary Stevens Park, Wyre Forest
Moorcroft wood
Mucklow hills, Leasowes Park, Warren Hall, Sandwell Valley
National Trust Card Cardon Mill Valley
National Trust properties and parks. Arley arboretum
National trust properties Dudmaston Hall hanbury Hall
Northycote Farm, Wolverhampton
One in Blakedown. Don't know what it is called. One in Droitwich by the canal.
Parks in Liverpool
Priors Park Closely Park
Priory Park, Warrens Hall, Bratch Locks, Leasowes Park, Haden Hill Park
Queens Park Harbourne Dartmouth Park
Queens park Leyhill Park Chamberlain Gardens (Ladywood)
Queens park, Harborne
Red House Park
Red House Park

Red House Park Telford - Wellington Wrekin
Red house park and Balls hill park, hill top park, Wodenborough Park
Red house park in Sandwell
Saltwells green area in Dudley. Formerly known as 'bluebell wood'
Saltwells Nature Reserve
Saltwells Nature Reserve Powke Lane open Green Space
Saltwells Nature Reserve, Dudley Woodgate Valley Country Park, Birmingham Warrens Hall Nature Reserve Bumble Hole Nature Reserve
Saltwells Nature reserve: Canals
Sanders Park - Bromsgrove
Sandwell Valley
Sandwell Valley
Sandwell Valley, Dartmouth
See events and parks visited on previous questions
Selsey forest
Septon Park (Liverpool)
Severn Valley
Severn Valley area.
Severn valley country park Highly Salop
Sherwood forest
Shrewsbury park, Leamington park, Lichfield park, Worcester river side
Shropshire hills
Shugborough Hall, Lichfield park
Small Heath
Smethwick
Sorehole Mill, Bewdley, Stratford-upon-Avon, Stourport
Stourbridge Park
Stourport park . Wyre forest
Sycamore Centre, Wrens Nest, Dudley
Telford park,
Tettenhall Green Many others
The Cotswolds
The Severn Valley Area
The Wrekin
Three counties Shows
Tividale Park
Too many to list
Uffmore woods
Various locations around the Midlands
Victoria Park Smethwick Lightwoods Hill Park
W/Bromwich park Sandwell
Walk along canal routes
Walks along the Severn at Arley.

Warley Woods
Warley Woods Martineau Gardens Botanical Gardens
Warley Woods, Lightwoods Park
Warrens Hall - Clent - Leasowes
Warrens Hall park
Warrens Hall, Bumble hold, Saltwells nature reserve, Leasowes park, Woodgate valley nature reserve, lightwoods park, Warley woods, the river seven between Bewdley and Bridgnorth
Warrens Hall, The Bumble hole, Leasowes park, Saltwells Nature reserve, Woodgate Valley nature reserve, Warley woods, lightwoods park and the River Severn (Bewdley to Bridgnorth)
Waseley Hills
Waseley Hills, Kinver Edge
Waseley Hills, Snowdonia, Lake district
Wasely Country Park
We walk down the canals and disused railway tracks in Womborne area
Wesley hills country park
Whitewick manor, any other National Trust space we feel like visiting
Willenhall Memorial Park
Willerhall Memorial
Woodgate Valley
Woodgate Valley Waseley Hills Leasowes Park Senneleys Park Harborne Walkway Bournebrook Walkway
Woodgate valley, Rowley hills
Worcester by Cricket area
Worfield/Kinver
Wyre Forest
Wyre Forest
Wyre Forest
Wyre Forest
Wyre Forest Dudmaston Estate
Wyre forest, Malvern Hills, Kinver Edge, Burlish Top

Q17 - What if anything prevents you from using/visiting green spaces in Sandwell or using/visiting green spaces more often? (Other (please state))

Anti-social behaviour from irresponsible dog owners
Lack of tea rooms
No Parking
Toilets, cafe
Council vehicles driving across grassed areas and turning them into mud - there are roads to use
All parks have lack of supervision = in relation to discipline
Teenagers foul language at lightwoods skate park has put us off a few times and lack of toilets for chn both there and at Warley woods.
Fishing in park pools gangs of youths Prevent many anglers from using park pools
I use more than one green space where I live I walk over Lion Farm fields, Rowley Hills and Bury Hill Park, Tividale Park, and Titford Canal, Langley park

We used to be able to use small car park until gypsies tried to enter now unusable to because gates are locked
Lack of signposting particularly around Sandwell Valley wooded area you could very easily get lost when your cycling alone
Toilets smell
People using off road motor bikes
Kingshill park when large dogs not on leads attack small dog actually biting him.
Need more disabled facilities, you need to get information on sites and activities advertised better
Could do with more outdoor fitness equipment
lack of toilets
I am only in the habit of using the local parks
my disability and age or I would go more often
Mary Stevens Park Stourbridge
too far to walk
The litter depresses me. I often pick it up myself.
drug dealers
Toilets
In Oakley Gardens Carehome being looked after
but these things do not put us off going completely. During the warmer months, me and my family use the parks often
Distance form Haden Hill
Trees need cutting back on the Bloomfield walk though and path could do with being wider
Just not safe to go to the park
gate lightwoods park when fair there, not a tranquil place then and not much park left over to enjoy
Kids causing problems and being a pain (youths)
motivation and weather
put up signs stop people feeding bread to birds/geese etc. Like park to be maintained as an oasis of clean/calm/quiet space separate from the outside world noise.
Usually visit different parks throughout the month with our service users
Again, maintenance needs improving on pond and water very dirty need draining and cleaning. Years ago, there was crazy golf it needs something like that or water fountains for children to play in with safe rubber flooring as an attraction. Play area kept painted and cleaned
Too many digs not controlled sufficiently. Can't picnic, son is allergic to dogs
toilets
I'm ill
We have used the parks in forge lane but new to use every day the parking is expensive
non existing maintenance of area on and around public footpath, unsafe
West Park Smethwick doesn't have toilets
No refreshments available
Litter
I have a camper and the bar across entrance in forge lane hinders my access
very occasional antisocial behaviour
there is far too much litter everywhere
Lone person safety

lack of park benches for elderly
I only use the green spaces in day light, I don't really go to the Park in the dark
I can only go when I am taken as I am 90
litter
Not very well advertised/promoted9except Sandwell valley0 don't know what is there
more toilets
none of the above. A park keeper was a good thing. I'm not so sure now
I use Britannia Park because it is convenient to walk to every day, so no car is needed
Walk to Victoria Park as traffic does put me off going further afield at times
West Park - a lot of homeless hanging around Valley parking charges
litter
Don't feel safe at night/twilight
off road motorbikes
rubbish
parking charges at swan pool
I use the play area that is closes to my house
litter is a big problem and puts us off
lack of general upkeep e.g. grass cutting/litter/ground staff/tree pruning plants to brighten up place
everywhere needs more bins, dogs are not a problem, rubbish is
not happy with Sandwell council and taking green spaces, the rec, built houses on. The so called new aqua centre, what happens after event, The people of Sandwell cannot afford hire costs.
I go as much as possible as well as working
I am 93
lack of car park
council should preserve any areas (trees green areas) a lot of senior officers employed by council don't live in Sandwell
lack of toilets that are open and clean and café and not always on good bus routes
no seats to sit on Sandwell Valley
We live in Walsall about 2 miles from Arboretum
lack car park spaces
the above answers mainly apply to lightwoods
poor catering facilities
lack of washrooms
My son is at an age where he would like to visit the local parks (Jubilee, Victoria, Farley) by himself with friends. I worry about his safety (he has already told me has seen an older child with a knife) Park need staff that are there to stop the wrong people congregating.
Geese and duck fouling - lack of attention to pathways
Litter
Litter, youths on off road bikes, including cans evidence of drug use burnt out cars
I live in the middle of Walsall and West Bromwich and will use the green spaces in Walsall most times
lack of educational features for adults such as wildlife, climate change impact, conservation
Bad mouthed youths

Littering, Fly tipping is common and needs to be addressed
We travel far to other parks for their splash pad facilities We don't tend to travel to many local parks as our nearest one is a good quality
The proposed retail park will destroy the green space we already have
do not like dogs running loose
Rubbish, bins overflowing
Lack of time life is busy
Lack of funding to travel.
Child sexual exploitation not safe for young people to go by themselves
These things don't really prevent me using parks in general, but do put me off some spaces in particular - dog fouling particularly bad in the old churchyard in Oldbury Town Centre, ASB (motorbikes) particularly noticeable in some of the spaces around Tipton.
Lack of up to date. Parks and equipment with them not being repaired or just taken away. Not suitable for certain ages and not much variety of things to do as there is only so much you can do with a ball. We need the green free open space.
I have children with learning difficulties and behavioural issues so it is difficult to take them out on my own
Weather mostly.
The amount of litter in Victoria Park puts me off using more frequently even though it's my closest park. Also, the children's play area felt a little unloved when I used it last year, other than that it's a decent size park with lots of potential, but park users need to be more responsible for putting their litter in the bin. It is for that reason I go to Sandwell Valley with my children, as it is a shining example of a well-kept and tidy park.
Motor bikes and horse and carts getting onto park
the children are scared of dogs that aren't under good control
the gates close at 5pm, I finish work at 5pm
Linked with anti-social. Drug use (weed) and litter in Victoria park. Especially by the bike ramps.
Lack of parking in general

Q25 – How do you benefit most from green spaces? (Other (please state))

Sandwell is a multicultural community most Asians can't read or write English this letter should be put in five Asian languages - thank you
Decreases the sense of isolation
somewhere to take grandkids and cost is low
Do not want to lose playing fields
I think in an age where greenhouse gases and pollution so prominent, green spaces help fight the CO2
Canal helps me do my chosen pastimes (fishing walking)
Not enough football pitches for youths to be satisfied and occupied
Sandwell motorways contribute to low air quality
Exercising/enjoying time out with our dogs
Enables best outdoor activities for children/families and longer outdoor activities
Allows me to get out of my house
I take my 7 yr old grandson, few times a week to Sandwell Valley Park
Keep children active
By taking grandchildren for play and adventures

Peace away from towns, cities and crowds
Local walks
quality organic veg from own plot
pleasant views
Health, Walking
A safe place of children to play outdoors with lots to do, and meet their friends
spend time away from home as family
getting out as a family
it helped me relax after a mental/physical day at work
I have noticed tree cutting at my local park, very sad. Pruning is fine but please no building in park, more trees + greenery
Crime is very bad in Smethwick drugs, hot spot crime, dog mess, bird heed is high
supporting grass roots football
meeting and talking to people
great for grand children
make sure there's plenty of benches to help relax, plenty of bins and dog poop bins
good to be able to take my baby to get fresh air and be out in nature
more greenspaces. Existing ones to be kept better quality
children to play and explore
Dog walks - safe environment to let dog off lead
opportunity to volunteer
animals need to use open space
encourage my child to go further on the climbing spider
just go with grandkids
able to take children out without expense
it's nice to see green as people no longer have gardens due to, they get rid to make driveways
Change from being house bound
spend quality time outdoors with children
I got to Britannia Park every day, it is wonderful to see it being used by all ages - dog walkers and in the holiday school children - a joy to behold
Would be all of the above if they were safe places (e.g.) no drunks, druggies, gang, etc
more parking and disabled spaces, people use more cars now
Used to walk round the green spaces in the borough but now wouldn't due to unsociable behaviour there
exercise i.e. walking, jogging
family day out
happier children
walking the dog gives me physical exercise and is good for my mental health
Disabled and need to get out of the house
natural beauty
Safe place to play away from busy fast roads
enjoy taking the grandchildren to parks
Quality Family Time - Healthy lifestyles
have disability

deals at some level (local) with climate change impact
Nil
My children to play safely.
Quality family time
open place to walk dogs
get out of house with new baby. good for mental health fitness and free!

Q28 – Do you have any other comments?

Make them feel safer. Make sure there are provisions for families. Communities will get involved, Lightwoods Park is an example with their community clean up once a month. Make some spaces no dogs. Provide a cafe and toilets. More allotments, I'd love one !! Get the council to put on more fores
Our greens and parks would be so much better if they were looked after not just by yourselves but general public by not letting dogs foul and leaving it, put your rubbish in the bin not throwing it and leaving it, vandals etc making it not feel safe especially at night people have to also remember
Not a lower quality of cleanliness and maintenance
Needs to be better control of dog fouling
Local areas are run down, dangerous, litter and glass on floors, unsafe for dog walking, full of anti-social behaviour, intimidating, poorly lit, not in walking distance. Strongly considering moving out of area because of these reasons and Sandwell's poor standards on environmental health, as
Please do not use precious green space for Housing or Retail parks . Please ensure that green Space is in close walking distance to people's homes. It would be lovely to have more organised activities for older people in Red House Park. You said in your last Green Space Strategy that you would I
Green spaces are vital for people's well-being and the environment.
More lighting. Harry Mitchell park only needs one light in the centre just so it isn't one giant black patch
As long as rangers are situated on parks to address anti-social behaviour and lack of control of dogs and mopeds etc then it would be a safer place to visit
Charging for parking is wrong.
I have lived in Sandwell all my life I have played in the parks and visited events not only as a child but also as a parent myself and an auntie to several small children. I have always found the parks visitor centres and other green spaces to be of a wonderful quality and feel that people in t
We need more green spaces that are litter free and safe. As I have a lung disease I need to walk in the fresh air but can't walk too far. It is the only treatment for me to keep active so need cleaner air in my area which is Wednesbury.
Our local park can have so much more improvement by involving local community. There isn't a lot of information shared. Fundraisers could be organised, local craft fair can be held etc. Community fun days where sports can be played as well as food stalls. Monies raised can go towards more fl
This form is far too long & people will get bored & not finish
Working in Sandwell I'm really disappointed when we drive through Smethwick and see all the litter on the bushes on the main road
Keep Sandwell green and not cover land wish shops nobody needs or wants
we need more green spaces and of high quality for general health and mental health. As the population and pace of life grows these spaces are very important to happy healthy communities

If you remove lion farm as I understand you are considering that's the last green space near here and you should be ashamed of yourselves
Everyone needs to be able to access green space. We all need them around us
A park on the lion farm fields and multi sports as there is nowhere nearby for the facilities which would be used A lot more
I am strongly opposed to building housing developments on areas which some people classify as "brownfield land". These sites are full of biodiversity , contaminated, but still set up to become classified as SINC or even nature reserves. Please consider designating more areas of low quality open
You need to get in more volunteers to help out
just put some decent infant play equipment close to my postcode
What is the point of this survey really? It is known that the use of outdoor space is recognised to improve physical health and mental well-being. Sandwell Council is hell bent on getting rid of such spaces encouraging us to "go shopping" or pay for swimming in a world class venue... whilst t
Stop building on what green space we have.
People tend to use green spaces on their doorstep more frequently so having more spaces (and more opportunities for people to get involved in shaping and maintaining them) is important.
Everyone should have easy and close access to open spaces
I think it's important to keep the green space and play area as already there but to properly maintain them all year round
Green spaces need to be maintained to the same as now
Do not remove Lion farm Field. It is a great space for local residents to enjoy. There is no way that you can replace a field of that size in the local area for residents that is as close as the field. A field is more useful to mental health than having to look an eye sore of a shopping cen
Parks and open spaces are very important to communities and individuals health and wellbeing, especially those who cannot afford to pay for activity or exercise. There needs to be a behaviour change to encourage more families to attend local parks to ensure future generations appreciate and use
I am against building on parkland areas
we need to have local community groups for group activity like park run in Wednesbury which we don't have, volunteer groups for the gardens, dog shows and flower shows to promote the parks and make use of them, more benches for the elderly to sit and enjoy the air.
Green spaces are so important but quality matters too. My dad has Green space near his on Charloment but it's not particularly pleasant but it's somewhere for the local kids but no one would travel to use it.
Safe green spaces are important for all ages of the community. Young , middle age, old, disabled all need parks & green spaces because they use them in different ways. Many folk do not have access to a garden & I have friends who regularly meet in parks, for a coffee & a chat.
Leave our green spaces alone, stop trying to sell them off for building, is there no end to what you will sell off, it's a total disgrace that you don't listen to the people
Y
There must be a way to prevent a lack of resources for green spaces. Please find it
Regular emptying of park bins please
Never allow development on green spaces
Why ask the last question, green space is ideal for everyone, but what we will get are more housing and overstretched facilities, which creates stress for us all 😞
Better children's play equipment at jubilee park

DONT SELL OFF LION FARM PLAYING FIELDS!!!!!!!!!!
There needs to be more information as to how the community can support/volunteer to help with green spaces after all we're the ones who use it, maybe youth programmes need to exist too to give them purpose and work experience and more respect for where they live
I would like to see designated dog walking spaces where dogs can be off lead, and everywhere else fines for free running dogs and dog fouling. As a responsible dog owner, I often tackle people and offer free poop bags to encourage people to pick up, and get frustrated by dogs where their owners
Start using the council tax appropriately, I am beyond disappointed at the state you let the red house get into, it was something I could go int as a child, fast forward 30 years and it was derelict, sold off for housing. This side of Sandwell deserves funding it shouldn't just be the so called
Lower quality should not be an option
Boot camp sessions in all of our parks. More park runs etc. Most people want more than a few park exercise machines which are rarely used. Let's create some community cohesion, people coming together, getting fit together, making friends. All of this was happening week in week out at Brunswick
stop the council from selling of all our green spaces
Look at other park's like Telford and Hadden hill and the play areas for children as some get bored
We can never have enough green spaces
Prefer more seating in parks and regularly checked for bird faeces etc so they are well maintained. Would also like a games area for table top football etc for teenagers. Also, prefer adult section too for older teenagers and adults with their own facilities such as adult climbing frames or swim
Linking the main parks via cycle paths / walking routes will make them more joined
Hire of park pitches for football is no longer affordable to hire.
Ban cars from parking on green road verges. The damage the vehicles cause is never repaired by the council so these small spaces become an eyesore.
I realise that the council has suffered severe government funding cutbacks in recent years, but please don't deprive us of our parks! Please allow local volunteers to help out with park maintenance.
As the council is struggling to maintain parks due to government funding cutbacks, please allow local volunteers to help to maintain parks.
We can never have enough green spaces so stop selling off every bit of green land we have . Use more brown field sites there are plenty of derelict areas in Sandwell to build on.
The existing green spaces need to maintained at a good standard. When events are on they need to be advertised on a wider basis through social media so we know 2 weeks 1 week and days before the event, too often we seen event happening but didn't know. this is usually for smaller events. Also
Explore other options rather than sell space off to developers - put health before wealth.
Green space is vital to health even a patch of grass can provide access to exercise relaxation and provides oxygen
Leave LION FARM ALONE
LEAVE LION FARM PLAYING FIELDS ALONE. WE DON'T NEED MORE TRAFFIC AND AIR POLLUTION IN THE AREA. WE DON'T NEED THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.
We need the green spaces and trees to combat air pollution. Areas with plenty of trees are much more pleasing to live in than wall to wall concrete.
Should have both.....see national trust
More 'wildlife' areas within open spaces - wildflowers etc. rather than manicured lawns and flower beds.

You can't underestimate the benefit these places bring. There's plenty of innovative ways to raise cash to fund these spaces- many listed previously
Follow in the footsteps of the National Trust, they do biodiversity days at Kinver with the rangers and guided bat walks (use the local Brum Bats) on a summer evening. The English Heritage also do enchanted nights where the grounds have fairy lights and houses along a trail, you could do a "Mi
stop selling off the green spaces we have
Stop selling off our green spaces there are plenty of derelict factories to be used as brown field sites. Plant more trees !!!
Fewer green spaces but of higher quality is a good principle given that society is changing and people do not use such public spaces as they used to. However, there needs to be a fine balance between fewer facilities and the ability for all social class to be able to access and use the green sp
Yes, get someone around our green spaces and get them cleaned up
Green spaces in areas like Sandwell must be prioritised. They cannot be seen as a luxury when they matter so much to wellbeing.
I think some parks and open spaces are over maintained - children are missing out on seeing wildlife and wild flowers that thrive in less maintained areas I.e. meadow type areas
all of our green spaces are vital to the health and wellbeing of the community. I would not want to lose any of them. people need places to play to walk to relax. they should not be sold off for short term gain we can never get them back we have a responsibility to maintain these spaces as tho
Do not sell off green spaces for swimming centres or shopping development
Getting rid of green spaces is ridiculous and not keeping them to a high standard is not an option. People need these spaces to improve health and well-being and children need to get out into them. Rather than being stuck indoors
This feels like a leading question that I feel is to gauge how much of our green space you wish to sell off for housing?
Green spaces are far more important than developing more retail spaces which will be unused in a few years. Parks are vital to our wellbeing. Even if for a few years we have to cut down on maintenance please keep the green spaces. Once they are gone they will never be available again.
Better access to funding by Friend's Groups. Sadly, resources are already in short supply!
Sandwell has some great green spaces some well publicised and looked after and other not so well looked after or used. Litter across Sandwell parks can be an issue especially in bushes around these parks, some litter appears to have been there for years!! Our green space needs to be protected
Green spaces are important to healthy communities. They offer spaces to bring people together, to meet up have fun and relax. Local authorities may need to form partnerships with local communities in order to maintain standards of care and provision. Fewer green spaces will impact negatively on
More green spaces of higher quality
There are not enough rubbish bins particularly by benches. Dog poo bins are not emptied often enough.
If the council were to listen to residents by deciding not to flog off the land on Lion Farm Playing Fields then this would be a great start in retaining valuable green space resources. If this was to go, I would not have any form of green space within walking distance of my home which I believe
There are not enough good quality ply facilities within proximity to the area. With the area being highly deprived families cannot afford public transport to get to play provisions and parents with disabled children would find it hard to push a wheel chair up the hill to bury hill park. Using I
Under no circumstances should parks and green spaces be used for commercial developments such as on the agenda for Lion Farm. The air quality in Sandwell is poor generally, additional cars

and lorries to such a development will make this worse. Replacing a large number of sports pitches on this
Parks are not safe areas for children to go these days. There are many parks in Sandwell that have anti-social behaviour, and other illegal activities that make them not a place I would want to go with my children. There needs to be more visible park rangers patrolling the sites to ensure the s
Should be integrating green space into developments not just dedicated green space that can make a positive impact but integrating additional green space, planting and access to nature within new development will have a natural positive impact.
Anti-social behaviour is a big problem on sheepwash, but the police and council departments do not work together to stop things such as fires, illegal fishing, illegal use of birds of prey, dog control and all other threats to wildlife through there being no visible presence at the site. There
The borough as sufficient Park's / Green spaces, most of which were gifts given to the people of the borough by the Rich Industrialists of years past!! these benefactor's, the Chances / Mitchell's / Allbright's of this borough would want these Park's / Spaces preserved for the
I think the parks department do a fantastic job in maintaining our green spaces, and are to be congratulated.
Keep the spaces the same just make them better. Not get rid and make them better what stupid question is that.
A great deal can be gained if we utilise these green spaces more, for the community and the environment. We don't need more shops we need more education, experiences, and outdoor activities that have been proven for physical and mental health.
It would be catastrophically wrong-headed to reduce the availability of free-to-access green space in one of the most deprived boroughs in the country, situated in the middle of one of the biggest urban areas. Selling off green space is a fairly permanent and difficult to reverse decision.
We seem to be intent on building on green spaces that are home to wildlife when we should be looking at brown spaces instead. I'm not asking for much bit to keep areas tidy and maybe improve them to encourage more wildlife would be grateful
I would greatly oppose losing any green space. Our wildlife is already struggling with habitat loss enough, in the end we will all suffer if wildlife declines. Less green spaces/trees lower air quality. Mental well-being
Wildlife must be considered in decision making process
Parks, green spaces & facilities help with community relations & often mental wellbeing.
I strongly oppose the selling of ANY green spaces for building!!!!
The reason why I ticked box two is that in recent years our greenspaces are been sold off to greedy developers. Who on the whole provide little to none local authority housing. Not everyone is able bodied or have a car. Furthermore, parks should be free parking and all facilities therein. Consid
Sandwell MBC needs to protect the ecology and natural environment of the borough far more than it does and reverse the financial cuts it has imposed on its Urban design, Parks & grounds maintenance services.
Should have left the only green space in the area for walks, children etc The new Kelvin Way School
There is no need for higher and lower quality - should be standard
I often use Sutton Park as it has a coffee shop and cleans toilets available as well as free parking. It would be nice if Sandwell Valley had cafe facilities that can be used without having to pay for the farm.
Green spaces should be accessible by all, for children and adult health, the charges should be minimal to allow all to access

<p>Their need to be more trees in the cities in general and more attention to water features</p>
<p>I have two active boys both under five years old parks have always been a bit part of our family life</p>
<p>Green spaces are critically vital and must be kept not taken away</p>
<p>Fly tipping and littering is a blight upon our area and SMBC do not care at all and would rather spend millions on an Aquatic Centre that will have little use after a Commonwealth Games. What a waste of tax payers' money</p>
<p>I think it is a real shame that the facilities at Dartmouth park have not been maintained. Some things in the playground have been broken/out of action for a while now. I am particularly sad about the splash pad - my children have disabilities and used to love going there. Now we have to travel</p>
<p>We need to improve our local parks and green spaces, they are essential to our wellbeing.</p>
<p>Keep up the good work with your green spaces my family and I think you do a great job.</p>
<p>I don't agree in reducing green spaces - once they go they might never return. If there were more green spaces within a 10 minute walk for everyone in Sandwell, even 'lower quality', (no dog fouling, grass cut and maintained paths as a minimum though), the rest, the Community would eventually</p>
<p>I think we are very fortunate to have access to such well-maintained and pleasant green spaces.</p>
<p>Green space is really important to people and communities in so many ways but essential for health and wellbeing. The council should aim not to lose any greener space in Sandwell.</p>
<p>Fewer green spaces would mean the ones we have would be busier which does not help you to relax. More green spaces of lower quality would mean that people stopped going because they wouldn't enjoy it. To charge people to use the facilities such as courts and pitches is an option but I didn't think</p>
<p>Green space on the BRANDHALL ESTATE on the corner of Queens Way and Wolverhampton Rd can something be done on this land? But not houses something for the public like what has been done at Dartmouth park something for families</p>
<p>Improve existing sites without reducing numbers. As housing increases in the area so will population, all needing public places to relax and socialise</p>
<p>I used to use Sandwell Valley every weekend until they imposed parking charges, I already have to pay £240.00 a year for a permit, which I am not allowed to use at Sandwell Valley, I now choose to walk the canals as there are no charges for parking and the pathways have been improved greatly.</p>
<p>Why can't the Council make a bold move and actually create new green space instead of continually using any space for either retail or housing. Put the people who already live in Sandwell first rather than business people or construction firms.</p>
<p>I feel staff who support this line of work, work extremely hard to maintain the high standard provided and Sandwell should be proud of them. My dad is the park's Engineer and he is outstanding.</p>
<p>I think we should look after the fields and open spaces that we have left they help wellbeing and help to keep obesity down children need somewhere to play and we all benefit from fresh air and exercise.</p>
<p>It seems that most resources are focused on Sandwell Valley, which is to the detriment of other nature reserves in Sandwell. What Sandwell Council fails to consider is that everyone pays council tax, yet revenue spent on local nature reserves is distributed evenly, i.e. I'd rather my council tax</p>
<p>If there are fewer green spaces it will be too busy and potentially difficult to park. If the area is of lower quality we wouldn't visit.</p>
<p>I do not want to see our green spaces lost to development. This would be a short sighted measure. Once gone they are gone they are gone forever. Sandwell Council need to be more innovative</p>

about securing finances and resources to keep our green spaces. They need to explore commercial opportunity
We need to preserve as many green spaces as we can for the wellbeing of residents of Sandwell, especially those who live in high rise accommodation with no access to private outdoor space. Losing green spaces can only be bad for humans and the wildlife living in Sandwell. Less green space equal
It's very important for Lion Farm Fields to remain as they are. Myself and my foster children make great use of the area for picnics, walking, just letting off steam really. We have had some lovely days on the fields.
More green spaces with higher quality
More security so people don't feel afraid to walk through parks make it more lightable (lighting) more toilets
Would use parks + green space facilities more often if I felt safer. At the moment I am reluctant to venture alone into certain areas where there is anti-social issues.
A big concern of ours as a family is the use of parks by people who let dogs off the lead and have no control of them
More green spaces but of much higher quality
Protect sheepwash nature reserve
All ages need green spaces, children need to explore and feel nature rather than be in doors on electronics. Parents get involved with what's on offer for them. Elderly need green spaces to. It definitely helps with mental wellbeing and is a social thing. I feel too many green spaces are taken
More wardens - mainly to put some order to the irresponsible dog walkers because I've had too many problems with them and these are adults not teenagers, so I have to choose my time to go so I can avoid them.
Disabled access is important as my daughter is a wheelchair user. Toilet facilities are important, I work at a local school, we would use our local park more but there are no toilets
More health promotion and café as in Mary Stevens Park
Using canal pathways with local walking groups. Pathways are improved a lot now. Keep up the good work
I have one problem, which is outside my house there is green spaces, with trees. The problem we are having is car parking on grass, also motor bikes and quad bikes riding right over the grass, making a really bad mess on grass, I always keep the front of my house clean and tidy, picking up litt
More green spaces at higher at cheaper/no price
Can't see why green spaces need cuts. You don't do a lot to what we already have you have let Sandwell Park and Kendrick Park become green field. These parks have slipped to rock bottom over the years.
Mainly go to west Bromwich parks as a lot more walkers and more space it just at time find ethnic's group having family B+Q and are loud and leave great deal of mess and when on your own find it uncomfortable and angry at the mess left. This should be control better.
If green spaces decline would move out of Sandwell completely
Parks were better when park keepers were in attendance. Used to stop a lot of damage i.e. stealing plants out of beds. Damage to children's play areas. Do not agree with dog walking on parks. Some dogs foul and it not being cleaned up. Parks are not for dogs only humans there are other places to
I think Sandwell valley is excellent but in recent years the quality has gone down, as we now have to pay car parking charges things should be kept at a higher standard many of the play equipment are broken or unavailable

Green spaces are a vital and integral part of a person's wellbeing and play vital need to our society. We need green space.
The back of Heronville road where the metro pass way needs a lot of attention, also too much dog mess/litter around here. Need cleaning up and more security around there
Need to get more people outside in Sandwell
We have an area right opposite our house on Friar Park Rd Which I sit and watch wildlife etc due to being disabled
There is a small wooded area in the road where I live. That Sandwell M.B.C has put up for sale for housing. To which I and others object to strongly. It should be left for wildlife
This town is filthy
No! Car parking charges at green space car parks!
Lion Farm is for playing sports not for shops
In the area where we live (by Haden hill park) we consider that we are very lucky to have a wonderful amount of green space (+ the heritage of the old house) in close proximity
Waste land made into play areas for children more paths in wild areas Bigger bins for dog fouling bas and more of them non-smoking areas on parks more cameras
Green spaces are being lost to our detriment. No point building more house at the expense of the environment and quality of life
Please leave what few green spaces we have alone
I am very worried that if we have fewer green spaces, people wouldn't travel to use them. I would like to keep our green spaces and promote schools/colleges and other organisations to help maintain them
I have a young daughter who I'd love to make full use of local parks however due to ASB I don't think I'll ever feel comfortable of this happening.
There should be more green spaces where I can do for a walk safely. The local parks are beautiful in the summer but not enough facilities to enjoy.
Yes. Why are you locking the gates to the slope that wheelchair users have to use you spent lots of money on doing slopes for wheelchair users then you lock the gates so they cannot use it Madness.
The changes to Lightwoods park since Sandwell council have taken it on have been wonderful. It is now a focal point for community days and playdates. The only downside being a lack of 'security' (park keeper) to keep rougher kids/adults in check.
My biggest regret is older people are very put off using parks on their own, Fishing walking meeting people. their health and wellbeing. need park wardens.
Dartmouth Park was excellent years ago, visited by thousands of people, children loved the climb frames What did the council do> Them made people who can hardly afford to take their children out PAY TO PARK THEIR CARDS!! DISGUSTING!!
In my view, green spaces are usually full of drug users, thugs and perverts at night. Get police to patrol them in the evenings to keep good people safe.
Don't let land deteriorate after buildings are knocked down
I have seen public spaces dwindle increasingly - even schools have less provision for outdoor sports/games etc it is sad to see. We need to change this trend so that our next generation has a well-rounded development in social skills
I think the parks and green spaces are well spaced. Gardens and people homes should also be placed on the list
Don't sell off any open green spaces, they are in short supply!!!
Vandalism is rife in Sandwell. Policing is diabolically poor. Gathering of ethnic groups = foul language drugs violence and rape. Lack of respect for elderly

Green spaces are vitally important for the health of local communities in the very built up areas of 'Sandwell' and contribute to a healthy population and therefore 'Pay' for themselves because a happier and healthier population increases productivity and less of a strain on 'NHS Budgets'
Use brown field for housing
Too many green spaces are being lost to housing developments as councils sell them off to increase revenue. Sandwell need all the green spaces it can get as there is little opportunity for many residents to access the countryside.
Keep surrounding footpaths cleaner
But still maintain a high availability of maintenance
Some form of management is needed to stop anti-social behaviour
perhaps if you spent more money on facilities than on flower bushes etc yes may look nice but the money could be spent in other areas
Built more housing for people in need and cheaper rents
My use of green space is mostly for exercise, I would like to see more competitive sport and events, such as running cycling, outdoor swimming, which would encourage people from outside the borough to visit/use other facilities.
I don't think the parks are so well looked after, I use guns village park and Sandwell valley park and I appreciate money is a big factor
Parks and green space are absolutely vital for the health and wellbeing of the local community and nature. In general Sandwell does a good job. Please fight to keep doing the good work
more high quality green spaces, even if a charge for parking is required to support it/them
Stop travellers getting on to our parks gypsies
We need to keep the green spaces we have, our area in Langley is too built up already. The pollution is very high. Kids need somewhere to run around and play sports and people need to be able to walk their dogs near to their homes and not have to get in the car.
I understand that housing is important but there are plenty of unused buildings and other areas that can be used. Save our green space
We live in a built up area. We need places for our kids/grandkids, dogs and us to keep sane. That are accessible, if they reduce, we will have nothing. At the moment, we have transport so for us access is easy, we feel privileged.
Litter and dog mess in parks is disgusting, especially Sandwell Valley bins are overflowing with rubbish
I feel that a lot more could be provided on Tividale Park as there is a lot of space which could be used for either community centre or cafe
Green spaces are vital especially for young people to enjoy. Everyone enjoys sitting in the sunshine a well-tended public space
Induce sense of Pride and Ownership through community participation in tree/plant planting, litter picking and organising local events
When walking in pleck park was approached by a group of young Muslims and told it was a park for Muslims only and told not to come again (so I don't)
Would be nice to see a policeman/woman now and then but sadly no enough available
It is important to keep these 'green' spaces, not only for leisure pursuits but for better air quality
It's totally unacceptable to keep building within the small green space areas. This creates more pollution and less green spaces. The new proposed 'development' for Lion Farm should be scrapped. Surely it would be better to knock Oldbury Town down and rebuild and modernise that instead.
Dog fouling is a big issue even walking to park sometimes it's like obstacle course stepping over dog mess

Just want to go to a park/greenspace and feel safe especially in evenings
Stop allowing every free space to be developed into housing. Existing green space like on Witton Lane was said to the highest bidder for more housing.
Just stop them who uses drugs away from parks
For question 27, it should be more green spaces of higher quality (a third option) For filling in this questionnaire we could win family tickets for Sandwell park farm. This facility was free some years back, I attended on a regular basis, not anymore because of the change put on entry. Think
The green spaces we have should stay. They are beneficial to all.
Well it would be nice if you put some swings, and others for the children who use Laybourn Park. I loved in Tipton by Laybourn park, when I was growing up the park was a pleasure to go on there was all the facilities on there, it would attract all the local children and people at the park. Just
Do not take away football pitches all are needed especially Lion Farm
I feel Sandwell lacks behind Halesowen and Dudley for quality of parks and nature areas - Mucklow Hill, Leasowes Park & Warrens Hall are all green open spaces which provide a rest-bite from the world - however, Sandwell Valley does provide this but is much further away
To be used for the benefit of the public only
I feel that if this whole questionnaire is about closing parks, this is a bad thing. Most people use a local park because it is local. Asking people to travel by bus or car to use a park will vastly reduce park usage. However, I do feel that car parking is necessary because of issues for the dis
Think we need to provide more green spaces for the nature and make sure they are good quality, well maintained. Make sure they have good quality public toilets and more tables and chairs. Generally, spaces where people want to go and relax
The country is in disarray. The working man is taxed way too much. Wages, fuel, food, council tax etc until we take control of the lazy and supposedly disabled NOTHING will change
Tipton Park does really need to be refurbished, as the basketball court and the tennis court and the water where the ducks reside - smells. It needs to be attended to ASAP as our children need somewhere to play.
Sandwell council provide excellent services and have always promptly reacted to any feedback I have provided in the past! Keep up the good work Sandwell!!
I realise there are not enough park rangers to cover all areas. I do feel, however, there should be more emphasis on wildlife conservation i.e. areas of wild for bees, butterflies and birds. Too much emphasis is on pretty flowers. When events take place by the fair etc I feel they should be cle
where we live to take our grandchildren, one whom is in a pushchair it is very difficult to walk on footpaths as we are unable to get pushchairs through due to cars and vans parked on and off footpaths. Only wish this would stop we could walk to parks more often otherwise
Moor land green space now being developed. Powke lane green space - attempted development for crematorium expansion No point in asking for more spaces - the council is getting rid of the ones we have now!!
I reject the trick question N27 Green spaces must remain. If no expanded then they should certainly diminish in size. If your making money from selling green spaces you will pay that money out in mental health due to people not leaving their front door.
Keep green spaces green. No more housing. Use brown field land for housing

Further comments were not transcribed.

Q29 – To which of these groups do you consider you belong? Other:

White north African
Sikh

Greek

Appendix D
Policy Review



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy 2018

Policy Review

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Sandwell Green Space Strategy 2018

Policy Review

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy review is to consider the links between the review of the Sandwell Green Space Strategy (GSS) and other related planning, regeneration and service policies, plans and strategies. These policies range from national planning frameworks and regional spatial frameworks to more local strategies. All of these approaches affect the GSS review either directly or indirectly. The GSS review will be informed and shaped by these approaches and will need to respond to them.

The preservation, enhancement and effective management of greenspace in Sandwell is of particular significance at a time when development and growth across the region is being reconsidered and reconfigured. The GSS review does not consider greenspace in isolation and here we present the policy context in which it will make its contribution to enhancing the Borough namely its contribution to achieving the Sandwell 2030 vision as a place to live, bring up a family, work, enjoy good health, feel safe, connected and valued and spend leisure time.

1.1. Structure of this review

The review begins by considering the national context for parks and open spaces and presents a range of documents that set out planning considerations and standards gleaned from government sources and national bodies such as CABE Space, NESTA and HLF. These documents set out the value of green space to wider economic and social objectives. It does this by theme and considers the relevance of strategic planning, the future of parks, green space management, regeneration, health and well-being children's play and the environment.

The review goes on to a regional focus which explores the thinking around the spatial strategy and in particular the impact upon green space. This section also directly refers to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), a strategic authority with powers over transport, economic development and regeneration across the region, which formally came into being on 17 June 2016. This will inform the thinking of how the Sandwell Green Space Strategy review sits within a broader strategic framework.

The Sandwell Green Space Strategy within its local context is the final section which traces a number of local plans and strategies and explores their relevance to issues of green space.

2. National Policy Context

Strategic Planning

2.1. Planning Policy Guidance

Within the legislative framework provided by the various Planning Acts, the Government issued a number of PPGs which outline the way the planning system should respond and help achieve wider Government policy aims and objectives, particularly those where the land use planning system may play a key part. Such objectives are broadly identified as sustainable development, a prosperous economy, reducing the need to travel, economic growth, and social inclusion, alongside the need to protect and enhance the natural and built environment.

Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), and their replacements Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), were prepared by the government after public consultation to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to local authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system.

They also explain the relationship between planning policies and other policies which have an important bearing on issues of development and land use. Local authorities must therefore take their contents into account in preparing their development plan documents.

The PPG that is of particularly importance to the GSS is the Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation published in 2002, and the subsequent Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17 published in May 2016.

Many of the PPGs and PPSs have been cancelled and replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, published in July 2018, which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced.

2.2. Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002

This Planning Policy Guidance provides detailed guidance on the consideration of open space, sport and recreation matters in relation to the land use planning system. The previous version of the guidance issued in 1991 placed great emphasis upon the quantity of provision and relating the provision to a nationally agreed standard, 'The Six Acre Standard' (six acres (2.43 hectares) per 1000 population). PPG17 places more emphasis on the quality of open space, rather than the quantity and the development of provision standards specific to the needs of the local area.

The guidance further recognises the importance that sport and recreation play in the quality of life for local people. Furthermore, it highlights that sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives such as the promotion of social inclusion, community cohesion, health and wellbeing, as well as more sustainable patterns of development. As such, local authorities are required to prepare an open space strategy.

Emphasis is placed upon assessing the qualitative nature of provision as well as quantitative issues, as this will allow authorities to identify the potential for increased use of existing open space through better design, management and maintenance

Section 2 of the Guidance note advocates that local authorities should establish their own local standards, although the guidance does not go so far as to identify how these should be quantified. It does indicate that local standards should include:

- a quantitative element, to assess how much new provision may be required;
- a qualitative component to assess whether existing facilities may be enhanced; and
- an accessibility measure.

Comments
The Council is undertaking a green space audit which is based upon the guidance set out in PPG17, the Companion Guide and the National Planning Policy Framework. The authority wishes to take the findings of the audit further and develop local standards. The Greenspace Strategy will draw upon this earlier work and set out a vision for green space across the authority and realistic recommendations for delivering this vision.

2.3. Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17, May 2016, DCLG

This Guide reflects the Government's policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17).

PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities.

The guide provides a framework within which a range of local authority services - for example, planning, leisure, economic development, education and environment - and local stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sectors can work closely together. It also encourages them to work with adjoining authorities and relevant national agencies.

The document set out four 'guiding principles' for local assessments:

- Local needs are likely to vary considerably from one place to another, even within a single local authority area, according to the different socio-demographic and cultural characteristics of local communities and the number and type of visitors.
- The delivery of a network of high quality, sustainable open spaces and sport and recreation facilities depends not only on good planning, but also on creative urban and landscape design and effective management. In so far as local authority-owned spaces and facilities are concerned, this can be achieved only by multi-disciplinary working across different departments and, in some cases, with neighbouring councils, regional and national agencies.
- In many areas, delivering the objectives set out in PPG17 will depend much more on improving and enhancing the accessibility and quality of existing provision than on new provision. At the same time, where additional open spaces or sport and recreation facilities are required, they should enhance the network.
- The value of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities, irrespective of who owns them, depends primarily on two things: the extent to which they meet clearly identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife, biodiversity and the wider environment.

It also:

- Indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards.
- Promotes a consistent approach across varying types of open space.

Comments
The guide sets out a framework for assessing the needs for green space and recreational provision and encourages local authorities to work with adjoining authorities and relevant national agencies.

2.4. National Planning Policy Framework, Housing, Communities and Local Government, July 2018

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in July 2018 and sets out the government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

The NPPF retains the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

a) **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

b) **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) **an environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

The framework states that these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.

Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for:

a) housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;

b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);

c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and

d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The NPPF explicitly states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social interaction, including provision of pedestrian and cycle connections, provision of high quality spaces which encourage the active and continual use of public areas and safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities and allotments.

With regard to open space and recreation the NPPF states the following:

Open space and recreation

- Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.
- Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - b) 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
 - c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
- Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
- The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
- The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:
 - a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;

- b) 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
 - c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

The NPPF also cites that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

Comments
<p>The NPPF was intended to simplify the planning process in England and Wales, giving significant emphasis on promoting economic development. It marked a significant shift on national planning policy and replaced extensive earlier planning legislation. The NPPF provides the national policy context for local plans and the setting of local standards. There is an expectation that the costs of any requirements relating to development should be taken into account and that these must be justified and realistic and not prevent a reasonable commercial return for the developer. The NPPF allows for developer contributions to be collected through the Community Infrastructure Levy (introduced through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010).</p> <p>In terms of green space, local authorities are expected to carrying out needs assessments. Whilst PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation has been superseded by the publication of the NPPF, in practice this PPG and its companion guide remain a useful reference guide for carrying out green space audits.</p>

The Future of Parks

2.5. State of UK Public Parks 2014 - Renaissance to risk? Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

The research within this report establishes a national picture of the state of UK parks.

As part of the research HLF commissioned three new UK-wide surveys: a survey of local authority park managers, a survey of park friends and user groups, and a public opinion survey.

The research showed that maintenance budgets are being reduced, capital will be less available for improvements, park facilities are becoming more expensive to use, management and maintenance skills are being lost, and some parks and green spaces may be sold or transferred to others to maintain. It also showed that people care passionately about their parks and that good parks are vital for our health and wellbeing, they support economic growth and tourism, and they play a significant part in addressing climate change in our cities.

The publication positively reports that an estimated 2.6 billion visits are made to UK parks each year, that 83% of households with children aged 5 and under visit their local park at least once per month and 47% of park friends and user groups say membership numbers have increased over the last 3 years. However, the report also cites that 86% of park managers reported cuts to revenue budgets since 2010, 81% of Council parks departments have lost skilled management and staff since 2010 and that 45% of local authorities are considering selling parks and green spaces or transferring their management to others.

The report explains why parks matter:

- Parks are central to family life - they offer opportunities to rest and meet friends, for children and young people to play, hold events, pass through on the way to work, exercise and take time out from the pressures of everyday life.
- Parks support health and happiness - they have a positive effect on people's wellbeing and the health of their neighbourhoods.

- Parks improve social cohesion - they offer one of the most important social spaces in a neighbourhood, but their condition is a key issue, as poor-quality parks can have a detrimental effect on cohesion.
- Parks promote local economic development - public parks have been used throughout history to promote investment and growth. Developers frequently use the proximity of parks to attract investors. Good parks also boost the tourist economy.
- Parks deliver environmental services - they are a key component of the 'green infrastructure' of towns and cities, complementing the heavily engineered and costly 'grey infrastructure' of roads, utilities and sewerage systems. Properly planned, attractive green networks of parks, green spaces and river corridors provide natural systems and ecological services that collect and clean water, improve air quality and reduce peak summer temperatures.

Comments

This insightful report showcases the benefits that parks and green spaces bring to individuals, communities, local economies and the environment. It also highlights that parks are at risk through local authority budget reductions, moving out of local Council's control and a loss of staff and skills.

The GSS will balance the importance of parks and green spaces to people against the economy reality.

2.6. State of UK Public Parks 2016, Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

This report follows on from that in 2014 and cites that the downward trend in the condition of parks predicted then looks set to continue and there is a danger that many parks and green spaces may fall back to a state of decline and neglect.

The research shows that over the last five years, cost-saving and efficiency measures have been implemented and that park managers are increasingly seeking to diversify income including commercial approaches. The report states that support is needed to develop new blended

funding approaches for parks and green spaces, and to implement and learn lessons from programmes such as Nesta and the National Lottery's Rethinking Parks.

The report positively states that parks are valued by the communities that use them and this can be seen via the statistics that include:

- 57% of adults use their park at least once a month (increase of 3% since 2014).
- There are 5,900 estimated park friends and user groups across the UK (Increase of 1,100 since 2014).
- £70m is the estimated value of volunteering hours given by park friends and user groups each year (increase of £30m since 2014).
- It also negatively shows that the future for parks may not be so bright as:
- 95% of park managers expect their revenue budget to be cut over the next 3 years (increase of 8% since 2014).
- 53% of park managers report their parks to be in a good condition (decrease in 7% since 2014).
- 27% of park managers report their parks have been improving over the past 3 years (decrease of 14% since 2014).

The research in this report included a 1 day workshop with the West Midlands Parks Forum, representing the largest urban conurbation outside London and contributed to a Greenspace Scotland Park Managers Forum, and a park trust survey completed by 19 trusts, as well as the same survey methods used in 2014.

A summary of the results showed that:

- People use their parks regularly and visitor numbers are increasing.
- Park maintenance budgets continue to fall.
- Staff and skills are being lost.
- The quality of parks is expected to decline.
- Park services are facing increasing inequality, with the Northern and Midlands regions being hit the hardest.

- Park management will be much more varied in the future.
- Sources of external income are on the rise.
- Communities are doing more for their parks.
- Park trusts appears to be coping better through austerity.
- Local authority commitment to parks does make a difference.

The report concludes with a renewed call to action that takes forward the key themes from the first study:

- Continuing local authority leadership - up to date green space strategies are required to guide investment and address funding, staffing, skills, community engagement and future management challenges, as are elected champions and robust financial information.
- Promoting active partnerships - greater collaboration and coordination is needed between partners to share funding and expertise e.g. local and regional networks and park trusts.
- Supporting communities to play a more active role - for groups that are keen to do more, additional support and assistance should be given to make the most of their contribution e.g., training, organisational structures, health and safety, insurances and financial administration.
- Developing new models of management and funding - innovation, adaptation and change are an integral part of successful organisations, including park services. The current climate provides the opportunity to experiment, test and refine new contemporary and possibly more cost-effective models of management and funding e.g. alternative models, income generation and endowments.
- Compiling, coordinating and updating data - Robust data is at the heart of all good planning and decision making.

Comments

This follow on report again shows the increasing financial pressure upon parks and green spaces and highlights the increasing pressure to commercialise parks and seek external funding in order to improve and sustain green spaces. It also states that continuing local authority leadership and up to date green space strategies are required to guide investment.

The report demonstrates how effective alternative management and funding models are as it states that park trusts appears to be coping better through austerity. The GSS will review national papers and case studies on alternative models of service delivery and will seek to place recommendations where appropriate.

2.7. Green Society: Policies to improve the UK's urban green spaces, Dr Katherine Drayson, 2014 (Policy Exchange)

This report states that parks and green spaces are a social, economic and environmental asset. It also explains that parks play a central role in attracting people to our cities and that urban green spaces are a critical part of community life in our cities as they improve our mental health and provide a free outdoor space for exercise, socialising and relaxation.

The report also identifies that there is inequality in access to the social benefits that urban green spaces offer, in terms of where green spaces are, the state they are in, and who uses them and highlights the need to better target funding and ensure policy interventions are more effective. In addition, it outlines the threats that urban green spaces currently face with the reduced local authority budgets and with the increased demand for housing and other development in our urban areas

This report examines the potential for new sources of public and private sector and civil society funding to help ensure high quality urban green space maintenance. It also investigates existing and new methods for encouraging community engagement with their local urban green spaces.

The paper makes recommendations as to how to increase funding for green spaces and identifies that maintenance funding could be drawn from other public sector budgets. In addition to this

the paper states, given the benefits from access to high quality urban green spaces for improved health and social cohesion and in creating attractive places to visit, live and work in, that both the private sector and civil society share a responsibility to support the maintenance and improvement of the green spaces. Ideas include other potential sources of funding for improvements and maintenance, endowments, developer contributions, levies, public health, police and crime commissioners, external funding, friends groups and volunteers and encouraging civil society and philanthropic funding of local urban green spaces.

Comments
<p>This document highlights the benefits of parks and green spaces to both physical and mental health. The paper makes recommendations as to how to increase funding for green spaces and these will be considered within the GSS.</p> <p>This report identifies that there is inequality in access to the social benefits that urban green spaces offer, in terms of where green spaces are, the state they are in, and who uses them and highlights the need to better target funding and ensure policy interventions are more effective. The GSS will review quantity, accessibility and quality of green space across the authority and will assist planners in their decision making to improve equality of access where possible.</p>

2.8. Greenspace Literature Review Green Connect, 15 May 2015. Urban Green Infrastructure Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology, 2013

This study records the following findings with regard to Urban Green Infrastructure:

- 80% of people in the UK live in urban areas. Green space has decreased in many cities in recent decades.
- This reduction poses risks to human health and natural systems that may increase with climate change. Urban green infrastructure can help to mitigate these risks.
- Green infrastructure can often provide the same functions as conventional infrastructure, such as water management and flood risk alleviation, with other benefits for health and biodiversity. However, these benefits are not always well

quantified.

Comments
<p>This study highlights the recent loss of green space in urban areas and the detrimental impact this is having on people and the environment.</p>

2.9. Public Parks Inquiry, Seventh Report of session 2016-17, House of Commons, January 2017

This inquiry builds on previous inquiries, including the 2003 report by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions Committee on the ODPM's policy document, *Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener*, which concluded that a statutory duty of care for public spaces might encourage local authorities to give them greater priority when making funding decisions.

The inquiry into public parks asked three key questions:

- Why parks matter?
- What challenges are facing the parks sector?
- How we can secure a sustainable future for parks?

The inquiry evidences how parks and green spaces are treasured assets and are often central to the lives of their communities. That they provide opportunities for leisure, relaxation and exercise, and are fundamental to community cohesion, physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and local economic growth. These benefits have long been recognised, but within a context of budget reductions and tightening financial circumstances the report explains that it is increasingly important that we find ways to quantify the wider value of parks in order to access new sources of funding and target investment in areas of greatest impact.

The inquiry shows that the distribution of parks is unequal across the country, with many deprived communities struggling to access the benefits which green spaces can provide. It explains that planning policy, particularly as a result of pressures to increase housing supply, may not always give enough priority to parks and green spaces, or to other elements of our green infrastructure.

It demonstrates that meeting the challenges which face our parks and green spaces and securing a sustainable future for them requires responses on many levels including from communities, whether through friends, volunteers, or other community groups who contribute time and efforts to their local parks. The report explains that innovation in management models and funding sources is also needed and how local authorities will require both financial and expert support and commitment at a national level.

Through the inquiry many suggestions for alternative funding sources and management models have been put forward. There were also many calls throughout the inquiry for a statutory duty on local authorities to provide and maintain parks in order to raise the profile of parks within local authority prioritisation and budget allocation. The recommendation is that local authorities work collaboratively with Health and Wellbeing Boards to prepare and publish joint parks and green space strategies that clearly articulate the contribution of parks to wider local authority objectives, and set out how parks will be managed to maximise such contributions. It is believed that this would increase joint working within local authorities, raise the awareness of parks and green spaces and their contributions to wider goals, and facilitate support for parks and green spaces from other service areas.

The challenges facing the park sector can be summarised as follows:

- Competing demands and tensions between park users - commercial event use and large scale sporting activities.
- The impact of funding reductions - heavy reliance on volunteers.
- Health and safety in parks - lack of repairs and maintenance.
- Access to revenue and capital funding - mismatch between capital investment and ongoing revenue funding.
- Unequal distribution of parks and green spaces - less access to green spaces in deprived areas.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11.7 - This requires that states will: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons

with disabilities.

- Impact on children and young people - children and young people are particularly affected by the unequal distribution of quality green space.
- Impact on people with disabilities - requirements for accessible parking and toilets, benches at reasonable intervals, obstruction-free footpaths, and accessible information about facilities and routes are not always met.
- Planning policy - Public parks are included within the definition of 'open space' in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF provides that existing open spaces should not be built on, unless assessment clearly shows them to be surplus to requirements or the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision elsewhere. The NPPF also requires local authorities to consider appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures when making their Local Plans or other planning decisions.
- Green infrastructure - Considering parks as a part of wider green infrastructure networks is likely to be a positive approach, but it will not be a panacea to resolve all of the challenges facing the parks sector.

The inquiry concludes with an insight as to how we can secure a sustainable future for our parks and suggests the following:

- The role of the community - local communities have a key role to play in securing a future for England's parks, but they cannot do it alone.
- Innovation and alternative approaches.
- A statutory duty to provide and maintain parks - more than 320,000 people have signed a petition calling for such a statutory duty to be imposed.
- A workable alternative - greater recognition of the value and benefits of parks, and appropriate prioritisation in local authority planning and funding decisions.
- Parks champions.

- Parks and green space strategies.
- Coordination and leadership - DCLG coordination with other relevant departments and agencies, including Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the Department for Health, Public Health England, and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The significant interest in, and the overwhelming response to, the inquiry is a clear indication of how strongly people feel about their local parks, how much they value them, and how important it is that action is taken to safeguard and secure the future of England’s parks and green spaces.

Comments

The public parks inquiry has helped raise the profile of parks and green spaces and has demonstrated the importance and value of parks to individuals, communities, and to wider national agendas such as public health, and climate change and flood risk mitigation.

The inquiry also acknowledges that there should be a statutory duty on local authorities and Health and Wellbeing Boards to prepare and publish parks and green space strategies to encourage greater joint working within local authorities, increase the profile of parks and green spaces and their contribution to wider local authority objectives, and facilitate the contribution by other service areas to parks and green space services.

The GSS provide a strategic overview of Council managed green space including its quality and accessibility in order for the authority to start to put resources where they will have the most effect. The GSS will also cross reference national, regional and local policies and strategies in order to encourage cross area working.

2.10. “The Future of Public Parks” Written evidence submitted on behalf of West Midlands Parks Forum to DCLG Select Committee Inquiry

The West Midlands Parks Forum submitted written evidence regarding the future of public parks to the public parks inquiry.

The group's submission showcases the contribution that parks make to the health and wellbeing of communities and the importance of quality green spaces and explains that visitor numbers to parks in the West Midlands are huge but with increasing visitor numbers the pressure for day to day maintenance increases. The group explain that with continued budget cuts there are less staff to provide events and activities, a visible presence and support for volunteers.

The group highlight the impact of reductions in local authority budgets on parks stating that by 2020 they will be back to a state as before the parks renaissance of the mid 1990s with authorities clinging onto only their premier spaces, focusing on generating more income resulting in social exclusion, moving towards asset transfer and disposal and a heavy reliance on volunteering.

In the submission, the forum stated that they believe that Local Authorities are best placed to take the central role in ensuring all parks and other key green spaces are well looked after and remain a legacy for future generations, stating that an over reliance on volunteers is unrealistic and impractical, however their role should not be under-estimated.

The additional or alternative funding for local authorities to generate revenue from park users is addressed and documented with options such as capital funding, reducing costs, asset transfer and "sugar tax".

The submission concludes that: "If our parks and green spaces are to remain accessible to all and free at the point of use, and to continue providing the significant benefits outlined in the submission, we believe that some form of income from either local or national taxation is inevitable – and essential".

Comments
<p>In this submission, the West Midlands Parks Forum highlight that parks in the West Midlands are seeing increasing visitor numbers and with this costs for maintenance are increasing.</p> <p>The report acknowledges the key role that local authorities play and should continue to play in green space management and promotes the consideration of a long-term funding programme for the UK's parks and its establishment as a statutory service.</p>

2.11. A Manifesto for Parks, Putting local green spaces at the heart of our communities, Fields in Trust (FIT)

This manifesto champions the positive impact that local parks and green spaces have on our society. Fields in Trust's submission to the Communities and Local Government Committee's Public Parks Inquiry called for a change in the way public green space is conceived, not as a drain on spending that requires a considerable amount of money to maintain - but rather as an asset which can be deployed to achieve longer term savings and happier, healthier more connected communities.

The FIT Manifesto for Parks furthers the calls set out in our inquiry submission through 4 policy "green lines":

- **Championing** parks is about revaluing green spaces to ensure their contribution to society is properly recognised.

It explains that parks significantly contribute to public health, mental wellbeing and community cohesion. A Social Return on Investment study carried out by City of Edinburgh Council found that for every £1 spent on the City's parks there was a £12 return in social, environmental and economic benefits.

- **Supporting** the community's calls for parks to be available to all.

The manifesto states that local authorities should ensure a benchmarked standard of green space provision. The Guidance recommends a minimum quantity guideline of 3.55 hectares of formal outdoor space provision per 1,000 population and 3.2 hectares of informal provision per 1,000 population. Local authorities should also aspire to a high quality of green space provision in line with the Green Flag Award standard.

- **Activating** the nation puts parks at the heart of efforts to create a healthier nation.

- **Protecting** the green future looks at how the next generations require a safeguarding of our parks today.

Comments

The manifesto recommends that communities are supported, parks are available to all and that green spaces are safeguarded for future generations.

The manifesto also states that local authorities should ensure a benchmarked standard of green space provision. The GSS will provide a recommended minimum quantity guideline for a variety of classifications of green space across the authority. All quality audits will be assessed against the Green Flag Award standard.

Green Space Management

2.12. History of Public Park Funding and Management (1820 – 2010), Katy Layton-Jones, Historic England, 2016.

This report starts summarising the number of public parks in Britain (27,000), their importance (3000 registered as nationally important), the annual visitor numbers (2.6 billion) and the likely impact of local authority budget reductions for parks in the future.

The report examines and contextualises the history of public park funding and park management between c.1820 and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010. In so doing, it represents a real opportunity to inform and shape the current debate on funding models and future heritage protection.

The report uses case studies to present a summary of historical funding models that have been applied across the United Kingdom over the past 200 years. These are categorised under the following headings: philanthropy (in the form of donation of real estate or cash sums), subscription, taxation, grants, loans, speculative development (annual levies to cover ongoing maintenance), endowment, and revenue creation within parks (through concessions, events and diversification - revenues reflect intensity of use). Although not fully comprehensive, the case studies presented are representative of the many and diverse range of funding innovations tried and tested by successive management regimes.

Comments

The report outlines the two most common management models employed over the lifetime of the nation's public parks: not-for-profit companies (including trusts) and local authority in-house management. In so doing, it charts the impact of policy changes at a local and national level upon the culture of parks provision and management. It also reviews the potential advantages and dangers of resurrecting former funding regimes to ensure informed and mindful decision-making in the future.

2.13. Greenspace Literature Review Green Connect, 15 May 2015. Green Future - A Study of the Management of Multifunctional Urban Green Spaces in England Greenspace, 2005

The study recorded the condition of over 2,000 public parks in the UK and established that only 18% of public parks were classed as being in good condition and that the condition of the majority of parks was either stable or declining.

It also highlights that there is no statutory requirement placed on local authorities to provide parks and green spaces and that with future local authority budget reductions that this is a cause of concern.

It recommends forming a multi-disciplinary team to coordinate the management of the park or greenspace system rather than making near constant changes to the management structure. It also suggests that authorities should bring together a team, cross-departmental as necessary, to reflect the broad range of expertise and cooperation necessary to steer greenspace systems towards major improvement.

Comments

The key recommendation of this report is the formation of a multi-disciplinary team to coordinate the management of green space.

It also suggests that authorities should bring together a team, cross-departmental as necessary, to reflect the broad range of expertise and cooperation necessary to steer greenspace systems towards major improvement.

2.14. Greenspace Literature Review Green Connect, 15 May 2015. Park Land - How open data can improve our urban green spaces. Policy Exchange Think Tank, 2013

This paper quotes John Ruskin: “The measure of any great civilisation is its cities and a measure of a City’s greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares” and then sets out seven principles behind successful parks:

- Clear expression of purpose or mission statement.
- Access for all in terms of location with respect to local residents and removal of barriers to specific groups.
- Appropriate resources including land, staff and equipment with capital and revenue to enable the implementation of the management plan.
- Safety from hazards including crime (both perceived and actual).
- Visitor satisfaction promoting high usage both by available people and repeat visits.
- Regularly updated management plan produced and implemented in consultation with all stakeholders including community involvement.
- Benefits for the City outside the park including health, ecological, educational, social and economic benefits.

Comments
This review sets out seven principles behind successful parks that should be considered within the GSS.

2.15. Green Space Strategies – a good practice guide CABE Space, May 2004

The guidance draws on the principles of the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and will help contribute to national objectives for better public spaces, focusing on three broad stages in producing a green space strategy.

Stage 1: Preliminary activities

- provides the foundation of a successful strategy

Stage 2: Information gathering and analysis

- provides the objective and subjective data necessary to make informed judgements

Stage 3: Strategy production

- preparing a consultation draft and final strategy drawing on consultation responses

The document demonstrates why a green space strategy is important and the potential opportunity and benefits that it can provide, including:

- Reinforcing local identity and enhancing the physical character of an area, so shaping existing and future development.
- Maintaining the visual amenity and increasing the attractiveness of a locality to create a sense of civic pride.
- Securing external funding and focusing capital and revenue expenditure cost effectively
- Improving physical and social inclusion including accessibility, particularly for young, disabled and older people.
- Protecting and enhancing levels of biodiversity and ecological habitats.

Comments
The document demonstrates the importance of developing a greenspace strategy and outlines the potential opportunity and benefits that one can provide.

2.16. A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans, 2004

This publication was written by Green Space and Community First Partnership and published by CABE Space in 2004 following dialogue with a number of organisations and feedback from Green Flag Award applicants and judges where it was suggested that applicants to the award were experiencing difficulties in producing good management plans. The guide's primary purpose is to "encourage wider use of the management plans by dispelling the myth that the

creation of a site management plan is an exceptionally difficult task that can be undertaken only by an expert". The guide suggests that the key sections of a site management should include:

- "Where are we now?"
 - Introduction
 - Policy context
 - Site description

- Where do we want to get to?
 - Vision
 - Assessment & analysis
 - Aims & objectives

- How will we get there?
 - Work / action plan
 - Finance & resources

- How will we know when we have arrived?
 - Monitor & review"

The guide is illustrated with a number of local authority case studies which were reviewed as part of the research that contributed to this publication.

Comments
This document provides comprehensive guidance on the management planning process and to producing management plans for greenspaces. The Council follows this approach to

management planning its Green Flag Parks to ensure the retention of annual awards. The benefits of expending this approach to other sites is recognised by the authority and further management plans are being produced for other key sites.

2.17. Raising the Standard, The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual, 2016

The Green Flag Award Manual originally written in 1996 was revised in 2009 and further updated in 2016 and is the Guidance Manual for judges and applicants for the Green Flag Award.

The Green Flag Award is based on 8 key criteria;

- "A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Well Maintained and Clean
- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing and Communication
- Management"

The assessment comprises a desk based exercise to consider the management plan and other documentation guiding the site's management as well as a field assessment.

The manual includes guidance on good management practice and policy and signposts sources of useful and relevant reference material.

This revised version also provides guidance for judges and applicants for the Green Heritage Award which also comprises of a desk and site assessment. Green Heritage Site Accreditation is awarded to green spaces that are managed to Green Flag Award standards and also actively understand, identify, manage and promote the elements of their heritage that make that site unique.

Comments

The manual, updated in 2016 represents the most recent guidance for the Green Flag Award – the national quality award for greenspaces. The Award criteria cover a broad range of issues and reflect industry and visitors perceptions of what constitutes a good quality greenspace. The Green Flag Award is of relevance to the GSS review since the authority has achieved the Award for their key sites. The quality assessment of green spaces carried out through the GSS review and previous PPG17 audits is based upon the Green Flag Award criteria. The Award criteria may be a useful process for setting future quality standards.

The Green Heritage criteria may also be useful for sites of heritage significance and this may play a role with HLF funded projects in greenspaces across the authority.

2.18. Managing green spaces: Seven ingredients for success, CABE Space, 2010

This document published from research by CABE Space and the New Local Government Network examines how the structure and organisation of parks and green space services affect their performance. Using eight case study examples and multiple interviews with a range of practitioners, it aims to uncover different ways of working in partnership and with communities to deliver good quality spaces. The key findings of the work were:

- “High-performing services depend on strong and motivational leadership;
- Unified management and maintenance functions matters;
- The location of a service, whether in a dedicated parks department or a larger department, is not the most important driver of performance;
- An active understanding of the policy and practice context is needed to stay responsive and relevant;
- Provide evidence to gain the support of leaders and partners;
- Transparent, legible structures are more effective for those using and delivering the service;

- Effective and targeted partnerships underpin successful services”.

Through bringing together evidence of previous success, this document is able to assist green space managers, corporate decision-makers and advisors in deciding on the future of services. It highlights that whilst local authorities are testing different approaches to managing and financing public spaces, in many cases there are a number of common ‘ingredients for success’. In describing the issues that matter and also, importantly, some that distract, the work states that the new challenge will be to use the criteria effectively to manage change in parks and green spaces.

Comments
Parks and green spaces are being managed in a context which is fundamentally changing fast. Local authorities are being given greater autonomy to determine the services they provide to their communities, but this autonomy comes with significantly reduced resources. The guidance set out in this document will inform the GSS to ensure that the quality expected of green spaces is safeguarded.

Regeneration

2.19. Public space lessons – Land in Limbo: making the best use of vacant urban spaces, CABI Space, 2008

This report provides guidance as to how to make the best use of vacant urban sites and highlights the importance of creating temporary green spaces on these sites particularly on big regeneration projects, where the timescale for building may be as much as 10-20 years, and on land sitting in waiting offers.

It details that vacant sites lend themselves to unofficial uses like vehicle parking, dirt bike riding, fly-tipping and mobile home encampment if they are not protected and effectively managed. The report also provides reasons as to why sites are left un-used due to complex, ownership, insurance and risk management.

It highlights that 'land in limbo' needs to be firmly integrated into a strategic land use framework to prevent this as sensitive, low-key intervention can often help reduce negative and anti-social land uses and enhance the benefit that such land has to offer.

The paper demonstrates that many interim spaces have become popular and naturally attractive local short-term assets and offers an insight as to ways to positively managing these spaces and case studies. Examples include simply providing people with access to enjoy the space and providing positive signage and information, use of a redundant lorry park designated as demolition land on the River Thames that through temporary management led to enhanced biodiversity and attracted 15,000 each year including school groups, and community gardens and crop production on temporary sites in New York City.

In summary, Councils are recognising that both temporary and permanent green open spaces have a valuable role to play in delivering environmental protection, nature conservation, healthy recreation and higher property values. Acknowledging this in green space strategies will help to secure management resources and release public and private resources.

Comments

Land in limbo will be acknowledged in the GSS in order to help to secure management resources. Because they are temporary landscapes, expensive interventions are generally inappropriate and more active management of sites can be very cost-effective.

It should be noted that public and private resources can be released by encouraging more functional uses of land in limbo and this is something the Council should consider.

Health and Well-Being

2.20. Urban Green Space Interventions and Health - A review of impacts and effectiveness, World Health Organisation, 2017

This review highlights that interventions on green space in urban settings can help address public health issues related to obesity, cardiovascular effects, mental health and well-being.

In order to explore the effectiveness of urban green space interventions to enhance healthy urban environments, the WHO Regional Office for Europe reviewed research findings, local case studies and Environmental Impact Assessment/Health Impact Assessment experiences, and assessed their impacts on environment, health, well-being and equity.

The results indicate that urban green space is a necessary component for delivering healthy, sustainable and liveable cities. Interventions to increase or improve urban green space can deliver positive health (active lifestyles and mental well-being), social (interaction and community cohesion) and environmental outcomes for all population groups, particularly among lower socio-economic status groups. Importantly, the report highlights that there are very few, if any, other public health interventions that can achieve all of this.

The report concludes that green space should be available to all residents as a part of their daily surroundings and that all kinds of urban green space should be promoted through urban planning and governance across all sectors.

Green space interventions therefore need to be considered as long-term investments, and should be integrated within local development strategies and frameworks. This requires continued political support within local government, and the general understanding that urban green spaces go beyond environmental or ecological objectives and also deliver social and health benefits that increase the quality of life and well-being of all urban residents.

Comments
<p>The report demonstrates that green space is multi-faceted and is able to deliver a wide range of health, social, environmental and economic benefits.</p> <p>It is now important that the Council promote green spaces and their benefits through urban planning and governance across all sectors and ensure integration of green space interventions within local development strategies and frameworks. A revised GSS will support and contribute to this.</p> <p>Urban green space interventions need to be planned and designed with the local community and the intended green space users to ensure the derivation of benefits for the local residents and to aid the delivery of interventions that serve the needs of the community - especially in deprived areas. Widespread consultation with regard to the GSS is taking place in order to capture the views of the local community and users.</p>

2.21. Urban Green Space Interventions and Health - A Review of Evidence, World Health Organisation, 2017

This report examines and summarises the existing evidence of health effects of urban green spaces and evaluates and compares previously developed indicators of green space availability, accessibility and usage from the point of view of their public health relevance and practical applicability.

The available evidence suggests that there are many public health benefits of green spaces through diverse pathways, such as psychological relaxation and stress reduction, enhanced physical activity, and mitigation of exposure to air pollution, excessive heat, and noise as well as

other harmful factors in the urban environment. The detrimental effects are associated with poorly maintained green spaces and the review explains how these can be reduced or prevented through proper planning, organisation and maintenance of green urban areas.

The review also explains that research has shown that there is a need for small, local green spaces very close to where people live and spend their day, as well as large green spaces, offering formal provisions such as playing fields, and opportunities to experience contact with nature and relative solitude.

in summary, the review states that is essential that all populations have adequate access to green space, with particular priority placed on provision for disadvantaged communities, in order for the health benefits to be achieved.

It explains that a City of well-connected, attractive green spaces that offer safe opportunities for urban residents for active mobility and sports as well as for stress recovery, recreation and social contact, is likely to be more resilient to extreme environmental events, such as heat waves (due to the mitigation of urban heat island effect) and extreme rainfall (due to reduced surface run-off). Such a City is also likely to have healthier citizens, reducing demands on health services and contributing to a stronger economy.

Comments
<p>This evidence review on the health impacts of urban green spaces along with the provision of indicators for the local assessment of green space accessibility directly aligns with the GSS. The provision of accessible natural green space will be considered when reviewing the GSS.</p>
<p>Development and implementation of the GSS will then enable local authorities and urban planners to assess in which urban areas green space accessibility should be improved, and to establish respective planning decisions, in order to ensure that the maximum health benefits are achieved.</p>

2.22. Greenspace Literature Review Green Connect, 15 May 2015. A Nature & Wellbeing Act (A green paper from the Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB), 2014

This paper produced by the Wildlife Trust and the RSPB brings together a multitude of research from a variety of sources from across the globe that sets out the benefits of green spaces on people's health and wellbeing. It outlines that importance of green space for human health and prosperity but then outlines the difficulty associated with capturing this as the value derived from the natural environmental is economically "invisible".

The report states that active use of parks and green spaces plays a significant role in increasing participation and exercise and can indeed contribute to reducing the rising health cost, from issues around physical inactivity and obesity as well as mental health, to the economy and this paper justifies this theory. One example given is that of healthy walking schemes:

"For every £1 spent on establishing healthy walking schemes the NHS could save £7.18 from the cost of treating conditions such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes. If every household in England were provided with good access to quality green space it could save an estimated £2.1 billion in health care costs".

Interestingly, the paper informs that "Green space quality, including its richness in wildlife, may be more important to mental health benefits than its quantity". It also reports that "Accessible green space is good for psychological wellbeing, improving recovery from stress, protecting people from future stress and improving concentration".

Comments
This report highlights the importance of quality of green space over quantity with regard to peoples physical and mental wellbeing.

2.23. Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation, HM Government, December 2015

This strategy explains that more than a half a million extra people are playing sport regularly since 2010, and there have been gains in traditionally under-represented groups such as women,

disabled people and people from black and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. It states that the contribution of sport to the economy has grown to £39 billion annually.

The strategy fundamentally describes that high quality multi-use local green spaces close to where people live can play a key role in encouraging physical activity as they provide sporting venues and alternative settings for sport and healthy activity for communities including new audiences that are less likely to use traditional sports centres. It explains that the opportunities to realise the multiple benefits that can be achieved for communities by investing in green spaces and routes as venues for sport and healthy activity should be considered whenever they arise.

The strategy recognises that people are active outdoors in parks, canals and open green spaces also encompassing parkour sites and skate parks. It defines access to local urban opportunities as particularly important for those individuals who are currently inactive and want to get started doing ‘something’ outdoors. It also defines access as not just proximity but also local access networks, such as footpaths and pavements.

Key Performance Indicators relevant to the Greenspace Strategy include:

- KPI 1 – Increase in percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice in the last month
- KPI 2 – Decrease in percentage of people physically inactive (KPI 1 and 2 from *Active Lives* survey)
- KPI 3 – Increase in the percentage of adults utilising outdoor space for exercise/ health reasons (MENE survey)
- KPI 7 – Increase in the number of people volunteering in sport at least twice in the last year (from *Active Lives* survey)

Comments
This strategy depicts the important role that high quality multi-use local green spaces close to where people live has on encouraging physical activity. Of particular relevance is the key performance indicator 3 to increase in the percentage of adults utilising outdoor space for exercise/ health reasons.

2.24. Sport England: Towards an Active Nation, Strategy 2016-2021

In December 2015 the Government published *Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation*. The strategy sets a bold and ambitious direction for sport policy and looks beyond simple participation to how sport changes lives and becomes a force for social good. At its heart are five outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

This strategy sets out how Sport England will put this policy into practice. The key changes they are making are:

- Focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.
- Investing more in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life.
- Helping those who are active now to carry on, but at lower cost to the public purse over time.
- Putting customers at the heart of what Sport England do, responding to how they organise their lives and helping the sector to be more welcoming and inclusive, especially of those groups currently under-represented in sport.
- Helping sport to keep pace with the digital expectations of customers.
- Working nationally where it makes sense to do so (for example on infrastructure and workforce) but encouraging stronger local collaboration to deliver a more joined-up experience of sport and activity for customers.
- Working with a wider range of partners, including the private sector, using Sport England's expertise as well as their investment to help others align their resources.
- Working with the sector to encourage innovation and share best practice particularly through applying the principles and practical learning of behaviour change.

To help shape their new strategy and address the specific recommendations in sporting future, Sport England ran a public consultation for 6 weeks in January and February 2016.

The key messages emerging from the consultation included:

- Key audiences and demographics – engaging the inactive and under-represented groups.
- Key audiences and demographics – engaging children aged 5–14.
- Creating a more productive and sustainable sector – local delivery.
- Delivering on the frontline – volunteering.

Comments
This strategy highlights the need for local delivery of sporting activities in order to increase activity and participation. Parks and green spaces will therefore play a significant role in achieving this goal.

Children's Play

Play is an essential part of the physical, emotional and psychological development of any child, but in urban environments the opportunities for play are restricted. Today, the urban park is the primary outdoor environment that still remains for children to meet and play in a sociable and informal setting. *Urban Parks Forum. (2002). Your Parks: the benefits of parks and green space.*

2.25. Charter for Children's Play, Play England

The Charter for Children’s Play sets out a vision for play and aims to be a catalyst for individuals and organisations to examine, review and improve their provision for children and young people’s play and informal recreation.

The Charter also serves as a guide and framework to all those involved in developing, revising and implementing play strategies, community plans and children and young people’s plans. It states that the government has a duty under this convention to protect and promote play opportunities for all children and young people. The right to play and informal recreation, for all

children and young people up to 18 years of age, is contained in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK government in 1991.

The document describes playing as integral to children’s enjoyment of their lives, their health and their development. It explains that through playing, children are creating their own culture, developing their abilities, exploring their creativity and learning about themselves, other people and the world around them. It states that play is essential for healthy physical and emotional growth, for intellectual and educational development, and for acquiring social and behavioural skills.

The Charter describes play as the fundamental way that children enjoy their childhood and that it is essential to their quality of life as children.

Importantly, it states that children have the same right to use and enjoy public space as others and that local streets, estates, green spaces, parks and town centres should be accessible for children and young people to move around in safety and offer places where they can play freely, experience nature, explore their environment and be with their friends.

Comments
The Charter serves as a guide and framework to all those involved in developing, revising and implementing play strategies. The Charter encourages organisations to examine, review and improve their provision for children and young people’s play and informal recreation as Children's play is integral to their health and development.

The Environment

2.26. Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE): a pilot to develop an indicator of visits to the natural environment by children. Natural England, 10 February 2016 - Results from years 1 & 2 (March 2013 to February 2015)

The Natural Environment White Paper (2011) sets out the Government's ambition to strengthen connections between people and nature, and in particular 'for every child to be able to experience and learn in the natural environment'. The White Paper acknowledges that the opportunities to benefit from spending time in natural environments are currently not open to everyone, which can contribute to health and other inequalities.

Natural England in partnership with the DEFRA, Public Health England, Historic England and King's College London launched a 2 year pilot two year pilot to develop a national indicator for children's visits to the natural environment in England. The pilot aimed to quantify the scale and scope of children's visits to the natural environment and to identify who children visit with and where they go.

Headline findings from the paper are as follows:

- Many children frequently visited the natural environment, but a sizeable minority never or rarely visited. On average: round 9 million children in England visited the natural environment in the preceding 12 months (88% of all children in England).
- The frequency of children's visits to the natural environment was linked to ethnicity and socio-economic status. On average: Children from BAME households were less likely to frequently visit the natural environment (56%) compared to children from non-BAME households (74%) and children from higher income households were more likely to visit frequently (77%) than children from lower income households.

- Most children’s visits were to local natural environments - in an average month, nearly half of all children visited local urban parks (48%/4.9m).
- There are regional variations. For example: Children living in the North East and South East were more likely to take visits to the natural environment at least once a week (78% and 75% respectively) compared to children living in the West Midlands or London (65% and 62% respectively).

Comments
<p>This paper sets out the Government’s ambition to strengthen connections between people and nature, and in particular ‘for every child to be able to experience and learn in the natural environment’. The paper finds that whilst many children frequently visit the natural environment children from BAME and lower income backgrounds visit less often.</p>

2.27. Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment, Natural England. Headline Report from the 2015-16 national survey on people and the natural environment

This report presents the headline findings for the seventh year of MENE fieldwork conducted between March 2015 to February 2016, with comparisons to previous surveys dating back to 2009.

The report stated that in the seven years since the survey commenced, a wealth of evidence on outdoor recreation behaviour, attitudes and engagement with the natural environment has been collected. The headline findings in 2015/16 were:

- There were 3.1 billion estimated visitors to green spaces between March 2015 and February 2016.
- Between the 2009/10 and 2015/16 survey period there was a significant increase in the proportion of the population who claimed to visit the natural environment once a week or more rising from 54% in 2009/10 to 58% in 2015/16.

- Parks in towns and cities continued to be the most visited specific destination type with around three in ten (or an estimated 879 million) visits recorded in 2015/16.
- Health and exercise continued to be one of the most frequently cited motivations for visiting the outdoors.

Comments
<p>This survey shows the increasing numbers to green spaces and that parks in towns and cities receive the most visits, health and exercise are one of the major reasons behind these visits.</p>

2.28. Helping pollinators locally - Developing a local pollinator action plan or strategy, Buglife

This strategy highlights serious declines in our native pollinators and makes a call for action from everyone to help conserve these species. It explains that pollinators are in decline due to habitat loss, use of pesticides and climate change. It states that local authorities, as land managers of public green space and green infrastructure across the country, are being asked to use their regulatory powers and other functions to deliver, promote and enthuse others to participate in work which will benefit pollinators.

The document explains that a local pollinator plan or strategy provides an opportunity to review the current management of parks and other green spaces, often identifying new, more attractive and potentially cost saving opportunities. This guidance states that making the changes will benefit pollinators and provide a higher quality public green space; helping bring people closer to nature, with the health and wellbeing benefits this provides.

The report outlines the ways in which local authorities can help including:

- Conserving pollinators through Local planning and Green Infrastructure works.
- Managing land to benefit pollinators - including Local Wildlife Sites, roadside verges and other green space.
- Enthusing others to take action - for example; schools, business, local communities and

private individuals.

The document outlines the benefits of conserving pollinators to local authorities. These include:

- Increased public engagement and awareness increases support for local authority wildlife work.
- Improved and increased biodiversity.
- An improved local environment for the enjoyment of local people with associated health and wellbeing benefits.
- Improved access to nature, by bringing nature into the heart of urban green spaces
- potential savings on management of parks, verges and other local authority managed green space.
- Helping to develop and improve green infrastructure.
- Safeguarded local horticulture and other food production through avoidance of pollination deficit.

The paper states that a number of local authorities are helping pollinators and have produced pollinator action plans and strategies, examples include; Dorset County Council, Newcastle City Council, Bristol and Aberdeenshire Council.

The guidance refers to the UK Government's National Pollinator Strategy for England (2014) and outlines local authorities' duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006. The duty requires all local authorities to make biodiversity an integral part of policy and decision making. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) paragraph 117 also requires planning authorities to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity.

The guidance states that a local pollinator strategy or plan should sit alongside other Local Biodiversity Action Plans, greenspace and green infrastructure strategies and link into existing Local Development Plans or Policies.

Comments

This strategy highlights serious declines in our native pollinators and makes a call for action from local authorities to use their regulatory powers and other functions to deliver, promote and enthuse others to participate in work which will benefit pollinators.

The Council should ensure key populations of priority-listed pollinators (NERC Act, Section 41 species) and habitats, as well as locally threatened species are protected through the planning process. Using Section 106 agreements, CIL and other measures to ensure pollinator friendly habitats are created as part of any development.

3. Regional Policies, Plans and Strategies

Strategic Planning

3.1. West Midlands Combined Authority Strategic Economic Plan

The West Midlands combined authority (WMCA) set out its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) in 2016, detailing its vision for the West Midlands and its objectives and strategy to improve the quality of lives for those living and working in the region. With the vision "Making our mark... so the West Midlands is the best region in the UK to do business" the SEP's objectives are include: economic growth, employment and skills, accessibility, business competitiveness and productivity, land, public service reform, housing and environment.

Complimenting the three Local Economic Partnerships within the region (see Black Country LEP SEP below) the SEP plans to tackle issues in the region with a more coherent approach and has predicted "further and faster growth" than previously estimated, with its Economy Plus Model. The strategy is based on the strengths, challenges and opportunities within the region and will be assessed using a new economic modelling framework, known as the Dynamic Economic Impact Model (DEIM) and contrasted with growth across the UK using gross value added (GVA) as an indicator.

To address its objectives, the SEP has established eight priority actions, which will be delivered in accordance with the three channels: people, business and place. The eight priority actions are:

- New manufacturing economy: taking advantage of the West Midlands position to increase growth and secure investment
- Creative and digital: building the West Midlands presence in the sector through better broadband connectivity and increasing the skills base
- Environmental technologies: growing the sector to increase productivity and improve the environment, health and wellbeing, as well as sustainability

- Medical and life sciences: growth in the medical science sector and action to improve mental health in the region
- HS2 growth: maximizing the benefits of HS2 to increase productivity and connectivity by fully integrating the railway with current transport provision
- Skills for growth and employment for all: increasing skills and employability in the region
- Housing: accelerate house building in the region
- Exploiting the economic geography: recognizing the regions strengths and building on them to increase its contribution to the national and world economies

As a detailed and comprehensive strategy, it focuses on three themes which will feature across all eight priority actions: productivity (it plans to mirror the productivity plan set out by the Government), innovation and public service reform.

Reform will focus on four areas: troubled individuals, criminal justice, employment and skills and mental health. Three commissions have been set up to support work in three key strategic areas. The Productivity and Skills Commission will advise many of the SEP's strategic priorities, including health and wellbeing, while the Land Commission will ensure there is sufficient land and investment in the region. The Mental Health Commission has been set up to explore how services and resources can enable people to keep mentally well using resources currently available.

Overall, the WMCA plans to invest £8 billion over the course of the 30-year investment programme, including a £1.7m transport and road package, £500m in housing and £200m in land remediation.

Comments
<p>The SEP highlights that greenspace is an important indicator of the way people can enjoy the towns and cities they live in and comments that "...an important measure is having green space sites within 300 m of where people live and the ease of accessibility to the countryside". Greenspaces can also contribute to the SEP's aims relating to improving mental health and wellbeing, reducing stress of health services and their sustainability. However, plans to increase housing and encourage business growth may impact on current greenspaces with strategic sites</p>

being used for manufacturing and brownfield sites being brought back into use.

3.2. The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

Regional planning policy emphasises the need for urban renaissance in the West Midlands to increase prosperity and improve the quality of life in urban areas – including Sandwell. The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy sets the framework for local spatial planning, including the number of new dwellings that the government says that Sandwell and other parts of the West Midlands must plan for locally. The current Phase 2 review of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy must meet the government requirements to deliver increased housing growth in the region and will include revised figures for the provision of new dwellings in the West Midlands up until 2026.

Comments

The Regional Spatial Strategy is an important document that informs regional and local planning policy and as such will the development of the Greenspace Strategy will need to consider this vision.

3.3. Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership: Strategic Economic Plan

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership published its first Strategic Economic Plan in March 2014, and a draft 2017 update has since been published. The SEP focusses on six main priority propositions:

- High Value Manufacturing City: improving growth and quality of manufacturing business
- The Black Country: improving rates of business birth, growth and survival, along with productivity and competitiveness;
- Economic Capital: maximising strategic centres, making them more attractive to live, work, visit and invest;
- Black Country Garden City: accelerate house building and improving range of housing;

- Skills for Business, Skills for Life: ensuring the level of skills in the Black Country are high enough to meet business needs;
- Connected Black Country: investment in broadband and transport to support growth

Based on the six propositions, the SEP has set out 12 strategic programmes each of which relates to one of three pillars: people, business and place. The new SEP sets out the Industrial Strategy for the Black Country and it intended to implement the Government’s Industrial Strategy, as well as mirroring those issues addressed in the WMCA SEP (see above).

Strategic programme PI5 Environment and Low Carbon refers to a programme of Green Infrastructure as a means of supporting the region’s 30 year vision The Black Country Looking Forward which contains the aspiration that; by 2033 the region will have a “high-quality environment, including a canal network of which the area is proud and an urban park landscape including greenspace, community and heritage assets making it an attractive place to invest, live, work and visit and aspiration to secure UNESCO Geopark status”. Challenges to this include a lack of investment in cultural and environmental assets.

The vision for 2033 also details their ambition to create a globally competitive manufacturing region, with a modern and convenient transport network linking the four thriving centres and the region with the rest of the UK. As well as providing high quality housing and becoming a ‘genuinely inclusive’ society which is ambitious and proud.

Comments
There is potential for the strategy to take advantage of region’s green infrastructure to create the Black Country Garden City.

3.4. Black Country Core Strategy

The Black Country Core Strategy is a planning and regeneration plan covering the four Black Country Councils: Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The 2011 Black Country Core Strategy is currently under review, with an updated strategy to be implemented in 2021, covering plans up to 2036. The emerging Black Country Core Strategy Review document will contain regeneration policies covering a range of issues including jobs, inward investment opportunities and the economy, regeneration, transport infrastructure, centres, shopping and retail, the Black Country's Green Belt, new housing growth, environmental protection and infrastructure. The Core Strategy will also set out how much development growth will take place over a 15 years period across the Black Country sub-region (from the year 2021 onwards (anticipated Core Strategy adoption date) up until the year 2036), where the growth will occur and how this new development growth will be delivered sustainably across the Black Country. It will also contain policies to ensure that the Black Country's Green Belt, attractive natural environment and valued townscapes are protected and enhanced over the lifespan of the Core Strategy up until the year 2036.

Currently, the Core Strategy Review document carries no weight so plans should still refer to the 2011 Strategy. Key preparation timescales for the emerging Black Country Core Strategy (Review) document are:

- 10 weeks formal public consultation on an emerging Black Country Core Strategy 'Issues and Option Stage' Report – July 2017 until early September 2017.
- Formal public consultation on an emerging Black Country Core Strategy 'Preferred Options Stage' Report – commences September 2018 (anticipated).
- Formal public consultation on a Publication Stage Report – commences December 2019 (anticipated).
- The Submission Stage Core Strategy document will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (Bristol) June 2020 (anticipated).
- Examination In Public (EIP) formal hearing session overseen by the Planning Inspectorate (Bristol) – Autumn/ Winter 2020 (anticipated).
- Receipt of the Inspectors Report (Planning Inspectorate, Bristol) Summer 2021 (anticipated).
- Formal adoption of the Black Country Core Strategy (Review) document anticipated Autumn 2021.

With this in mind, the 2011 Black Country Core Strategy sets out a response to the shared set of social, economic and environmental issues, often on a cross-boundary basis and how the partner

authorities have worked together on the Black Country Vision and Study establishing a clear and shared set of ambitions and direction of travel with an agreed economic and spatial strategy.

The Vision for the Strategy is set out under the three key headings of Sustainable Communities, Environmental Transformation and Economic Prosperity. It recognises and builds upon the respective Sustainable Community Strategies and provides a spatial dimension to the visions and objectives within these.

Issues relating to Green Space are addressed within the wider context of Environmental Infrastructure although there are links to other themes within the Strategy. Policy ENV6 addresses Open Space, Sport and Recreation. This states that “guidance, development proposals should recognise the following roles that are of particular importance in the Black Country:

1. Improving the image and environmental quality of the Black Country;
2. Defining and enhancing local distinctiveness;
3. Reducing potential urban heat island effects;
4. Preserving and enhancing diversity in the natural and built environment;
5. Preserving and enhancing industrial, archaeological and architectural heritage, including canals;
6. Providing components of a high quality, multifunctional green space network or “Urban Park”;
7. Enhancing people’s mental and physical well-being;
8. Strengthening (through extension, increased access and enhanced value) the existing greenway network”.

In addition, the Strategy states that:

“Development that would reduce the overall value of the open space, sport and recreation network in the Black Country will be resisted. Development that would increase the overall value

of the open space, sport and recreation network will be encouraged, especially in areas of deficiency. Each Local Authority will set out, in Local Development Documents and on Proposals Maps, policies and proposals for specific open space, sport and recreation facilities and planning requirements for open space, sport and recreation, in order to move towards the most up-to-date local open space, sport and recreation standards for each Local Authority. In order to balance the achievement of these standards, in some cases a loss in quantity of open space or facilities may be acceptable if compensatory gains in quality and / or accessibility which are of a greater value can be secured in the local area”.

Furthermore, the strategy details a number of goals which include delivering the broad open space, sport and recreation proposals for each regeneration area, for green spaces to assist in addressing the priorities set out in Black Country Environmental Infrastructure Guidance and to make more efficient use of urban land by:

- creating more multifunctional open spaces;
- significantly expanding community use of open space, sport and recreation facilities provided at places of education (see Policy HOU5);
- providing opportunities to increase appropriate open space, sport and recreation use of the Green Belt;
- making creative use of land exchanges and disposing of surplus assets to generate resources for investment; and
- increasing access to open space, sport and recreation facilities, including for people with disabilities;
- where there is a cross boundary impact, identifying the most appropriate location to maximise community access and use of new facilities.

These policies were informed by previous PPG17 Studies along with Playing Pitch Strategies for each Black Country Authority.

Comments
<p>The Black Country Core Strategy represents a collaborative approach to spatial planning, setting out policies for future strategic planning, including green space planning. The GSS can contribute through encouraging an increase the proportion of Local Sites where positive</p>

conservation management has been or is being implemented.

3.5. West Midlands Combined Authority Land Commission

This report is only intended to assist the WMCA with its statutory functions as recommendations and is not intended to be considered by a local planning authority.

With this in mind, the Commission's recommendations based on extensive evidence and research include four overarching principles: prioritisation, the need to add value, full and holistic use of both the new powers and funding and aligning development and infrastructure.

The Commission believes there are six 'game changers' for the West Midlands Land Market. These are:

- The development of a single agreed vision: creating a non-statutory Spatial Framework supported with resources and more detailed analysis of business and housing needs
- Designation of action zones: prioritised zones for employment and housing
- Unity of purpose: further and wider collaboration across the private and public sector
- Transforming brownfield land: regeneration and remediation of brownfield sites to accommodate urbanization while protecting biodiversity
- A strategic review of the greenbelt: with a remediation programme unlikely to meet the needs of the SEP, the WMCA should pick up from Local Authorities, examining the green belt and preventing unsustainable 'chipping away' of areas
- Clarified governance and responsibility: providing shared leadership and oversight for measures described above

With some game changers already implemented, such as The Grater Ickneith and Smethwick area housing action zone.

Comments

Although not intended to be used for local planning, the West Midlands Combined Authority Land Commission report is still useful to refer to for an idea of future policies. Notably, the Commission have recommended a strategic review of the greenbelt and taking over from Local Authorities to limit unsustainable development and take a more joined up approach to meet the SEP key priorities.

3.6. Movement for Growth: The West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (2016)

The West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan was set out by the WMCA in 2016, detailing the long-term guide for improving transport in the West Midlands over the following 20 years. The Combined Authorities' role is to ensure that delivery remains joined-up across the region. The plan highlights five challenges for the transport system:

- Economic growth and economic inclusion: better transport will aid economic growth in the area through providing better links for business, trade and employment.
- Population growth and housing development: it is estimated that the area's population will grow by 444,000 by 2035. Better transport links will benefit new housing developments and meet the increased demand for travel.
- Environment and public health: reducing noise pollution, as well as emissions.
- Public health: improving air quality, reducing obesity rates through encouraging exercise and opening up training opportunities to poorer communities and reducing health inequalities in turn.
- Social well-being: improving quality of life by increasing access to amenities and other life enhancing opportunities.

The new vision for transport is as follows: "We will make great progress for a Midlands economic 'Engine for Growth', clean air, improved health and quality of life for the people of the West Midlands. We will do this by creating a transport system befitting a sustainable, attractive and economically vibrant conurbation in the world's sixth largest economy"

To achieve this vision, the WMCA has set out nine objectives, targeted at the five core challenges, which will be achieved through 15 Transport Policies, focussing mostly on the creation of a more reliable, affordable and sustainable transport system, with improved connections across the borough. Policy 9 aims to improve the quality of the natural and historic environment and create attractive local environments; and Policy 11 seeks to significantly increase the amount of active travel in the West Midlands Metropolitan Area (addressing Policy 10: tackling climate change and Policy 13: assist in the reduction of health inequalities).

The Strategy sets out how it will be implemented in the long term, taking into account an aging population and increases in travel demands, as well as integration into a national network, with 'international gateways' via the UK's ports and Birmingham Airport. High Speed 2 (HS2) also provides a great opportunity for the West Midlands and the WMCA intends to maximise the opportunity by effectively 'plugging it into' local transport networks via the HS2 Connectivity Programme.

The metropolitan rail and rapid transit network, based on suburban rail, metro and tram-train, very light rail and SPRINT bus rapid transit lines. The network will integrate with local bus routes and park and ride services, to provide a user-friendly, single network across the region to improve accessibility via public transport for work and tourism.

Within the Metropolitan tier, the plan also focusses on is the importance of interregional freight rail (highlighted by the Midlands Connect Initiative), visitor transport via coaches, park and rides and the metropolitan main road network. The later, (also known as the Key Route Network) compliments the metropolitan rail network by providing a network for people and freight, and accommodate bus routes, the Metropolitan Cycle Network and lorries, cars and vans.

On a local scale, the plan intends to increase the role of walking, cycling and using public transport for shorter journeys, below two miles. By making key walking routes more attractive through increasing accessibility, additional signage and seating, and better lighting and planting, it is intended that more people will choose to use the routes, thus encouraging more sustainable transport methods. Local bus networks are also vital to the network, with plans for a more customer friendly and reliable service also in place, as well as improving the safety of powered two wheelers, such as mopeds.

Smart mobility will allow for better traffic management, leading to reduced congestion and carbon emissions. This tier is seen as integral to the rest of the plan, as is road safety which will

be implemented through the new road safety strategy. Meanwhile, it is intended that, through 'smarter choices' travel plans and engagement with education providers, more people will choose more sustainable transport methods, including car-pooling.

Comments
The Transport Plan gives a thorough idea of targets and plans for the transport system across the Midlands. The GSS could contribute to a number of targets through improving access to greenspace, encouraging more active travel to reduce health inequalities and reduce carbon emissions. However, the plan also sets out major infrastructure works which may in turn impact on greenspace in the borough.

Regeneration & the Economy

3.7. Midlands Engine Strategy

The West Midlands Engine Strategy, set up in March 2017, outlines plans for economic growth across the region. Following a £392m investment from the Government through the Local Growth Fund and £4m for the running of the Midland Engine Partnership (made up of businesses, local authorities, academic institutions and Local Enterprise Partnerships) the region is intended to become the growth engine for the UK, vital to the future of the country as we plan to leave the EU. The strategy recognizes the region's strengths, namely its location, geography and strong manufacturing base, as well as its weaknesses (lack of a skilled workforce, lack of connectivity and limited entrepreneurship).

In line with the government's Industrial Strategy, the plan focuses on five key objectives:

- Improving connectivity: connecting areas within the Midlands and with the rest of the UK, as well as modernizing the digital infrastructure
- Strengthening skills: addressing the skills gap through boosting training and helping businesses find skilled workers from within the Midlands

- Supporting enterprise and innovation: investing in industrial clusters, including high value manufacturing in the Black Country, increasing productivity across the supply chain and providing opportunities for businesses to grow
- Promoting the Midlands: promoting the Midlands as a place to invest and creating opportunities and making them clear for investors
- Enhancing quality of life: £12m to develop the Black Country Garden City, redeveloping publicly owned sites for housing and increasing cultural offer

Comments

The brief plan outlines a number of objectives which the GSS can contribute to plans, such as improving quality of life, allowing the Council to take advantage of funding opportunities.

3.8. Black Country Growth Deal, made in the Black Country Sold Around the World

The Deal brings together various funding streams, including the Government's Local Growth Fund, totaling around £138.7m (excluding match funding for European Social Fund skills activities). The Deal intends to drive business growth through innovations, increasing the skills base, investing in transport and regenerating sites across the Black Country for housing and employment. It will focus on four priority areas as identified in the LEP's SEP:

- Raising employability, education and skills: capital investments in the skills infrastructure to provide new training opportunities, mostly in advance manufacturing. As well as encouraging employers to invest in their employees training and skills
- Improving Black Country business competitiveness: supporting businesses and providing workspace and testing facilities to support growth
- Transforming the Black Country Infrastructure and Environment: large scale developments for housing and businesses
- Improving transport infrastructure: allowing better employment opportunities and revitalizing town centres

Comments

The Black Country Growth Deal reflects the Local Economic Partnership's SEP. Plans for better transport systems and more housing may impact greenspaces, however, greenspace can also represent the opportunity for encouraging more active transport and will need to be available to new housing developments.

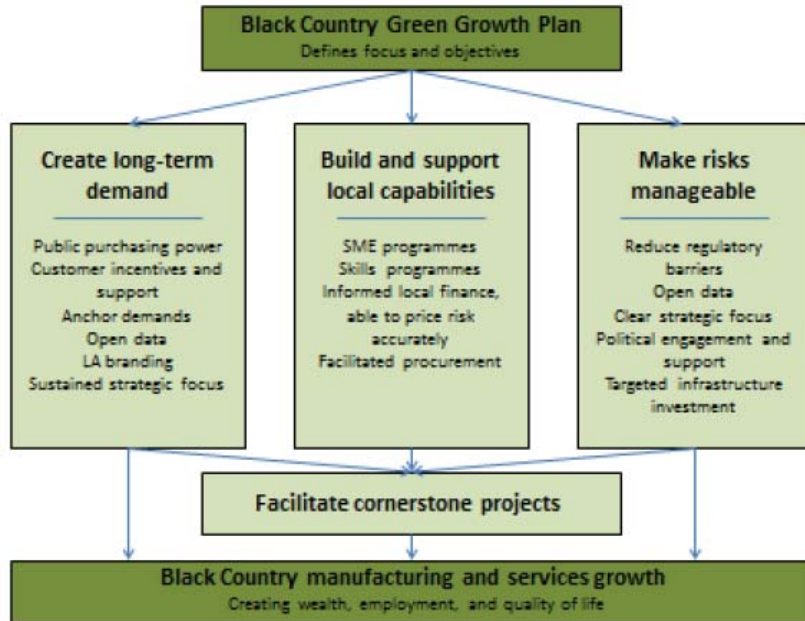
3.9. Black Country Green Growth Plan, 2013

With the aim of making the Black County a leading centre for manufacturing and deploying technology and solutions within the low carbon economy, the Green Growth Plan sets out a strategy and delivery mechanism to generate up to £1 billion in GVA for the Black Country. It also aims to provide immediate benefits for Black Country residents, namely creating skilled jobs and wealth through exploiting the Black Country's location and existing manufacturing base and facilities.

With green growth and carbon reduction being very broad issues, affecting all sectors the plan sets out strategies based on two specific markets:

- Localized energy – all building and human scale energy technologies, such as energy efficiency technologies and microgeneration (e.g. solar panels and heat pumps)
- Waste management – includes all solid waste, such as electricals biomass and healthcare / hazardous waste

Both markets represent sectors that local authority has substantial powers in and can therefore stimulate demand, resulting in economic growth and jobs. Local authority can reduce the risk for investors through guaranteeing anchor demand and minimizing regulatory barriers and risks. The diagram overleaf shows how the pathway to economic success through Green Growth.



Currently, there are already opportunities in the Black Country which can support this pathway, such as the Peoples’ PowerStation and projects aimed at creating imaginative uses for the canal network. These projects have been classified into three priority areas:

- Quick wins – immediate revenue to local communities which require minimal or limited development
- Medium-term priority projects – have the potential to deliver significant revenue and opportunities but require further consultation and development work
- Longer-term strategic initiatives – building on the quick wins and medium-term projects, these are ‘game-changing’ projects which will bring long-term economic and social benefits

Building on the regions strengths, research suggests that construction and manufacturing industries have the best opportunities for developing a low carbon economy, however the public sector makes up more than half of the jobs within the region creating potential for using public procurement and access to potential customers. Several Councils also have energy frameworks and strategies already in place, with innovative housing providers and planned developments for Enterprise Zones also providing opportunities for green infrastructure. However, the plan also faces significant challenge in the form of low levels of higher level technical skills, senior and political officer support, long-term funding and local technical and commercial leadership. The

success of the plan will also be determined by the success of cross-LEP working and the formation of successful partnerships.

At the centre of the Green Growth Plan is the Hub (a quick win project). Located in the Enterprise Zone and reporting to the LEP board, the Hub will house a small core of staff with expertise in finances, commercial, legal and technical areas. After an initial cost of half a million, the Hub will become self-funded after two years, taking revenue for commercial projects its facilitates. The main objectives of The Hub are to identify and prioritise opportunities and support local technical and leadership capabilities, establish governance structures and maximize access to funding, as well as facilitating project delivery and providing expert support and advise to ensure green growth opportunities are maximized. It will focus on encouraging economic activities within the localized energy and waste management sectors. The business plan for the hub will include preliminary budgets long term projects and initiative and develop a vision for the plan. Performance will be measured against the levels of jobs and GVA in the Black Country, numbers of investment returns secured and CO₂ emissions reduced.

Comments
The detailed plan describes a range of projects which will impact greenspace in the Black Country, including pop-up power stations, providing green infrastructure for strategic sited and imaginative use of the canal network. These will likely impact green and open spaces in the region through developments onsite and nearby but green and open spaces can also provide opportunities, such as spaces contributing to green infrastructure plans and green transport networks.

3.10. West Midlands Combined Authority Annual Plan

The Annual Plan starts by discussing the devolution deal, the region, governance and future plans, including further deals between the West Midlands and the Government. The WMCA has a portfolio of 'Power Projects', major projects which they intend to address goals set out in their SEP.

A major feature of the annual report is HS2 and the Midlands Growth Strategy, which outlines the opportunities which the high-speed rail will bring to the West Midlands, including economic growth, productivity and job creation. With the ultimate goal that the investment will pay for

itself. The anticipated completion date for HS2 is 2026, with a number of other projects complimenting the development. Birmingham Curzon and UK Central will be world class stations for the high-speed rail and serve the major development zones, home to business hubs, residential communities and major visitor attractions. Other projects include the City of Wolverhampton Interchange Programmed (a transport hub), Coventry City Centre Regeneration (for retail) and the Friargate Business District, also in Coventry. Regeneration schemes will also take place in East Birmingham and North Solihull, while the Metro extension plans will further connect the West Midlands. Of particular relevance to Sandwell is the Metro extension from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill.

The Black Country LEP, along with Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Council's and the Homes and Communities Agency are working together to create a new 21st Black Country Garden City, which will connect into existing communities and infrastructure. This Garden City vision will utilise existing green, cultural and economic assets to develop attractive places where people want to live, transforming the reality and perception of the Black Country.

As stated in the WMCA SEP, its annual report also discusses the new commissions. The Mental Health Commission launched a zero-suicide tolerance ambition and has proposed the Wellbeing Premium, a business rate discount for employers committing to key evidence-based actions to improve the wellbeing of their workforce. They also launched their Thrive West Midlands Action Plan (see below). The Land Commission also presented their final report to the WMCA in February 2017 for consideration (also see below). Meanwhile, the Productivity and Skills Commission intends to produce a clear vision and develop a plan over the following year and public service reform will continue to meet targets set out in the SEP.

Comments
The Annual Plan focuses primarily on plans for HS2, which is unlikely to significantly impact on the Sandwell GSS, however, the metro extension may potentially have an impact on greenspace in the area. Greenspace in the borough can also contribute to the Mental Health Commission, with greenspace being beneficial to mental health and wellbeing.

Health & Well-Being

3.11. Thrive West Midlands

The WMCA's Mental Health Commission's Thrive West Midlands Action Plan, with agreement from over 20 stakeholders and partners and the Citizens Jury (a group of individuals with mental ill health), is committed to the following statements:

"WE WILL work together to improve mental health and wellbeing, to reduce the burden of mental ill health across the West Midlands. We will work to improve people's lives and to encourage healthy communities.

WE WILL ensure services meet the needs of people with mental ill health and are provided with empathy and compassion. We will involve people who have experienced mental ill health and their carers at the earliest opportunity in decisions about services.

WE WILL work together to develop and deliver the actions in this Action Plan across the West Midlands Combined Authority area"

The Action Plan sets out 19 actions, based around five themes:

- Theme one: Supporting people into work and whilst in work
- Theme two: Providing safe and stable place to live
- Theme three: Mental health and criminal justice
- Theme four: Developing approaches to health and care:
- Theme five: Getting the community involved

Under Theme five, actions include raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing in the community through a programme of community initiatives and training up to 500,000 people in mental health first aid.

To ensure the implementation of these plans the Commission has also set up leadership and governance structures with director level leadership being supported by a new wellbeing board and the Citizens Jury. A panel of Equality Champions will also be set up to ensure people get equal access and treatment and each of the constituent Councils have elected a Mental Health Champion to work together and ensure that the plan is implemented across the Local Authority.

Comments
<p>A thorough report with much input from key groups and a great insight into the requirements of a modern day mental health service. While it is commonly accepted that greenspace can benefit mental health through reducing stress and anxiety (thus access is imperative), they can also provide a venue for much of the awareness campaigns and community initiatives, including Walk out of Darkness or training for mental health first aid.</p>

3.12. Black Country Walking and Cycling Strategy and Implementation Plan

The strategy, written in June 2016, aims to “realise the full potential of walking and cycling’s contribution to the health and wealth of the Black County – creating more sustainable suburbs, towns and cities that are healthier, safer and more desirable place to live, work and learn”. The strategy was developed with Birmingham City Council and the WMCA in light of existing cycling and walking strategies, with the intention of integrating it into the West Midlands Strategy. Through combining it with land use planning and other measures such as training, mapping and behaviour change initiatives to overcome barriers to “a strong and sustainable cycling and walking culture”. The Black Country LEP will govern delivery in terms of infrastructure, while the WMCA prioritises schemes which support wider economic growth (see WMCA strategic transport plan ‘Movement for Growth’).

The plan states that Sandwell have recently reviewed their walking strategy in light of the new public health agenda and has more of a focus on encouraging walking and ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is in place to support people living more active lifestyles. Canal towpaths are a key feature in Sandwell - the Canal and Rivers Trust are keen to provide further opportunities for improved walking and cycling along our towpaths and improve links with existing and future provisions to ensure that we help create a joined up network across the Black Country. The plan refers to the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension and also states that any infrastructure that is implemented as part of these programmes will need to ensure cycling

and walking is fully 'designed in' and forms an integral component of these schemes and their business case

The Strategy aims to exploit existing greenways to make more attractive and direct routes for walkers, joggers and cyclist, which cross administrative boundaries in the region, as well as linking to the National Cycle Network. It is hoped that this will encourage more physical activity, reducing health inequalities in the region (namely obesity and childhood obesity rates) and save £35m in health costs in the long term. As well as the health benefits, cycling also allows people to access employment and training which my otherwise be unavailable without a vehicle.

Cycle Strategy

The Cycle Strategy aims to encourage people to consider cycling as a viable means of transport, complimenting plans for future housing and employment growth through reducing congestion and improving accessibility. Plans include the creation of a user-friendly cycle network including on and off-road routes and making cycling safer through reducing speed limits and introducing cycle-proof junctions and crossings. Routes will be developed according to three categories:

- A core or primary network relating to strategic investment priorities and capable of accommodating large numbers of cyclists. Working towards a denser network.
- A secondary network including more local routes to schools, colleges, community centre etc.
- A local route network using quiet residential streets and areas with limited vehicle access.

As well as infrastructure changes, there are plans to make cycling more attractive through promoting / marketing the benefits of cycling, removing barriers, providing training and clear maps and engaging with schools, businesses and job centres.

Through a combination of stakeholder workshops, mapping and data analysis, the Strategy has identified areas where the potential to cycle is highest, this includes areas of Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Key attractor areas have also been identified, where cycling infrastructure should be concentrated. 'Cycle Desire Lines', corridors where a significant number of people currently travel to work were also established.

Walking Strategy

With an already extensive network of footpath in existence in the Black Country, the main aim of the walking strategy is to improve specific walking areas and trip attractors, as well as promoting the benefits of walking. Through providing a safer, better designed network of pedestrian routes, linking to public transport, jobs and local services, with better street furniture, signage and accessibility, the strategy hopes to encourage more people to travel and recreation. The Strategy has identified 14 'workspace zones' with over 250 commuters travelling less than 2 km to work, as well as key attractors where people are likely to walk to.

The scheme also plans to encourage gradual behaviour change through changing the environment, complimented by a range of information and smart technology. Meanwhile branding and promotion will encourage the use of more sustainable transport through providing training and support, as well as promoting improvements in infrastructure and initiatives. Finally, 'Mini Holland Schemes' such as the ones in London will be introduced, where funding is allocated to local centres in order to shift short trips from car to foot.

Comments

The detailed Walking and Cycling Strategy and Implementation Plan outlines key approaches and benefits to getting more people choose cycling or walking as a form of transport. Greenspaces in the borough can play key part in this, through providing a route and space to walk or cycle. Significant amount of mapping analysis has been undertaken to identify barriers, key attractor areas and 'desire line' corridors to understand where funding should be targeted. These should be taken into account in the GSS as major changes to infrastructure may affect many of the green spaces. Retrofitting cycle and walking friendly infrastructure will also alter the current layout, particularly around road networks and canals, which may impact green space boundaries and plans.

3.13. Cycling Charter

The West Midlands Cycling Charter outlines measures to increase levels of cycling to 5% of all trips by 2023 and 10% by 2033. The visions are "to realise the full potential of cycling's contribution to the health and wealth of the West Midlands – creating more sustainable suburbs, towns and cities that are healthier, safer and more desirable places to live, work and learn". The

benefits of cycling outlined in the plan include: support the SEP through reducing congestion and improving productivity, reduce emissions, increase physical activity, offer an affordable and easy access transport method and create a better place to live by making it easier for people to move around.

To get more people cycling and unlock these benefits, the Charter sets out the key principles the West Midlands should focus on:

- Leadership and profile: a high-profile local cycling champion to act as spokesperson, committed leadership and political will and leadership at all levels
- Cycling network: high quality and coherent network for commuting, for the needs of all road users to be recognised and catering for cycling throughout the planning process, integrating it with the transport system and extending 20mph speed zones where appropriate in urban areas
- Promoting and encouraging cycling: affordable training, increase road safety and an integrated market approach
- Funding: to be secured and sought to deliver a high-quality network across the region with a coordination of resources and expertise from a range of partners

Comments
Current greenspace provision could be exploited to provide a high-quality network, as set out by the Cycling Charter key principles, as well as providing space for training, opening up potential funding opportunities.

3.14. West Midlands Combined Authority: West Midlands on the Move, Physical Activity Strategic Framework 2017-30

The strategic framework sets out the objectives and actions required to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the region and to reduce levels of physical inactivity and inequalities in levels across the region. Inactivity leads to poor health and associated health

issues, as well as reduced productivity and educational attainment. The short and long term ambitions for the framework are to get 90,000 more people active and building physical activity into everyone's everyday life.

The strategic framework, West Midlands On The Move, has been developed with local authorities, Public Health England, the County Sports Partnerships, in consultation with WMCA theme leads and networks and sets out four ambitions:

1. Making it easier and more desirable to move around the West Midlands
2. Making it easier and more enjoyable to be outdoors in our green and blue spaces and urban environments
3. Improving how it feels to live in our streets and communities
4. Improving people's life chances, wellbeing, employability and access to work.

It is designed to provide a strategic framework for planning and delivery, specifically where physical activity can add significant value to WMCA priority themes such as:

- Transport
- Housing and land
- Community Resilience
- Creative and Digital
- Productivity, Employment and Skills
- Well Being

Comments
Green space in urban areas plays a big part in improving peoples' health and well being. The key ambitions within this framework that relate to the SGSS are the development of green corridors and improvement of green spaces making it easier and more desirable to move around the West Midlands and this will have a direct impact on improving the wellbeing of the residential populations.

The Environment

3.15. Birmingham and the Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 (BAP)

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan sets out a programme for conserving habitats and species that are considered national priorities for conservation. Conservation action is devolved to a local level through a series of Local Biodiversity Action Plans. These local plans focus on aspects of ecology which are in need of protection or conservation at a local level. They outline actions that conserve and enhance a particular area's biodiversity through local partnership work. This BAP has been prepared by the Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Partnership which has as its vision;

A diverse and natural Birmingham and Black Country, where we are connected to our wildlife and landscape; healthy, sustainable communities and local livelihoods, working with nature and securing its future.

This BAP aims to realise this vision whilst recognizing the existing challenges facing Birmingham and the Black Country, such as habitat fragmentation, increased urbanization, financial pressures and climate change. The Partnership's objectives which underlie the BAP, are to;

- maintain and increase the biodiversity of key sites and landscapes through appropriate protection and management
- restore degraded habitats and key species populations by restoring key areas
- link key areas with ecological corridors to reconnect wildlife populations and make them less vulnerable
- promote and support the use of the natural environment to mitigate against, and adapt to, the effects of climate change
- enable the sustainable use of the natural environment to benefit health and wellbeing of residents, workers and visitors as well as improving the local economy

The BAP sets out key priorities and targets based on habitats, species and spatial priorities, and proposes to deliver these through a Framework for Action with 5 key priorities as below:

- Key Priority 1: Developing the Partnership

- Key Priority 2: Engaging People
- Key Priority 3: Collecting and Interpreting Data
- Key Priority 4: Influencing Policy and Decision-Making
- Key Priority 5: Implementing Practical Conservation,

Comments

The Key Priorities in the BAP have direct relevance for the implementation of the Green Space Strategy, particularly the outputs of Priority 2 Engaging People; Priority 4 Influencing Policy and Decision-Making and Priority 5 Implementing Practical Conservation, Protection and Enhancement Measures.

3.16. *Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area Ecological Strategy 2017 – 2022; Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & Black Country*

Nationally the Wildlife Trusts' collective response to reverse the decline in wildlife and biodiversity in the UK has been to move the focus from individual sites and 'biodiversity hotspots' to a more comprehensive landscape-scale approach. The Wildlife Trusts' call these networks 'Living Landscapes', and the ambition is to create strong, resilient and ecologically diverse landscapes where people live their everyday lives. The Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area (NIA) is the region's Living Landscape, and an ecological strategy has been prepared based on analysis of data and evidence collected over 17 years.

The ecological network of Birmingham and the Black Country has been mapped and all parts of the landscape have been assigned to one of three broad categories:

- a) The 'Core Ecological Areas' are the areas of the conurbation that are richest in wildlife
- b) Joining the Core Areas and the wider landscape together are 'Ecological Linking Areas'
- c) Outside of the Core Ecological Areas and Ecological Linking Areas; 'Ecological Opportunity Areas'

For each of the three broad categories a priority for targeting biodiversity action has been identified:

1. Protect Core Ecological Areas through pro-active engagement with the planning of development, advocacy, supporting land-owners to manage land sympathetically and encouraging sustainable land-use.
2. Enhance Ecological Linking Areas by restoring habitats and improving existing sites.
3. Create new sites in Ecological Opportunity Areas that together form networks of sites that allow wildlife to move through the most developed parts of the conurbation.

Comments
<p>The spatial priorities of the NIA and the priorities for targeting biodiversity action have direct relevance for the implementation of the Green Space Strategy, through one-off improvement works and the production and implementation of management plans.</p>

3.17. WMCA Environmental Strategy 2014 - 19

Think Global: Act Local, the WMCA's Environmental Strategy provides the strategy for future improvements and seeks to demonstrate the authorities' commitments to reducing their impact on the environment. This is in context of the UK's plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 as per the Climate Change Act. The WMCA seeks to become a leader in environmental sustainability, following the vision: "...for WMCA to become a leader in the field of environmental sustainability through sustainable development, use of our assets and performing at the highest levels of environmental excellence. We seek to create a culture of inspiration, innovation, action and trust, through engagement with partners, staff and other stakeholders".

This supersedes the 2014 strategy and is the most ambitious strategy to date, setting a range of objectives across three core areas:

- Being an environmentally responsible organisation - reducing carbon emissions, climate change resilience, developing sustainable infrastructure, sustainable procurement, environmental management systems, raising environmental awareness and communication

- Providing leadership and influence to support low carbon growth and reducing public transport's contribution to carbon emissions - working with strategic partners, public transport operators and other stakeholders to reduce public transport contribution to carbon and harmful emissions
- Reporting and benchmarking

Each area is subdivided into objectives, which are then ranked according to priority using a bronze, silver and gold system, where gold is an exemplary and seeking the highest level of accreditation and bronze means maintaining the current programme. While the environmental management system allows them to manage and deliver strategy objectives.

- energy supply and infrastructure - more sustainable and low carbon
- climate change resilience e.g. extreme weather
- sustainable procurement with a balanced consideration of social ethical, environmental and economic impacts
- management - climate change decisions become routine

Comments

<p>The Strategy provides clear objectives for achieving its vision for environmental excellence. Greenspace can clearly contribute to climate change goals, for example reducing carbon emissions through sequestration and encouraging people to take part in more active transport. However, it is also worth noting the Strategy's ambition for more environmentally friendly infrastructure and management.</p>

3.18. *The Value of Green Infrastructure in Birmingham & the Black Country, Wildlife Trust, 2011*

This report aims to provide a decision aid for planners wherever environmental issues are affected. Ecosystem services are frequently ignored or undervalued in planning as their benefits are not considered marketable and difficult to measure. This has resulted in increased pressure on greenspaces, particularly within the urban environment. However, through emphasising the economic value of greenspaces and the environment, it is hoped that their benefits will become

more tangible for planners. It is aimed at local authorities, members of the public administration, business and corresponding sectors in Birmingham and the Black Country.

Combined, the Black Country and Birmingham cover 62,500 hectares, with a population of 2.1 million (as of 2011). It is also densely populated with 3,400 people per km² and highly urbanised, with over 8.4% reduction in grassland between 1982 and 2001 alone and an estimated population increase of 10% by 2030 there is increasing pressure on greenspace in the region.

Using the Total Economic Value (TEV) approach, the report points out the contribution of Green Infrastructure to human welfare as a monetary value which can be compared with other issues during the planning process or provide a better idea of the consequences of decisions. However, lack of available data has limited the validity of the values provided, therefore they should be considered as more of a baseline. The TEV approach breaks the value of ecosystem services into four categories: direct use value (direct extraction or interaction with ecosystem), indirect use value (values which support economic value), option use values (preserving an ecosystem so that value can be extracted in future) and non-use values (conservation for its own sake). It is also worth noting that many ecosystems are unquantifiable so should also be taken into account as 'soft factors'.

Overall, the study considers 3,000 ha of Green Infrastructure, including 1,534 ha of woodland, 551 ha of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority grasslands, 462 ha of heathland and 426 ha of wetland.

Woodland and the Urban Forest

Woodland was classified as woods larger than 0.1 ha. It was estimated to cover about 3% of Birmingham and the Black Country and was generally very fragmented, with the largest areas in Dudley and Sutton Park to the north of Birmingham. Its major ecosystem services include:

- Timber harvesting
- Air pollution absorption
- Local climate control within the urban environment in particular
- Climate change mitigation
- Extreme weather moderation and wastewater treatment

- Habitats – impacting on biodiversity
- Recreation
- Aesthetic appreciation

Cultural services make up around 85% of the total value, followed by biodiversity and climate change mitigation. The total average value per hectare of woodland totals at over £12,200 annually or £645,000 capitalised, even though a per-hectare value will vary strongly by location and accessibility. However, this is likely to be an underestimation, with services provided by street trees etc. are virtually completely excluded.

The report recommends new and existing woodland sites should be made more accessible, broader corridors to maximise the amenity value. As well as minimising commercial harvesting, particularly in an urban setting, while producing wood fuel from old or dangerous trees is recommended to mitigate climate change.

Heathland

Lowland heathland, defined as an area dominated “by dwarf ericaceous shrubs, with acidic freely-drained soil with low nutrient content”, is one of the world’s rarest habitats and a national and local BAP priority. Since 1880, the total area of heathland in the UK has declined by more than two thirds. Around 83% of the total area is found in Sutton Park, Birmingham. Their main ecosystem services are:

- Moderation of extreme weather events
- Recreation and habitats for species

The total estimated value of heathland is £0.93m, equivalent to around £2,000 per hectare (or £105,000 if capitalised) over 100 years. This is significantly lower than the estimated contribution of woodland, however this is most likely due to many of the ecosystem’s services not being evaluated, with further research required.

Wetland

The majority of wetland is floodplain, grazing marsh (94%), with fens (characterised by the high mineral content in the water) make up another 5% and 2% are reedbeds. All three habitats are

classified as BAPs or habitats of principal importance. Most are small are joined with rivers. Ecosystem services provided by wetlands include:

- Climate change mitigation
- Flood risk reduction and storm protection
- Water quality improvement
- Habitats for species
- Recreation and aesthetic appreciation

Using a benefit valuation, the annual average value per hectare was estimated to be £2,484, however smaller wetland site have a higher value than larger ones and this value assumes that all three types of wetland provide the same value of ecosystem services.

Grasslands

Only BAP priority grasslands were considered for analysis due to data availability. These include lowland meadows (400 ha), lowland dry acid grassland (130 ha), lowland calcareous grassland (21 ha), and purple moor-grass and rush pasture (5 ha combined). Ecosystem services include:

- Moderation of extreme weather events

The benefits are estimated to be worth around £875 per ha or a total of £480,000 annually.

Overall, the report valued the Green Infrastructure in Birmingham and the Black Country at £20.78 million annually or £1.09 billion capitalised. The report goes on to recommend how the economic valuation of ecosystems should be included in decision making and the planning process with the recommended key step shown in the diagram below.



The report also suggests the following:

- Improving the accessibility of greenspaces with restricted access
- Protecting sensitive habitats
- When creating new greenspace, they should ideally be planned as a corridor
- Follow best practise guidelines, such as Bentrup: How to plan Urban Forest? Conservation buffers: design guidelines for buffers, corridors, and greenways (2008) or CABE Space: Decent parks? Decent behaviour? The link between the quality of parks and user behaviour (2005)
- Ensuring than planning applicants can demonstrate their projects are unrealisable in brownfield sites if they intend to build on greenfield
- Informing corresponding stakeholders and the general public about the importance of Green Infrastructure and the range and value of services it provides
- Improving the information based for Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services and developing more comprehensive datasets, including mapping
- Making local authorities more aware of the importance and benefits of Green Infrastructure and implementing strategies to mitigate land-use

Comments
<p>This report gives a vital insight into the importance of Ecosystem Services, and the Green Infrastructure which provides them, by giving them a monetary value. Their recommendations should be taken into account with the GSS, and economic values implemented within any planning processes.</p>

3.19. Black Country Local Authorities Enforcement Policy

The enforcement policy covers Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and the City of Wolverhampton Authorities. The four local Authorities in the Black Country are responsible for protecting people’s health, safety and wellbeing as well as the environment and amenities. They are

responsible for promoting economic growth and employment opportunities. Key to supporting these objectives is a regulatory regime that balances support and enforcement.

The policy states that residents and communities thrive best when they can enjoy the highest standards of local amenities and benefit from high levels of consumer protection.

The Black Country’s regulatory focus, through its various compliance and consenting activities and functions, is based around four central principles:

- We will ensure that we enforce the law in a fair, equitable and consistent manner
- We will work to assist businesses and others in meeting their legal obligations
- Our focus will be on prevention rather than cure, where appropriate.
- We will take action against those who breach the law or act irresponsibly

Services within the Scope of this policy for Sandwell Council include:

Regulatory Services

- Environmental Health
- Trading Standards
- Licensing (excluding taxi licensing)

Housing

- Private Sector Housing

Comments
This report outlines the enforcement policy for the four black country local authorities. Of particular relevance to parks and green spaces will include environmental health, trading standards and licensing.

4. Local Policies, Plans and Strategies

This section of the review considers the local policy context and the potential linkages to Sandwell's Green Space Strategy.

There are a number of related strategies developed by Sandwell Council which have been adopted or are in the process of being developed, which will inform or be informed by the Green Space Strategy and these are cited in the sections below.

Strategic Planning

4.1. Sandwell Vision 2030

Sandwell's vision for 2030, is that Sandwell will be a thriving, optimistic and resilient community. The vision is that Sandwell is a place people call home and are proud to belong, where people choose to bring up our families, where they feel safe and cared for, enjoy good health and rewarding work, feeling connected and valued in their neighbourhoods and communities, confident in the future, and benefiting fully from a revitalised West Midlands.

Key to this vision is safeguarding the future of green spaces, improving the quality of neighbourhoods, enhancing the wellbeing of local people and attracting resources for management. The Vision 2030 sets out 10 ambitions as shown below:

- **Ambition 1** - Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.
- **Ambition 2** - Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for. Sandwell people have less healthy lifestyles than the national average. By 2030 Sandwell aims to have a strong approach with partner organisations to prevent ill health and improve long-term health and wellbeing.
- **Ambition 3** - Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.

- **Ambition 4** - Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.
- **Ambition 5** - Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods. Sandwell's violent crime and anti-social behaviour levels are currently similar to the national average. More will be done in the coming years to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour – and our long-term plans to reduce deprivation and improve every child's life chances will also help with this. The focus will be on continuing our effective working with the police and partner organisations, building stronger community links and preventing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **Ambition 6** - We have excellent and affordable public transport that connects us to all local centres and to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands.
- **Ambition 7** - We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes.
- **Ambition 8** - Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families. By 2030 Sandwell aims for the six towns to be more vibrant, focusing on their individual strengths, strong heritage and community, that its industrial heritage will have been given new life, creating local pride and jobs, the great work already achieved in parks and green spaces will be kept up, to make the most of its canals to link these aspects of community life so that families choose to move into and stay in Sandwell and be proud of their town.
- **Ambition 9** - Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.
- **Ambition 10** - Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

Comments

Specific contributions towards Vision 2030 include:

Ambition 1

- Sandwell Valley continues to offer attractive rates for visitors, with particular emphasis on attracting families. The local availability of visiting a working farm (at Sandwell Valley Park Farm and Forge Mill) provides opportunities for local families to see activities undertaken that are otherwise not readily available locally.
- Parks are open and accessible to all, conveniently located, and deliver free outdoor enjoyment and activities.

Ambition 2

- Parks provide opportunities for people to undertake a host of activities to help improve people's health and wellbeing, organised activities such as football, cricket, tennis, bowls and organised walks help keep people healthy. Facilities such as the outdoor gyms allow people to undertake informal exercise as and when they desire.
- Parks & Countryside work with partners to deliver social, recreational and community engagement activities to combat isolation, foster community relations and improve wellbeing, e.g. health zones, weight management initiatives, fitness sessions, volunteering opportunities and support a host of Friends and community groups.

Ambition 3

- Volunteering opportunities offered through Parks & Countryside allow young people to sample a host of activities. Sandwell Park Farm have an educational programme with local colleges with work placements offered.

Ambition 4

- Educationally opportunities that cover various topics for schools are offered at Sandwell

Valley Park Farm and Forge Mill Farm. Regular visits which are supported by the Countryside Rangers will continue to support the learning of children.

- Informal activities are undertaken by visits from nurseries / schools to Parks and Greenspaces.

Ambition 5

- Parks and Greenspaces are neutral areas and are used by all sections of local communities. Parks provide activities and events that bring different communities together, improving social cohesion.

Ambition 8

- Parks are the hub of local lives for many people. They bring together communities to undertake outdoor leisure pursuits. Each town is defined by their own town park and pride is taken in ensuring that local communities are proud and utilise their local parks.
- A vast and busy events programme throughout the borough offers a range of entertainment for the whole community including; from funfairs, circuses, to brass band concerts

Ambition 10

- Parks have a well-established approach to partnership working and project and programme delivery and provide an enabling platform for community groups, third sector organisations and commercial enterprises to utilise green spaces to provide their activities.

Overall, ensuring high quality Parks and Green Spaces and good accessibility to them will be key to achieving the 2030 vision. Access to high quality green spaces improve health and wellbeing as they provide spaces to exercise and provide key walking and cycling routes across the Borough. Parks are natural meeting places for the community and can be used to enhance links between diverse communities and can lead to reductions in ASB. Apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities provided in parks can also lead to improved skills and knowledge and jobs. The SGSS needs to provide clear links to the Vision 2030 and demonstrate how they are instrumental in achieving key elements of the vision.

4.2. Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery SADDPD 2012

The SADDPD guides development within the Borough and will continue to do so until 2021 (except for the area covered by the West Bromwich AAP). The Site Allocations and Delivery DPD does this by providing land use allocations, designations and local policies, particularly with regard to housing, employment, town centre uses, open spaces, and the historic and green environment.

The Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan document identifies sufficient sites and areas to meet the Borough's housing and employment needs, and protects the Borough's historic, built and green infrastructure.

Sandwell Policies map illustrates all of the proposals in the Site Allocations and Delivery Development Planning Document (SAD DPD) and the Smethwick, Tipton and West Bromwich Area Action Plans (AAP).

This Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document is a key aspect of the Sandwell Local Development Framework and builds on the Black Country Core Strategy, providing much greater detail for Sandwell. The SADDPD is in conformity with the spatial strategy as sets out within the adopted Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS).

The BCCS is a strategy based on the concentration of development within regeneration corridors and centres. In particular the BCCS established the broad areas and quantity of housing growth and of employment land to be protected. These represent the Council's long term 2026 view.

The SADDPD provides a series of local policies to respond to particular issues in the Borough which are not covered by the BCCS, and these will be used when considering planning applications for the use and development of land. In addition, the SADDPD identifies the infrastructure requirements to achieve sustainable communities. Therefore, particular regard has been given to the requirements for transport, community facilities, education, health, the natural, built and historic environment, the Borough's centres and waste.

The document focuses largely on five regeneration corridors as follows:

- Hill Top (RC8)
- Dudley Port /Brades Village (RC9)
- Oldbury /West Bromwich/Smethwick (RC12)

- Rowley Regis/Jewellery Line (RC13)
- Tipton/Princes End/Coseley (RC16)

The Black Country Core Strategy Housing Policy HOU1, Delivering Sustainable Housing Growth, contains a requirement for Sandwell Council to identify sufficient capacity on which to build (12,111) dwellings to 2021. This capacity has been identified through:

- The Sandwell Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment;
- Surplus employment land identified through the Black Country Employment Study;
- An estimate of the likely scale of housing renewal during the Plan period.

Under the Historic Environment heading SAD HE4 the Council states it will conserve registered parks and gardens of which it has 5 including:

- Brunswick Park, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury
- Parts of Great Barr Hall Park, land to the north of Queslett Road, Great Barr
- Warley Woods, Barclay Road, Smethwick
- Victoria Park, Victoria Road, Tipton
- Dartmouth Park, Lloyd Street, West Bromwich

Under the Environment and Open Space policy, SAD EOS 1 states that the Council will use the hierarchy (within the plan – page 33) to analyse existing provision of green/open space, to identify strengths and weaknesses in the provision, and to guide decisions about improvements, new and replacement provision, and development proposals which impact on the provision.

SAD EOS 2 covers the boundaries of the Green Belt and states that inappropriate development as defined in PPG2 will not be permitted, except in very special circumstances.

Other Environment and Open Space policies of particular relevance to parks and green spaces include:

- SAD EOS 3 – Rowley Hills Strategic Open Space
- SAD EOS 4 – Community Open Space – The Council will seek the provision of Community Open Space at a minimum ratio of 2 hectares per 1000 population, and will seek to ensure that at least 1 hectare of Community Open Space is provided within walking distance (0.4 km) of all the Borough’s residents. Quality and accessibility are also key considerations.
- SAD EOS 5 - Environmental Infrastructure

- SAD EOS 6 – Allotments - Proposals to redevelop allotments will not be permitted, unless in accordance with allocations made in this plan, or where it can be clearly demonstrated that the existing provision is no longer required to meet local demand.
- SAD EOS 7 - Floodlighting, Synthetic Turf Pitches and Multi Use Games Areas
- SAD EOS 8 - Water Sports and Recreation Uses - The Council will support the use of suitable water features for recreation purposes, provided that such activities do not have detrimental impacts on the nature conservation value of such features.
- SAD EOS 10 - Design Quality & Environmental Standards

Monitoring Key Indicators

This section of the plan sets out key indicators to monitor progress on the implementation of policies to ensure the SADDPD achieves its aims and objectives.

- Key indicators for the Historic Environment include; the number of listed building demolished, the number of Grade II listed buildings designated 'at risk', the proportion of planning permissions granted in accordance with Conservation / Historic Environment Section, the number of Locally Listed Buildings demolished following the grant of planning permission for redevelopment, the number of Planning Permissions for inappropriate development in Registered Parks and Gardens and the number of developments that have been constructed before the discharge of an archaeological planning condition.
- Key indicators for the Environment and Open Space include; the number of appropriate applications complying with policy, loss of land in Green Belt, loss of land in Rowley Hills Strategic Open Space, Ha's accessible open space per 1,000 population, loss of Allotments and applications rejected on poor design grounds.

Comments
<p>This document will guide development within the Sandwell Borough until 2021 by providing allocations and local policies. Although it focuses housing growth, employment land, centres and transport, it also provides a baseline for other areas of policy including the historic environment</p>

and environment and open space.

The SADDPD classifies green space as Regional / Sub-Regional – Regional and Strategic Open Space, Borough-Wide - Town Parks / Formal Green Space and Natural Green Space / Informal Green Space, Neighbourhood Green Space – Formal and Informal Green Space and Local Green Space – Formal / Informal and these classifications should be used as a basis for considering accessibility of green space through the Sandwell Green Space Strategy.

The Greenspace Strategy should contribute to the development of the SADDPD. It will need to recognise the value of open space and to balance the competing demands of development pressure in relation to the policy approaches set out above.

Green Space Management

4.3. Parks and Green Spaces Improvement Plan 2011

This plan cites the Strategic Aims of the Plan from the Green Space Strategy which are:

1. To provide by 2020 an appropriate distribution of quality Parks and Green Spaces through out the 6 Towns of Sandwell.
2. To provide at least one Town Park maintained to the highest of standards and providing a full range of facilities in each of the 6 Towns by 2015.
3. To recognise Sandwell Valley Country Park is an area of regional significance, and support a Development Plan for the Valley.
4. To establish a Friends group for key Parks within each of the 6 Towns.
5. By 2020 to implement key actions approved in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2010.
6. To provide quality neighbourhood Green Spaces using local communities as the basis for community involvement to improve them.

7. To ensure those sites listed in the Green Space Strategy meet the requirements for Green Flag award within the time frame set out.
8. To establish a more commercial income focused approach marketing green spaces.

The Management objectives include:

- Explore opportunities for closer working arrangements between Parks and Countryside, Grounds Maintenance, and Urban Design.
- Review management responsibilities within Parks and Countryside Service in order to ensure the strategy is delivered.
- Explore opportunities for partnership working between the Council other partners such as the private sector, the voluntary sector for example "Friends" groups and local communities, stewardships.
- To dispose of land (land sales) with low value and low recreational potential.
- To establish priorities for future improvement opportunities, and setting a clear vision for where the money will be targeted.

The improvement plan covers Sandwell's Parks and Green Spaces and establishes a framework to enable a timetable for improvements to be achieved.

Comments
<p>Since this document was written a Green Space Audit has been carried out, standards for major parks have been set and shortly a revised SGSS will be produced and key recommendations will be published in this strategy.</p> <p>The Council should go through the Action Plan (2011-2020) detailed in Appendix 3 and work out what it has achieved to date and anything a high priority that has not been achieved should be</p>

included in the recommendations of the new SGSS.

4.4. Outdoor Water Safety Policy 2017

This policy was updated in 2017 and covers parks and green spaces that include areas of open water, these range from ponds, pools and other areas of still water, through to brooks, streams, rivers and ornamental water features.

The uses of water across the parks and green spaces are varied but they all enhance the environment of the Borough for the enjoyment of people of all ages. The ability for people to use them in safety is vital for the development of tourism, recreation and leisure activities within the Borough.

The policy states that the Council in its risk assessment of open water at sites under its control will take all *reasonable steps* to protect people from danger and provide appropriate arrangements for the management of areas of open water under its control.

The policy covers provision of information such as signage, edge protection and exclusion zones, control of works alongside the water edge, design and control of facilities adjacent to open water, rescue equipment, ice, environmental management, water quality testing and supervision. It also covers first aid provision, recording of accidents, provision of boats and lone working.

The Council has established an Outdoor Water Safety Group comprised of officers with land management responsibilities for areas of open water along with representation from the Council's Health and Safety Section and other interested parties.

Comments

This policy is out of date and a key recommendation of the SGSS is that this is updated. Key areas to update include open water swimming on Swan pool and the use of boats at Dartmouth Park.

4.5. Urban Tree Policy 2015-2018

The purpose of the tree policy is to provide a reference document for use by the public, elected members, officers and professionally interested people to enable informed discussion and establish a clearer more structured approach to the issues affecting trees in the area. It is aimed at ensuring that the Council's trees and woodlands are adequately protected and cared for so that their extent, quality, biological diversity and contribution to the character and appearance of the area can be sustained and enriched for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents and visitors to the borough.

The policy sets out the importance of trees and the problems associated with trees. The first part of the policy sets out the Council's approach to the management of trees for which it is directly responsible, largely confined to the 6 main towns of Sandwell. It covers the co-ordination of all maintenance operations to existing trees as well as new tree planting and takes a long term view of the management of trees in the Borough.

The document refers to trees in parks, open spaces and on leisure sites as commonly the most significant trees in the area and expresses a desire to achieve a balanced tree population and a character for each site.

It states across many large open spaces with short grass, tree planting has been carried out over the last 20 years thus creating copses and that these areas are now in need of woodland management. It also states that creating and managing small wooded areas can create opportunities for wildlife whilst improving the landscape and creating a place of real value for local residents.

It also cites that there are a considerable amount of mature trees in cemeteries and crematoriums that require full condition surveys and tree replacement schemes.

The document cites legislation with regard to trees and hedges and risk management and affirms that the Council adopt a positive management of trees and woodlands under its control.

Comments
This document affirms that the Council adopt a positive management of trees and woodlands

under its control. Appendix A lists a number of tree management policies for existing trees and new planting and specific policies in respect to parks, cemeteries and woodlands.

4.6. Community Participation Strategy 2011-2016

This strategy was produced in 2011 using HLF finance. A key aim of the community and participation strategy is to bring more people into Sandwell's green spaces and make them more lively and vibrant and safe places to be.

The mission for the strategy is: "To enable community led regeneration of Sandwell Green Spaces through partnership and communities".

The strategy makes reference to the Sandwell Green Space Strategy 2010 and states that Sandwell has an average of 4.24 hectares of unrestricted green space per 1000 population of which the largest proportion is natural and semi natural. There are many good quality green spaces that are used and supported by local communities however there are spaces of lower quality in areas of high deprivation that require consideration.

Key aims of the strategy are to:

- Through the development of volunteering program provide opportunities for the community to get engaged, encourage ownership and pride of local people and enable new management options for parks and green spaces.
- To continue to support the development of a self-sustaining network of community based organisations working in partnership with the council and other organisations towards the regeneration of Green Spaces.
- Through appropriate consultation and involvement identify the needs and aspirations of local people for their Green Spaces.
- Through partnerships, secure investment to enable the community led regeneration of Green Spaces.

- Through partnerships seek to deliver and implement a range of innovative projects, which meet the needs of local people and stakeholders, as identified through consultation.
- To contribute to the development of urban, social and environmental policy and strategy at local, regional and national levels to enable Sandwell Green Spaces to play a significant role in addressing cross cutting issues (such as health, community safety, sustainability and lifelong learning).

These aims continue to be relevant today. Alongside these aims are a wealth of key objectives - these objectives should be reviewed and the policy refreshed.

Comments
<p>This policy is out of date.</p> <p>Partnerships and Communities will be an important element of the Sandwell Green Space Strategy. Funding agencies expect local authorities to have a robust policy in place for any successful grant applications therefore a key recommendation of the SGSS should be that this is revised and updated.</p>

4.7. Sandwell MBC Playing Pitch Strategy Refresh Needs Assessment Report July 2018 (DRAFT)

In 2018, 4global consulting were appointed to produce a playing pitch assessment report. This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It presents a picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

The PPS sits within the context of the Strategy for Physical Activity and Sport in Sandwell 2017 – 2022 – “Towards an Active Sandwell”.

The objectives of the Strategy extend across multiple service areas and include:

- To help deliver the public health agenda

- To inform the investment strategy for sport initiatives
- To inform local planning policy and potential developer contributions
- To set the PPS within the context of the local plan and wider strategies for parks and green space, in particular the Green Space Strategy 2010 - 2020
- To inform sports development initiatives
- To reflect wider property services asset reviews
- To help facilitate community use of outdoor facilities on education sites

The types of outdoor sports facilities included in the study include football, cricket and rugby pitches, artificial and 3G pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, netball courts, athletics tracks and golf courses.

New data has been used to inform the 2018 PPS Needs Assessment and subsequent strategy including demand, supply and capacity analysis. A summary of findings is shown below:

Football - grass pitch summary

The audit identified 166 football pitches in Sandwell, of these 145 are available for community use. The majority of football pitches are assessed as being of standard quality with 12 adult and only two youth pitches assessed as 'poor' quality. 365 teams were identified as playing on pitches within Sandwell. This represents an increase of 73, from the 2014 study. This is driven by a significant increase in youth football teams.

There is estimated to be an under supply of 26 actual spare match equivalents of supply across the study area for 11v11 pitches. Despite a large amount of adult spare capacity, 11 sites are overplayed.

Oldbury and West Bromwich are the main areas for football activity. Increasing the quality of pitches (drainage) will go some way towards improving capacity and in some areas, converting adult to youth/mini pitches may be a solution.

Cricket summary

In total, there are 13 grass cricket grounds identified in Sandwell accommodating 44 teams (28 senior and 16 junior teams), all pitches are available for community use. Investment has been

made in 3 non-turf pitches at Lewisham Park, Bearmore Playing Fields and Jubilee Park, to increase access to cricket provision.

Six pitches are assessed as good quality, seven as standard and three as poor (Hydes Road PF, Redhouse Park and Victoria Park (Smethwick)). All the poor sites are currently disused Sandwell Sunday League reports that changing facilities and toilets are not available at the sites it uses.

New pitches would be required to accommodate displaced, latent and/or future demand.

Rugby Union summary

In total, nine senior rugby union pitches are located across eight sites in Sandwell. Of these, seven pitches are available for community use. Two rugby union clubs play in Sandwell, providing a total of 13 teams. Seven of the 13 teams are currently operating as partial or friendly squads and only compete or training on an ad hoc basis alone. Both club sites are leased on long term agreements and use is therefore secured.

The majority of pitches in Sandwell are assessed as poor (4 pitches) or standard (2 pitches) quality. At all of these sites maintenance could, and should, be improved.

Wednesbury RFC is overplayed by 2.75 matches per week due to poor quality pitches. Warley RFC is overplayed by 0.5 matches per week due to the number of teams at the Site. There are shortfalls in Wednesbury (4.75 pitches) and Oldbury (2 pitches) for future demand. If both drainage and maintenance were improved to good quality at Wednesbury RFC there would be capacity for all current and future demand.

Artificial Grass Pitches summary

There are seven full sized AGPs in Sandwell with five being 3G and two sand based. All of the seven pitches in Sandwell are assessed as good quality, with three of the 3G AGP facilities being installed in the last three years.

The Football Foundation estimates that one full size AGP can service 42 teams. On the basis there are 365 teams playing competitive football in Sandwell, there is a recommended need for nine full size 3G pitches. There are currently 5 in the local authority, demonstrating a need for an additional 4 full size pitches

If future predicted growth in football demand is to be considered, the projected total requirement will be for 10 full sized 3G AGP pitches, or an additional 5 full size pitches by the end of the strategy.

Golf summary

There are five golf clubs in Sandwell, four of which are private member clubs and one is a municipal golf course operated by Sandwell Leisure Trust. All five golf courses located within Sandwell are available for pay and play. All Sandwell residents are serviced by a golf course within a 20-minute drive time. There is spare capacity at all courses for current demand and furthermore any future demand.

Tennis summary

There are 66 tennis courts identified within Sandwell, 13 of which are parks tennis courts. Council parks courts are free to use and are open access.

Sandwell MBC are hoping to apply for funding and support as part of the Transforming British Tennis Together programme. If successful, this funding initiative will focus on the improvement and long-term sustainability of local authority-owned tennis facilities across the Borough.

Netball summary

There are 58 netball courts identified within Sandwell. Almost all courts are located on education sites. 85 teams compete in the Walsall & District (winter) League and 63 teams compete in the Dudley (summer) League. Both are located at Phoenix Collegiate North. All demand for matches is accommodated on the current supply of courts and this is supported by the Leagues which suggest that there are enough courts in Sandwell to satisfy demand.

Athletics summary

There are two main athletics tracks in Sandwell at Tipton Sports Academy (good quality) and Hadley Stadium (poor quality).

Bowls summary

There are 20 bowling greens in Sandwell provided across 18 sites. Almost all of the greens in Sandwell are assessed as good quality. One of the two greens at Farley Park (council), one at Thimblemill Recreation (private) and one at West Bromwich Labour Club (private) are assessed as standard. There are no poor quality greens. Parks greens are managed by the Council. Tallboats BC has aspirations to manage and main the greens at Haden Hill Park. There are 19 clubs using bowling greens in Sandwell with an average playing membership of 37.

Notwithstanding that there may be additional demand for bowling greens in the future; there is an approximate current oversupply of seven greens in Sandwell based on a membership capacity analysis. Considering only council greens, there is a theoretical oversupply of one green.

Comments

The Playing Pitch Strategy forms an important reference for developing the GSS and consideration will need to be given to the findings and recommendations in the final report. The findings will also inform further work to develop local standards of provision.

It should be noted that the Playing Pitch Strategy is in its draft, it is important that the GSS and the Playing Pitch Strategy sit well together for future work.

4.8. Rough Sleepers

Sandwell Council carried out their annual rough sleeper estimate on 22 November 2018 as per government requirements.

4.9. Other Policies

Comments

There are other policies/strategies that are currently being developed and were not available at the time of the production of this policy review. These include:

- Events policy
- Allotments Strategy

- Golf Strategy

On completion of these policies and strategies and short summary should be produced and included in this document.

Consideration should also be given to health and well being strategies that are of relevance to the SGSS - non were available at the time of this review.

Regeneration & the Economy

4.10. Capital Strategy 2018/19 - 2021/22

The capital strategy underpins all of the individual ambitions for the 2030 vision.

The strategy states that in the period 2018/19 – 2021/22 total resources including; borrowing approvals, receipts from the sale of assets, government grants, lottery / European funds and private sector contributions are expected to be around £405m. The effective use of these resources is intrinsic to the fulfilment of the strategic vision of both the council and its partners. It is recognised that a strategic approach is required to ensure that funds are invested in capital projects that support the longer term objectives of the council, its partners and to ensure value for money.

Major new capital investment within Sandwell includes:

- Investment in Educational provision.
- All public sector housing with modern energy efficient facilities, being warm and weatherproof.
- A network of health centres and a new specialist hospital.
- West Bromwich Town Centre being transformed.
- Other centres are vibrant.
- More affordable housing, both private homes and council stock.
- New job opportunities.

- New leisure facilities
- Highways Challenge Fund
- ICT Strategy
- Proposed New Aqua Centre – Commonwealth Games

Specific reference to parks and green spaces is made in section 2.6 under the heading of 'Leisure and Cultural Services'. This section states that the asset management plan focuses on the development of fewer but higher quality community spaces, buildings and activities. There is continued investment in the council's primary green spaces and parks in particular West Smethwick Park. The successful delivery of a Heritage Lottery Fund stage 2 grant of £5.2 million, which includes £550K match funding contribution by the council, is included in the council's capital programme over the next 5 years. West Smethwick Park will benefit from a new Community Pavilion and enhanced greenspace and historical features.

Comments

The Council has developed a framework for allocating resources to capital projects and managing and monitoring the capital programme. Any large scale capital projects planned for parks and green spaces will need to go through the project appraisal process including any proposals with regard to the disposal, acquisition or reuse of land and buildings.

The strategy is currently under review for the next 3 year budget programme.

4.11. Fees and Charges 2018

This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for the year 2018/19 for Parks and Green Spaces Services provided by the Neighbourhoods Directorate.

This annual review of fees and charges forms part of a wider strategy for generating income for the Parks and Green Spaces service as set out in the Neighbourhood Services' Business Plan.

During the financial year 2017/18 the Parks Service collected local bench marking information from neighbouring authorities where available, namely via the West Midlands Parks Forum.

The fees and charges cover all charges at the key flagship site of Sandwell Valley Country Park, football and cricket pitch hire and changing facilities, allotments, coaching/training sessions, bowls, fairs and circuses, event charges and infrastructure hire, fishing and water based activities at Swan pool.

Comments

Key to the fees and charges for parks and green spaces is that it will help support the required efficiency savings.

It should be noted that if the service were to charge full cost recovery then the fees and charges would have to be significantly increased in some cases e.g. bowls provision / football provision. The impact for the local community and the visitors would be that in the current economic climate it would threaten their continued use and enjoyment of the facilities therefore the achievement of full cost recovery for all services is not a viable option in some areas at present.

4.12. Marketing Strategy 2011

The marketing strategy for parks and green spaces was produced using HLF finance. It sets out the strategic marketing aims which include:

- Promotion material accessible to all, overall aim to market parks locally, but to market Sandwell valley, events and specific attractions regionally, to highlight the importance of green spaces for residents and visitors' well being, economically as visitor attractions for the borough and as for environmental sustainability and educational resource and to carry out any marketing in line with the marketing group for Streetscene, to identify links to partners and attractions (e.g. RSPB, national cycle routes, high ropes, cycle hire).
- To support the development of a self-sustaining network of community based organisations, especially Friend Groups in partnership with the council contributing to marketing and budget pressures the Parks and Countryside areas.
- Through partnerships, e.g. Private Sector, Primary Care Trust, Schools and Friends Groups, seek to utilise all available resources to market Parks & Countryside sites.

- To use marketing as a tool for establishing income generation targets.

The Marketing Strategic objectives cited in the strategy are:

- For Parks and Countryside areas to meet the 8 Green Flag criteria.
- To ensure that income opportunities and target are maximised.
- To ensure Parks and Countryside areas are kept clean and well maintained for visitors.
- To market Sandwell Valley and Dartmouth park in the context of West Bromwich Town Centre regional destination.
- To conserve and manage the heritage features.
- To effectively market the Parks and Countryside regeneration and development initiatives.

An action plan is set out against the marketing strategic objectives.

The strategy states that almost all Sandwell parks are primarily used by Sandwell people and that other parks outside Sandwell may influence Sandwell park visitor numbers but only slightly. Sandwell Valley Country Park is a regional attraction and does have regional competitors, it then goes on to cite competitors.

Comments
The marketing strategy is out of date. A key recommendation in the SGSS should be that the Council update this strategy encompassing the new Discover Sandwell website - see below.

4.13. Discover Sandwell Website

A new stand alone 'Discover Sandwell' website has been produced promoting tourism across Sandwell. This website is the Council's new Tourism and Visitor tool. It promotes living in, working in and exploring Sandwell. Of particular relevance to parks and green spaces are the 'Explore' and 'What's On' sections (<http://www.discoversandwell.co.uk/explore/> and <http://www.discoversandwell.co.uk/events/>).

The 'Explore' section covers Sandwell Valley, Sandwell's Parks, museums, canals and waterways, leisure centre, walking and cycle trails, shopping, eating out, getting around, nature reserves,

libraries, Just Youth and West Bromwich Albion football club. It also cites other nearby attractions in Sandwell, Dudley and Birmingham.

The 'What's On' section covers all events and activities taking place across Sandwell including events in parks and green spaces, organised by the Council, the local community and third party event organisers.

Comments
The Discover Sandwell website is a fantastic marketing tool and the marketing strategy, once updated, should focus on this as the new key tourism and visitor tool for the Council.

4.14. Sandwell Valley - A Vision for 2003-2013

Sandwell Valley is a very important part of the Visitor economy to Sandwell, it has the most number of visitors each year of any leisure facility within the Borough and performs an extremely valuable contribution to the quality of life for the residents of Sandwell.

The aim of the 2013 vision was to provide recreational and educational facilities and opportunities for the benefit of Sandwell’s residents and visitors, consistent with its setting in the green belt.

To inform the vision to 2013 consultation was undertaken with residents, user groups, organisations and elected members. Key priorities arising from this consultation included:

Conservation

- Review management plans for existing local nature reserves and identify further potential sites within the Valley.
- Develop further rare breeds programme and ensure vegetables grown in the kitchen garden are those that were available in the 19th century, and do not use hybrids.

Heritage

- Restoration of Dartmouth Park through Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Refurbish the historic farm equipment to a working condition.

Interpretation

- Develop more public information leaflets and booklets with appropriate interpretation signage throughout
- Develop small animals area at the two farms
- Identify potential areas for new technology e.g. interactive computers
- Encourage more countryside type of events such as game fairs and falconry shows.

Sport and Health

- Develop junior soccer at King George Playing Fields
- Improve pathways for walking throughout the Valley
- Develop Swan Pool into a water sports centre

With many of the above achieved there is clearly a need to renew the Vision for Sandwell Valley as a key destination for Sandwell residents and regional visitors.

Comments
A new business plan is currently being developed for Sandwell Valley, KPI's relevant to the SGSS should be included in the revised strategy.

Young People's Provision & Children's Play

4.15. Strategy for Young People’s Outdoor Recreational Facilities (YORF) - 2002

This document was compiled by the parks and countryside service and outlined the standards for YORF across the borough. The strategy set out to ensure the provision of:

- At least one YORF (Informal Integrated Youth Provision) in each Neighbourhood
- At least one YORF 2 (Multi-Sports Area) in each Ward
- At least one YORF 3 (Outdoor Play and Recreational Facility) in each Town

Comments

The YORF is out of date and requires updating, it should also aim to include the Play Area Strategy for Sandwell. The SGSS should review the policy position of the YORF strategy - the Council plan to update this strategy following completion of the SGSS and therefore this should be a key recommendation in the SGSS.

4.16. Sandwell Play Policy - 2003 - 2008

This document set out Sandwell's approach to the encouragement and support of children's play activities between 2003 and 2008. It makes specific reference to parks and open space as a resource for play.

The document is organised around a series of policy statements. The statement that relates to parks and open space is as follows:

The Council believes that the best policy concerning the welfare of children should be to create a situation in which the risks associated with the physical environment of the playground is reduced as far as reasonably practicable. The Council will seek to encourage communication between parents and carers and children and young people so that other risks of play are recognised and appropriate action is taken.

Sandwell is well provided for in terms of opportunities for play. In addition to supervised Play provision, the document stated that Sandwell had a total of 86 parks for young people to access.

Comments

This policy is out of date and is currently under review by the Play Service - it is envisaged that this document will be completed by the end of 2018. There are strong connections between the opportunities afforded by parks and open space for play. This is recognised by the council's play policy and should be taken forward into the new document.

4.17. Sandwell Outdoor Play Safety Policy 2010

The Play Safety Policy reflects on work undertaken by RoSPA and cites play as essential to a child's physical and mental growth and about taking risk in a controlled environment. For the child it is about learning to develop and learn survival skills and manage risk. The policy lists methods of reducing the severity of injury and harm.

It sets out the 2002 code for formal play provision and inspection and maintenance operations including routine inspections, operational inspections and annual inspections in order to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations. The policy also covers design and specifications, risk assessments, signage, use of chemicals, fencing, dogs and overhead power cables.

Comments
This policy is out of date and a key recommendation of the SGSS is that this is updated.

The Environment

4.18. Biomass Report - 2013

CFP were commissioned to produce a Green Space Audit for Sandwell Borough based on a review and update of the earlier audit carried out in 2006. One of the components of this was a quality assessment using the Green Flag Award criteria. Further assessments were carried out to consider the suitability for Biomass, SUDS and appropriate future development.

The report considers Biomass and the feasibility of creating new Short Rotation Coppice or other methods of generating Biomass energy. It was anticipated that biomass energy was expected to play a key role in the ability for Local Authorities to meet renewable energy targets as well as the longer term carbon reduction targets when the report was written.

The site audit was a wide scale review of multiple sites across the Borough and was carried out through visual inspection to provide an overview as to whether sites were suitable for Short Rotation Coppicing or other types of biomass energy production. The recommendations of the report were that the Parks Section should begin to review sites ranked high, medium and low in more detail and carry out further site investigations to establish the viability of biomass production in a more detailed fashion.

Comments
This report considers the suitability for Biomass, SUDS and appropriate future development across Sandwell's Parks and Green Spaces. The authority needs to consider if this is something that the Council wishes to take forward and if so recommendations related to such will need to be written into the SGSS.

4.19. Canada Geese Policy

The policy states that waterfowl populations, both wild and domestic, are present on Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council land in permanent and transitory communities. Whilst waterfowl can be a valuable addition to local biodiversity and provide amenity value, overly dense populations can cause habitat degradation and environmental health problems. Equally, human interaction with waterfowl populations can have a negative impact on bird health. It is important to ensure that the waterfowl populations on council land are monitored and managed to ensure a balance between their recreational value, the well-being of the environment they populate and the health and safety of both humans and waterfowl.

Comments
This policy is dated 2015 and the summary section states the policy will be reviewed after 4 years. A key recommendation of the SGSS should be to review this policy in 2019 in line with the policy review statement.

4.20. Fishing Policy 2003

The fishing policy supplied is a 2003 a draft summary in the form of a cabinet member committee report.

The report refers to all lakes, ponds and pools on Council managed land and seeks to address the issues the provision of angling linking with other environmental management concerns. It states that the introduction of an Angling Policy will ensure the sustainability of water-based features in Sandwell's parks and green spaces, providing quality features attractive to anglers, other users and wildlife. It considers the management of angling linked to ensuring water based features are maintained in good condition and are environmental acceptable within the context of the surrounding landscape.

It identifies primary pools in the Borough as:

FORMAL PARK POOLS - currently fished

- West Smethwick Park boating pool (1 pool)
- Victoria Park Pool, Tipton (1 pool)
- Dartmouth Park Pools, West Bromwich (2 pools)

FORMAL PARK POOLS - currently not fished

- Victoria Park Pool, Smethwick (1 pool)
- Redhouse Park Pools, Great Barr (2 pools)
- Haden Hill Park Fish Pond, Cradley Heath (2 pools)
- Smethwick Hall Park, Smethwick (1 pool)

INFORMAL OPEN SPACE POOLS - currently fished

- Warrens Hall Nature Reserve, Rowley Regis (3 pools)
- Swan Pool, Sandwell Valley (1 pool)
- Hyde's Road Pool, Wednesbury (1 pool)
- Sheepwash Nature Reserve, Tipton (2 pools)

INFORMAL OPEN SPACE POOLS - currently not fished

- Forge Mill Lake, Sandwell Valley (1 pool)
- Cascade pool and the Ice House pool Sandwell Valley (2 pools)
- Millfield pool, Wednesbury (1 pool)
- Titford canal balancing lake, Oldbury (1 pool)
- Brandhall Golf Course (2 pools)
- Ridgacre Canal Swan Village West Bromwich (Canal Basin and Pool)

The report provides information (out dated) on fees and charges and provides management recommendations.

Besides the primary pools identified below, there are a number of secondary pools, ponds and water courses scattered across the borough which are reserved as conservation and wildlife sites to which this report does not identify in detail, as fishing is not a proposed activity at those sites.

The report also sets out options of management agreements and partnerships including syndicate water, stewardship agreements, lease agreements, licence to fish agreements, free use. coaching courses, angling representation and rules and regulations. It also sets out the Sandwell Code for Anglers.

Comments
<p>This policy provides some good but outdated information. The policy is out of date and will be refreshed following the production of the SGSS.</p>

4.21. Parks and Countryside Environment Guidelines (Draft 2005 - 2007)

The document sets out the environment guidelines for Parks and Countryside for the management of parks, countryside and green spaces throughout the six towns of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

Areas covered include:

- Managing energy
- Natural environment and open spaces
- Managing water
- Transport
- Managing waste
- Air, water and noise pollution
- Information, education and community involvement
- Environmental health and safety at work
- Purchasing
- The built environment

Construction specifications, energy efficiency and waste efficiency for park buildings are also cited.

Comments
This policy is labelled draft and is out of date. The policy requires a review and implementation and this will be a recommendation in the SGSS.

4.22. Environmental Policy 2014

The policy states that development of an Environmental Policy which is relevant to the functions and activities of the parks and countryside service is one of the first steps towards the Council’s ultimate environmental aim of developing and operating its own Environment Management System.

The policy aims to contribute towards an Environmental Management System, to ensure that environmental performance is regularly reviewed and to demonstrate the commitment to continual environmental improvement.

Comments

The policy states that it must be a working document, able to be reviewed and amended as the system evolves and circumstances change, this policy is out of date and should be refreshed once activities that the service carry out to minimise damage to the environment, continually improve environmental performance and positively enhance the environment have been identified.

4.23. Pesticide Policy 2016

This policy covers the application of pesticides in public places and the storage of them and the need to protect the environment, the user and the public. It sets out key areas of responsibility and methods with regard to the application of pesticides, control measures and what to do in instances of environmental contamination.

The application of pesticides in Green Flag parks are restricted to infestations of Japanese Knotweed, fine turf and sports areas, with cultural methods being used in all other areas.

Comments

This document is dated 2016 - the Council should update the policy annually to ensure appropriate protection of the environment, the user and the public.

4.24. Pesticide Contingency Plan 2017

This plan was updated in 2017 and aims to seek and provide safe and healthy working conditions and to enlist the active support of all employees in achieving these ends.

The pesticide contingency plan is linked to that above and contains information with regard to emergency contact numbers, spillage and contamination procedures, first aid, incident records and stock inventories.

Comments

This document was set to be reviewed in February 2018 - the Council should update the policy annually to ensure appropriate protection of the environment, the user and the public.

4.25. Report on the opportunities for diversifying the use of Sandwell's Green Spaces June 2014 - Jo Miskin

This report considers a number of alternative uses for green spaces, including the relevant benefits and where necessary, the constraints as well as some of the threats and opportunities from increased urban development.

Key conclusions of the report include:

- The demand for housing in Sandwell remains a pressing issue and the role of some green spaces may need to be reviewed and their suitability for use for housing assessed in the future.
- Understandable priority is given to the provision of affordable homes in Sandwell, yet there is arguably a need to give equal attention to the long term health, well being and quality of life for all residents, through a network of high quality, natural green spaces.
- With careful planning, with close liaison with local communities and with partnership working, the role of Sandwell's green spaces can be shaped to ensure that many of the economic, social and environmental needs of its residents are met. Green space sites could be given an economic value, based on the benefits (or potential benefits) they offer in terms of health, social value, food production and Green Infrastructure. This would offer support to those justifying the need to maintain and invest in Sandwell's green spaces.
- Sites *will* need investment in order to be valued by residents, to maintain their recreational/ecological value and this needs to take place across the borough's network of sites, and not just in the key town parks. The risk of restricting investment to just a

few sites in Sandwell, are that many people may lose what limited access they have to green spaces, along with all the associated social, physical and mental health benefits.

- With innovative movements in the energy sector regarding local production, combined with potential development in local food growing and the enhancement of the borough through high quality and wildlife rich green spaces, Sandwell places itself in a strong position to become economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

Appendix E
Alternative Models



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Models of Good Practice & Alternative Models of Service Delivery Case Study Paper

Issue number: 1.0

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Date: 7 November 2018

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Authorised by: Adrian Spray

Models of Good Practice & Alternative Models of Service Delivery Case Study Paper

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1.0 Introduction

In light of the constraints being faced by all public services in the current financial climate and the need to meet environmental and other challenges it is widely recognised that there is a need to provide more efficient, cost-effective services.

With Sandwell Council's current Green Spaces Strategy coming to an end 2020 there is an opportunity to look ahead as to how parks and green spaces could be managed after this point. This paper has been drafted as a starting point for a wider debate and discussion about the most appropriate way forward.

1.1 Structure of this Review

This report reviews publications released to date with regard to the possible alternative service delivery models for Parks and Green Spaces and looks at a number of case studies analysing the benefits and limitations of each model for consideration and further discussion.

1.2 Policy Drivers

Local authorities have always had the legal power to make use of different forms of service delivery however, up to the mid-1980s, local authorities provided most of their services 'in house' with their own departments.

The dynamics of green space management and delivery are ever changing. Since 2006 there have been substantial changes in policy and strategic requirements coupled with local requirements to reduce budgets and deliver leaner services.

The ideas discussed later should be taken in context of the rapid changes taking place in localism and decentralisation. Whilst there has been campaigning for many years for new legislation to enable community asset management and ownership, it

was really the 2007 Quirk Review which brought the issue to the political foreground. The government at the time accepted the 3 principal conclusions from the Quirk Review that:

- a) Asset transfer should take place where it can realise social or community benefits without risking wider public interest concerns.
- b) The benefits of community ownership of assets can outweigh the risks involved in appropriate circumstances.
- c) Risks can be minimised and managed by drawing on the experience of others.

Since May 2010, the issue has been a big part of the coalition government's thinking on localism and the 'big society' agenda. In fact, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has introduced in the Localism Act 2011 a Community Right to Bid (formerly Right to Buy) to give community organisations a fairer chance to bid to buy assets and facilities that are important to them, which could include their community green space. There is also a Community Right to Challenge which will hand the initiative to voluntary and community bodies with good ideas about how services could be run better or more cost effectively; ensure these ideas get a fair hearing; and give them the time they need to organise themselves to bid effectively to run the service.

Under the Coalition government, the 2011 White Paper Open public services promoted greater use of different forms of service delivery. Reductions to local government funding during the 2010-15 Parliament also obliged local authorities both to experiment with alternative forms of service delivery, seek to reduce overheads, and explore new means to raise revenue. The House of Commons Briefing Paper (Local Government: alternative models of service delivery, 20 May 2016) provides an introduction to the various options that have been pursued by local authorities. The paper covers options for shared services, outsourcing and insourcing, trading, council companies and income generation and community budgets. With this paper there are some strong indications as to the context within

which services will be transformed and as a consequence it does, at times, focus on community asset management and ownership.

The need for reviewed parks and green spaces management and the crisis facing parks has been more recently recognised within parliament as demonstrated through the Communities and Local Government Committee Public Parks Inquiry in 2016. The inquiry examined the impact of reduced local authority budgets on open spaces and considered concerns that their existence is under threat. As part of this inquiry the committee also examined innovative management and funding models for parks and the benefits and challenges of alternative land management arrangements. The Committee also looked into the relationships between communities and parks and what is being done to share knowledge and coordinate parks policies at local, regional, and national levels. The report, published in February 2017 called for "leadership and vision at the level of national Government" and issued guidance to local authorities stating that they should work collaboratively with Health and Wellbeing Boards, and other relevant bodies to prepare and publish joint parks and green space strategies, facilitate the sharing of learning and good practice and to consider alternative management models or funding arrangements.

The Communities and Local Government select committee report on public parks in 2017 declared that our nation's parks are at a tipping point, and since this report things have started to worsen further.

The Government responded to the CLG report by establishing the Parks Action Group in late 2017 to consider a sustainable future for the nation's parks and green spaces. The Government recognise both the need for this and the many and varied benefits parks bring to our communities.

The group are working on a number of work streams to look at all the priority issues, these are:

- Explore the funding landscape and propose solutions
- To set parks and green spaces standards
- Share a national vision for parks and green spaces
- Empower local communities
- Increase knowledge and build skills
- Increase usage by all

To address any previous silo thinking, and acknowledging the cross cutting benefit of parks, the group consists of external partners, and representatives from across government departments including The Department of Health and Social Care, Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Education, Department for Culture Media and Sport and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The challenge is to identify a sustainable future that can halt the decline and reconnect parks with people and places so everyone understands the positive role quality green spaces can play in all our communities.

1.3 Where to Start

If the parks and green space service is to continue playing a valuable role in delivering the required outcomes for local communities, those involved in making strategic and operational decisions must be creative and think differently to be effective and achieve value for money from limited available resources. Unfortunately, experience has shown that re-thinking services from an ‘outcomes-based’ perspective is not easy, and the need to deliver immediate cuts and cost savings can undermine and distract from thinking through and putting in place a delivery model that best supports what the service is trying to achieve. This paper therefore allows the Council to consider possible options for alternative delivery models for parks and green spaces.

2.0 National Publications

State of UK Public Parks 2014 - Renaissance to risk? Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

The research within this report establishes a national picture of the state of UK parks. As part of the research HLF commissioned 3 new UK-wide surveys: a survey of local authority park managers, a survey of park friends and user groups, and a public opinion survey.

The key findings from the surveys report that public parks are at the point of transition and are now facing many significant challenges. The findings also show that as public spending has fallen, parks have faced large cuts in their funding and staffing with cuts expected to continue over much of the rest of this decade. Many park managers also reported that they are expecting their parks to decline in condition over the next three years (identical to that recorded in 2001 following a considerable period of neglect and disinvestment).

The research also found that a significant number of authorities are considering selling or transferring management of some of their parks and green spaces and that there is a need to change management and maintenance arrangements for parks. Up to the date of the report, just under 20% of Councils had transferred the management of individual parks to other organisations and just over 20% stated that they plan to transfer the management of specific parks to community groups over the next 3 years.

The report states that there is limited evidence of the disposal of public parks in recent years, but provides a few examples as follows; campaigners have been fighting proposals to sell a proportion of Reddish Vale Country Park in Stockport, Liverpool City Council is progressing with the planned disposal of Sefton Park Meadows adjacent to the Grade I listed Sefton Park, and a decision on the sale of up to 38 parks and open spaces in Bristol has been deferred to allow for further consultation with local community groups. It also reports some parks services are

looking to dispose of specific assets within parks. Oldham, for example, is proceeding with the sale of the Grade II listed North Lodge in Alexandra Park for conversion to office or residential use. Oxford City Council put the stables block and depot in Bury Knowle Park up for sale for new housing whilst the City of Edinburgh Council stepped back from the proposed sale of a depot in Inverleith Park following a determined campaign from the Friends of the Park.

With regard to maintenance, the Park Managers Survey found that 55.7% of authorities currently maintain their parks through in-house services, 23.3% have contracted this out and the remaining authorities have a combined approach of in-house and contracted-out.

The report concludes with the following statements:

- Local authorities ongoing and renewed commitment to fund, staff and manage parks is essential.
- New partnerships will be formed as the transfer of management for individual parks from local authorities to other organisations will potentially double over the next three years. This has the ability to increasingly diversify the funding and resourcing of many park management services.
- Local voluntary and environmental organisations are now playing an increasingly important role in the resourcing, care and upkeep of their local parks but they need good support from Councils to make the most of this contribution. Establishing long-term, financially viable, locally based partnerships requires commitment and resources.
- Friends and user groups contribute valuable volunteer time and money to local parks. It has been shown that when groups are trained and rewarded,

they are better equipped to assist in park management, and their efforts will be sustained.

- New finance models and rethinking delivery will be important moving forwards. The future health and vitality of parks services will be dependent on developing new business models for management to complement those that currently exist. Time, resources and skills are needed to develop new ideas, test them and scale them up. Funding and expertise are also needed to stimulate innovation, develop skills and share ideas via a central knowledge hub. This process of rethinking and redesigning business and delivery models should be seen as a collaborative process that should pool the talent and expertise from many sources including local communities, businesses, entrepreneurs and environmental specialists.

State of UK Public Parks 2016, Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

This report follows on from that in 2014, citing that the downward trend in the condition of parks predicted then looks set to continue and there is a danger that many parks and green spaces may fall back to a state of decline and neglect.

It reports that the research shows that over the last 5 years cost-saving and efficiency measures have been implemented and that park managers are increasingly seeking to diversify income including commercial approaches. The report states that support is needed to develop new blended funding approaches for parks and green spaces, and to implement and learn lessons from programmes such as Rethinking Parks.

The research in this report shows that:

- Park maintenance budgets continue to fall - Park managers expect the impact of this to include a decline in quality, skills, morale, support to park friends

and user groups, volunteer recruitment and the staffing of events. At the same time, fees and charges, complaints, the transfer or disposal of assets and the closure of facilities are anticipated to rise.

- Park management will be more varied in the future - The proportion of local authorities that are planning to dispose of or transfer the management of green spaces to other organisations is set to increase. It is much more likely that responsibility for the management of parks and other green spaces will be transferred to other organisations. Over the past 3 years, 50% of local authorities have transferred outdoor sports facilities to community groups and a similar proportion, 53% expect to continue to do this. Around a third of councils, 30%, are considering transferring parks to community groups.
- Sources of external income is on the rise - Local authorities report increasing levels of park funding from external sources with planning gain remaining the most important contributor.
- Communities are doing more for their parks - The number of friends groups and members per group has increased, however, communities are generally reluctant to take on a more formal responsibility for managing sites. Less than 10% of Friends groups stated that they would consider taking on formal and long-term responsibilities for the management and maintenance of their site through full asset transfer.
- Park Trusts appear to be coping better through austerity - An additional survey suggests that park trusts have performed better in terms of funding, staffing and quality than many of their local authority counterparts.

Section 2 of the report cites some areas where parks services can rise to the challenge and offers some solutions such as:

- Rethinking Parks - Test and rethink new business models for individual parks and wider park services.
- Funding Parks - Grow commercial activities e.g. establish trading companies and add a retail dimension to nursery productions, work with businesses through direct sponsorship and corporate volunteering and test various approaches to fundraising, crowd sourcing and subscriptions.
- Active Parks - Look for public health funding to support parks (e.g. Nottingham Forest Football club helped introduce a Sports Zone at the Forest Recreation Ground and Birmingham City Council run an extensive Active Parks Programme).
- Partnering Parks – Vary the management and maintenance of parks and forge productive partnerships to share resources and expertise. Sheffield, through Rethinking Parks, has worked with the National Trust to explore the potential to establish an endowment to fund the management of parks in the future. The Land Trust, Wildlife Trusts and Groundwork have been working in partnership with local authorities to take on the direct management of parks and green spaces. Friends groups and other community organisations are also taking an increasing role in supporting their local parks. Two Rethinking Parks projects looked to develop this in a more structured way. The Bristol Parks Forum has co-led ParkWork a practical training and work experience programme for volunteers and the long-term unemployed to support the maintenance of the City’s parks. The Land Trust is working with Liverpool City Council and the Friends of Everton Park to formalise the structure of the group and support their capacity to take on a more regular management role.
- Changing Parks - Change approaches to maintaining parks and green spaces, including rationalising and naturalising some management activities and the maintenance of grasslands to increase urban biodiversity, enhance the

natural capital of sites and capture more functional and productive ecosystem services. Some cities are developing natural capital accounts for their parks to financially quantify the environmental, social and economic benefits that parks deliver. The Greater London Authority, National Trust and HLF have commissioned a natural capital account for London's parks and green spaces. Green Estates, a Sheffield based social enterprise has pioneered the development of pictorial meadows in their management of the 24 hectare Manor Fields Park in partnership with the University of Sheffield. Burnley's 'Go to the Park' Rethinking Parks project has developed a new management approach to the town's heritage parks. It is generating timber products from woodlands and moving away from annual bedding displays to a greater use of perennials.

- Positioning Parks - Fully integrate park systems within the council's strategic and corporate objectives. Green Space Strategies for example, have a positive influence on the condition of parks.

The report concludes stating that parks and green spaces are a vital resource but they are facing growing challenges. The paper recommends 5 key themes of collaborative activity to ensure parks and green spaces remain in good condition and continue to serve current and future generations as follows:

1. Continuing local authority leadership - through the implementation of park strategies, having elected champions and compiling and maintaining up to date financial information to aid future business planning.
2. Promoting active partnerships - through greater collaboration and coordination between partners to share funding and expertise to maximise the efficient use of limited resources.
3. Supporting communities to play a more active role - additional support and

assistance should be given to make the most of their contribution and ensure this collaboration is of mutual benefit through developing volunteer skills and training, assisting community groups with their organisational structures and sharing responsibilities particularly with regard to insurance, health and safety and financial administration.

4. Developing new models and management of funding - innovation, adaptation and change are an integral part of successful organisations, including park services. The current climate provides the opportunity to experiment, test and refine new contemporary and possibly more cost-effective models of management and funding, income generating opportunities and endowments.
5. Compiling, co-ordinating and updating data - keeping asset management data up to date, benchmarking and valuating parks will be key for future remodelling and green space protection.

Public Parks Inquiry, Seventh Report of session 2016-17, House of Commons, January 2017

The Communities and Local Government Committee set up a Public Parks Inquiry to establish the extent of the problems facing parks services and to consider the options and opportunities, for the future of Britain's parks and open spaces. These initiatives have helped place the challenges faced by Local Authorities into a wider national context and to identify useful precedents and best practice examples.

The inquiry evidences how parks and green spaces are treasured assets and are often central to the lives of their communities. The benefits of parks and green space have long been recognised, but within a context of budget reductions and tightening financial circumstances the report explains that it is increasingly important that ways to quantify the wider value of parks are found in order to access new sources of funding and target investment in areas of greatest impact.

It demonstrates that meeting the challenges which face our parks and green spaces and securing a sustainable future for them requires responses on many levels including from communities, whether through friends, volunteers, or other community groups who contribute time and efforts to their local parks. The report explains that innovation in management models and funding sources is also needed and how local authorities will require both financial and expert support and commitment at a national level.

The recommendation is that local authorities work collaboratively with Health and Wellbeing Boards to prepare and publish joint parks and green space strategies that clearly articulate the contribution of parks to wider local authority objectives, and set out how parks will be managed to maximise such contributions. It is believed that this would increase joint working within local authorities, raise the awareness of parks and green spaces and their contributions to wider goals, and facilitate support for parks and green spaces from other service areas.

The inquiry makes reference to Staffordshire County Council, which has been reviewing its approach to its parks. The Council said that the tight financial circumstances it was facing meant that it was “more important than ever for local people and communities to have a say and become involved in the management of our sites”. The paper also suggests however that local communities have a key role to play in securing a future for England's parks but they cannot do it alone, this was echoed by the Parks Alliance and numerous friends groups.

Innovation and alternative options are explored in the inquiry and the paper cites that local authorities, both individually and as part of wider programmes such as Nesta’s Rethinking Parks, are exploring alternative models for the management of their parks, including, for example, parks trusts or formal partnerships with friends groups.

Mark Walton, Director of Shared Assets, said that there were a number of options open to local authorities, for example asset transfer or long leases to social enterprises or charitable trusts, or partnerships with community or other organisations. He argued that “It is about seeing a range of potential options that can either replace or add value to the existing local authority role”.

Eddie Curry, Chair of the Core Cities Parks and Greenspace Group, stated that local authorities could encounter difficulties as a result of this approach because “there is only a limited amount of capacity in any authority to do the estates management, asset transfer and also the legal lease documentation”. During its Rethinking Parks programme, Nesta worked with local authorities to test the formal involvement of community groups in the management of parks.

David Foster, Chief Executive of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust, acknowledged that the cost of raising an endowment for a trust could be a barrier for local authorities.

The Land Trust informed that its model, under which it only takes on the management of green spaces with long term financial strategies in place, was sufficiently flexible and adaptable to accommodate different types of land and landowners. This includes investing up front endowments and Section 106 payments, service charges from commercial and residential sectors, a mixture of both and other income which can be generated from land, such as licences. By doing this they are able to ensure there is income attached to each green space to protect it long term, whilst generating an annual maintenance budget to ensure each green space is well maintained for the benefit of local communities.

A key issue in relation to the development of new management models for parks is the establishment of transparent governance and accountability structures. Local authorities are ultimately held accountable by their communities at the ballot box; changes to the model by which parks are managed can weaken or remove this link, and it is important that careful thought is given to establishing governance arrangements which provide appropriate oversight and involvement in decision-making for local people.

The National Trust, Newcastle City Council and Social Finance outlined the potential for local authorities to raise funds to support their parks through a blended model including local authority funding, commercial income, external grants, fundraising, and social investors. They suggested that where external management models, such as parks trusts, were established, such bodies might be able to access alternative funding sources which were not available to local authorities. Newcastle City Council cited the work it is doing to develop a citywide trust model for its parks. The Council has been working with the National Trust and other partners to access expertise, but has nonetheless encountered some specific administrative and legal barriers and challenges. Such barriers include the complexity of conveyancing for multiple sites,

and the impact of the restrictive covenants which apply to some of its parks which were gifted to the City by philanthropists.

The inquiry concludes with the following statement: *"Our review considered evidence on the governance of parks across the country. While many parks are very well run directly by local authorities in a traditional management structure, we also saw evidence that alternative management arrangements have been beneficial in some areas. We believe that these alternative management arrangements may have benefits in some additional other parts of the country, dependent on local circumstances, however, where they are used such arrangements must be suitably accountable to local people. The Minister should issue guidance to local authorities setting out key principles for the appropriate governance and accountability arrangements in non-traditionally managed parks which could be put in place as part of any emerging or alternative model for parks management. Such principles might include the involvement of local people in the governance and oversight arrangements and decision-making, or the establishment of appropriate objectives with which the activities of the management model must be aligned. Whatever innovative arrangement may be adopted, ownership of parks should stay with local authorities, as democratically accountable bodies. A new trust, for example, should have a long lease of a park, rather than taking over the freehold".*

It also concludes that: *"whatever models local authorities explore or adopt, there are risks and costs associated with both the exploration and development of alternative arrangements".*

“The Future of Public Parks” Written evidence submitted on behalf of West Midlands Parks Forum to DCLG Select Committee Inquiry

The West Midlands Parks Forum submitted written evidence regarding the future of public parks to the public parks inquiry.

In the submission, the forum stated that they believe that Local Authorities are best placed to take the central role in ensuring all parks and other key green spaces are well looked after and remain a legacy for future generations, stating that an over reliance on volunteers is unrealistic and impractical, however their role should not be under-estimated.

Additional or Alternative Funding

The additional or alternative funding for local authorities to generate revenue from park users is addressed and documented with options such as capital funding, reducing costs, asset transfer and "sugar tax".

The submission states that currently funding for parks maintenance comes almost exclusively from local taxation, whilst capital investment for development works is now largely funded by external sources of finance such as Heritage Lottery Fund, Landfill Tax, Natural England’s Stewardship Schemes and Section 106. Leverage of these external funding sources is usually dependent upon additional revenue funding being “pledged”.

It also cites that thinking and managing differently can help reduce costs and provide funds which could be utilised elsewhere. It lists examples such as Manchester City Council who have transformed an area equivalent to the size of 14 football pitches, at Brookdale Park, into a meadow area and Pinn Meadow, in the London Borough of Hillingdon which with the help of volunteers has been created from redundant sports pitches.

It also provides examples of larger authorities, such as Nottingham City Council, which has significant land holdings, who are planning to be self-financing within a number of years as a result of increased income generation from tourism, car parking and food concessions. The report states that, realistically however, only a few authorities have this type of land portfolio and suitable facilities to achieve this and that most authorities are now attempting to attract higher levels of income by increasing the costs of sports pitches hire, events and concessions use and sponsorship.

It cites asset transfer as another way to release funding and uses the example of Birmingham City Council who have set a target to dispose of 8 acres of land per year, thereby generating a projected £200k per year to be made available to the parks service for reinvestment.

The groups submission also states that consideration should be given to levying funding from local Public Health departments and Clinical Commissioning Groups given the health benefits parks bring. The group strongly support the idea of top slicing existing health budgets or the introduction of a new 'green' tax on fast food, sweets, soft drinks or alcohol, and passing the income generated through a grant system to support ongoing investment in parks.

Other Management Models

The WMPF submission additionally explores the advantages and disadvantages of other management models, such as: privatisation, outsourcing or mutualisation.

It states that the alternative model of management which the majority of the West Midlands' Parks' Services have been developing for the last 10-15 years is working partnership with their local communities, developing their volunteers and fostering relationships with the Third Sector. However, with very few exceptions the group

report that, the experience has been that Friends groups do not have the capacity or the appetite to take on a more formal long-term management role. In instances where a group does have the appetite to enter such an arrangement, they have required continuing support from the local authority to help build and sustain their capacity. The WMPF also state that the transfer of assets to community groups often does not include the freehold so the fall back position, when a group fails or withdraws from the arrangement, continues to be the local authority.

Citing experience, the forum discusses asset transfer stating "often to make an asset transfer successful, the community group enters into a Service Level Agreement with a local council in relation to an asset transfer, which provides an annual grant. In other cases, external organisations "cherry pick" those sites within the Local Authority portfolio where there is a potential revenue stream in order to reduce their reliance on grants from the local authority".

The forum assert that the third sector will only ever be part of an alternative management solution and the group believe that local authorities should remain at the centre of green space management, maintenance and development. The group state that through a partnership approach added value can be realised given that the third sector can often access grants, funding and donations that the local authority would be excluded from and that local people would be more likely to donate their time or their cash to a charity than the Council.

Green Society: Policies to improve the UK's urban green spaces, Dr Katherine Drayson, 2014 (Policy Exchange)

This paper reports on the benefits of public parks and provides guidance on how to renew public support for their maintenance. It discusses how parks can be maintained by individuals, families, communities, businesses and government agencies who benefit from them and goes through a number of practical ways to improve parks. It cites endowment funding, living legacies, green prescribing, public

participation and community control.

Funding on-going green space maintenance beyond local authority budgets

The report states that urban green space maintenance funding often comes out of local authority budgets and that this is not ring-fenced, as the creation and maintenance of parks is not a statutory duty.

This report covers the current status of local authority funding of urban green spaces, explores its weaknesses and identifies ways of improving and widening funding for urban green spaces. It also looks at the different funding models for both urban green space creation and maintenance, with the main focus on maintenance. Some of the options and recommendations cited are as follows:

- Levies on top of council tax

Properties close to high quality parks and other green spaces often sell at a premium. Many benefits of green spaces are highly localised, such as good views or easy access to play areas. This means that those who can afford a property close to a park may benefit disproportionately from local authority spending on the park; local government is essentially subsidising those who can most afford to live near municipal green spaces.

One option is for local authorities to raise urban green space maintenance funding through a levy, or addition to the council tax. Good examples of this approach can be seen for Wimbledon and Putney Commons, and Kensington's Garden Squares. In 2013/14, the levy raised £966,124, distributed between approximately 46,000 households. According to the Conservators, "No comparable open space in London costs so little to maintain in terms of cost per hectare as Wimbledon and Putney Commons." A "Band D" property pays an extra £27.84 on top of its council tax.

Recommendation: Levies raised specifically for green space maintenance that are currently collected as part of council tax should instead be collected as a separate charge alongside council tax. This may require a change in legislation. This would ensure that local authorities are not penalised for freezing Council Tax when levy rates increase.

- Endowments and Property Portfolios

Endowments are a long term and sustainable source of green space funding. Property and/or money are donated and the interest accrued from their investment is used for the long term maintenance of green spaces, leaving the original endowment untouched. Whilst recessions and low interest rates can impact on the income from an endowment for several years, over the long term they can provide a stable funding source. Advantages to using endowments for public sector owned green spaces include:

- Green space maintenance budgets are no longer affected by local authority budget cuts;
- Once a site has a sustainable endowment fund, it can become easier to obtain other grants and funding, as it can act as ‘match funding’; and
- In the long term, endowments can reduce public sector costs by breaking the cycle of green space deterioration requiring capital-intensive renovation.

However, endowments require investment expertise and management, as well as sufficient initial capital. Not all local authorities will have the capacity for this. One potential source of funding for green space maintenance endowments could, however, be developer contributions.

Recommendation: All local authorities should conduct a review to determine whether endowments would be a suitable model for the sustainable funding of any of their existing green spaces.

Recommendation: New green spaces (for example planned as part of a built development) should be required to include a long term funding plan, which could include endowments part funded by developer contributions, as part of the planning application.

- Rents, events, fees and charging

For a few urban green spaces, the collection of fees, rents or the sale of leases may be a useful funding stream for maintenance. For example, the Royal Parks Agency estimates that it will receive almost a fifth (18.3%) of its 2013/14 income from a combination of licences, rents, catering and car parking. The majority of green spaces however, may not have the facilities to become self-sufficient.

Events, such as races and music concerts, can also help raise significant revenue for some appropriate green spaces. For example, the Royal Parks Agency estimates it will receive almost a fifth (18.3%) of its 2013/14 income from event fees and permits. However, events can also be controversial as they can generate noise, litter and damage, and exclude local residents from all or part of the green space.

- Developer contributions

Capturing the benefit of development is a key method for raising funding for the creation of new urban green spaces. For example, Section 106 (S106) agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) both allow local authorities to raise funds from developers for new infrastructure works (including green spaces). CIL payments can be made not only in cash but in land. The potential for this to provide new urban green spaces, or asset-based endowments to support existing green spaces, could be important. A good example of CIL revenue being used to fund urban tree planting and maintenance is that of Birmingham City Council. Birmingham City Council proposed the creation of a 'Tree Bond' to support the maintenance and expansion of Birmingham's urban tree population. A 1% levy of the Council's annual

energy procurement contracts, matched by 1% of the Council's CIL revenue would produce an estimated £500,000 annual income for tree planting and management, and wood fuel production and distribution. This would enable larger numbers of Council buildings to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive.

- Grants

Local authorities may be able to access a combination of external grants and partnership funding for green space creation. These could be from a variety of sources, ranging from the Heritage Lottery Fund to charities and other public sector bodies. Externally funded grants however, are rarely available for long-term maintenance funding.

Other potential public sector sources of funding cited in the paper include:

- Public Health - budgets, social and green prescribing

One example of public budgets being used to directly improve green spaces is the Liverpool Primary Care Trust (PCT) funding the 'Natural Choices for Health and Wellbeing' programme in Liverpool. This programme aimed to reduce inequality in health and wellbeing, increase engagement with the natural environment and provide opportunities for disadvantaged people. In 2011, community groups in particularly disadvantaged areas and areas lacking in green infrastructure were invited to apply for grants to increase wellbeing through improving their local environment. From 112 expressions of interest, 38 projects were awarded between £1,000 and £38,000 (£380,000 was spent in total). More than 3,200 people participated (including 135 paid employees).

- Crime

The recommendation here is that Police and Crime Commissioners should allow

communities and local authorities to apply for funding to help support park keepers for those green spaces identified as particular hotspots of crime.

- Education

Schools could, therefore, begin to play an important role in green space creation and maintenance by:

- Greening their own land;
- Increasing public access to their own green space (e.g. during weekends and holidays); and
- Supporting the maintenance of local green spaces where schools have no access to their own.

Civil society and private sector funding methods

- Philanthropic and charitable donations

An example of this is the Royal Parks Foundation is an independent charity and the delivery body for 8 Royal Parks in London including Hyde Park. In 2011/12, the Foundation made grants of approximately £1.8 million to the Royal Parks. The Foundation's running costs are covered by the funds raised from the annual half marathon that it organises. Its main sources of funding include charitable grants, public donations and the private sector. In addition, members of the public can make one-off or regular payments of varying amounts to the Royal Parks. The Foundation also receives major donations from individuals and organisations and has encouraged corporate donations.

- Community foundations

These could be a potentially pivotal source of funding for small green spaces in more deprived areas that are unable to attract large donations from residents in their

immediate surroundings. Community foundations were originally developed in the US but there are now 46 community foundations across the UK.

- Gift aid

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces estimate that there are approximately 5,000 Friends groups across the UK. Their recent analysis suggests that Friends and other community groups raise £30 million each year for their parks and green spaces (suggesting that the 5,000 groups raise an average of £6,000 each per year). Assuming that the whole £30 million would be eligible for 25% Gift Aid, this would cost the Treasury £7.5 million each year. Assuming that this figure could be doubled to take into account those community groups raising funds for their local environment excluding parks and green spaces, this could cost the Treasury up to £15 million per year. This concept would however, require Central government extending the Gift Aid scheme to community civic improvement groups, such as Friends of Green Spaces groups.

- Subscriptions and crowdfunding

Subscriptions were used to help fund the creation of some of the first public parks in Britain and tended to be short term donations. Crowdfunding has now started to expand from the arts and commercial products to include civic projects. For example, the charity GreenSpace established the Green Places Fund to support green space renovations. Pilots with Birmingham City Council and Nottingham City Council were established, but in 2014 the Green Places Fund website was sold by its administrators. However, a Spacehive have taken crowdfunding for urban green spaces a step forward and created a platform that allows community groups, as well as local authorities, to propose projects.

- Sponsorship

Corporate and citizen sponsorship can play a significant role in raising funds for green spaces, whether for events, facilities, or branded products. For example, a 10 day summer festival in Hyde Park is sponsored by Barclaycard and the 'parkrun' events are sponsored by Adidas, Sweatshop and PruHealth. Coca-Cola Great Britain has also begun its ParkLives programme of free sessions of youth and family activities in parks with Coca-Cola Zero providing the equipment.

- Service charges and levies - from new and existing developments

Community action

Not all communities will currently have the inclination, skills and resources to take over the full ownership and management of urban green spaces. However, the 2007 Quirk Review (investigating community involvement with public assets) identified the need for the public sector to empower communities to take on the management and ownership of public assets, rather than focusing solely on asset optimisation.

Through stakeholder interviews and a literature review, 4 main barriers to increasing community engagement with their local urban green spaces (in addition to lack of time) have been identified:

1. A perceived lack of community powers;
2. Risk of injury on site;
3. Risk of the community group failing; and
4. Lack of knowledge and skills.

Communities therefore require support and guidance from Local Authorities in the form of governance and organisation, health and safety, insurances and training in order to overcome these barriers.

Paying for Parks – Eight models for funding urban green spaces, CABI Space, 2006.

This paper states that the challenge green spaces now face is ensuring long-term security for funding them and that green space managers need to think more imaginatively about sources of revenue and capital funding for green space. It explains that using a variety of innovative and different models for funding green space can result in better use of public money and greater community involvement and that solutions will be found in innovative partnership working.

The paper considers the main ways of funding the management and maintenance of urban green space that are being used throughout the world and recommends funding models that could be applied in England to parks and other urban green spaces in a range of contexts. The report focuses on publicly owned land and examines models for organisations working in this context.

The findings are based on an analysis of existing research and policy on the funding of urban green space, interviews with key organisations that have developed innovative approaches, and reviews of relevant national and international best practice.

The 8 models are as follows:

1. Traditional local authority funding
2. Multi-agency public sector funding
3. Taxation initiatives
4. Planning and development opportunities
5. Bonds and commercial finance
6. Income generating opportunities
7. Endowments
8. Voluntary and community sector involvement

The report provides a summary of conclusions as follows:

- A range of very different approaches can be used to fund sustainable and high-quality urban green spaces. In short, a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach will not work. However, whichever model or approach is taken, and whether a new space is being created or an existing space improved, it is important to set up dedicated funding and management arrangements from the outset.
- Successful urban green space funding is often underpinned by a strategic approach to funding and management that incorporates a portfolio of different funding sources, mechanisms and partnerships.
- The success of funding models is inextricably linked to the physical, political and social context within which the green space is located, and the assets and resources available. To fund urban green space effectively these factors must be taken into account in developing the funding strategy.
- Market-driven models are more applicable in areas of high housing demand which allows these areas greater flexibility to develop alternative approaches. However, the evidence also suggests that they could be applied in low demand contexts if supported with public investment.
- It is not just the amount of funding of green space that matters, but also how that funding is used. The skills and capacity of the people running green spaces, both at a management and an operational level, have a clear impact on the quality and the sustainability of those spaces.
- Although each of the funding models outlined could provide finance for green space, the degree to which funding from each model supplements or replaces traditional local authority funding varies.
- Legislative reform in England in recent years has created a statutory

environment that is now flexible to introduce some of these more sophisticated funding mechanisms, such as commercial loans or business improvement districts (BIDs).

- Some models can be more readily applied to access finance in the short term. Other models require more long-term developmental work and radical thinking but could play an important role in funding green space in the future.
- Endowments can be very effective in ensuring a long-term income to fund green space maintenance. However, the size of the asset that must be invested to create the necessary income is a barrier to most organisations managing green spaces.

The importance of seizing these opportunities to ensure the long-term success of urban green spaces is vital. These models provide the routes by which a more strategic and secure future for parks can be realised.

Solutions should also consider the range of barriers that could hinder the development of innovative funding models in England. These include:

- lack of awareness of the value of green space amongst key decision-makers and funders
- restrictions on the ability of local authorities to set and control local taxes and influence local business rates
- lack of financial management skills and capacity in many local authorities and the voluntary and community sector
- the vulnerability of funding for urban green space to cuts and competition from other services within local authorities
- low levels of corporate social responsibility and philanthropy in the English private sector

- the inability of many local authority departments to ring-fence funding.

The paper provides good examples of each of the models and these can be found in the case studies section of this report.

Rethinking Parks - Exploring new business models for parks in the 21st Century NESTA, November 2013

This report diagnoses the current challenges for parks, outlines park innovations already making an impact and scopes out the areas new approaches of innovation, diverse management models and income generation. It cites examples of innovators already out there including Lambeth's co-operative park movement to Sheffield's Green Estate traditional management techniques and Dagenham's Mayesbrook Park that is part park and part floodwater defence. The report also reflects on examples overseas which could be replicated and techniques learnt from including community empowerment High Line Park has created (a park on a disused railway) to Freiburg in Germany who have been successful in allowing parks to revert to a more natural state to improve biodiversity and reduce running costs. The report also provides a useful framework for spaces which innovation can be explored, from new ways to manage parks to new organisational forms and structures to leverage funds and empower local people. It calls for parks to innovate and to diversify their revenue streams and engage with local communities further in order to protect parks for the future. This is in essence what the Rethinking Parks programme championed.

The background study to this report explored a diverse range of successful parks business models and new management approaches for parks. Examples include the establishment of a successful parks trust in Shenley, Hertfordshire; a creative social enterprise that manages a large network of green spaces in one of Sheffield's most deprived neighbourhoods; an independent charity responsible for a number of country parks in Fife, Scotland; and a cemetery in Bristol that is now managed by a local friends group. Innovative funding of both traditional and modern parks in New

York; a city-wide parks foundation in Los Angeles; a parks service in Freiburg, Germany, that adopts strict environmental principles and cost-effective management; and an intensively used park in Perth, Australia, that maximises its income through programmed events and facilities, were also explored.

The report suggests there are 4 existing income generation models that are already in operation in the UK and overseas and states these should be further explored.

These include:

- **Generating income through concessions and events.**
- **Generating income through taxation** - there is the potential to explore opportunities for innovation in developing and refining taxation and levy models to raise more locally-focused public funding where local economies are able to support this. The most familiar technique adopted in the UK for local taxation is through the use of Business Improvement Districts to raise additional funding for specific areas and in particular commercial and retail districts.
- **Generating income through ecosystem development** - ecosystem services, which capture the value of the environmental services and benefits that nature performs, are a current growth area for income generation for parks. They include direct and easily priced services such as food and timber production, clean water, renewable energy and biomass and indirect services that are harder to value but have quantifiable benefit, such as water treatment and flood risk management, improving air quality, carbon sequestration and enhancing biodiversity. Others have explored carbon credits, ecological offsetting, renewable energy tariffs and increasing flood storage capacity as direct ways ecosystem services can be harnessed to generate income.

- **Generating income through commercial developments** - There is a long history of private developers supporting the creation of new parks and the rejuvenation of existing green spaces. Birkenhead Park, considered as being the first truly publicly funded park, was a combined project of suburb and open space development.

The paper considers 4 broad themes that offer the most promising areas for innovation as follows:

1. **Support changes in park management and maintenance systems** including potential changes to maintenance regimes, restructuring contracts and maximising the productivity of particular landscapes.
2. **Encourage new organisational structures partnerships** that can adopt more locally focused and collaborative approaches to the long term care of parks. This could include; delivering shared services with more integrated management systems across council departments, encouraging the development of community enterprises and interested companies or forming public park foundations and conservancies. There is a growing potential for communities taking on greater responsibility for a variety of public services including the control of parks, establishing arm's length trusts to be responsible for management and, in some areas, developing a greater role for private sector management that will need new structures and partnerships to deliver existing services.
3. **Identify more diverse sources of funding and resources** to supplement those from local councils and to increase the variety of uses and activities that parks may be used for. This could include concessions and events, taxation from private developments, providing new ecosystem management services and benefits, developing online fundraising vehicles dedicated to parks.
4. **Explore new uses and activities within parks** from carbon capture to

concerts, provision of meeting places, attractive office space, hubs for social enterprises, cafes and kiosks, establishing educational and training facilities and permitting more exclusive and private functions and corporate events.

The report also reflects on the impact that park management organisation structures and staffing has on its business model. It cites that there are good examples of a wide variety of different organisational forms leading the delivery of local parks services and management of their future and explores cooperatives and mutuals, trusts and social enterprises as follows:

- Community-led management organisations - exploring more formal partnerships with community and voluntary sector groups to take responsibility for the management of local resources. Across the country, sports facilities and allotments are increasingly being transferred to self-management organisations operating at arm's length from local councils in order to reduce operational overheads and generate income.
- Mutuals - forming mutuals and spinning out as independent organisations with contracts to deliver parks maintenance.
- Charities, trusts and social enterprises - Trusts can use greater freedoms to manage the long-term success of parks as charitable non-profit distributing organisations (NPDOs). In Hertfordshire, for example, both the Shenley Park Trust and the Highfield Park Trust have built strong and successful reputations for managing public parks. The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire has taken on the responsibility to manage most of the green spaces associated with the new settlements at Camborne, west of Cambridge.

The report concludes stating that the biggest issue facing parks across the UK this decade is the need to diversify and expand sources of income and resources needed

for their management and maintenance. Many parks and park services have already risen to meet these challenges – generating income through fundraising; concessions and events, creating ambitious public private partnerships; exploring cooperatives that put local communities at the helm and bringing new technologies in to reduce running costs. The good practice from around the UK and abroad, captured in this report, can be replicated, adapted, scaled up and adopted.

Learning to Re-Think Parks, NESTA, 2016

This report brings together the insights and lessons from Rethinking Parks, a joint Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Fund and Nesta programme to test new business models for public parks. Over 2014 and 2015 11 teams tested new ideas for funding our public parks over 18 months.

It states that as local authority funding comes under pressure, parks face cuts of over 60% efficiency savings and increasing concession income won't be enough to make budgets balance and with no statutory requirement on local authorities to maintain parks, many are considering selling off or closing them. It also states that for parks that remain in public hands, the loss of funding and skilled staff raises the threat of serious deterioration.

It cites that public parks therefore need new solutions and new business models if they are to remain free, open and valued community assets and this report provides an insight into examples of such case studies.

11 UK parks received a share of £1m in grant funding and specialist support to explore new ways of raising income or reducing costs. The projects were:

1. Bloomsbury Squared, London Borough of Camden, London

London Borough of Camden explored both voluntary and compulsory levies on

businesses surrounding Camden's urban parks and squares. The Council worked with friends groups, academic institutions and resident and business associations to give money to maintaining their local parks. The model tested is most similar to the Bryant Park model that has been successful in Manhattan.

Bloomsbury were not able to progress their idea of a Parks Improvement District (using existing Business Improvement District legislation), sourcing contributions for parks from local businesses. However, the projected impact (£1.2 million revenue per annum) was significant and worthy of further experimentation in another geographical area.

2. Endowing Parks for the 21st Century, Sheffield and Manchester

The National Trust, in partnership with Sheffield and Manchester local authorities, planned to develop an endowment model for public parks across their authorities. The four areas for raising investment that the project explored are:

- health and wellbeing (public health and preventative medicine, GP commissioning and prescribing)
- ecosystems services (flood management, water quality, air quality, temperature control, biodiversity, wildlife corridors)
- public giving (generally smaller amounts by lots of people)
- 21st century philanthropy (donations from businesses, wealthy individuals, charitable trusts and foundations).

3. Park Hack, Hackney, London

Groundwork London, London Borough of Hackney and Gensler reviewed how they to offer new services (such as pop-up meeting spaces) to local businesses across a range of parks in Hackney. The aim was to increase income, without reducing the

experience or availability of the park to the wider public. Park Hack in Hoxton Square however, did not raise the income intended from an eye catching 'Tree Office' meeting space, but did mobilise local entrepreneurs and creative industries to contribute their ideas and energy to help the area's green spaces.

4. Coastal Parks and Garden Foundation, Bournemouth

Bournemouth Borough Council was supported during the project to create a Foundation for parks across its authority. Bournemouth tested the extent to which public giving can help to financially sustain a park, including exploring the opportunities new smart phone and other digital technologies could enable around real-time. The approach drew on learning from models used in the Seattle, United States. The team trialled different approaches to market the Foundation and get donations. They designed and constructed two installations to attract digital donations in the park: a talking parrot and a talking bench, a legacy offer was developed in collaboration with the bereavement team at BBC and volunteers were recruited to assist with fundraising, awareness raising and events e.g. duck racing. The Bournemouth Parks Foundation has proved that people are willing to donate to public parks, including via text, projecting a donation stream of £46,000 per year by 2020/21.

5. Everton Park – A Community Hub, Liverpool

The Land Trust, Liverpool City Council and community groups are working on a long term plan for community management of the park. The transfer of the park from the local authority to the Land Trust creates the opportunity to enable the community to have a say in how the space is managed and maintained. The Land Trust worked with Friends of Everton Park to see if the Friends could take on the long-term management of the park. This project demonstrates limitations for Friends groups in taking on longer term management as it found the Friends Group's require significant support, training and coordination to take a greater role in managing

parks.

6. Go to the Park, Burnley

Burley Borough Council, Offshoots and social enterprise Newground tested new approaches to help cut costs and increase income in parks. The project involved moving from a culture of 'controlling nature' to one of 'working with nature', turning some areas of parks over to meadows and planting some traditional beds with perennials rather than annuals. This has created savings of nearly £70,000 since its launch and is forecast to save the council £119,000 per year (10% of their parks budget) by 2020. Other approaches explored have included managing grasslands in parks as meadows, introduction of bee farms, growing borage in wilder areas to produce Starflower Oil (used like Evening Primrose Oil) and managing woodland for wood fuel. A Volunteer in Parks programme (VIP) has encouraged community involvement.

7. My Park Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow

My Park Scotland communicated what opportunities there are for people to engage and give to their local parks on a city-wide basis. The approach built on existing digital technologies that enabled people to explore heritage and cultural aspects of parks in Glasgow using a digital map. This project was principally delivered by Greenspace Scotland who worked in partnership with Edinburgh and Glasgow City Councils.

8. Eastbrookend Rekindled, Barking and Dagenham, London

Two projects explored whether new uses of buildings could generate income for parks. Eastbrookend Rekindled planned to bring in new tenants to the under-used Millennium Centre at Eastbrookend Country Park, attracting more visitors and generating new income for the park. The Park Hack team built a temporary space to

test whether they could raise revenue from shared work and group meeting space. Park Hack's Tree X Office received high levels of public and press attention, but the volume of bookings did not meet expectations. There were also a lot of break-ins and vandalism.

Many public parks across the UK have buildings currently unused and testing the opportunities that co-location of public services offers within a parks setting may be a viable solution to maintain these assets as well as engaging new audiences in using the parks.

9. Darlington Rethinking Parks, Darlington

Groundwork, Darlington Council, Darlington Cares and the Green Spaces Forum tested the potential of corporate giving to sustain parks. They explored donation of skills as well as money on an ongoing, rather than ad hoc basis, from organisations who wanted to give something back to their communities.

10. ParkWork, Bristol

The Bristol Parks Forum and Bristol City Council offered training and skills development for people who needed additional support to secure permanent employment e.g. horticultural training. ParkWork trained low skilled people to create routes to employment, while improving the maintenance and management of the parks service on a city-wide basis. The Bristol ParkWork project worked with volunteers and saw 40% of participants transitioning into employment and training, while delivering £27,000 worth of improvements to parks across the city.

11. Heeley Park Subscription Society, Sheffield

Local people formed Heeley Development Trust in 1996 to revive an area of derelict land and eventually secured funding to redevelop the site as a community park. In

1997, the Trust took ownership of the 3.5 hectares of land through a 125-year lease from Sheffield City Council. Since fundraising began in 1997, over £1 million has been secured to transform the green space from an unloved wasteland into a flagship community park.

Under the 'Rethinking Parks' project the Heeley Development Trust has developed a subscription for Heeley Park in Sheffield. The subscription has increased income for the park by offering members additional opportunities over and above the existing free facilities in the park, for example preferential booking to concerts held in the park. The Heeley People's Park subscription scheme has shown people will donate on an ongoing basis to their local park, demonstrating it is not just flagship parks that can tap into people's willingness to give.

In summary whilst some of the projects proved to be successful, not all of them worked. NESTA provided descriptions of the 7 projects that have the most opportunity for adaption in Rethinking Parks (these are those highlighted in green above).

With case studies and practical recommendations, Learning to Rethink Parks is a useful resource for a variety of stakeholders. Recommendations extracted from the programme include:

- For parks teams: involve parks users, local businesses and residents in designing and delivering new ideas. Then test these ideas with small-scale prototypes and look for external support to address skills gaps.
- For government and policy-makers: encourage innovation and appropriate risk taking across the sector by sharing good practice and making sufficient funding available to support innovation.
- For funders: emphasise funding models that focus on sustainability, for

example, mixed grant/loan funds or endowments.

We Rethought Parks, Bournemouth Parks Foundation

This paper summarises the ‘Rethinking Parks’ Bournemouth Parks Foundation project. The Bournemouth Parks Foundation, launched in early summer 2015, is an independent local parks charitable organisation who are able to raise individual, legacy and corporate donations and grant funding.

Under the Rethinking Parks programme Bournemouth Borough Council researched how parks foundations operate in the United States. The team drew on contacts with the Seattle Parks Foundation to scope the core business model for Bournemouth Parks and Gardens Foundation.

In 2013 £30,000 had been raised in nine months for a new visitor centre at the Hengistbury Head Nature Reserve. This experience signalled to the BBC team the community’s willingness to give to open spaces, and the opportunity to recruit volunteers to assist with this. The BBC team recruited three local business people as trustees who were critical elements for success, being an entrepreneur, a partner in a local legal practice and a retired accountant respectively. The Foundation maintain a level of independence from the local authority, meaning elected officials are not trustees.

The team comprised:

- Bournemouth Borough Council Parks team (BBC) led the work
- The Seattle Parks Foundation in Washington State, US, acted as a sounding board to the team throughout the process
- Specialist digital communications and fundraising companies were contracted to design and develop the website and digital giving functionality
- Local Friends groups
- Trustees for the Foundation

Indicative objectives for the organisation were drafted and the project team developed targets for the core digital giving, legacy donations and volunteering strands of the foundation. The project team also worked out the right governance and company structure for the objectives for the Foundation. How decisions would be made and who would make them, the social mission of the organisation, and whether the organisation would be involved in trading were all considerations. An independent company was created and registered with Companies House, and then an application was submitted to the Charities Commission.

A website and marketing materials (e.g. leaflets) were designed by web and communication contractors so the public would be aware of the Foundation, what it was aiming to achieve and how they could contribute.

The team trialled different approaches to market the Foundation and get donations. They designed and constructed two installations to attract digital donations in the park: a talking parrot and a talking bench. The idea was to enable people to donate at the moment they were having a positive experience in the park, rather than having to remember to give at a later point. The talking parrot was placed in front of an aviary for rescued birds in Bournemouth's most popular park. In the first few months this raised £4000 from £1 donations. The talking bench was placed in an area with lower footfall but which is popular with walkers, so it provides an entertaining resting point. The next steps will involve using the installations as a centrepiece for activities and events that create stronger links to the parks' users.

Duck racing was also tested as a low tech method to raise interest and entice parks users to donate during the summer months. Volunteers were recruited to assist with fundraising, awareness raising and events such as the duck racing.

A legacy offer was also developed in collaboration with the bereavement team at BBC. The foundation's legal trustee offered a free will writing service (through his

chain of solicitors) where information on legacy giving for the foundation was provided as a starting point to raise awareness.

The team are continuing with the Foundation model with some modifications. To be viable, the Foundation needs to diversify their fundraising strategy and focus on securing larger longer term contributions, for example from corporate sponsors and these are their next steps. A revised fundraising and communications strategy is also being launched to build and retain the community of Foundation supporters. The Foundation is also applying for grants to demonstrate and build the credibility of the Foundation, and implement further practical improvements across parks.

The report provides a quick guide to delivery as follows:

Feasibility Assessment

1. Consider the scope and objectives of the foundation - will it simply raise funds, or will it also have a role in improving or managing parks? Is there scope to raise income through trading, merchandising or other commercial activities?
2. Assess the reach of the foundation. Consider the population and geography covered, parks and greenspaces included, and any competing or/and complementary interests that may need to be considered when assessing fundraising (and other) opportunities.
3. Gauge support from key stakeholders, such as parks users, Friends groups and possible donors. Research the local market to test people's willingness to give, preferred methods and opportunities for in-kind support.
4. Identify the governance and organisational structure that will best suit the objectives and activities of the organisation, and whether the foundation will be a membership organisation or not.
5. Identify how trustees, staff and volunteers will be recruited and supported.
6. Assess the cost and timeframe to develop the foundation given the proposed scope and activities. The feasibility of establishing and operating a foundation should include an analysis of the effort needed to convert interest into

donations, the balance of paid versus volunteering staff, the ability to obtain pro-bono specialist skills.

7. If the foundation looks feasible, identify sources of funding for the setup phase if needed.

Development

8. Recruit or establish a project manager / coordinator role.
9. Establish a governance group to inform foundation development in the setup phase. This may be a small group, but will help direct and inform trustee recruitment and liaise with the local authority or authorities and other stakeholders in early stages.
10. Buy in or recruit professional branding, marketing, website and communications support.
11. Design the implementation plan for the project. Identify other delivery partners if feasible. Include initial projections and targets for fundraising.
12. Recruit and secure trustees for the foundation, ensuring they bring strong legal and financial skills.
13. Draft the charitable objects for the foundation.
14. Submit relevant Companies House and Charity Commission applications. Identify a suitable charity bank account so you can apply as soon as you get a charity number.
15. Once you've obtained a charity number, apply for a charity bank account.
16. Develop marketing, branding and communications for the foundation. Make sure your fundraising strategy and events plan are aligned with your communications and branding.
17. Develop a website and other forms of digital giving, if using. Decide whether to rent or buy your domain names before you develop the site. Allow time for testing to ensure the website is intuitive for users and integrated with the wider communications and marketing approach. Design the site so you can manage content changes easily within the resources you have available to do this. Make sure your website will allow you to track how donations were

raised (e.g. different 'landing pages' for different events or marketing campaigns).

18. Design role descriptions (including for volunteers). Professional fundraising expertise is likely to be a core need.

Implementation

19. Recruit volunteers and/or paid staff to carry out key roles and activities.
20. Carry out marketing and fundraising activities, events and other communications in line with your plan. Monitor expenditure and income for each fundraising activity separately.
21. Adapt based on analysis of performance - which activities generate most interest and most income, which have the best return on investment - and feedback from stakeholders. Keep testing and improving your activities.

3.0 Types of Alternative Service Delivery Arrangements

This section provides a brief overview of some of the commonly discussed or applied alternative models of service delivery. The strengths and weaknesses of each model have been explored and the pros and cons are summarised in the following table.

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
<p>Retain parks in local authority and manage as status quo.</p> <p>(Traditional local authority funding).</p>	<p>Local authority continues to run public parks whilst trying to reduce costs and/or increase income from e.g. increased commercial activities.</p> <p>Will likely necessitate reducing maintenance of parks until funding improves.</p>	<p>Local authorities care about parks, have a long history of looking after them and are directly accountable to the public.</p> <p>Does not require major cultural shift within local authority or change in public perceptions.</p> <p>Retains knowledge and experience in local authority.</p> <p>Local and national taxation provides a relatively stable source of funding on an annual basis.</p> <p>Strategic thinking can enable pooling of resources between and within local authority departments, neighbouring local authorities and the voluntary and community sectors.</p>	<p>Likely to be financially unsustainable over time leading to potentially irreversible loss/degradation of urban green space.</p> <p>Annual funding arrangements can result in financial uncertainty and an inability to think long term.</p> <p>Ring-fencing funding specifically for urban green space is unusual due to its non-statutory status, and has often been cut when savings have to be made.</p> <p>Income generation and/or cost reduction opportunities may not be fully realisable, particularly given that (a) insecurity of funding and annual budget cycles will make it harder to make long term strategic decisions and (b) the ability to attract other sources of funding is limited.</p>	<p>Relying on this option is likely to make parks unsustainable due to council budget pressures. This will likely lead to a steady decline in quality of parks.</p> <p>In many places, staff cuts have already reduced local authorities' ability to be proactive in terms of commercial enterprise and public engagement.</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
			<p>Harder for an alternative solution to work in the future.</p> <p>May lead to sale of parks and green spaces and assets within parks with continued budget reductions.</p>	
<p>Local Authority Shared Services / Joint Working</p>	<p>These are joint collaborations between two or more local authorities in which some (or all) functions related to service delivery are shared.</p>	<p>Council has full legal and financial responsibility and control.</p> <p>Consistent and stable management with clear lines of responsibility.</p> <p>Maximum use is made of in-house resources.</p> <p>A long procurement lead time, prior to commencement of service delivery, is avoided.</p> <p>Can easily cope with sudden changes of priorities for whatever reason.</p>	<p>Not always able to make best use of open space as landowner due to constraints of being a local authority.</p> <p>Access to funding restricted.</p> <p>Service is non-statutory and so a continuing target for budget freezes / cuts.</p> <p>Unlikely to maximise community involvement and commitment.</p> <p>Lack of local stewardship.</p> <p>No external stimulus for a 'step-change' in ways of working.</p>	<p>In practice, these proposals generally boil down to one of the following:</p> <p>One authority may do the work for several (also known as federated services).</p> <p>The authorities might set up a jointly owned delivery vehicle to do the work for all.</p> <p>The authorities might collaborate in contracting out the work to the private sector or another</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
		<p>Flexible approach to service delivery. This can include work carried out for a reduced fee or no fee at all under certain circumstances.</p>		<p>organisation.</p>
<p>Multi-agency public sector funding</p>	<p>Funding can be accessed from a range of government departments and agencies for the delivery of projects that meet cross-cutting targets.</p>	<p>Pooling of resources between different bodies can support mutual goals leading to efficiency savings and better value for money.</p> <p>Encourages the formation of partnerships and can build community capacity.</p>	<p>Many initiatives that encourage collaboration are one-off and short term.</p> <p>There is competition for resources from other areas, for example police and health service.</p>	<p>The recognition of the links between public health and green spaces could help develop partnerships to contribute towards maintenance.</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
Taxation initiatives	<p>Funding from local taxes can be directed specifically towards the management and provision of green space.</p> <p>Tax incentives, such as tax credits or reductions, are another tool to encourage investment in local regeneration and the development of green spaces and the public realm. Under this approach, tax credits or reductions in taxes can be used as a means of stimulating local</p>	<p>Dedicated local taxation can secure reliable and significant financial resources.</p> <p>Good quality urban green spaces can increase property values and create tax revenue when properties are bought and sold.</p>	<p>English local authorities have limited autonomy and freedom to impose additional local taxes.</p> <p>An initial financial outlay is involved and returns from schemes may take time to be realised.</p>	<p>This has been successful in USA and Australia with parks charges / levies being imposed on residential, commercial and industrial property.</p> <p>While funding for the public realm in the UK's BID schemes is largely directed towards general improvements such as street cleaning and litter and graffiti removal, in time direct funding might go towards green spaces. Whether this happens will depend heavily on the</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
	investment.			extent to which businesses link their commercial interests with the quality of local green spaces.
Planning and development opportunities	Planning agreements can fund the provision of green space in new residential and commercial developments. Usually employed by local authorities, planning agreements relate mainly to the funding of certain areas or development sites.	<p>Can provide steady funding which is secured at the outset.</p> <p>Establishes mutual public and private goals as property developers are required to contribute to developing and maintaining publicly accessible green space that can in turn help to increase the value of their assets and investments.</p> <p>Can be used for site management and maintenance and for endowments.</p>	<p>The funding is susceptible to competition from other types of infrastructure such as public transport, community buildings and waste management.</p> <p>Can be used only for new development.</p>	

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
Increase council tax	<p>Local authority to raise and ring-fence funds required for park management through increase in council tax.</p> <p>Local authority continues to own and run city's public parks.</p>	<p>If politically acceptable, could provide a short to medium-term funding solution.</p> <p>Public opinions research by Britain Thinks suggested that there may be public support for ring-fencing funds for parks.</p>	<p>Does not ensure long-term financial stability for parks management and could be reversed in future.</p> <p>Temptation to use the extra revenue for other purposes means income not guaranteed.</p> <p>May be publicly unpopular or raise expectations of improved services which cannot be delivered.</p> <p>Ability to attract funding from other sources remains limited.</p>	<p>Potentially unsustainable in the long term as further pressure on budgets mount.</p> <p>Even if funding remains ring fenced, ownership and management remains the same, raising questions around ability to capitalise on new opportunities.</p>
Income generating opportunities	<p>Diversity income including commercial approaches to generate income to sustain parks and green spaces through rents, events, fees and charges, concessions, taxation, ecosystem development</p>	<p>Generates extra money, spreads risks and increases usage of urban green space.</p> <p>If ownership of land is retained by the local authority it provides a long-term investment.</p>	<p>Difficulties in ring-fencing income within general public finance.</p> <p>Risk of over-commercialisation and environmental damage unless managed carefully.</p> <p>Majority of green spaces may not have the facility to become self-</p>	

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
	and commercial developments.	Can encourage the involvement of local businesses and stimulate the local economy.	sufficient. Events can be controversial as generate noise, litter and damage and can exclude local residents and restrict access.	
Outsource management (Private Sector)	Local authority continues to own parks but outsources maintenance and operations.	<p>Potential for cost savings through economies of scale and access to specialist services.</p> <p>Protects service levels to a basic contractual minimum.</p> <p>Transfers risk and may facilitate external investment.</p> <p>Existing difficulties should be addressed by new provider.</p>	<p>Does not ensure long-term financial stability for parks management as no guaranteed budget beyond contractual period.</p> <p>Loss of public involvement and likely backlash over perceived privatisation.</p> <p>Focus on cost cutting rather than growth of parks as a major community asset.</p> <p>Procurement, and particularly contract negotiation, can be very complex and time consuming. Significant legal, financial and</p>	This could be a short term option, but is likely to be unpopular with the public. In the longer term it is likely to lead to a decline in the benefits from parks.

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
			<p>administrative requirements must be met.</p> <p>TUPE transfers can be expensive.</p> <p>Additional contract monitoring costs.</p> <p>Authority usually retains lifecycle risk.</p>	
Co-ops	<p>Organisations which call themselves 'co-operatives' may take many different legal forms and the owners of co-operatives may be workers, citizens, users, other organisations or any combination thereof. The key thing that differentiates co-operatives from the other forms of shared ownership organisations is that they subscribe to a set of long-established</p>	<p>Tailored solution possible.</p> <p>Greater financial stability and sustainability.</p> <p>Capable of being used for multi-purposes.</p> <p>Community control and involvement.</p> <p>Increased funding opportunities.</p> <p>Shared ownership.</p>	<p>Over-reliance on external project funding which places areas of activity at risk when that funding dries up.</p> <p>Authority usually retains lifecycle risk and ultimately operating risk if trust fails.</p> <p>Often require local authority commitment and resources - not guaranteed.</p>	

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
	and widely recognised common principles such as membership and concern for the community.			
Mutuals	<p>Vehicles for alternative models for service delivery include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Liability Partnerships • Joint Venture Model • Community Interest Companies 	<p>Reduced overheads.</p> <p>Greater control over assets.</p> <p>Increased freedoms.</p> <p>Increased funding opportunities.</p> <p>Tailored solution possible.</p> <p>Capable of being used for multi-purposes.</p> <p>Community control and involvement.</p>	<p>Squeezed budgets.</p> <p>Competition laws which open up the market to other service providers.</p> <p>Over-reliance on external project funding which places areas of activity at risk when that funding dries up.</p>	

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
Trusts	<p>Community trusts acquire and manage land and other assets in order to provide a benefit to the local community and ensuring that the assets are not sold or developed.</p> <p>Under trust arrangements responsibility for service delivery is passed to a non-profit delivery organisation (NPDO). The delivery organisation is normally set up by the local authority with a high level of community input.</p>	<p>A self governing organisation.</p> <p>Distinct legal status.</p> <p>Tailored solution possible.</p> <p>Greater financial stability and sustainability.</p> <p>Opportunity for improved investment by recycling surpluses or savings.</p> <p>Community control and involvement.</p> <p>Speed of decision making free from local authority bureaucracy.</p> <p>Greater sense of direction and ability to focus on core business.</p> <p>Greater flexibility and</p>	<p>Funding insecure.</p> <p>Over-reliance on external project funding which places areas of activity at risk when that funding dries up.</p> <p>Authority usually retains lifecycle risk and ultimately operating risk if trust fails.</p> <p>Legal barriers and challenges.</p> <p>Restrictive covenants.</p> <p>Often require local authority commitment and resources - not guaranteed.</p> <p>Requires active involvement of the community, partners, stakeholders and staff to make it work.</p> <p>Vulnerability of a small staff team.</p>	<p>Requires up-front commitment from Council (Officers and Members) to get off the ground.</p> <p>New model aligns innovation in ownership and management.</p> <p>This approach may exacerbate the inequality often seen across parks, leaving other sites more vulnerable to cuts, creating a two-tier system with the 'priority parks managed to higher standards at the expense of others.</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
		<p>freedom to develop according to audience needs.</p> <p>Low management fee.</p> <p>Increased funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Public adjustment to a new management set up where local elected representatives have limited influence and this may take time to accept.</p> <p>The creation of an endowment fund may involve the sale of land, or other difficult decisions requiring ring-fenced income from already stretched council budgets.</p> <p>The Trust may impact the council existing income targets such as for events.</p>	
Parks Trust with endowment	<p>Establish independent charitable trust which park assets are transferred into e.g. under long lease.</p> <p>Local authority and/or other partners</p>	<p>Steady and secure income which can be supplemented by the funding generated by other models.</p> <p>Long term solution which protects parks from further service cuts and enables a</p>	<p>Public might feel local authority is 'selling family silver' by leasing parks to a Trust.</p> <p>Potentially financially challenging if not able to secure adequate endowment or generate enough commercial income.</p>	<p>Requires up-front commitment from Council (Officers and Members) to get off the ground.</p> <p>New model aligns innovation in ownership, management and funding</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
	<p>contribute to an endowment which guarantees core funding. Remaining income is generated through trading activities.</p> <p>New ownership and management model for parks, enabling new funding opportunities to be realised.</p>	<p>more strategic focus on improving quality.</p> <p>Endowment creates a mechanism for those who benefit from parks to invest in them and ensures long-term financial stability.</p> <p>Structure fosters innovation in parks management, allowing greater focus and flexibility on how parks deliver for people.</p> <p>Public accountability is hardwired in through the lease and governance structures.</p> <p>The governance structure preserves public accountability, with the public as key 'client' - increased and better opportunities for public</p>	<p>May be difficult for people to understand accountability outside of local authority, especially if some decisions are not universally supported.</p> <p>May need to make difficult decisions in order to work e.g. selling land to create endowment, charging for activities, etc. The initial endowment needs to be big enough to yield the necessary income; securing such a large asset will be beyond most organisations.</p> <p>Managing the investment requires considerable financial expertise, which may not be available within a local authority.</p> <p>Recessions can result in low income rates which can have an impact on income.</p>	<p>to ensure maximum potential for success, drawing on many aspects of other models.</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
		<p>involvement.</p> <p>Public opinions research by Britain Thinks suggests that there may be public support for a city-wide Trust dedicated to parks.</p> <p>Investment in a property portfolio can help to increase the value of the property and subsequently the value of the endowment.</p>		
<p>Parks Trust without endowment</p>	<p>Establish independent charitable trust which park assets are transferred into e.g. under long lease.</p> <p>Income is generated through trading activities.</p> <p>New ownership and management model for parks, enabling new</p>	<p>Long term solution which protects parks from further service cuts and enables a more strategic focus on improving quality.</p> <p>Structure fosters innovation in parks management, allowing greater focus and flexibility on how parks deliver for people.</p> <p>Public Accountability is</p>	<p>Public might feel local authority is 'selling family silver' by leasing parks to a Trust and not solving the funding issue.</p> <p>Reliant on commercial income or decreasing grant from local government.</p> <p>Doesn't necessarily create a mechanism for benefactors to contribute to a sustainable future for parks.</p>	<p>Requires up-front commitment from Council (Officers and Members) to get off the ground.</p> <p>New model aligns innovation in ownership and management.</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
	funding opportunities to be realised.	<p>hardwired in through the lease and governance structures.</p> <p>Less complex - don't have the complexity of establishing an endowment at the same time as setting up a Parks Trust.</p> <p>There are already a number of precedents.</p> <p>Public opinions research by Britain Thinks suggests that there may be public support for a city-wide Trust dedicated to parks.</p>	<p>May be difficult for people to understand accountability outside of local authority, especially if some decisions are not universally supported.</p> <p>May need to make difficult decisions in order to work e.g. charging for activities, etc.</p>	
Partnerships management or asset transfer (Voluntary & Community sector involvement)	<p>Transfer some parks to community groups/ charities or use management partners e.g. on lease.</p> <p>May retain some parks in-house.</p>	<p>Local knowledge and enthusiasm are harnessed.</p> <p>Able to fit management arrangements to local circumstances.</p> <p>Grows stakeholder</p>	<p>Breaks up the unity of the parks estate and could cause confusion re accountability.</p> <p>Management fees likely to come under budgetary pressure.</p> <p>May be seen as 'off-loading' risks</p>	<p>Flexible management arrangements can be built into a Parks Trust model but does not have the added advantage of ensuring equity and long term financial stability.</p>

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
		<p>engagement and could lead to innovation.</p> <p>Charitable status of not-for-profit organisations brings tax-relief benefits, and can attract investment from sources that local authorities cannot.</p> <p>Partnership agreements between local authorities and not-for-profit organisations can increase opportunities for accessing lottery and regeneration funding.</p>	<p>to community or partners who may or may not have capacity to deliver.</p> <p>Limited demonstrable success across the country except in unique circumstances.</p> <p>Fundraising programmes are usually more suitable for capital projects rather than longer-term revenue funding, and many not-for-profit bodies struggle to survive financially due to the precarious nature of the income they rely on.</p> <p>Democratic responsibilities and accountabilities between the local authority and the voluntary and community sector are not always clear.</p>	
Partial Parks Trust	Move those parks with biggest commercial/endowment potential to independent	Gives larger parks freedom to become more entrepreneurial, providing strategic stability.	Creates a two tier system with parks "left behind" in council vulnerable to cuts.	High risk as leaves large part of portfolio vulnerable to local authority pressures and

Model	Description	Pros	Cons	Comments
	trust and retain others in local authority.	<p>Reduces risk/costs of moving all parks at once into a new Trust.</p> <p>Greater chance of initial Trust success - simpler and quicker.</p>	<p>Inability for high-performing parks to cross-subsidise other parks.</p> <p>Parks perceived as having greatest opportunity often in wealthy areas, so transfer would likely exacerbate inequality across the city.</p> <p>Reduces economy of scale for both transferred and remaining pieces of portfolio.</p> <p>Unclear basis for transfer - parks with greatest current income generation may not be those with greatest future potential if managed differently.</p> <p>Confusing to public and lack clear lines of accountability.</p>	<p>creates a greater budgetary burden on local authority.</p> <p>If a local authority goes for an endowment in a model which only includes destination parks as a first phase, they may have less leverage in conversations with endowment contributors. It may also become difficult to incorporate other green space assets further down the line, especially if this involves going back to the same endowment contributors for a further contribution.</p>

As shown in the table above there are numerous possible future management models for parks and green spaces and consideration of these is critical to the future sustainability of them. The models listed in the table above should be considered and discussed. It is important to note that these models do not have to be seen in isolation as in fact a blended model could also fit the local authority - such a blended model could include local authority funding, commercial income, developer contributions, endowments, grants, fundraising, community involvement and changes to parks management and maintenance systems.

Developing alternative models of service delivery and new business models requires funding, time, resources and skills. In many cases changes will likely also involve political and technical challenges and so getting early Member engagement and commitment is strongly recommended. Similarly, due consideration must be given to involving trade unions in any process.

4.0 Case Studies

This section of the report cites case studies of the various models outlined above. Case studies have been included where possible, to illustrate the experience of individual local authorities implementing these alternative models of management.

4.1 Testing Alternative Models of Service Delivery

Leeds Park Project

The Leeds Park Project analyses public parks in Leeds through time and includes the researching as to where parks came from, how they are used today and their future prospects.

In terms of the future prospects the study developed 7 models of what parks might become in the future with park managers seeking to navigate the challenges of costs, congestion and competing uses of parks as follows:

1. City Magnet Park – a city wide public asset integrated within an urban strategy to host major events or a resource to manage social issues, trumping local interests.
2. Club Park – a club or ‘managed commons’ whereby parks serve local interest and needs, drawing on funding through a local levy/tax or volunteer upkeep.
3. Theme Park – a residual public park hosting commercial activities and amenities (entertainment, leisure or services) paid for to subsidise park-wide upkeep.
4. For Sale Park – a private park, sold (whole or in part) for commercial development or as a green space asset, accessible by invitation or membership – governed by property rights.

5. Laissez-Faire Park – a public park with minimal design or management - a form of ‘cultural playdough’ – whereby conflicts over use are left to users to self-regulate.
6. Co-Mingling Park – a public park in which social interaction among diverse users is encouraged on the basis of ‘codes of conduct’ to regulate behaviour and use.
7. Variegated Park – a differentiated public park, organised to accommodate a range of users at different times/places whereby conflict is managed through ‘zoning’.

The study reports the no one park is likely to confirm exactly to one specific model and that the future of parks is likely to be a plural mix of these seven models.

The Leeds Parks Project also explored advantages and disadvantages of different models of funding and management which have been captured in the pros and cons of alternative models for service delivery table in section 3.0. In their submission to the Public Parks enquiry they encouraged the inquiry to reflect on these possible futures for public parks when considering alternative funding and management models as shown in the table overleaf.

Table 1: Possible Park Futures (Source: Barker et al. (2016))

	Ownership, funding and access	Design facilitating use	Management of conflict
Club parks <i>A 'club good' or club-managed commons</i>	Funded through a club levy or tax. Managed by/on behalf of members, who enjoy privileged/exclusive access.	Membership model pools resources and eases congestion at peak times.	Conflict reduced by excluding non-members and by imposing restrictive use conditions on members.
Theme parks <i>A residual public good hosting 'club goods'</i>	Open to all, but with charges for amenities (including entertainment and leisure services).	Designed and organised to promote paid-for amenities.	The space given up for paid activities may conflict with that reserved for free uses of parks and/or discourage some from using the space.
Variegated parks <i>Differentiated public goods</i>	Open to all, but zones designed for use by particular user groups at specific times/locations. Funded through public taxation.	Organised to accommodate a broad range of users at different times/places.	Minimisation of conflict through 'zoning' diverse uses into particular spaces/times.
Co-mingling parks <i>Public good</i>	Open to all. Funded through public taxation.	Deliberate attempt to foster use of the park by diverse groups for various purposes at the same time to	Requires 'codes of conduct' and proactive regulation to facilitate shared use of space and mediate between

	Ownership, funding and access	Design facilitating use	Management of conflict
		encourage co-mingling.	different user groups.
Laissez-faire parks <i>Public good</i>	Open to everyone. Funded through public taxation.	Minimal design and management – leaves users to determine how and when it is used, by whom and for what purposes.	An absence of rules and minimal regulation, coupled with a lack of design, leaves different social groups to negotiate conflicts in the use of space on their own terms. Potential for territorialisation of public space.
City magnets <i>Public city-wide good</i>	Open to all, but exploited by local authorities as a resource to host city-wide events or activities that seek to attract particular users. The ‘city park’ may skew public resources away from other parks.	Design depends on the nature of the visitors to be attracted or event to be held.	The needs of the city trump those of local users generating conflict over uses of space. Authorities may use park to deposit activities/people deemed problematic elsewhere.
‘For sale’ parks <i>Private good</i>	Public access is dependent on private invitation and land use.	Design facilitates commercial uses of the site (e.g. housing, business). May	Private governance; access and use subject to laws of private property, facilitating

	Ownership, funding and access	Design facilitating use	Management of conflict
		become a 'club park' accessible to members only or type of quasi-public 'mass private property' that is accessible to the public.	exclusion.

Brighton & Hove City Council

In their 10 year Open Space Strategy Brighton and Hove City Council reviewed what other authorities are doing across the UK to financially assist parks departments and from this a range of proposals have been identified which could assist in slowing, reducing and ultimately reversing the direction of travel for Cityparks. The approach proposes that Cityparks explores a wide range of finance measures, such as developing a Foundation to attract further income for open spaces, identifying and enabling members of the public willing to cut their own grass verges, creating an appropriately-resourced, sustainable, and broad ranging, quality, volunteering experience for residents and visitors, operating more commercially, and seeking to generate new income streams including advertising, sponsorship and donations, introducing more natural play features into playgrounds and exploring more formal partnership arrangements with private, public and third sector bodies such as Plumpton College and the Wildlife Trust.

The Strategy contains a chapter on Delivery Models and Resources and contains the following options for consideration:

- Parks Foundation - The establishment of a Parks Foundation offers an independent fundraising vehicle with the benefits charitable status affords. The model offers flexibility, innovation and the ability to stand side by side with Cityparks, as a mechanism to generate additional financial income and supporter commitment.
- Parks Trust - The establishment of a Parks Trust offers the combined opportunity to remove both the funding and the management of parks and open spaces out of local authority control, usually supported by an endowment. The local authority and / or other partners contribute to an endowment, which guarantees core funding, and remaining income is

generated through trading and fundraising activities. The Milton Keynes Parks Trust is used as an example.

- Individual Park Trusts - The enabling individual parks to establish Trusts as a long term alternative to local authority control, whilst the remaining open space estate is retained by the local authority.
- Sponsorship, Advertising and Donations - Exploring the creation of a proposed new Parks Foundation it is important to be clear on roles and responsibilities and which organisation will take the lead with different types of income generation and fundraising. There is also scope to consider some income, for example from advertising, to be paid into the Foundation if this helps communicate that funding will be ring- fenced and beneficiaries will be park users.
- Development Funding - Funding for open space from Section 106 planning agreements and the opportunity to attract additional funding from the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- External Funding – Exploring sources of funding such as HLF and Sport England.
- Open Space Hire – Exploring the potential for Cityparks and its partners to grow income from hiring open space sites to third party organisations. This includes businesses, third sector organisations or the general public.
- Finance and Asset Management - Central Government policy has been encouraging the transfer of public sector assets to community and private sector organisations since 2010, and this can take many forms. Exploring opportunities such as leases/licensing to allow organisations to have greater

responsibility of assets e.g. outdoor sports facilities, allotments, under used park building and general open space facilities.

- Partnership and Collaboration - Building more formal partnerships with the private, public and third sector organisations.

The strategy reviews the pros and cons of a number of the delivery models as these have been included in the models table in section 3.0.

The 2 case studies reviewed in the strategy are that of Bournemouth and Leeds in which 2 different models are being delivered - Bournemouth (an independent Parks Foundation) and Leeds ('nesting' fundraising activity within an already established Community Foundation). A comparison of the differences in approach to the management of these strategic Foundations are summarised below:

Establishing a New Parks Foundation – Bournemouth and Leeds Comparison

Independent Parks Foundation (Bournemouth Parks Foundation)	Parks Managed Fund (Leeds Park Trust)
<p>Model: The Foundation established a company limited by guarantee, and applied for charitable status, recruiting suitable trustees and opening a charity bank account.</p>	<p>Model: The Leeds Parks Trust (LPT) will be established as a named fund, managed and administered by an existing Independent Charitable Foundation - the Leeds Community Foundation. (LCF) LCF is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, governed by a board of trustees.</p>
<p>Timescale: The application process was straightforward and took in total six months.</p>	<p>Timescale: The formation of the Trust was approved at the Leeds City Council Executive Meeting on Wednesday 21st September 2016. It was intended to launch the Trust in April 2017.</p>
<p>Staffing: Dedicated staff employed directly by the Parks Foundation as appropriate, plus active Trustees</p>	<p>Staffing: Existing fundraising staff at the Leeds Community Foundation (LCF) will lead on income generation</p>
<p>Legalities: Independent charitable application processes, legal requirements and bank account application must be undertaken to establish the new foundation</p>	<p>Legalities: Leeds Parks Trust will be a 'named fund' managed and administered by the Community Foundation, using the same charity number. There is no need for a separate application for charitable status.</p>
<p>Trustees: An independent Board of Trustees has been established based on skills and experience. There are no political appointees or influences on the Board.</p>	<p>Trustees: A subsidiary board of Trustees will be established in consultation with the LCF. It has not been established whether there will be political representation.</p>
<p>Fundraising focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early research suggested people are more likely to donate to an individual project, and fundraising activity has been focused around tailored projects, each with an 	<p>Fundraising Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus investment into bringing all 62 community parks up to Leeds Quality Parks (Green Flag) Standard by 2020 (52% of parks were at this standard in 2015).

Independent Parks Foundation (Bournemouth Parks Foundation)	Parks Managed Fund (Leeds Park Trust)
<p>individual fundraising target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a strong, marketing, branding and communications plan has also been an important step, giving the Foundation a professional and credible image. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support both capital and revenue programmes to deliver improvements including education, learning and friends groups. Sustaining investment into the city's green spaces. Building on existing business sponsorship and family (major donor) donations already received. Marketing, communications and brand management to promote the work of the Trust.
<p>Income administration: All income generated will go directly to the Community Trust. It is anticipated a top slice of approx. 20% towards running costs will be taken.</p>	<p>Income administration: A 15% management fee will be paid to the Community Foundation on all income generated (with a possible cap on larger donations).</p>
<p>Income generation: The Trust took up key areas of fundraising activity - legacy fundraising – capitalising on the skills and experience of an individual trustee (securing giving through a free will-writing offer), and direct donations via digital means.</p>	<p>Potential Sources of income: Individual donations, local activity by individuals or groups (community fundraising), legacies, philanthropic giving and local business investment – corporate social responsibility.</p>
<p>Start up costs and funding:</p> <p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £100k NESTA/lottery funding (£100k fundraised in first year of operation) <p>Expenditure to date (post Nesta):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £150 Charitable application 	<p>Start up costs and funding:</p> <p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £20k committed by city council for initial legal, marketing and development work. <p>Expenditure to date:</p>

Independent Parks Foundation (Bournemouth Parks Foundation)	Parks Managed Fund (Leeds Park Trust)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £20 per month 'fasthost' (website) fees. • £250 website development • Part-time staffing costs (office space provided by local authority) • Currently looking into costs for Trustees • Liability insurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Following a detailed appraisal of different delivery models and funding options Brighton and Hove aim to develop all options as follows:

- Parks Foundation - undertake a feasibility study to establish a Brighton & Hove Parks Foundation to lead creative and innovative fundraising for the City's parks.
- City-wide Parks Trust - keep open the long term option to establish a strategic park management Trust for the city, taking forward any proposal at a point when the business case demonstrates the organisation can be viable and the establishment of such a Trust has public support.
- Individual Park Trusts - using the learning from the development of a proposed new Trust for Stanmer Park (if this progresses), consider the potential for Trusts to take over the management of other larger open spaces where the business case demonstrates the site has the potential to be self-sufficient and the asset transfer will not have a negative impact on the rest of the service.
- Commercialisation - develop commercial activity in the city's open spaces such as advertising, sponsorship and donations to grow income for Cityparks, but in a way that is sensitive to the wider heritage and community values of each space, appropriate to health and well-being objectives and in collaboration with the any potential Parks Foundations/Trust. Maximise income from third party activities in parks where there is a strong business case to do so.
- Full cost recovery - Cityparks to work towards full cost recovery for traded services e.g. work undertaken on behalf of other departments and remain

open to the potential to expand commercial operations into new markets within and outside the council.

- Invest to Save - Develop a targeted capital programme for the city's open spaces, via Prudential Borrowing, where the business case demonstrates that this investment will lead to medium term reductions in net revenue budgets.
- Adoptions - Open space assets funded by development or community initiatives should only be adopted by the city council if they are accompanied by a suitable commuted sum or other viable agreed terms.
- Assets review - Review small scale-enabling development opportunities on parks land and buildings, such as disused buildings being brought into commercial use, and link to the City Plan if sites have already been identified for alternative use.
- Asset transfers – Lease / Licences - undertake a feasibility study on the potential transfer of lease / licenses of open space assets. Where the business case demonstrates that this will support reduction in service costs, empower local organisations and lead to an overall improvement in services to the public.

Bristol City Council

The Council has earmarked parks as a service which it wants to become self-funding in its 2017-22 Corporate Strategy and said it wants to "develop new models of community asset management and leadership of key neighbourhood assets, including libraries, customer service points, community buildings, parks and green spaces."

Bristol City Council's intention is to work towards making the cost of running their Parks Service cost neutral through the exploration of the options available resulting

in a detailed plan for the long-term future. This will include looking at commercial business models, increasing income and working with communities.

The areas under review are as follows:

1. Reducing spending - by increasing volunteer time, transferring the responsibility for bin emptying to Bristol Waste and stop maintaining some parks.
2. Increasing Income - through more events in parks, more fundraising by Parks Groups, more cafes and food concessions, better use of buildings and other assets (e.g. depots), sponsorship and the introduction of new commercial activities such as glamping and high ropes.
3. One portfolio - The CLG Committee report stated: 'We believe that local authorities should consider their parks to be part of one portfolio, rather than as disparate individual sites.'
4. Parks and Green Space Strategy - The CLG Committee stated that local authorities should work with Health and Wellbeing Boards to prepare and publish parks and green space strategies that would "include the amenity and leisure value of parks and green spaces, and how they will be managed to maximise their contributions to broader local authority responsibilities and agendas—for example public health and preventative health, the local economy, climate change and flood risk mitigation, air quality, and biodiversity".
5. Forming a Trust - trustees would need to be sure that sufficient funding was in place for the Trust to be viable in the long term. This would need a funding agreement with Bristol City Council or a large endowment of capital and/or land that the Trust could use to generate funding. This is the model used in

Milton Keynes, where the Trust was given a large portfolio of commercial land when the city of Milton Keynes was established.

The Bristol Parks Forum represents resident led park groups and citywide organisations involved in protecting and improving Bristol's green spaces.

A Horticulture Week article dated 26 June 2017, reports that the Bristol Parks Forum has launched a petition urging Bristol City Council to reconsider plans to withdraw funding for parks completely by the 2019/20 financial year. In the petition, the forum states: "Bristol Parks Forum believes this is impossible to achieve in such a short timescale. Many other big cities are exploring this option, some have already decided it simply won't work; this was also the conclusion of last year's Select Committee of the House of Commons.

The groups statement to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission 'Parks and Green Spaces, moving towards cost neutral', outlines how further cuts to the parks service will lead to a spiral of decline for parks in Bristol. £4 million is needed to achieve a cost neutral park service but it is felt that additional funding will fall short of this. The Bristol Parks Forum believes that while a significant increase in income can be achieved; having well maintained parks operating on a cost neutral basis by 2019 is simply not possible.

4.2 Traditional Local Authority Funding

Local authority collaboration, Lee Valley

The Lee Valley regional park was established in 1967 by an act of parliament to develop the areas along the River Lee in London, Essex and Hertfordshire for sport, recreation, leisure and nature conservation. The park is managed and maintained by the Lee Valley regional park authority. The park authority is financed by an annual

levy from the council tax base of Hertfordshire, Essex and all of the London boroughs. The ceiling for the levy is determined by a formula set down in the act, adjusted annually to account for inflation. For 2006/07, the maximum allowable levy was £17.3 million. However, only 66 per cent of the maximum was to be raised, totalling £11.5 million. The authority would secure additional income of around £4.6 million from grants, fees and charges.

The idea of local authorities pooling resources to manage large areas of green space and achieve economies of scale is an interesting one. However, it raises a number of challenges, including balancing the management of a resource that serves local communities as well as attracting users from beyond the immediate vicinity.

The Lee Valley regional park authority developed a new business plan for the period 2006-16 following an 18 month period of consultation with the London boroughs and key stakeholders. Their key business objectives are as follows:

- a. To reduce the cost of the Park to the taxpayer – reduce the levy from 63% to 50%
- b. Develop and maximise commercial opportunities – through visitor accommodation, events and corporate sponsorship.
- c. Offer the greatest possible value to our funders and visitors – education, innovative leisure packages to attract more visitors and create a new brand.
- d. Turn their 2012 venues into successful, viable and inclusive facilities for the community, region and the nation – opening of a White Water Centre, VeloPark, Hockey Centre and Tennis Centre.
- e. Work with the Olympic Park Legacy Company to determine the most effective management model for the Olympic Park.

(Source: 2020 Vision – a world class visitor destination in the Lee valley).

This strategic plan will enable the authority to consolidate its medium-term financial plan, which will include a longer-term levy policy. To initiate this process and as a

result of extensive business and financial planning, members have approved retaining the annual levy increase at a maximum of 3 per cent over the three financial years to 2008-09. It is hoped that this three-year commitment will aid contributing councils in their financial planning.

4.3 Multi-Agency Public Sector Funding

Green space health initiatives, London Borough of Hillingdon

Healthy Hillingdon is a local health promotion body jointly funded by the Hillingdon primary care trust and the London Borough of Hillingdon. It is founded on the premise that financial contribution towards health promotion initiatives that take place in urban green space can increase public health benefits, reduce the health budget by preventing illness and, at the same time, increase the quality and provision of green space. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers' Green Gym scheme has provided important inspiration and evidence to support the idea.

Healthy Hillingdon has encouraged a wide range of health promotion schemes in the borough, such as contributing towards funding garden allotments which local people tend and maintain, and organising events that encourage greater involvement and use of the green space.

4.4 Taxation Initiatives

BID scheme, London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames

In response to falling visitor numbers to the London Borough of Kingston, and research showing that the town centre services weren't meeting visitor, resident and staff expectations, local businesses in Kingston approved a 1% supplement on their rates bill to invest in local improvements and enhance the viability and quality of the town centre.

The levy, introduced for five years from January 2005, is expected to generate £4 million, more than doubling the Royal Borough of Kingston's current spending on town centre services. Match funding has also been attracted from a range of bodies including the Government Office for London, the London Development Agency and Transport for London. Investment is directed towards five different areas:

- a cleaner environment: a team of environmental rangers on duty 7 days a week to target known hot spots and provide clean-ups, introduce street washing and gum and graffiti removal and enhance planting for a brighter town
- safer streets: community rangers on duty to deter anti-social behaviour; appointment of business crime reduction co-ordinator to facilitate a 'joined-up' response to crime by business security staff, police, CCTV and rangers
- better transport and access: funding and promoting existing park-and-ride schemes to increase customer use by improving access to Kingston and reducing congestion
- marketing and promotion: appointment of a marketing, events and PR co-ordinator, media and advertising campaigns and an annual programme of events to promote Kingston as a destination of choice
- supporting small businesses: improving access to government-funded training, advice on business development, and seminars on issues relevant to small businesses and independent retailers, to create networking opportunities.

4.5 Planning and Development Opportunities

S106 planning agreements, Forest of Marston Vale

Covering over 60 square miles in Bedfordshire, the Forest of Marston Vale is one of 12 community forests in England. This was established in 1991 to repair the landscape of the Marston Vale, damaged by decades of industrial use, by working with local communities to create a well-wooded countryside. The Marston Vale Trust is responsible for managing the forest through Marston Vale Services, its wholly owned operating company. Operating under planning obligations that relate to any new developments in the area, the forest team works closely with the planning authority and private developers to secure land for green space and draw down funding to create community woodlands. Before each negotiated arrangement, the Forest of Marston Vale team identifies and quantifies costs over a 25-year period to ensure that the woodland areas can be maintained in the long term. As a registered charity, the Marston Vale Trust is able to hold the 25-year delivery costs as restricted funds, guaranteeing their security and providing assurance for funding partners and planners that the funding will be used for green space. This model of negotiated planned agreements is approved by the Forestry Commission and has support from the DCLG.

4.6 Income Generating Opportunities

Nottingham City Council: Aiming to become cost neutral

Nottingham City Council has faced a £150 million reduction in its budget over the last five years. The parks service faces on-going pressure and is required to find a further £400,000 in savings this year. It has focused on protecting its staff who provide the skills and expertise needed to drive the service forward and promote innovation. A key approach has been to pool funding and work hard to increase other sources of income. The service has now set a target to balance income and expenditure by 2020 and to operate on a cost-neutral basis.

Franchises and licences, Mile End Park, London

In the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, east London, Mile End Park generates around 50% of its annual budget from income generating opportunities sited within the park. Previously consisting of strips of derelict wasteland, Mile End Park was overgrown, neglected and considered by local residents to be unsafe. In the mid 1990s, the Mile End Partnership brought together the local authority, the East London Business Alliance and the locally based Environment Trust to raise around £25 million to regenerate the park. Funding sources included the Millennium Commission, English Partnerships and the single regeneration budget. Mile End Park has since been revitalised into a well-known, mixed-use park; it includes an ecology park and arts park pavilions, a karting track and an iconic bridge known as the Green Bridge which incorporates shop units within its lower level. The park generates income from the lease of these shop units, along with revenue from the kart track, café franchises and the hire of the pavilions for weddings, conferences and exhibitions.

4.7 Trusts

The Parks Trust, Milton Keynes

The Parks Trust, Milton Keynes, was founded in 1992 and so provides a rare example of a green space trust in England with over two decades of operational experience. The Trust is an independent charitable company, the survival of which is due undeniably to its substantial endowment comprising a property and investment portfolio that, along with enterprises within the parkland, enable the Trust to be entirely self-financing. Today, the Trust manages around 5,000 acres of woodlands, river valleys, parks and 80 miles of peripheral greenspace along the city's green 'corridors'.

This portfolio of green space is leased from Milton Keynes Council on a 999 year lease, therefore both the Council and the Parks Trust must agree before significant

changes can be made to these areas. Importantly, whilst the Parks Trust has long-term leases on Milton Keynes' major parks and open spaces, the freehold belongs to Milton Keynes Council. It does not receive annual funding from the council, but councillors do sit on the Board of Trustees.

The size of the original endowment was crucial in securing the long-term future of Milton Keynes' green spaces but, at around £20 million, it was not enough on its own to remain a sustainable source of income. Over the past two decades, the Trust has invested and reinvested the endowment, developed its portfolio of real estate, and invested in the stock market to grow the sum to the present level of around £90 million. Yet, still this is not enough to guarantee financial security in perpetuity. The vulnerability of the Trust was demonstrated in 2008 when, as a result of the financial crisis, around one third was wiped off the value of their share portfolio. However, unlike local authorities, the Trust has not been affected by national cuts to local authority budgets or the council tax freeze.

This immunity has enabled the Trust to adopt a bullish approach to its finances. Instead of retreating from its commitments, the Trust borrowed against its substantial assets and expanded rather than reduced its real estate portfolio. The Board did not need to seek political approval to take this action, nor did it need to approach the UK Debt Management Office. This borrowing enabled the Trust to recover its losses by 2015. The ability of the Trust to invest its way out of a potentially disastrous financial loss was due to the scale of the property portfolio and financial endowment.

In addition, the extent of the Trust's assets means it has been able to attract high-calibre members to the board, with considerable experience in finance, management, and public service. This experience, combined with the 'general presumption against development of its green estate' ensured that financial crisis did not lead to the same pressure to offload green space currently experienced by local authorities.

The model offers a financially resilient example, where wider aspirations are met through a funding model conceived in an innovative manner, and maintained through dedicated trustees and careful financial management.

The endowment model appears to have performed well for the Parks Trust in Milton Keynes. However, there is room for some caution. Firstly, the size of the original endowment was very large and impossible for many local authorities to repeat today.

The Land Trust

Another example is that of the Land Trust; The Land Trust was formed in 2004 as a partnership between the Homes and Communities Agency, Groundwork, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency to help remedy the general lack of consideration of long term green space maintenance, in both the public and private sectors. Now an independent charitable trust, The Land Trust owns and manages more than 1,000 hectares of public space in perpetuity to deliver community benefits, including inner city parks and community woodlands. Their funding model relies on first calculating the amount of money required to form a sustainable endowment fund for a site, based on an agreed management plan. Depending on the type of green space and facilities present, the endowment calculation could range from £20,000 to more than £100,000 per hectare. Funding is then sourced from the public and private sectors (currently, approximately 90% is sourced from the public sector), and may be enhanced by revenue from commercial uses of the site, such as car parking. The funding is invested and the interest earned is intended to cover the maintenance of the site in perpetuity.

Newcastle City Council (Newcastle Parks Trust)

The council is having to rethink how it delivers many of its services, including the

city's parks and allotments and over the past 7 years the parks budget has reduced by 90% meaning that finding new ways of financing and running the City's parks is essential.

The Council carried out a consultation exercise which will run until April 2018 which invited opinions about the prospect of transferring the operation, delivery and maintenance of a large proportion of the city's parks, allotments and green spaces to a charitable trust.

The Council is working with the National Trust, benefiting from their experience in caring for natural built heritage across the country, to help find a positive way forward for Newcastle and exploring a new direction for the parks. The Council have been researching the possibility of transferring the operation, delivery and maintenance of a large proportion of the city's parks and allotments to a new Charitable Trust.

On 20 November 2017, the Cabinet agreed to create a new charitable company (Newcastle Parks Trust) and to transfer its parks and allotments to the new organisation to develop and care for, for future generations.

The charitable trust will manage approximately 35 parks and green spaces across the city and over 50 hectares of allotment land. The objective would be to find new ways of best using the current facilities, space and buildings to bring in revenue for the successful running of the parks, without undermining free access.

This is a new journey for Newcastle's parks and sees the Council lead the way nationally in trying to find a solution and develop the best possible response to the enforced Government budget cuts that are threatening the deterioration and even closure of some council parks up and down the country. Within the proposed model, any profit can be ploughed directly back into parks.

The Council is preparing for the transfer of the city's parks and allotments to the Newcastle Parks Trust in 2019.

Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol

The Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust was established in 2007 to fund and coordinate the long-term management of an historic cemetery in Bristol. Managed by a 'Friends of' group, the trust has been able to draw down Heritage Lottery, English Heritage and Bristol City Council funding to broaden its use. Buildings have been restored to create space for meetings, yoga, parties, arts events and talks, a cafe, and gift shop selling local produce.

Their work prevented the closure of the cemetery and has safeguarded its future for the local community.

Beam Parklands, Dagenham

This park opened in 2011 with a dual function as a flood defence for surrounding homes and buildings, and as a much needed public space for the community to meet, exercise and learn about wildlife. The 53-hectare site was granted to the Land Trust through a long-term lease, managed by Rangers from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and supported through a volunteer programme.

Potters Fields Park Southwark, London

Potters Fields Park is managed by the Potters Fields Park Management Trust, a not-for-profit organisation managed by a board of directors, made up of representatives from local organisations. Its objective is to manage and maintain the park as an open space and garden for the public to enjoy. The Trust leases the park for events, functions and other activities in order to provide funds for maintenance, and to develop programmes which educate and engage with the community. As a result it does not need any public subsidy for maintenance.

Shenley Park Trust, Hertfordshire

Shenley Park Trust was established in 1992 as an independent charitable trust to develop, manage and maintain this 45–acre rural park for the local community. The land was granted to the Trust on a 150–year lease from the landowners Hertsmere Borough Council. When the Trust was set up it was given several buildings and a lump sum of money, along with the land. Some of this money was used for development of the Park with the rest invested to generate an annual income. In order to remain self–financing the Trust has regularly reviewed how it uses its assets, including through renting the buildings out.

Nene Park Trust, Peterborough

The Trust's Core Purpose is to provide a park for recreation and to improve the quality of life of visitors as defined within the 1988 lease for Nene Park. The Trust benefit from a large historic endowment, an investment portfolio (56% of the annual budget) and have a large number of tenants managing commercial aspects of the land e.g. golf and cycle centre (28% of the annual budget). Other income is generated from parking charges, education and events and grants and donations (3% of the annual budget). The Trust appears to be doing extremely well financially with income increasing in 2015/16 by 9%.

The Trust is considering options to develop their resources and grow their financial sustainability. Options being considered are fundraising through grants, sponsorship and raising their profile, maximising value from existing and new assets, car parking charges, reducing overheads, developing the 'Nene Outdoors' offer and land disposal and acquisition.

Historic Coventry Trust - Heritage

Historic Coventry Trust is an energetic charity and company that was launched in March 2013 (Previously known as Coventry Charterhouse Preservation Trust) formed to acquire, restore and reuse Coventry's heritage buildings, preserving them for future generations and contributing to Coventry's economic, social and cultural enhancement. The Trust aim is to become the guardian of the city's heritage in perpetuity – a local 'National Trust' and a strategic partner to enable regeneration of all of Coventry's heritage. The Trust is a social enterprise and aims to become self-sufficient within 5 years, generating revenue from restored historic buildings and innovative development. The board consists of a Chairman, 5 trustees, a secretary and an activities co-ordinator.

The Trust is an expansion of the charity behind the restoration of The Charterhouse. Their trust's major project is the creation of a new 70 acre Heritage Park which has the Charterhouse as its centrepiece for which it recently secured £4.7 million HLF funding.

Historic Coventry has an expanded goal to become the guardian of all of the city's heritage that is under threat for generations to come, including playing a role in the preservation of more recent buildings including the pioneering post-war construction.

The next projects for the Trust may result in talks with Coventry City Council about taking over the management of several heritage buildings in the city, raising funds for much-needed restoration and improvement, and creating new uses to add to the city's visitor appeal and image change.

The charity believes that taking the stewardship of the buildings into the hands of a community trust will open up new avenues of funding not currently available to local authorities and provide the creative management and attention to detail that is currently not possible with budget cuts.

Ian Harrabin, who helped set-up the trust to save the Charterhouse, believes the plan will create a "National Trust for Coventry", turning problem buildings into assets

that will boost the local visitor economy and add to the possible bid for the City of Culture.

The Trust's plans have been presented to the Labour and Conservative Groups on the council and business leaders over the past few months with a very positive response.

Harrabin said: "The aims of the trust are that it becomes self-sufficient and doesn't rely on public revenue funding. Capital grants would be secured from bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, private donors and trusts and charities to restore buildings for reuse and as more funds are raised further buildings can be added.

"The plan is for the trust to start with smaller properties, that are unused, underused or in need of action. As time goes on it will take on more properties and may be able to take guardianship of structures such as the city wall and gates that are currently a burden to the council."

Coventry Sports Trust (CST)

Coventry Sports Trust (CST) was formed in April 1999 as a 'not for profit' company and gained charitable status in August 2002.

The Trust plays a crucial role in the health and wellbeing of the people of Coventry by promoting healthy lifestyle through the delivery of health and fitness, play, relaxation and sporting activities to those who live, work or visit the City.

"Coventry Sports Trust is committed to contributing to, improving and maintaining the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the community with a balanced and diverse choice of good value sport and leisure facilities."

Warley Woods Community Trust

In 1997 Warley Woods Community Trust was formed and a bid was made, in

partnership with Sandwell Council, to the Heritage Lottery Fund Urban Parks Programme to restore the infrastructure of the park. In 1999 funding of £750,000 was secured to carry out an extensive restoration project. A further £125,000 has subsequently been awarded from Big Lottery Fund to develop the nursery area. Legal negotiations between Sandwell and Birmingham councils were completed in January 2004 and Warley Woods Community Trust took over the management of the park in April 2004. The Trust has committed to the long term development, management and maintenance of the park and hold a 99 year underlease for the site including the golf course and a sub-let cafe which generate income and to assist with ongoing maintenance costs for the park.

Warley Woods Community Trust is set up as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The Charitable Objectives of the Warley Woods Community Trust are:

- To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and historic environment of the area known as Warley Woods
- To provide recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities in the interests of social welfare.
- To advance public education, in particular but not exclusively, by the provision of facilities to study the historical, archaeological, environmental and horticultural importance of the area known as Warley Woods.

With regard to their management structure the Board has a membership of between 10 and 20 individuals. The Board takes responsibility for all strategic management issues and operates through four subgroups: Site, Communications, Resources, and Communities and Events. Critical to the running of the Trust is the Trustees who

have experience and understanding of organisations, the way they work and of managing large budgets and their strong core group of volunteers (232 in 2015) drawn from the local community.

The Trust is responsible for its own strategy, policies, procedures, decision making, legal obligations and finances. It has its own byelaws, establishing a legal precedent as no other body independent of local government had done this. They cover community safety and wellbeing concerns with special reference to the public as users of the park.

Income generation is vital to the long-term sustainability of Warley Woods Community Trust. The Trust generates income through:

- Golf course fees
- Membership fees - there are more than 900 members of the Trust.
- Café
- Donations from businesses and individuals
- Trading
- Funding from the government, regional agencies and charitable bodies including HLF, BLF, Forestry Commission, the Charles Henry Foyle Trust, WREN and Cory Environmental Trust. Sandwell MBC gives the Trust core unrestricted funding which helps provide for salaries and some of the maintenance of the park and provide match funding for large scale projects.
- Events – around 20 events are run by the Trust each year and each one is championed by a Trustee who liaises with the staff and volunteers to ensure they run smoothly.

The Trust needs to generate £280,000 to cover routine annual expenditure. In addition, throughout the Trust's 12 year history additional income has been found for project expenditure. This varies from year to year and ranges from £20,000 to £150,000 annually. The Trust generates over £300,000 every year for revenue, capital and project expenditure, raised by grants, fundraising and fees from the golf

course. The Trust also raises funds through events, business sponsorships and shop sales, in total this is approximately £65,000 each year. A long term aspiration is for the charity to receive gifts left in wills (legacies), which will be a result of engagement with supporters over time.

There are three major income streams: golf green fees, fundraising and the Local Authority grant. Payment of this grant is contingent on meeting the terms of a Service Level Agreement, which is reviewed annually. This payment could be withdrawn but the likely consequence is that the Trust would fail, and under the lease agreement it would leave Sandwell MBC with responsibility for the Woods and its management.

The Trust is focused on co-operative working and needs to work in partnership with others. Sandwell MBC funding is vital to the Trust's financial stability, but it is also supportive in other ways, for example, providing access to funds for sport and health related projects, and access to specialist advice. Its local councillors are supportive and offer access to ward based funds to promote community cohesion. In addition to the Council, the Trust's links in the locality with schools and colleges, businesses, libraries, the police, sports groups and arts organisations are all important elements.

An important element of the Trust's work is its communications with Trust members and the general public. Communications include a website, email, and social media (Facebook and Twitter) as well as more traditional forms of communication such as word of mouth, newsletters, notice boards and the local press.

In summary, Warley Woods Community Trust has shown that an independent charity run by local residents can manage a large urban green space to a high standard and find a model of financial stability. Community management brings many advantages but does have its challenges which have been highlighted in the submission. After 12 years the Trust is thriving and continuing to develop both in terms of activity and engagement with the community. The Trust is a proven,

successful, standalone organisation. However the Trust believes that the Local Authority's contribution, both financial and in kind, is crucial for the mutual benefit of both parties and therefore believe Local Authorities should continue to have a role to play in the future running of public parks.

The key issues for the Trust for the next 5 years are managing and maintaining the site to a high standard, increase the ways they engage with the community, remaining as a community run organisation with people involved in site management, securing the financial sustainability of the Trust and continuing to physically regenerate the park.

Sandwell Leisure Trust

Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) is both an independent company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. SLT is a social enterprise established as a company limited by guarantee and registered charity managing award winning sport and leisure facilities.

SLT maintain nine affordable leisure centres and a golf course for an annual fee from Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

They are non profit distributing which means they reinvest 100% of any surplus to maintain, improve and deliver quality services for the whole community and leisure facilities. It receives an annual management fee from Sandwell Council in return for achieving certain performance indicators. The Trust's key investment priorities include building improvements, marketing and staff development.

Their core business areas include sport and leisure, health and fitness, swimming and swimming instruction, leisure pass memberships, out of school activities and holiday camps for young people, function facilities, club activities and training and development.

The Trust also deliver outreach sports and health and fitness services to the wider Sandwell community and manage the Ryland Centre in Bromsgrove.

Their aim is to get more local people active and carefully balance our social ethos and commercial aspirations to maintain, invest and develop a wide range of quality sport and leisure services for Sandwell.

The Trust work in partnership with many national and local initiatives and projects which develop opportunities for ordinary people to participate in physical activity.

The Trust maintains a range of quality standards, awards and accreditations – including the Investor in People Award, the RoSPA Gold Award for Health & Safety and the nationally recognised QUEST accreditation for quality.

Wandsworth Leisure and Culture Trust – Enable Leisure & Culture

Enable Leisure and Culture, established in October 2015, is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity. Enable's Board of Trustees include a Chair and 7 others.

They manage leisure, sports, arts and cultural services for Wandsworth Council. The service areas managed include: arts, bereavement, events, filming, leisure and sport, parks, public halls and Putney school of arts and design.

Enable Parks manages and develops parks (liaising with friends groups and fundraising), allotments and cemeteries, deals with general queries and monitors the grounds maintenance, arboriculture, biodiversity and sports pitch bookings contracts on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

Enable Parks manages over 350 hectares of green places in Wandsworth. 31 parks, 30 children's playground, 18 outdoor exercise places, 8 allotments sites and 5 cemeteries.

There 3 main aims with regard to parks are as follows:

1. To understand and manage the cultural asset that parks and green spaces represent – by ensuring a management plan is in place for every open space and consulting on each one.
2. To understand and enhance the visitor experience of parks and green spaces – by gathering feedback, providing information and working with local people to improve open spaces.
3. To devise and implement a range of methods to maintain and improve standards in delivering excellent parks and green spaces – by making opportunities to work with volunteers and community groups, enhancing skills and training for staff and developing partnership arrangements.

4.8 Endowments

The National Trust, back-to-back housing, Birmingham

The National Trust, working in partnership with the Birmingham Conservation Trust, has taken ownership of Birmingham's last surviving court of 19th-century back-to-back working people's housing, now reopened as a visitor centre. With funding raised from over 20 charitable trusts, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, the Birmingham Conservation Trust provided the initial capital investment to restore the buildings. The National Trust established an endowment of around £760,000 to underwrite the operation of the houses over a 70-year period.

The Land Restoration Trust, Liverpool garden festival site

Created by a partnership comprising English Partnerships, Groundwork, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency, the Land Restoration Trust (LRT) aims to

deal with dereliction in brownfield sites and green spaces across England. The trust takes on derelict, neglected land transferred from public and private organisations, and seeks to develop and maintain it as an area of public open space. This maintenance is funded from an endowment, which is supported from the trust's property portfolio and from upfront capital payments made to the trust by the previous owners of the land.

The LRT and a private developer are taking responsibility for the derelict open space that was previously the site of the Liverpool garden festival. The local authority retains ownership of the land but will transfer responsibility for maintenance and development on a 99-year lease. This will permit residential development on one part of the site, providing finance for the LRT to develop and maintain the green space on the rest of the land, utilising community groups and social enterprise.

4.9 Cooperatives

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation

The Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation was created in 1995 when the Garden City Heritage Foundation Act enabled the assets of the former Letchworth Garden City Corporation to be transferred. The Foundation is an Industrial and Provident Society with charitable status registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, and is entirely self-funding. It does not care exclusively for green spaces, but parks, gardens and peripheral green spaces are included in their portfolio.

The charitable objects laid down in 1995 reflect many of the principles historically associated with public parks: 'environment and heritage', 'recreation and leisure', 'education and learning', 'health and wellbeing', 'charities', and 'charitable activities'. The Foundation benefits from a substantial endowment of commercial properties. Last year, the rent received from the commercial property portfolio

alone was £7,678,000. With such profitable assets, the Foundation is able to operate its own grant schemes, paying out a total of £276,273 in 2014.

As with any endowment, the Board needs to continue to invest and develop its portfolio and revenue-generating schemes in order to remain sustainable. Notwithstanding the relatively sustainability of the Foundation, Letchworth Council also needed two large HLF grants to restore Town Gardens (formerly John F Kennedy Gardens and part of the Grade II registered Broadway) and Grade II registered Howard Park. The Foundation provided some money in the form of partnership funding, but the creation of the Foundation alone did not remove the need for injections of capital from external sources for the purposes of park regeneration.

Lambeth Borough Council: Cooperative Parks Programme

Lambeth became the UK's first cooperative council in 2010 and is working to adopt a new relationship with citizens across all local services.

Lambeth Borough Council manage 60 parks and open spaces, with a net budget of £4.6 million. However, the parks and open spaces budget must find £400,000 of savings by the start of the 2014/15 financial year, with a potential requirement for further savings in line with the decline in public sector expenditure. To achieve this, the Council is deliberately seeking greater community involvement with their parks and green spaces.

In 2013, the Council launched a consultation to determine community interest in three different levels of park management:

- **Council-led management** exists in the majority of Lambeth's parks and green spaces and involves little community involvement in decision-making or service delivery.

- **Cooperative management** would involve a partnership between the Council and a civil society group, with shared decision-making responsibilities. The civil society group would “be responsible for setting outcomes, raising sponsorship and funding and assessing where funding is and should be allocated”.
- **Community-led management** is the most devolved model, where the Council would retain ownership of the green space, but would set and monitor standards, and intervene if necessary. A local board would be solely responsible for the budgets and maintenance of the park.

1,400 responses were received, with 89 per cent of respondents supporting greater use of community decision-making. The Council also received 19 expressions of interest from community groups to take over at least some green space management responsibilities. For example, Woodmansterne Primary School is interested in managing the Stockport Playing Fields, and the Streatham Common Cooperative may be commissioned to manage the Rookery, Streatham Common and Memorial Gardens. These ideas will be further developed with the Council. The Council also launched the Lambeth Parks Challenge in 2014. This is an interactive online tool that allows members of the public to design a new park and make maintenance decisions for it. As well as informing the public about the maintenance decisions that have to be made, the designs and comments will be used to inform future park and green space planning.

The Cooperative Parks Programme, offers local communities three levels of involvement in the management of parks and open spaces. While some will remain under council management with limited community involvement, others could be managed by community-led groups. The third option is ‘cooperative management’ where a representative partnership involving the council, residents and other local organisations will make joint decisions. Local groups could also take responsibility for particular facilities such as a football pitch or playground.

The programme is working progress and aims to promote a stronger focus on value for money and transparency, and residents will be provided with detailed information about running costs and the savings requirements before making decisions.

4.10 Partnerships management or asset transfer

Cardiff: More collaborative ways of working

The city's park budget has fallen by around £2.3million, or a third over the past decade. The council is finding it increasingly difficult to protect frontline services owing to budget reductions. The parks service is active in creating alternative delivery models for aspects of the service, in particular outdoor sport, which secure continuity of service provision. It is developing a more commercial approach in areas such as tree management, grounds maintenance and plant production. Strong relationships with park friends groups/ community groups exist, which generated volunteer hours in excess of 25,000 in 2015/16. There is also a strong commitment from the council and service in a 'People Programme' that has seen a year-on-year increase in apprenticeships/trainee schemes and work experience opportunities for school leavers, individuals with learning difficulties and the long-term unemployed.

Marchmont Community Garden, London Borough of Camden

An award-winning public garden was created by community groups on a sunken and vacant site identified as an eyesore in 2004/5. Following a failed attempt in 2009 to create key-worker housing on the site, Camden Borough Council offered the Kings Cross-Brunswick Neighbourhood Association a 'peppercorn' lease agreement for the site. Design ideas for a public garden were then sought from local residents. A steering group of local organisations secured a £100,000 grant from Big Lottery, along with funds from Camden Council. The management of the garden is the responsibility of the Marchmont Community Garden Partnership, which has

organised regular events. The garden also benefits from free waste collection for seven years and the garden gates are opened and closed by Camden's Parks contractor. In its first year, the garden was awarded first prize in the Camden in Bloom 2012 competition, for the 'Best Community Run Garden'.

Voluntary Action Coventry (VAC)

Founded in 1957, VAC is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Membership of Voluntary Action Coventry is open to all voluntary and community groups working within Coventry.

VAC is the membership body for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in the city. They currently have 460 member organisations that elect the governing body and a management board comprising up to 17 members. VAC, like many voluntary sector support agencies across the country, has suffered in recent years from a reduction in income from a range of sources including national government departments, regional bodies and grant making trusts. VAC's total income declined from £1.3 million in 2009/10 to £583,000 in 2014/15. Coventry City Council (CCC) cut 25% from their grant to VAC in 2013/14 and coupled with the loss of other income sources this led the VAC board to reduce costs and utilise reserves.

In January 2016 Coventry City Council notified VAC of their decision to reduce their grant from £150,000 per annum to £104,000 per annum for the period 2016 – 2018, during this time activity would be undertaken with VAC and other stakeholders to transition the funding from a grant to a contract. VAC/CCC have scoped out what can be delivered with the level of funding proposed that meets the City Council agenda and helps to achieve the priorities within the Coventry Local Plan 2016 and the Connecting Communities Strategy as well as meeting the needs of the VCS in Coventry.

VAC has considerable experience and success in securing funding for project delivery from a range of statutory sources (City Council, including Public Health and the CCG).

Their business plan states that they will continue to develop and bid for project funding, including in partnership with other VCS organisations through their consortium Here2Help or bespoke collaborations. They are also looking at income generation options including; charging for their services, expanding their offer outside Coventry, exploring new business options such as setting up a social enterprise, resource centre or cafe and building strategic alliances.

Red Cross Garden, London Borough of Southwark

Red Cross Garden in the London Borough of Southwark is owned by Southwark Council but leased and managed by Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST), a not-for-profit charitable organisation. The garden was originally laid out in 1887 by Octavia Hill and is situated within an area of Southwark that has few areas of open green space; in particular, it lacks large areas of green space.

BOST works with a range of organisations to facilitate community involvement and volunteering in the parks and open spaces in north Southwark. It has 40 regular volunteers, of which 15 volunteer in the management and upkeep of Red Cross Garden.

BOST supports a small steering group of local people, businesses and council officers who meet regularly to talk about the maintenance and upkeep of parks in north Southwark and to discuss the organisation of events and activities to encourage local people to use these parks. For example, to celebrate the reopening of Red Cross Garden, BOST organised a community event that was attended by over 200 people, including Princess Anne.

In addition, BOST sub-contracts works to other organisations such as those for the homeless and people with special needs. This encourages wider participation and involvement and provides maintenance contracts at a competitive rate. Although the park is financed by the council's parks department budget, BOST's charitable status

provides the opportunity to attract funding, albeit in more limited amounts, from private donations and grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the DCLG. Furthermore, Southwark Council provides in-kind support to BOST, for example advice about graffiti removal and ways to tackle ASB.

5.0 National Trust Future Parks Model

The National Trust Future Parks project provides an evaluation as to the options for parks services and a comparison of all alternative options extracted from this model and elements can be found in the table in section 3.0 of this report.

Public opinions research, commissioned from Britain Thinks by the National Trust, has shown that people generally favour the concept of a Parks Trust when presented with the alternatives.

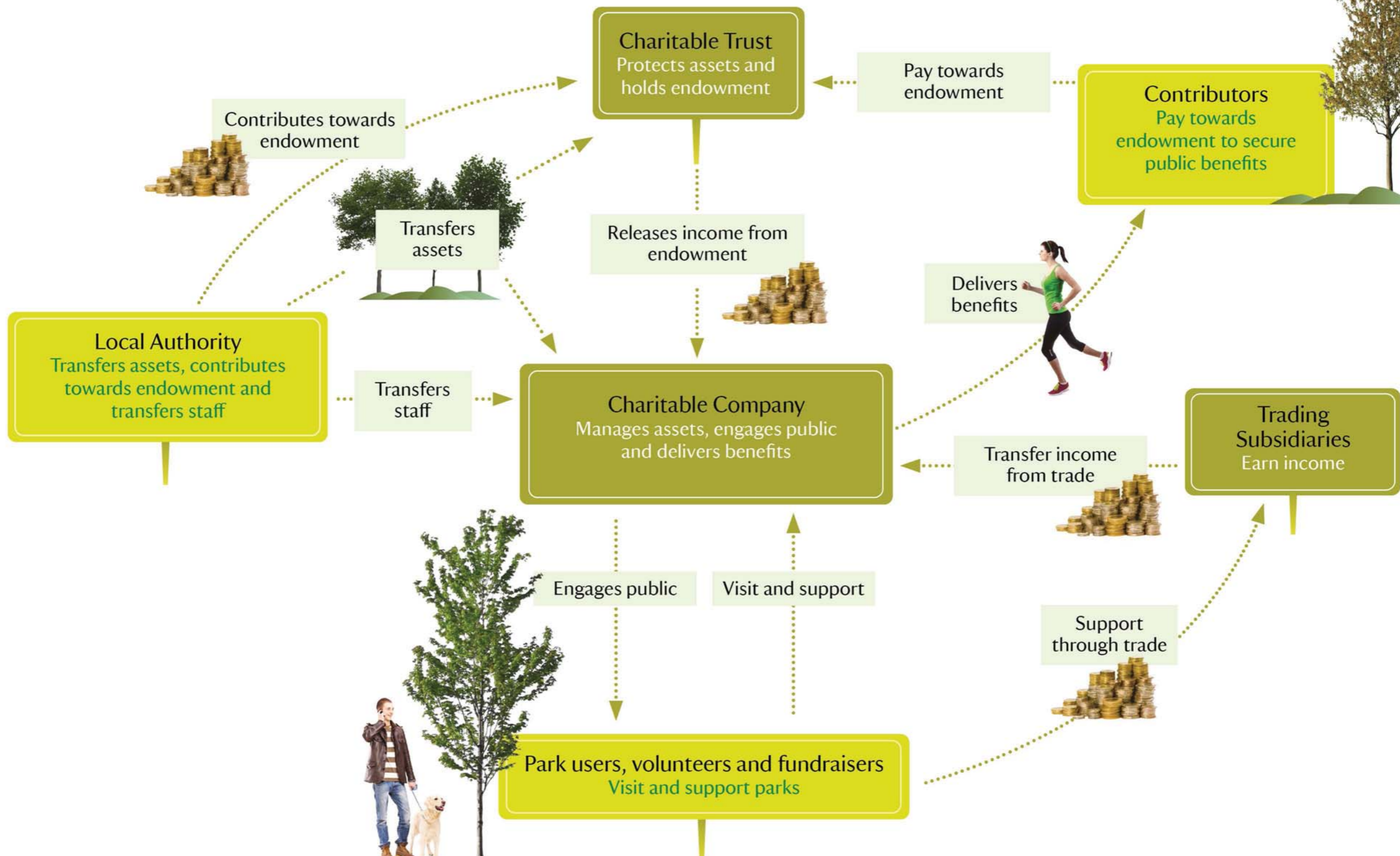
The National Trust (NT) have developed a Future Parks Trust model designed for local authority consideration. The National Trust believe that their Parks Trust model provides a potential solution to the threat to parks and green spaces. In the Parks Trust model, parks and green spaces would be transferred from the local authority to a city-wide charitable Trust who could manage the parks and be financed through a model of endowment and enterprise. The endowment would provide a safe, sustainable income stream and the remainder of the funding could come from enterprising parks management and other income sources such as social finance.

The National Trust state that compared to the alternatives the Parks Trust model has the potential to secure long-term financial sustainability while retaining public accountability.

It is important to note that the Parks Trust model needs volunteers in order to ensure its long-term sustainability and to establish community links. The NT's Future Parks model provides a toolkit as to how to develop volunteering and community involvement and provides example case studies with regard to Trust volunteering includes the National Trust, Milton Keynes Parks Trust, English Heritage and the Canal and River Trust.

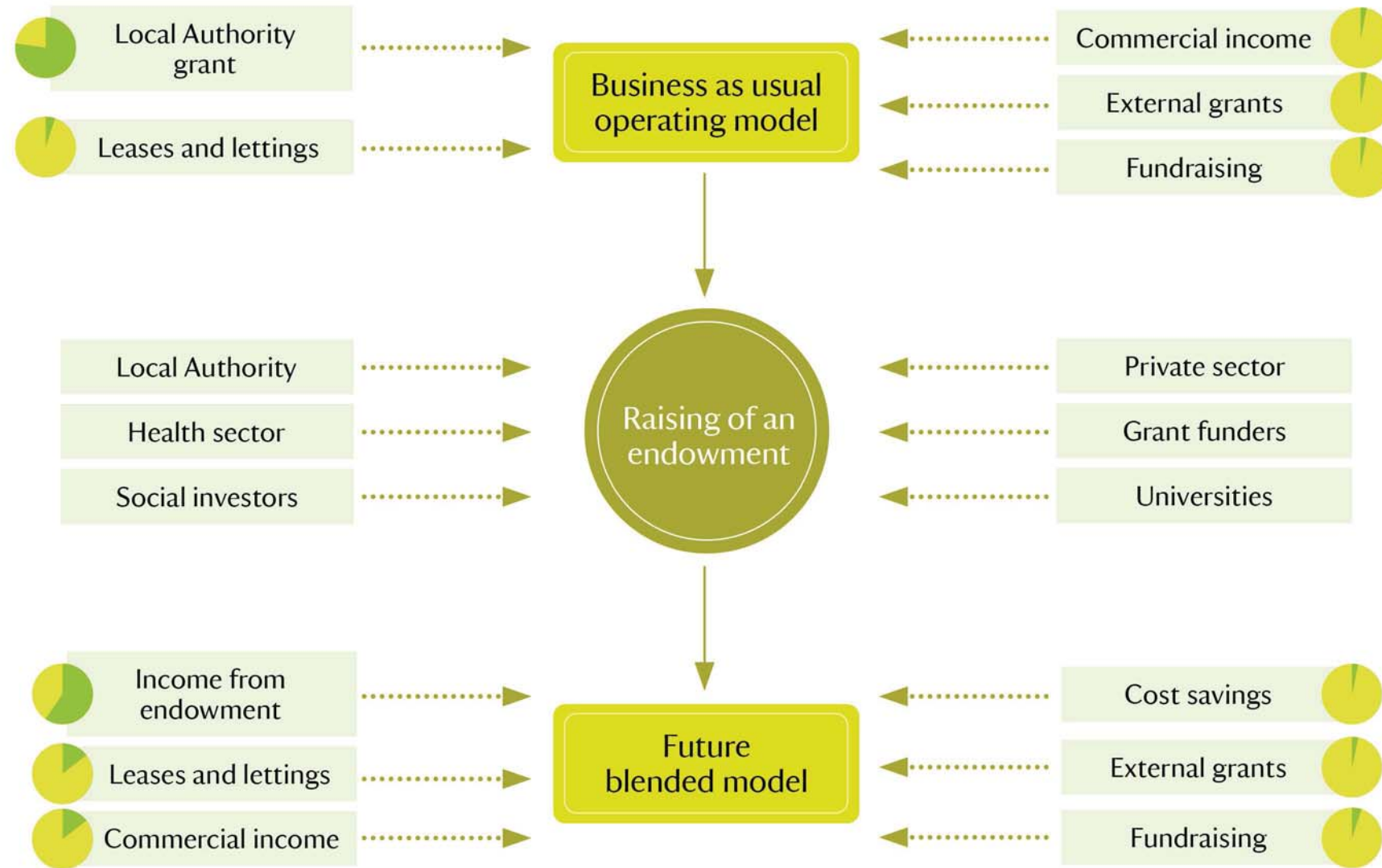
The NT provide pictograms demonstrating how the Parks Trust model could work and how an endowment could work in the Parks trust financial model and these can be seen overleaf:

How the Parks Trust model could work



How an endowment could work in the Parks Trust financial model

Dark green areas of pie charts represent the approximate proportion each organisation contributes.



6.0 Next Steps

Within the National Trust's Future Parks model toolkit, is a financial modelling tool which allows local authorities to explore the financial implications of transitioning ownership and operations management responsibilities of their parks to an independent charitable trust, supported by an endowment. It will therefore supply the Council with an indication of what the Parks portfolio could look like if it was decided to transition to a People's Parks Trust.

Specifically, the tool will do three main things:

1. Give an indication of the potential to increase revenues from parks and optimise the cost of running parks.
2. Provide an indication of the size of the gap between revenues and costs over time (if any) and how this could be funded, specifically the implied size of any potential endowment to cover this 'gap'.
3. Provide an indication of how much it would cost to transition to this People's Parks Trust, and what size of working capital facility would be required to cover this cost.

The next steps following a review of this discussion paper, if desired, is to input the latest Council's parks revenue and cost data (if available) along with some aspirations for new revenue generation in order to generate a 10-year financial summary for three separate scenarios (based, medium and high case financial statements). The tool's outputs will then generate a final report for the full service area and for that for Sandwell Valley Country Park, including a break even analysis, a range for the endowment required, the approximate cost of ownership transfer, the cash needed to finance the transfer and the investment capital required for the development of new revenue streams.

Important Note - Seek Advice

While all care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this document, the information it contains is general in nature and is not a substitute for financial or legal advice on individual cases. For specific questions and circumstances, it is important that you seek expert financial and legal advice.

Appendix F
Issues Paper



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Issues Paper

Issue number: 1

Status: DRAFT

Date: 07 May 2019

Prepared by: Adrian Spray

Authorised by: Ian Baggott

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Issues Paper

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1 Introduction

This paper has been produced for the Sandwell Green Space Strategy Steering Group (08May19) as an Issues / Discussion Paper. A revised version will then be presented to EMT on 21 May 2019.

2 Quantity

- Sandwell is well served by a range of types of green space.
- Natural and Semi-natural Green Space is a major component (40% of unrestricted space).
- Parks and gardens (22%) and formal green space are significant community assets
- The supply of green space has remained fairly static over time (since 2006)
- However, population increases have seen the amount of green space per hectare reduce over time : 3.63 (2018) from 3.90 (2013) and 4.24 (2006).
- Further increases in population will reduce this figure and put existing green space under more pressure.
- Sandwell has the lowest level of green space provision in the Black Country (Walsall 4.72 ha / 1,000 pop, Dudley 4.51 & Wolverhampton 4.38)
- There is significant variation in the amount of green space by Town
- This variation increases at Ward level.
- Some of the most deprived wards have the lowest levels of green space provision (particularly Wednesbury 3/3 wards, Smethwick 2/4 wards & West Bromwich 1/7 wards)
- Some of the wards with the lowest levels of health & wellbeing have the lowest levels of green space provision (Soho & Victoria and Smethwick wards (Smethwick), Greets Green & Lyng (West Bromwich) and Friar Park (Wednesbury)).
- Future housing development may offer the opportunity to address some of these deficiencies. But unlikely to address all deficiencies.
- Residents are least satisfied with the amount of provision for outdoor sports facilities, allotments (& community gardens) and children & young people.

3 Accessibility

- Most areas of the Borough have access to some form of unrestricted green space @ 400m.
- When severance factors (railway lines, canals and main roads) are taken into account there are areas of green space deficiency in all towns)
- Large areas of the Borough do not meet the ANGSt standards. Approximately 2/3 of the Borough does not have access to semi-natural green space over 2 hectares (@ 300m) and one third to spaces over 20 ha (@ 2 Km).
- There is a deficit of 0.11 ha / 1,000 pop of designated LNR. A further 36 ha needs to be designated to achieve this measure against the ANGSt standard.
- There is potential to create better links between spaces through green corridors and linear walkways (however some sites have been lost to development)
- Despite there being 84 green spaces with equipped play there are large areas of the borough with limited access to play provision (@ 240 metres)

4 Quality

- The average quality of green spaces has been sustained at 2006 levels (34 out of 100), although this is 4 points below the 2013 average quality score (38).
- The average quality of Borough level spaces has been sustained since 2013. Neighbourhood Level spaces are on average the same as 2006. Local level spaces are marginally lower than in 2006.
- Parks and gardens and Cemeteries and Churchyards are the highest quality spaces (average score for each 51).
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces show significant variation. Destination / more significant spaces (green space hierarchy) generally perform well.
- There is some variation in average quality by town. Smethwick & West Bromwich are above average. Oldbury, Tipton, Rowley Regis and Wednesbury are below average.
- However, all towns have high scoring spaces in their area.

- There is greater variation at Ward level with Oldbury (ward), Tividale, Princes End and Langley scoring the lowest on average.
- Princes End (Tipton) and Friar Park (Wednesbury) experience relatively high levels of deprivation and have low average quality scores.
- In terms of criteria used in the quality assessment, litter and waste management was one of the lowest performing areas (after signage and interpretation). Disabled access, horticultural maintenance, conservation of landscape features, and management for biodiversity also achieved relatively low average scores (although there are examples of sites that performed well against these criteria).

5 QV Matrix

- Value assessment based on Context, Level & Type of Use, Wider Benefits (Ecological / education / cultural) and Open Space Networks.
- Average value score has increased slightly to 38.2 (2018) from 37.0 (2013).
- Parks and Gardens and Natural and Semi-natural greenspace achieved higher average value scores.
- Higher values spaces are typically Borough & Neighbourhood level
- 65 sites identified as Low Quality Low Value (31%) – review primary purpose and seek to increase quality if value can be increased. Rowley Regis, Oldbury and West Bromwich have the highest number of LQLV sites.

6 Consultation

6.1 Household Survey key findings

- 1,315 responses – hard copy and online. Lower response than 2013 (1579 no.)
- Nearly 9 out of ten (87.9%) of respondents considered parks and green spaces contributed positively to their health and wellbeing.

- Over two thirds (67.9%) visit parks on at least a weekly basis (up from 51.7% in 2013). This reflects national trends showing increased visits to parks and green spaces.
- Sandwell Valley is the most frequently used space, followed by Warley Woods. Other top ten sites are predominantly Parks and Gardens.
- Three quarter of respondents who walk to the park travel for less than 10 minutes.
- The main reasons for visiting are: walking; relaxing; to experience nature / wildlife. Children's play ranked 6th, dog walking 7th.
- The average quality score provided was 7.3 (out of ten), marginally lower than 7.5 scored in 2013.
- Four in ten respondents (40.1%) thought the quality of their most frequently visited space has remained the same of the last three years. A similar proportion (39.0%) considered the quality had improved.
- Satisfaction levels with parks and gardens was the highest at 61.6%. Satisfaction with other types of green space was much lower.
- Overall, performance ratings were not very positive, with only the standard of maintenance and provision of flowerbeds, trees and shrubs being rated as good or excellent by more than half of respondents (57.7% and 55.5% respectively).
- Top improvements requested included: more / better refreshment facilities, better safety and security, more visitor facilities (toilets, community room etc). Better maintenance (litter and general maintenance) ranked 4th and 6th respectively. Better provision for children and young people ranked 5th.
- Key barriers to accessing green spaces include: perceptions of anti-social behaviour and personal safety (1st & 3rd respectively). Lack of time ranked 2nd and was the main barrier cited in 2013. Car parking charges ranked 4th and appears as a barrier for the first time in Green Space Audit consultation.
- Respondents did not support increased fees and charges as a way of increasing income and funding. Sources such as the national lottery, funding from the health sector, sponsorship by businesses and funding through developer contributions were popular.

6.2 Workshop findings

These are included in the section below under specific themes.

7 Developing the Strategy

7.1 Strategic Fit

- Links can be made to the Sandwell Vision. Biodiversity & wider environmental issues (including Climate Change) are not recognised by the Vision and appear to be a low priority for the Council.
- Many Sandwell Council policies and strategies (such as the Play strategy, Tree Policy, Allotments Strategy, Environmental Policy) are out of date / expired. Should they be updated? Is there the capacity to update these?
- Emerging policy agenda at the sub-regional level – see 7.7 Opportunities

7.2 Finances

- Sandwell has been very successful in securing capital funding (since 2003 c.£32 million).
- However, revenue budgets (including staffing) are now 48.4% of 201/11 levels. Reductions equivalent to £3.3 million. Future budget position?
- Better financial management was seen as a priority by staff at workshops.
- Infrastructure, equipment and buildings will need replacement / significant investment. Communities are resistant to reductions in provision. How will this be addressed in the future?
- What scale of developer contributions (s106, CIL?) can be expected in the future? Development of Local Standards to support this.
- External funding – who leads? Is there a medium / long term strategy?
- Income generation by green spaces is not retained within the service and becomes a 'permanent' income target, meaning there is little incentive to innovate and develop new funding streams.

- There is no overall plan for developing commercial activity in parks and green spaces across the Borough and the current approach is piecemeal and ad hoc.
- There are significant economic barriers for many residents in accessing services / facilities. Consideration needs to be given to the balance between income generation and accessibility and intended audiences.
- External factors such as changes in legislation or guidance puts increased pressure on resources (e.g. increased frequency of tree inspections, longer grass cutting season).

7.3 Staffing – Resources & Structure

- There is a need for Green Space Champions at the political level and senior management
- Management functions for green spaces is perceived to be split across too many service areas
- Better co-ordination and joint working across different service areas is required
- Who will lead on the implementation of the Green Space Strategy
- Better planned preventative maintenance (and plans for replacement of facilities and equipment)
- Anti-social behaviour is now the main barrier to using parks and greenspaces. Loss of the Warden Service is perceived to be significant. How will ASB be addressed in the future?

7.4 Partnerships

- Existing partnerships with biodiversity and wildlife groups.
- Opportunities for greater partnership working at Black Country / sub-regional level
- Health & Wellbeing Agenda

7.5 Community Participation

- Reduced resources to support community participation.

- Is there any appetite to consider Community Asset Transfer? How will this be taken forward? There is a view that Sandwell is not especially good at hybrid models and partnership working. There tends to be a very binary approach where something is either Council-led or it is delivered entirely by the voluntary or community sector. Genuine partnerships in the borough are perceived to be rare.
- Friends groups / borough forum – seek funding for a co-ordinator?
- Community / volunteer participation needs investment in developing capacity and skills if it is to be successful and can be sustained.
- Does the authority wish to increase the role of volunteers in green space management / maintenance / development? How will this be resourced?
- Engaging with Sandwell's diverse communities around green space / development of the Green Space Strategy.

7.6 Marketing & Promotion

- Better marketing and promotion is needed to encourage / sustain participation (Discover Sandwell has poor coverage of green spaces)
- Marketing & promotion of activities / services as well as sites / spaces
- Co-ordinated approach to marketing and promotion – web site / portal
- Challenges relating to image / brand.

7.7 Opportunities

- Great portfolio of green spaces inc Sandwell Valley Country Park
- Population expected to grow by 30,000 to 2020.
- Large resident population of 2.8 million – West Mids Combined authority
- Developing the day visitor and tourism economy
- West Midlands Combined Authority & Black Country sub-regional planning

- Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area
- BC Natural Capital Investment Strategy is being developed
- Health and Wellbeing - Joint working with the Clinical Commissioning Group
- Commonwealth Games offers marketing / participation opportunities – Physical Activity & Sports Strategy
- Increasing public environmental awareness
- 25 Year Environment Plan (UK)
- Designation / protection of (key) green spaces
- Linking of green spaces, creating active travel and traffic free routes

Appendix G

Workshop Reports: Sandwell Staff & Partner Workshop



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Staff and Partners Workshops Report

Issue number: 2

Status: FINAL

Date: 06 March 2019

Prepared by: EK / AS

Authorised by: Adrian Spray

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Staff and Partners Workshops Report

Contents

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Appendix A – Copy of Presentation

1 Introduction

As part of the development of the development of the Sandwell Green Space Strategy a workshop was held with staff and partners.

Date / time & location	29 January 2019 9.45am - 1pm Sandwell MBC staff and partners Venue: Sandwell Park Farm, Salters Lane, West Bromwich, B71 4BG
Content	Introductory presentation about works that has been carried out so far and then a series of exercises to explore the key issues, potential solutions and approaches that may be adopted through the Green Space Strategy.
Purpose	For attendees to gain an understanding of and inform the GSS.

This report is a record of the workshop event and the discussion and comments made by participants. As such the comments will inform the future strategy, but they do not necessarily reflect Sandwell Council's current and future position.

2 Workshop Structure

There were 16 participants in attendance as well as facilitators from the Council and CFP. Officers represented the service areas of Parks Management, Sandwell Valley / Countryside, Asset Management, Streetscene, Sports and Leisure, Urban Design, Community Partnerships, Planning Policy, Sandwell Leisure Trust and Warley Woods Community Trust.

The agenda for the session was as below.

Title	Description
Registration and coffee	Oriente participants Ask people to write 'one big thing' on a post it and place on board at the front.
Introduction	Welcome and Introduction
Audit / Strategy Update	What it is and what we'd done so far.
<u>Exercise 1</u> Vision for the GSS	Value of green spaces. How does this link with the Sandwell Vision? http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/Vision2030
<u>Exercise 2</u>	Priorities for Management
<u>Exercise 3</u>	Priorities for Maintenance
<u>Exercise 4</u>	Priorities for Development
BREAK – check refreshments available	
<u>Exercise 5</u> Issues & Solutions	Write issues and a corresponding solution on post-its. Group by management / maintenance / development Whole group feedback – key 5 from each group.
Resourcing the Strategy	Consider different funding models Consider options – SoUKP Public survey factors. Get participants to rank the order (most to least important)
Round up and Q&A Inc feedback on the scores from Exercise 4.	Summary Next steps Timescales

3 One Big Thing

Participants we asked to write on a sticky note, one issue that the strategy should consider or address:

- To bring SMBC owned open space under one service area to improve the quality of management
- Prioritise play areas (safety)
- To be honest about what can be achieved with current resources
- Planned maintenance regimes to maintain & raise levels of satisfaction
- Income generation
- Community pride in green spaces
- A realistic approach to the management of green spaces going forward
- Clear, easy, attainable objectives
- Inform Sandwell residents what is available to use / participate in on Sandwell green spaces
- Provide an agreed strategic direction for green spaces boroughwide which is agreed and used by all parties
- Clear way forward
- Capacity for involving people
- To get more people using and enjoying green spaces in Sandwell

3.1 Exercise 1

Exercise 1 sought to draw out how green space contribute or could further contribute to the 10 ambitions of Sandwell Council. Attendees split into 2 groups to discuss this.

The table below shows each ambition and connections made to green spaces (combined results from 2 groups)

Number	Ambition	What Green Spaces can deliver
1	Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.	Children are given equal opportunities through access to space to play, take part in sports, learn and have fun Green space as a good setting for outreach work Community space and events lead to better community cohesion and resilience Equality of access to high quality green spaces is important (Note : the strategy could explore links between green space quality and deprivation)
2	Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.	The links between green spaces and public health benefits are well documented. Green gyms, well done and well used SLT provide bootcamps, increasingly popular Park run and health walks Mental health benefits of using green spaces Role of formal sports provision in health Mitigation of negative environmental impacts such as air pollution
3	Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.	Council graduate programme Coaching qualifications Gifted and talented programme for young athletes Internal upskilling and professional development Contractors taking on apprenticeships Work experience placements- enhance CVs Apprenticeships in the parks – probably the largest provider of work placements in the Council. The grounds maintenance team has 6 apprenticeships currently. Duke of Edinburgh Award students use parks and green spaces across the borough.

Number	Ambition	What Green Spaces can deliver
		Opportunities provided allow students to stand out / differentiate themselves.
4	Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.	<p>Visiting parks before and after school, spending time outdoors good for concentration etc</p> <p>Parks provide places for home educated families to engage in events activities, volunteering etc</p> <p>Sandwell Valley has education programme with links to national curriculum</p> <p>Parks and green spaces provide a good setting for outdoor learning (including Forest Schools, community food growing, education packages, work based learning etc).</p>
5	Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.	<p>Park events are good at attracting broad audiences which bring people together in more cohesive communities</p> <p>Well used parks are safer</p> <p>Local residents taking ownership of spaces pushes out anti-social behaviour</p> <p>We need to ensure green spaces are safe and perceived to be safe to sustain levels of use and attract more people.</p> <p>Green spaces are public spaces and provide a good way of bringing people together.</p> <p>WWCT provides an excellent example of community managed green space.</p>
6	We have excellent and affordable public transport that connects us to all local centres and to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands.	<p>Long distance walking and cycling routes supported by the strategy</p> <p>Canal and green corridors links create networks of green space</p> <p>Safe routes (inc walking buses) to school through green spaces bring health benefits and reduce traffic congestion</p>
7	We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes.	<p>Section 106 needs to be well spent</p> <p>There should be new green spaces for new developments and existing spaces should benefit</p> <p>Need active travel links to new developments</p> <p>This ambition provides both opportunities and a potential threat to green spaces.</p> <p>Residential development offers opportunities for placemaking with green space provision considered early in the planning phase</p>

Number	Ambition	What Green Spaces can deliver
		Development viability is often marginal which may mean little additional benefits / developer contributions can be realised
8	Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.	<p>Good quality green space improves quality of life</p> <p>Good quality green spaces improve environmental quality and can help attract new residents, new businesses and tourism / day visitors</p> <p>Green space can be a location for leisure and entertainment (open air leisure centres)</p> <p>Green spaces where heritage is cared for are distinctive</p>
9	Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.	<p>Green spaces will keep workforces happy and healthy</p> <p>Areas can't be attractive for people to live and work in without high quality green space</p> <p>High quality green spaces can help attract inward investment</p> <p>Leisure and land based industries could be developed to employ more people. Many are SMEs.</p>
10	Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.	<p>There have been transformation changes in green spaces e.g. lightwoods</p> <p>GSS as an example of consultation- plan-delivery</p> <p>Achievement of improvements and awards such as GFA help public to see they are delivering</p> <p>WWCT is a partner organisation successfully delivering common goals</p>

3.2 Exercise 2, 3 and 4

Attendees were asked in groups to carry out a prioritisation exercise for categories of service in each of the areas of Maintenance, Management and Development. These three questions cover what we believe to be the 3 essential components of a green space service. For each of the 3 components participants were asked to rank 9 individual elements on a scale of 1 to five in terms of importance (with 5 being the highest importance).

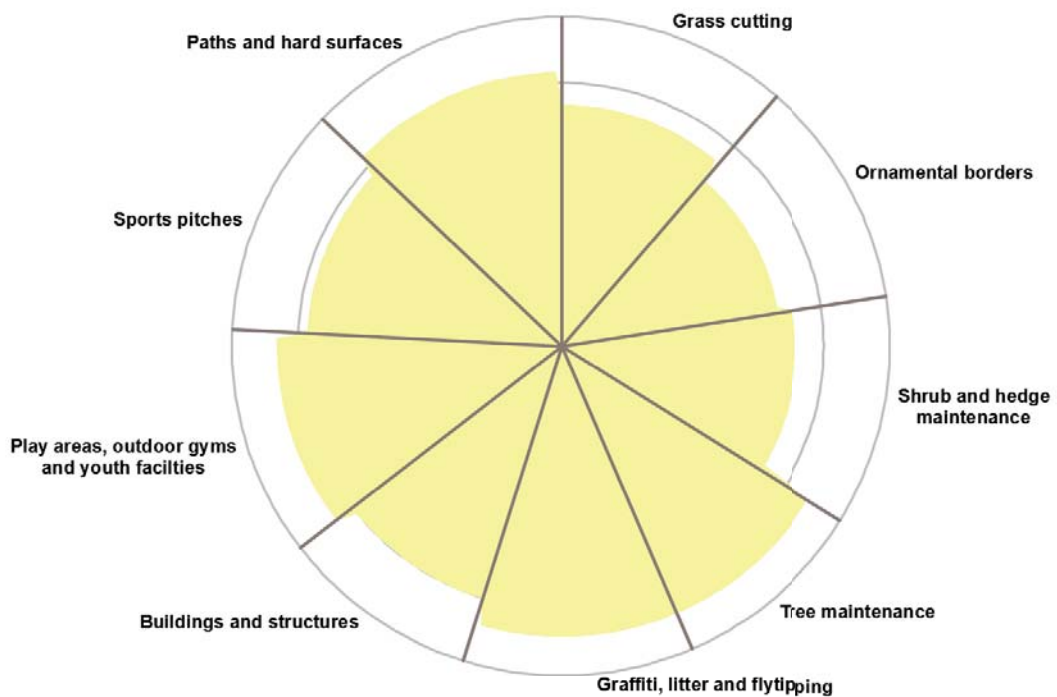
Maintenance	Management	Development
Grass cutting	Managing staff	Developing volunteering
Ornamental borders	Managing facilities	Developing activities and events
Shrub and hedge maintenance	Writing management plans	Marketing and promotion
Tree maintenance	Managing events	Education and interpretation work
Graffiti, litter and fly tipping	Managing Health and Safety	Fundraising
Buildings and structures	Financial management	Developing new projects
Play areas, gyms youth facilities	Monitoring maintenance standards	Developing community involvement
Sports pitches	Setting fees and charges	Making improvements for wildlife
Paths and hard surfaces	Managing site security	Developing partnerships

Individual score sheets were collected at the end of each exercise, the average score per category calculated, and the results inputted into a linked Excel and PowerPoint document, giving a visual and 'real time' summary in presentation format of the outcomes of the group exercises.

The collated group scores are shown below;

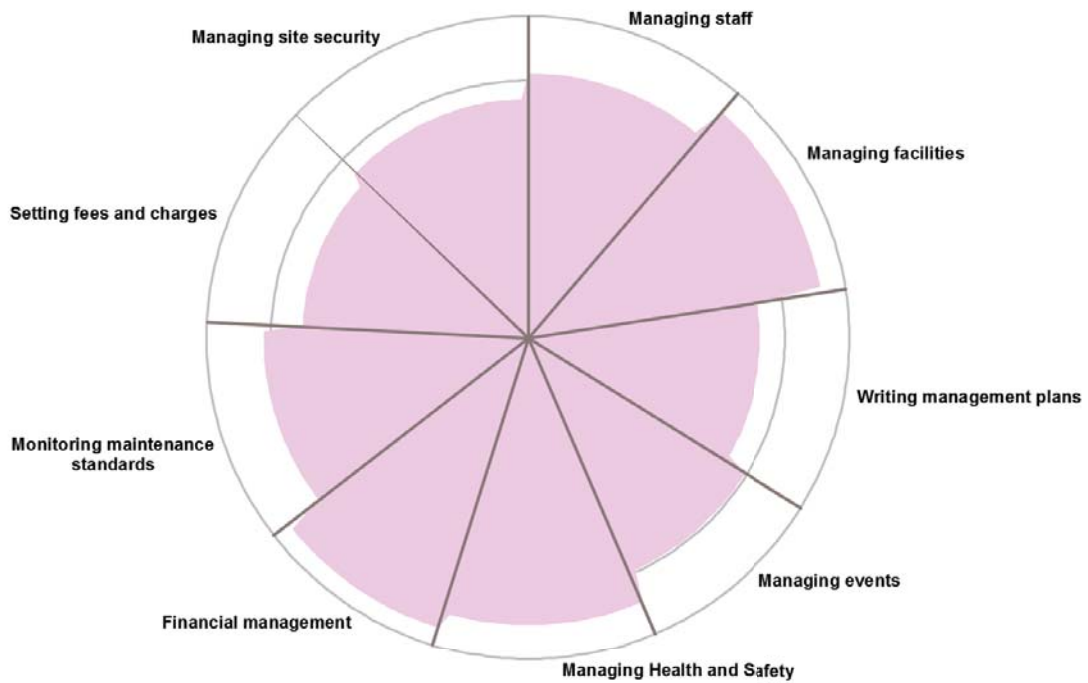
Maintenance

	Group 1	Group 2	Average	Rank
Graffiti, litter and fly tipping	4.3	4.5	4.4	=1
Tree maintenance	4.3	4.5	4.4	=1
Play areas, gyms youth facilities	4.3	4.3	4.3	3
Paths and hard surfaces	4.5	3.8	4.2	4
Buildings and structures	4	4	4.0	5
Sports pitches	3.7	4	3.9	6
Grass cutting	3.8	3.5	3.7	7
Shrub and hedge maintenance	3.3	3.8	3.6	8
Ornamental borders	2.8	3.8	3.3	9



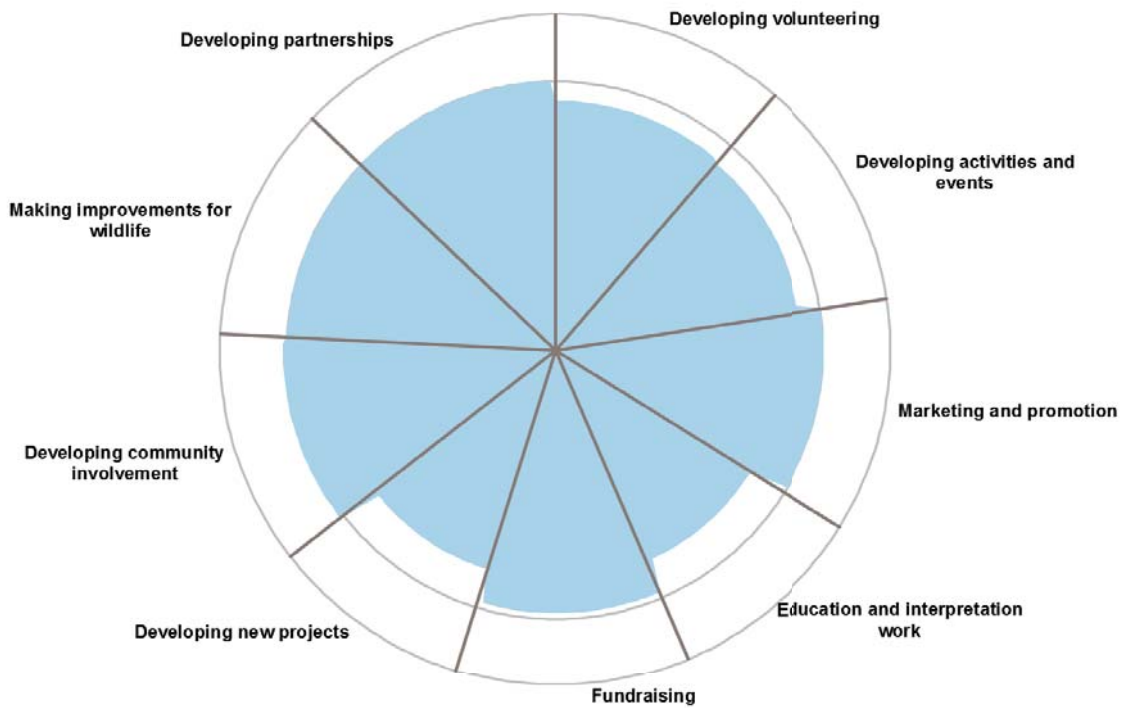
Management

	Group 1	Group 2	Average	Rank
Financial management	5.3	4.1	4.7	1
Managing facilities	4.7	4.5	4.6	2
Managing Health and Safety	4.4	4.5	4.5	3
Managing staff	4.1	4.1	4.1	=4
Monitoring maintenance standards	4.1	4.1	4.1	=4
Managing events	3.9	4	4.0	6
Managing site security	4.1	3.3	3.7	7
Writing management plans	3.6	3.6	3.6	8
Setting fees and charges	3.7	3.3	3.5	9



Development

	Group 1	Group 2	Average	Rank
Developing community involvement	4	4.1	4.1	1
Developing partnerships	3.9	4.1	4.0	=2
Making improvements for wildlife	3.9	4.1	4.0	=2
Marketing and promotion	4.1	3.9	4.0	=2
Fundraising	4	3.8	3.9	5
Developing activities and events	3.7	3.6	3.7	=6
Developing volunteering	3.6	3.8	3.7	=6
Developing new projects	3.3	3.5	3.4	=8
Education and interpretation work	3.3	3.5	3.4	=8



Overall

Across the three areas of management, maintenance and development the most significant or important functions were considered to be:

Function	Theme	Score
Financial management	Management	4.7
Managing facilities	Management	4.6
Managing Health and Safety	Management	4.5
Graffiti, litter and fly tipping	Maintenance	4.4
Tree maintenance	Maintenance	4.4
Play areas, gyms youth facilities	Maintenance	4.3
Paths and hard surfaces	Maintenance	4.2
Developing community involvement	Development	4.1
Managing staff	Management	4.1
Monitoring maintenance standards	Management	4.1
Developing partnerships	Development	4.0
Making improvements for wildlife	Development	4.0
Marketing and promotion	Development	4.0
Buildings and structures	Maintenance	4.0
Managing events	Management	4.0

The table shows 15 of the functions scored 4.0 or higher out of a total of 27. Of which 6 functions were classified as management, 5 as maintenance and four as development

Financial management scored the highest of the 27 functions, reflecting the comments made in earlier exercises about the need for adequate revenue resources to maintain sites, facilities and ensure public safety. Other comments echoed the lack of revenue to maintain the capital invest that the authority had delivered to create new play spaces, outdoor gyms and to sustain site wide investment programmes, often through HLF or other external funding and to sustain the Green Flag Award winning spaces. Emphasis was also placed on generating greater income through green space assets.

Managing facilities was the second highest and there was discussion about the need to provide good quality facilities to attract residents and visitors and to ensure that spaces are well used and well valued. Works to ensure health and safety of visitors (and staff) and delivering basic standards of maintenance (dealing with graffiti, litter and fly tipping) and dealing with tree safety were all high priorities. Similarly, maintenance of play areas and infrastructure also featured highly.

The people side, through managing staff, community involvement and developing partnerships was also highlighted as a priority albeit slightly lower than the functions discussed above.

3.3 Exercise 5

Group 1

Issues	Solutions
Lack of funding for maintenance	
Budgets are based on 1980s rates and even with some allowance for inflation are outdated.	More sustainable / stable funding
Any income generated is not invested back into the service. A statement was made that that the service is penalised for generating income by having the target incomes increased in line with what is generated for the following years and there is no option to reduce this target even if the income stream dries up.	
No ring fencing of budgets	There are greater opportunities for income generation but there needs to be an incentive / benefit for the service.
Reduced staffing levels	
Management functions relating to green spaces is spread across too many services areas	Green Flag is a priority for the Council – target to achieve 9 which has been achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnford Park • Brunswick Park • Dartmouth Park • Haden Hill • Sandwell Valley • Sandwell Valley Crematorium • Tipton Cemetery • Victoria Park Tipton • Victoria Park Smethwick
Fractured service delivery leads to poor quality spaces (some spaces held by Strategic Assets and are not maintained)	
3 Cabinet Members have responsibility for green space services	Appoint a green space champion
Bin and waste contract with Serco covers a relatively small number of parks and green spaces but not countryside sites	
A 'green budget' was created to pool financial resources but this only covered grounds maintenance not infrastructure. This budget	

Issues	Solutions
has been subjected to cuts over any years but the workload expected hasn't reduced (i.e. they are still trying to maintain the same number of sites to the same criteria)	
There are surplus facilities / buildings but disposing of them is difficult and time consuming. Means savings are not realised.	
There is no planned maintenance for buildings and infrastructure and services offered by others are perceived to be expensive and not responsive.	
Low staff morale	Good levels of local knowledge
Political involvement in decision making (often at micro level) leads to instability and difficulty in setting a strategic direction	Friends groups can be effective at raising the profile of green spaces and lobbying but this is often in competition with one another.
Frequent change in leadership at elected member and senior management level leads to a lack of strategic direction	
Lack of decision making on key issues	
Lack of understanding about green spaces among senior management	
Tree inspections now need to be increased to every 2 year in order to comply with recent ruling in High Courts. No additional resources to achieve this.	
Play equipment and infrastructure is coming to an end of its life, there is no money to replace and resistance from communities and politicians to accept removal (needed to ensure safety).	
Loss of park warden service means parks and no longer locked / unlocked, increase in vandalism and lower safety standards. Play inspections still need to be carried out.	
Increased vandalism and a perception of falling levels of visitor satisfaction.	

Group 2

Issues	Solutions
Council is at risk of real reputation damage regarding green spaces- issues at Londonderry Playing Fields and Lion Farm Playing Fields	Need a GSS which is honest about current level of resource and only has actions that are attributed clearly and agreed upon

Issues	Solutions
Biodiversity loss- allowing development with mitigation measures that are not of equivalent value	The strategy should map everyone who has a stake in green spaces across the council
Structure of department and place within the council makes it hard to promote parks, previously in leisure services grouping now under commercial services.	Discover Sandwell website engaging more with what parks have to offer
Poor marketing and promotion of parks and hard to access support in council- park events not on discover Sandwell website	Need strategy to have a strong shopping list element which can attract CIL which has green space as a possible area for spend, especially where green space is lost to development
Political/ strategic focus is not on green space or on environment poor broadly and this is reflected in 10 ambitions and in decision making	The strategy should recommend guidance is developed around mitigation measures e.g. tree loss, where trees are felled what is a suitable replacement
Need to engage with people about parks but they don't have resources in communications	Strategy must be fed upwards to influence head of service, councillors and other decision makers and grow political will
Public don't engage with importance of parks on strategic level to give them political clout just complain/ object when they see negative consequences	GSS should outline the requirement for new development to have ecological features, landscaping and green infrastructure so can be referenced by planning.
Giving park buildings over to trusts, community groups, concessions is the only way to go given budgetary constraints but this means it is hard ensure they have the desired outcomes for the community and can't manage things like events promotion.	
Should be considering the environmental impacts of park projects- surfaces and materials used	
The strategy should plan for increases in extreme weather events	
Difficulty of forming and delivering a strategy in times with uncertain resources and changing political priorities	

3.4 Exercise 6 - Options for Additional Funding

Group 1

Group one sorted the options into the following order (most important first)

1. More Commercial Use of Parks
2. Greater external funding form sources such as the national lottery
3. More funding form planning and local development e.g. contributions form new housing
4. More sponsorship of parks by businesses e.g. planting areas and facilities
5. Greater fundraising by local communities and park user groups
6. Increased charges for using park facilities e.g. tennis courts / car parks

Generally, it was felt that there was considerable opportunity to use parks and green spaces to generate more income. However, during the earlier exercises it was noted that income was not ring fenced within the service area(s). It was noted that SMBC had been successful with external funding particularly through the Heritage Lottery Fund (Haden Hill Park, Dartmouth Park, Lightwoods House, West Smethwick Park). Warley Woods Community Trust has also been successful accessing HLF funding. However, in earlier exercises it was noted that the Council had been successful with capital funding and has been able to sustain the sites in line with the funding requirements. However, due to the severe austerity cuts these resources are now limited.

There was a view that CiL funding had not delivered significant income for green spaces and the earlier s106 arrangements were considered to be more successful. It was suggested that forthcoming changes to planning legislation may allow greater pooling of developer contributions.

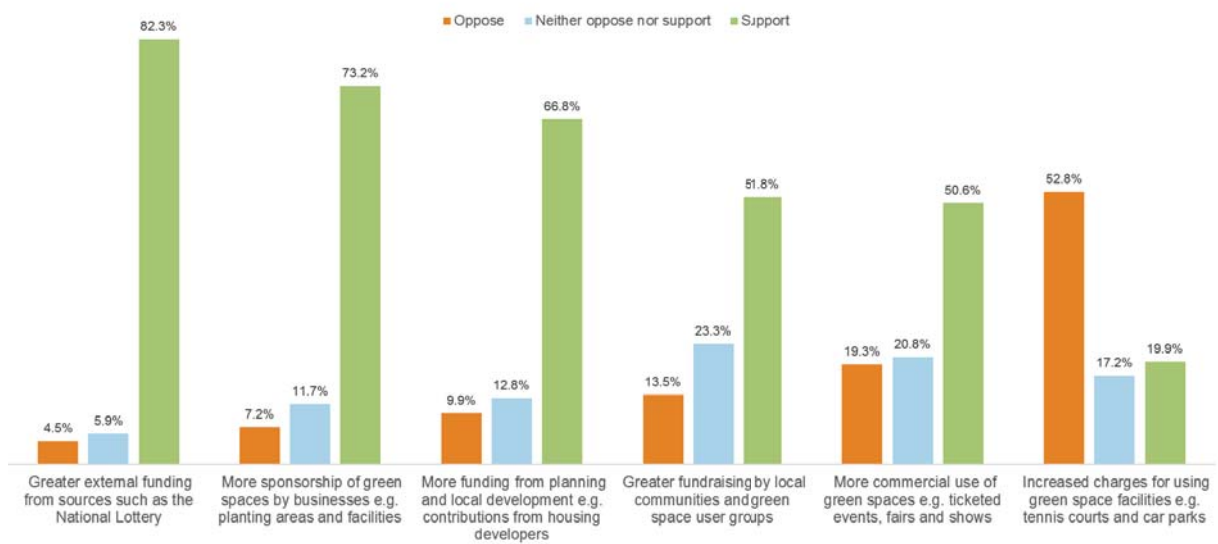
Fundraising by local community groups and friends group was considered to be important in that it helped generate a sense of ownership and allowed community group to run their own projects and the secure additional resources but in terms of the bigger picture, the amounts involved were relatively minor. Increasing fees and charges was considered to be an option of last resort since this approach tended to elicit protests form user groups and potentially alienate an existing audience whilst not generating significant amounts of income.

Group 2 did not prioritise the options in a specific order, but classified them as being of higher / lower importance.

Higher : Planning funding and External Funding popular

Lower : Charges unpopular, fundraising from local groups difficult.

The findings from the State of UK Parks (2016) research was included in the presentation at the start of the session and the slide image is shown below.



Appendix A

Copy of Presentation

(NB the data presented in the presentation is for information purposes only and represents early draft analysis and is subject to review and further change in the final strategy)



Sandwell Green Space Audit & Strategy

Steering Group

10 January 2019



Agenda



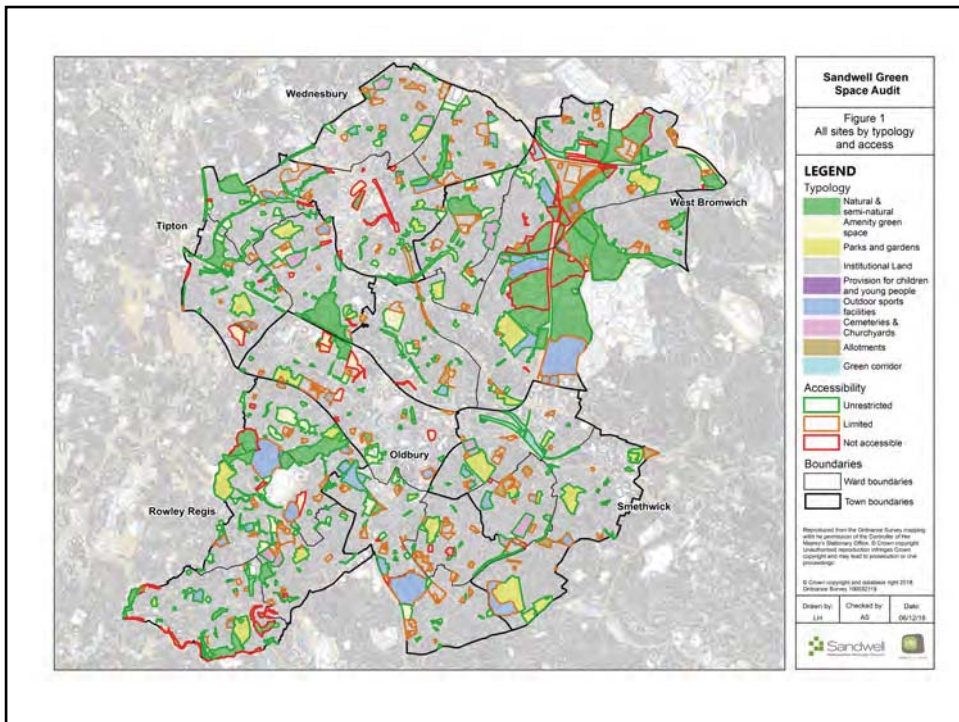
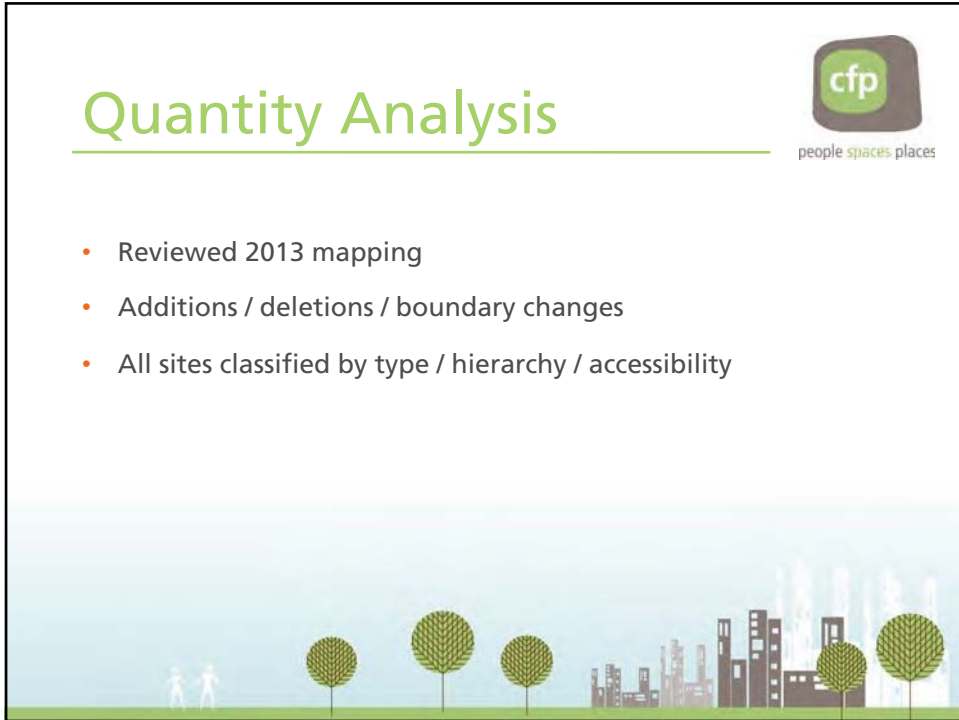
- Update on work to date
- Sandwell Vision 2030
- Priorities for Management
- Priorities for Maintenance
- Priorities for Development
- Issues & Solutions
- Resourcing the Strategy
- Summary & close

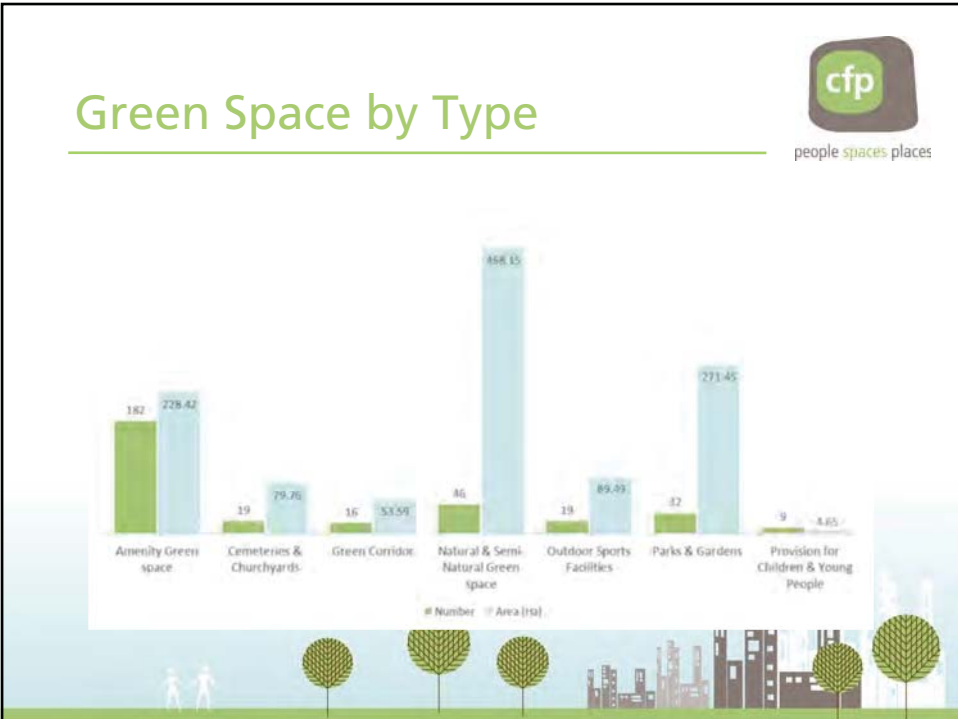
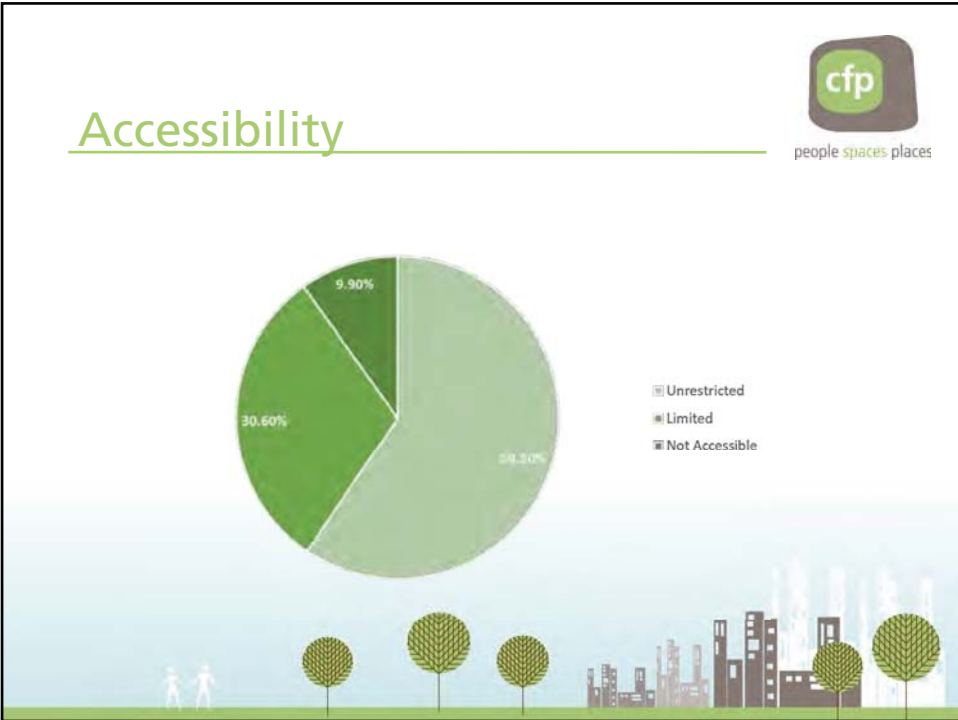


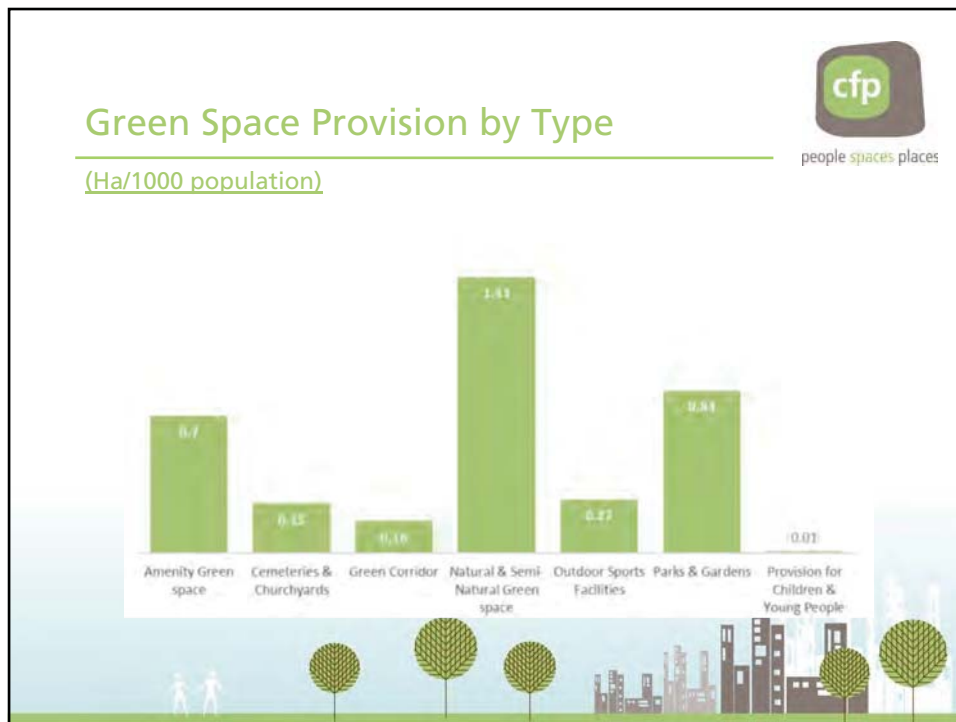
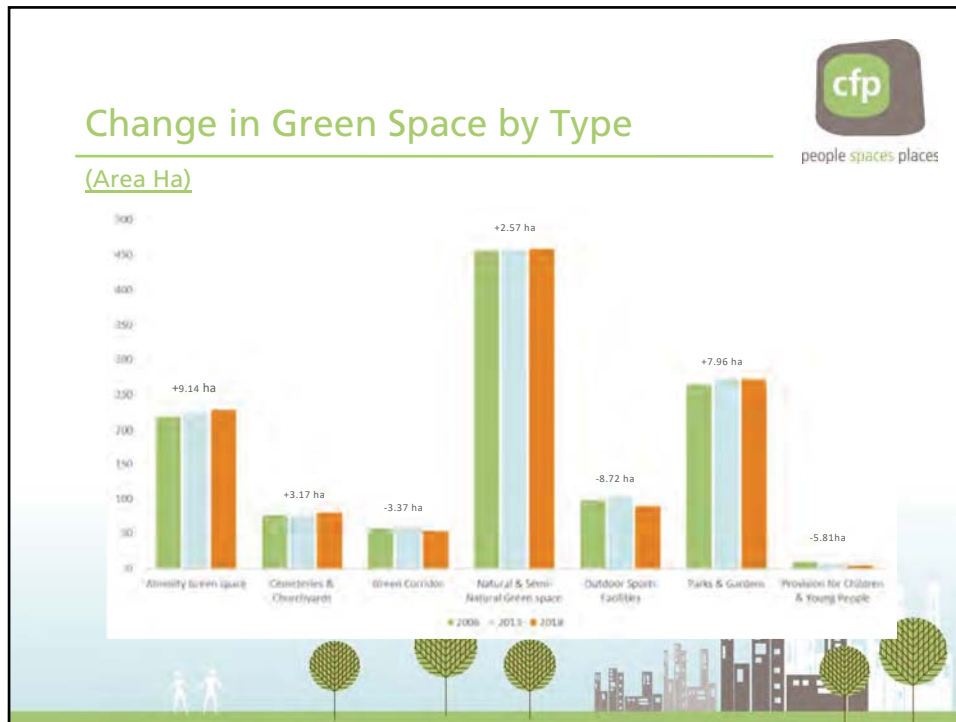
Quantity Analysis

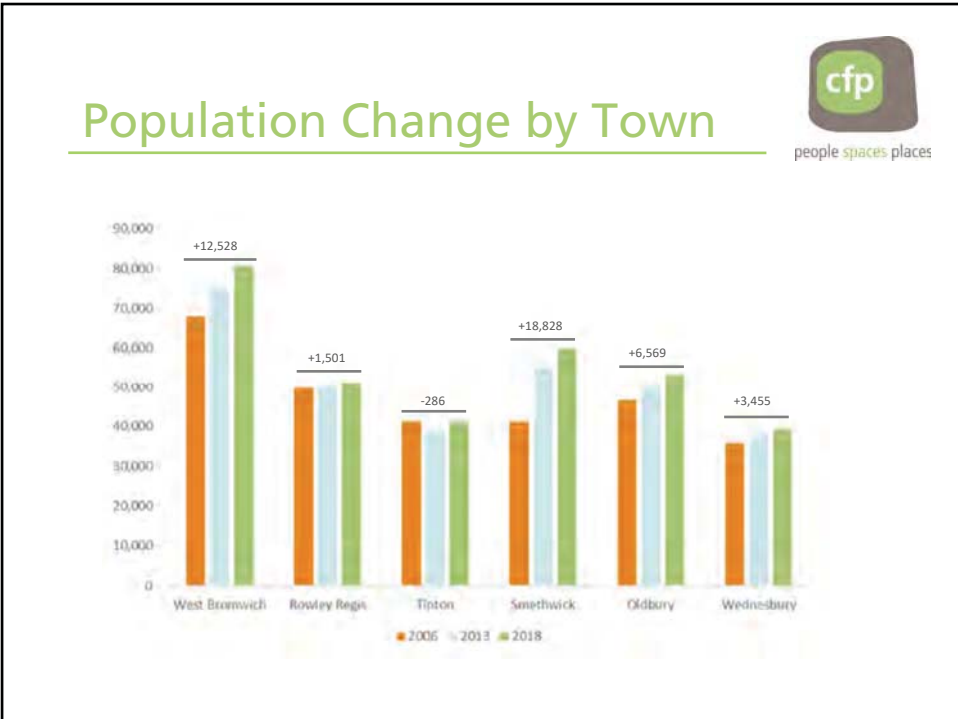
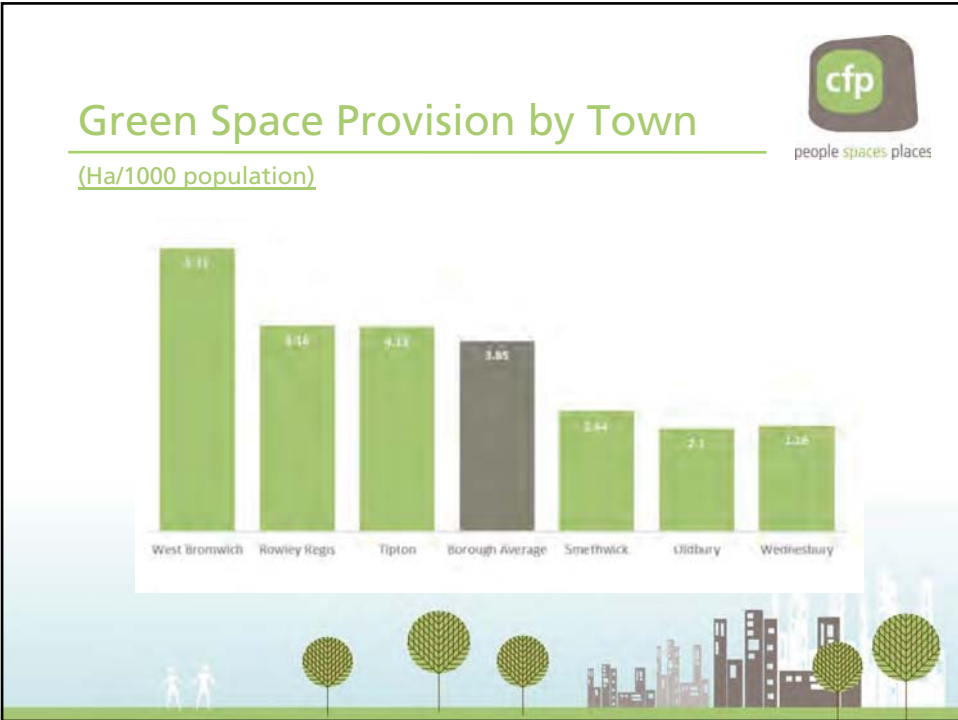


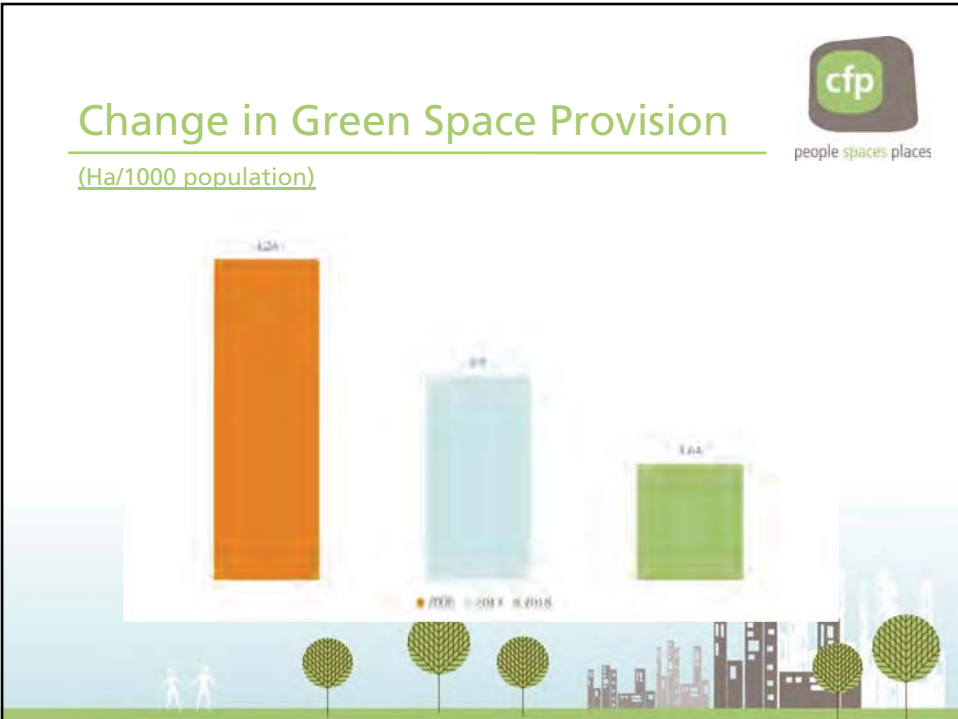
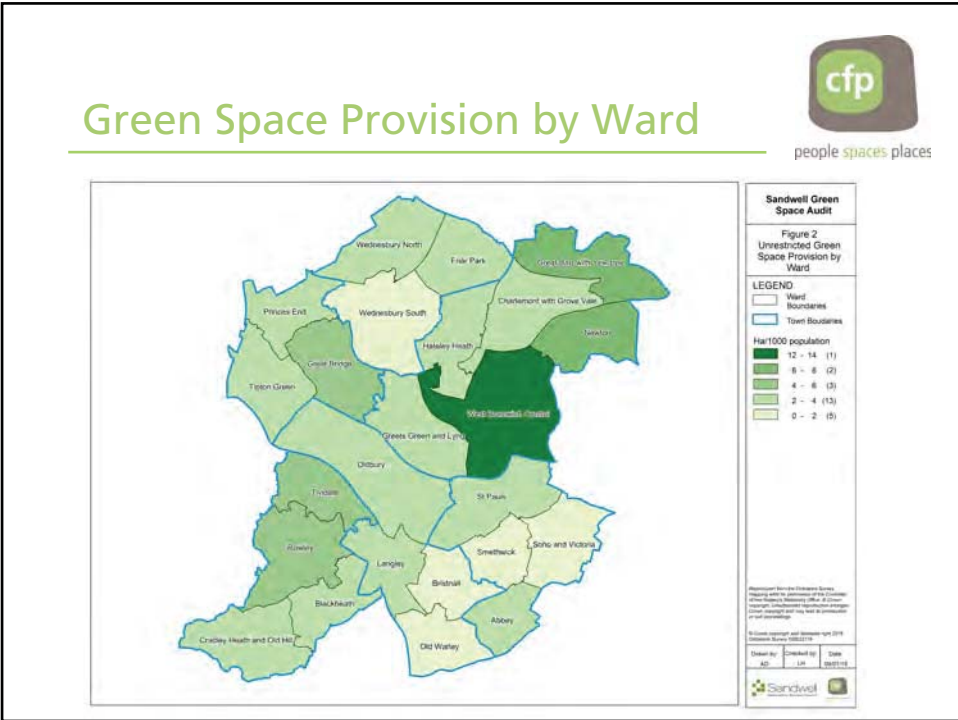
- Reviewed 2013 mapping
- Additions / deletions / boundary changes
- All sites classified by type / hierarchy / accessibility











Quality Assessment



Quality assessment based upon the Green Flag Award criteria

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management



Quality Assessment



- 220 spaces visited
- 210 spaces assessed – other not accessible

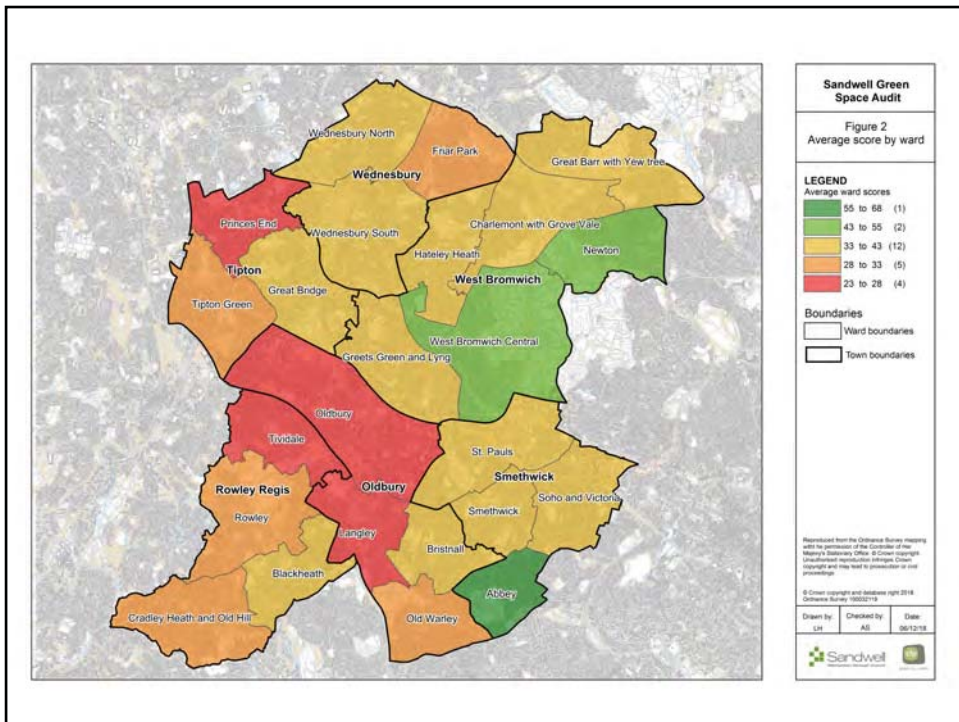
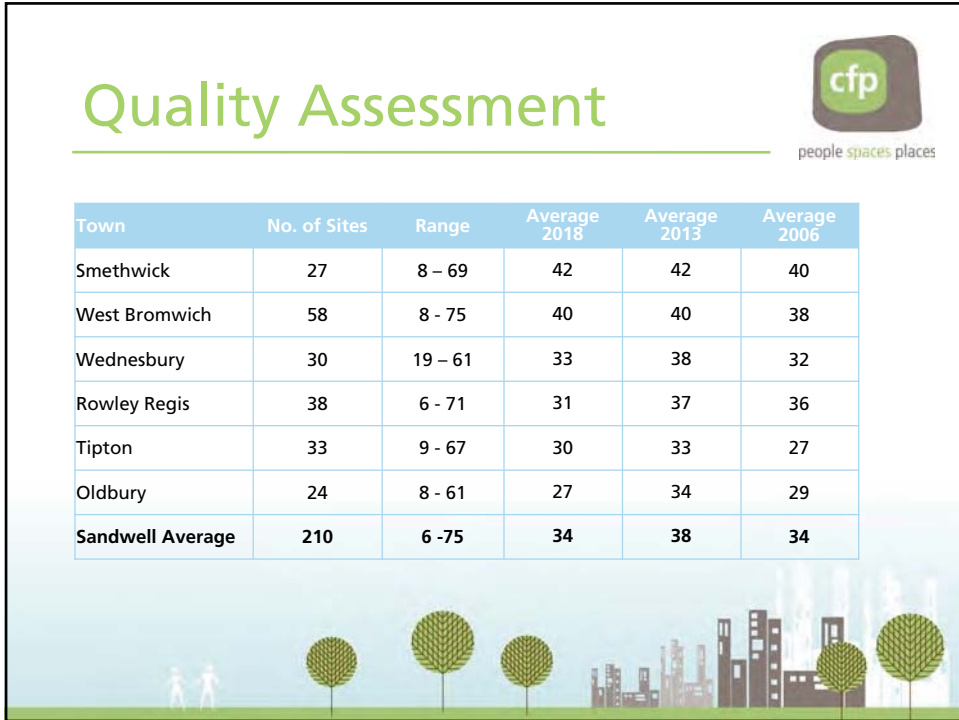


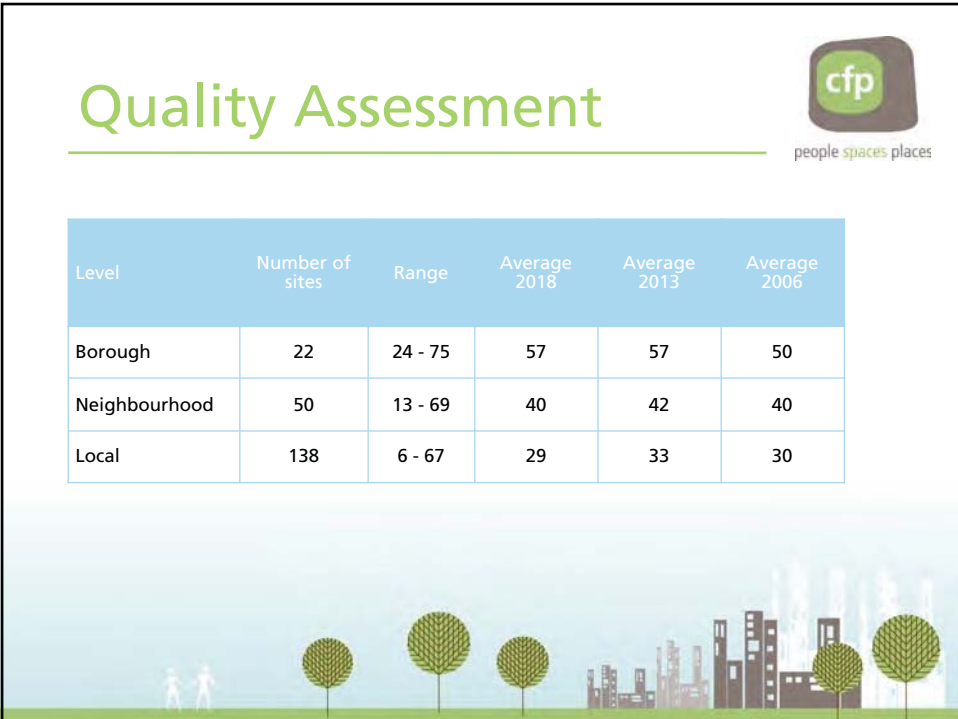
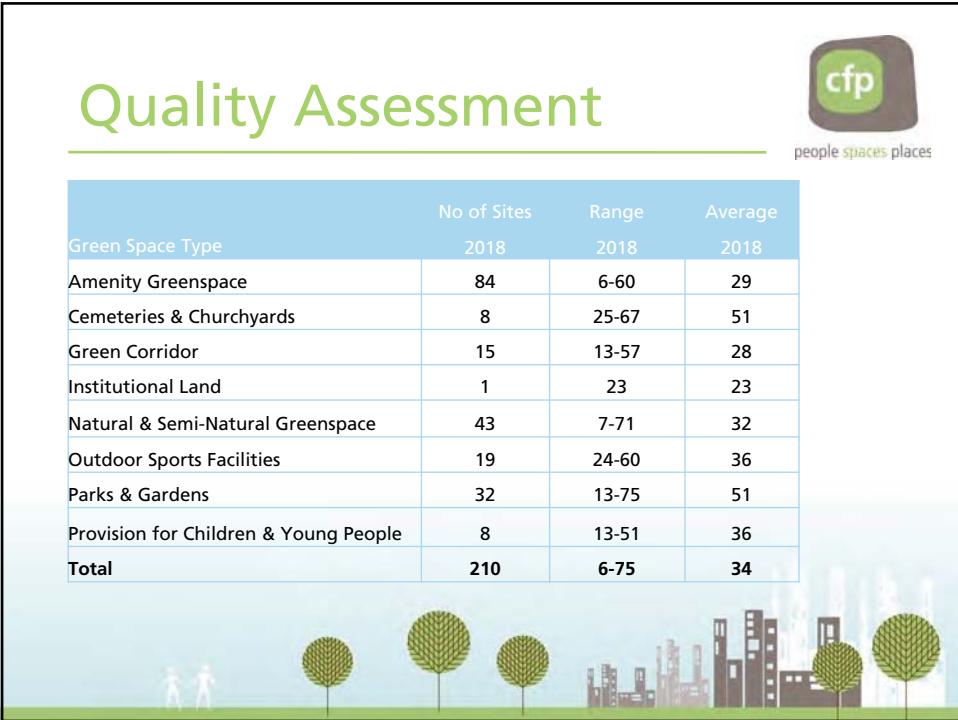
Quality Assessment



people spaces places

Town	No. of Sites	Range	Average 2018	Average 2013	Average 2006
Smethwick	27	8 – 69	42	42	40
West Bromwich	58	8 - 75	40	40	38
Wednesbury	30	19 – 61	33	38	32
Rowley Regis	38	6 - 71	31	37	36
Tipton	33	9 - 67	30	33	27
Oldbury	24	8 - 61	27	34	29
Sandwell Average	210	6 -75	34	38	34

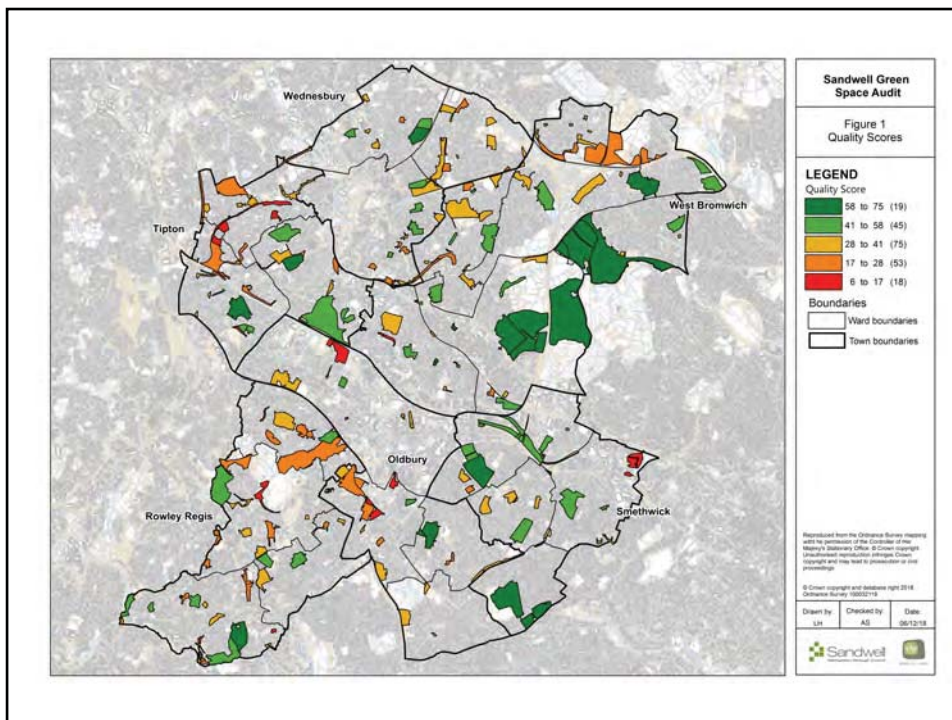
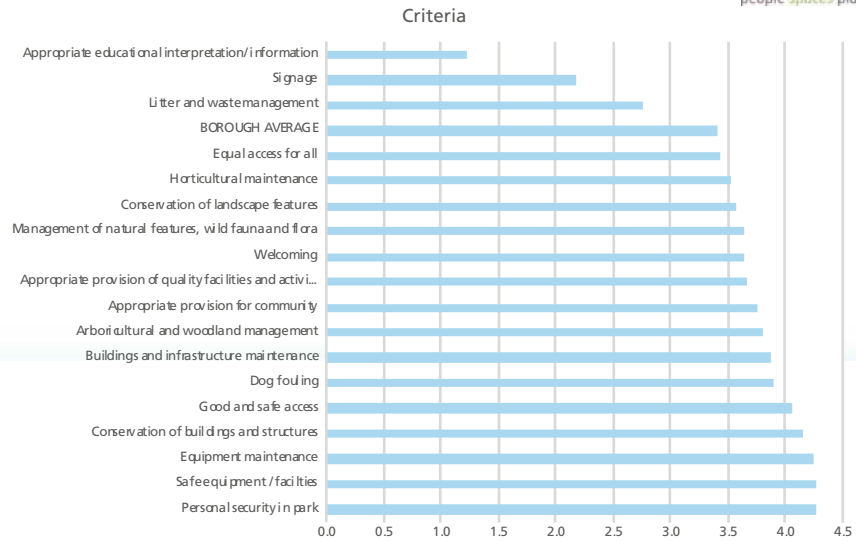




Quality Assessment



people spaces places





Consultation Strategy

- Household Survey
- Community Group / User Group Survey
- Stakeholder Workshops
- Consultation with CYP
- Consultation on Draft Strategy



Consultation Strategy

Stakeholder Workshops (Feb – Mar 19)

- Staff & Partner Organisations
- Biodiversity & Countryside
- Income generation and funding
- Friends Forum & Community Groups (Drop-in)
- Health & Wellbeing



1 – Sandwell Vision 2030



people spaces places



In 2030, Sandwell is a thriving, optimistic and resilient community.

It's where we call home and where we're proud to belong - where we choose to bring up our families, where we feel safe and cared for, enjoying good health, rewarding work, feeling connected and valued in our neighbourhoods and communities, confident in the future, and benefiting fully from a revitalised West Midlands.

- 10 Ambitions – Identify Links and opportunities

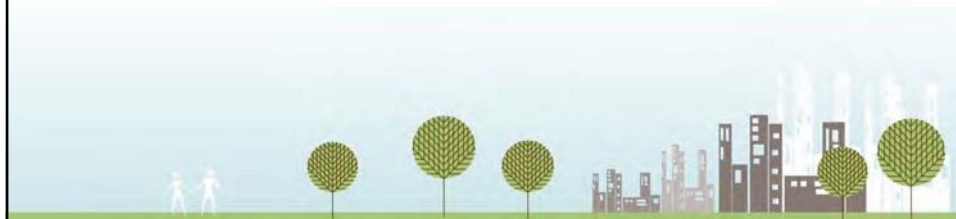
2/3/4 - Priorities



people spaces places

Strategy Priorities

- Management
- Maintenance
- Development

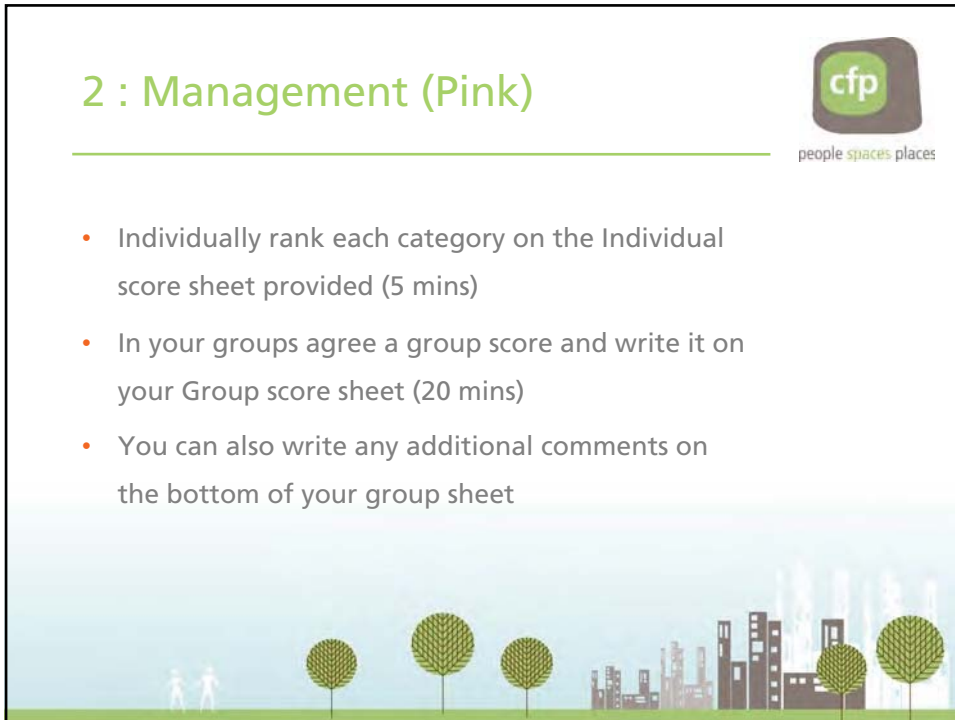


2 : Management (Pink)



people spaces places

- Individually rank each category on the Individual score sheet provided (5 mins)
- In your groups agree a group score and write it on your Group score sheet (20 mins)
- You can also write any additional comments on the bottom of your group sheet

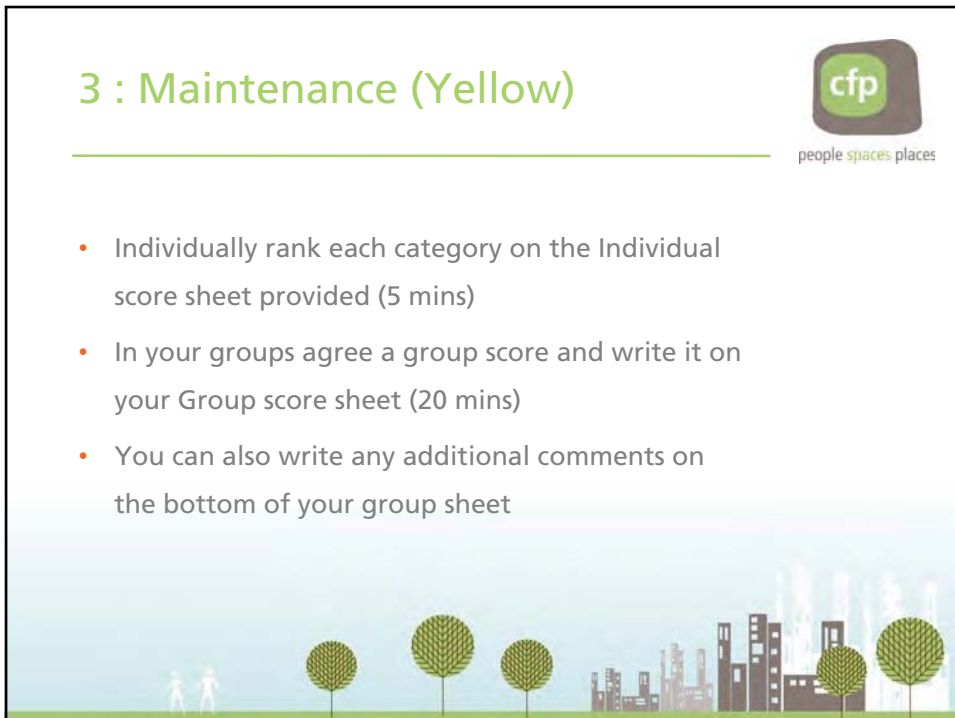


3 : Maintenance (Yellow)



people spaces places

- Individually rank each category on the Individual score sheet provided (5 mins)
- In your groups agree a group score and write it on your Group score sheet (20 mins)
- You can also write any additional comments on the bottom of your group sheet

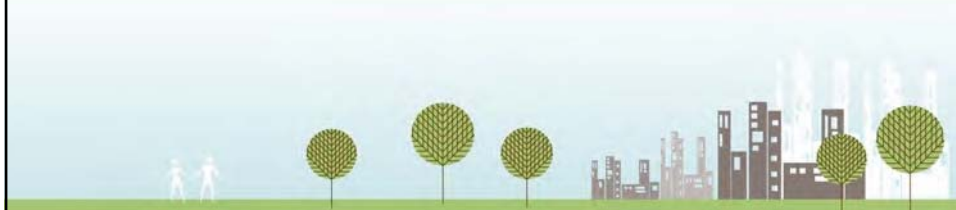


4 : Development (Blue)



people spaces places

- Individually rank each category on the Individual score sheet provided (5 mins)
- In your groups agree a group score and write it on your Group score sheet (20 mins)
- You can also write any additional comments on the bottom of your group sheet



Priorities - Scoring



people spaces places

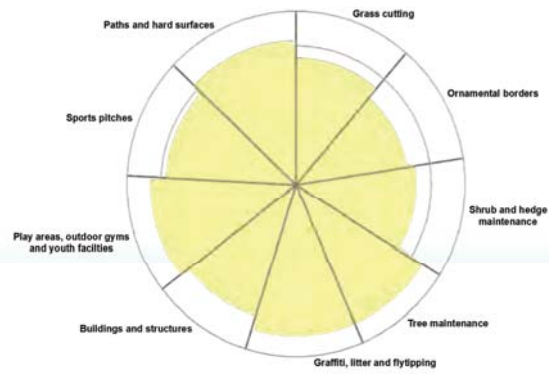
Management



Priorities - Scoring



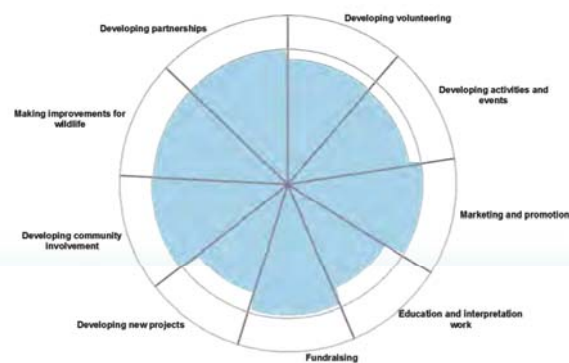
Maintenance



Priorities - Scoring



Development

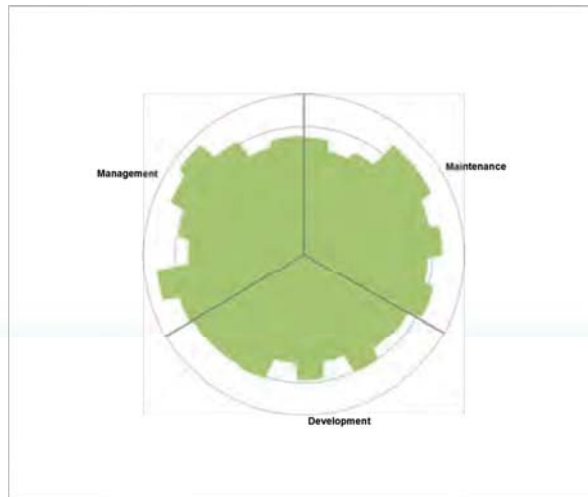


Priorities - Scoring



people spaces places

Overall



5 : Issues & Solutions



people spaces places

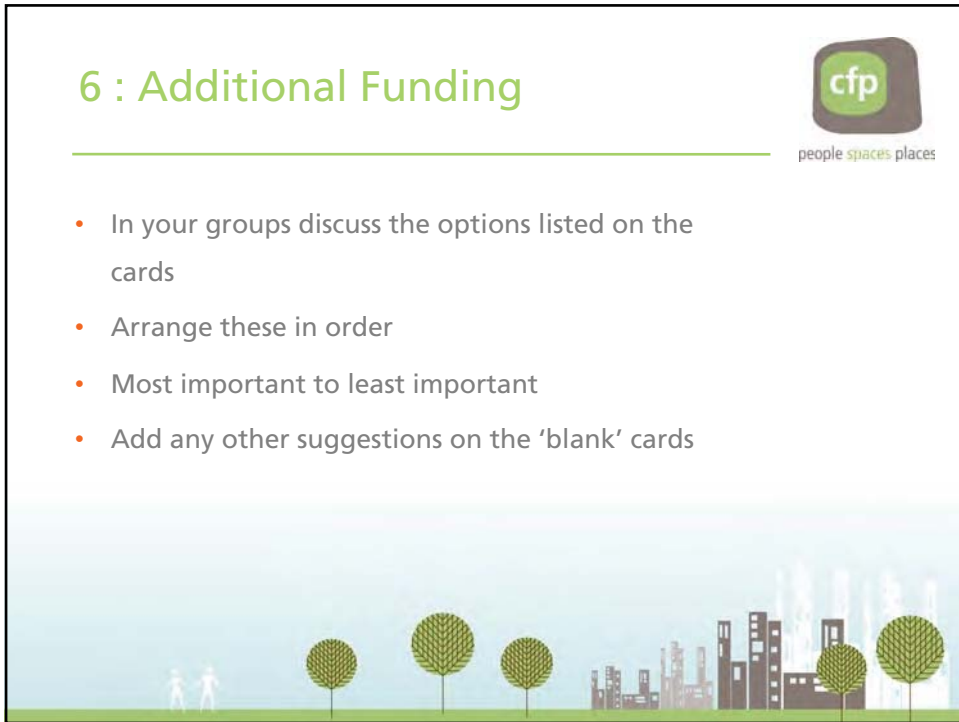
- In your groups identify key issues that the strategy should include / address
- 1 issue per sticky note
- Identify any potential solutions – 1 per stick note
- Group under heading Management / Maintenance / Development



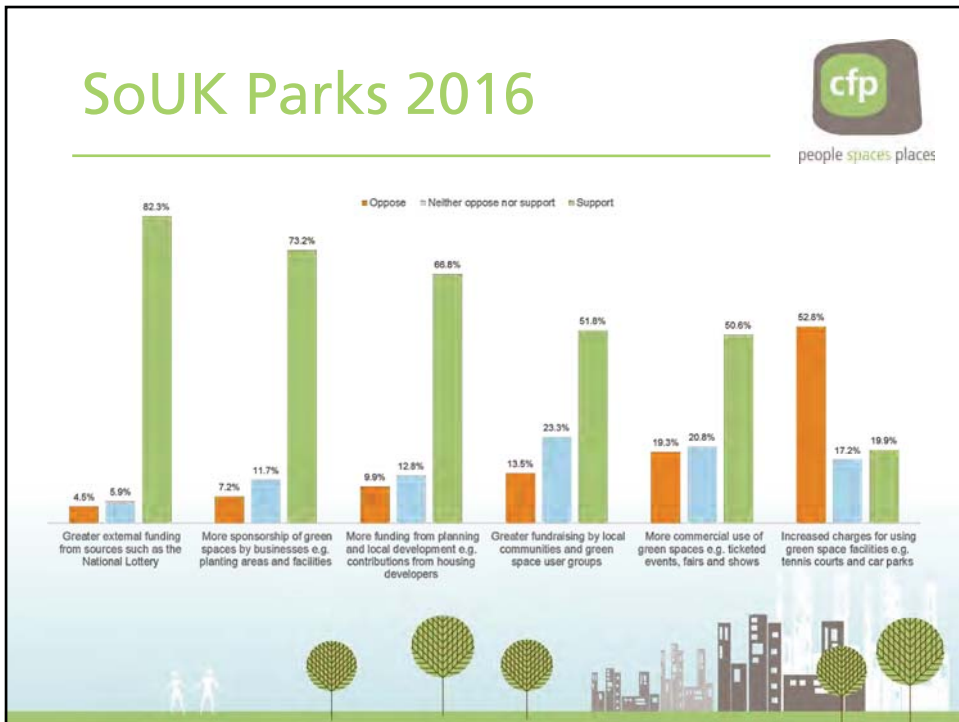
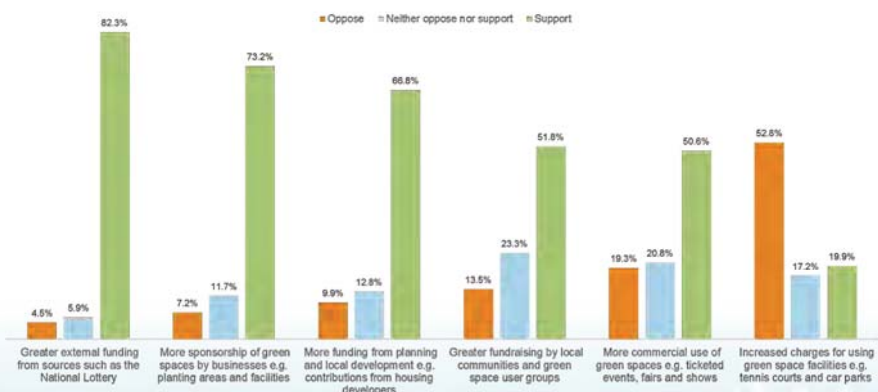
6 : Additional Funding



- In your groups discuss the options listed on the cards
- Arrange these in order
- Most important to least important
- Add any other suggestions on the 'blank' cards



SoUK Parks 2016



Summary



- Summary of work to date
- Sandwell Vision 2030
- Priorities for M / M / D
- Issues & Solutions
- Additional Funding



Next Steps



- Further workshops
- Community Drop-in session – 28/02/19
- Green Space Audit – April 2019
- Green Space Strategy (draft) - May 2019



Appendix H
Workshop Reports: Biodiversity



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Biodiversity and Countryside Workshop Report

Issue number: 2

Status: FINAL

Date: 06 March 2019

Prepared by: EK / AS

Authorised by: Adrian Spray

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Biodiversity and Countryside Workshops Report

Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
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2.1	Exercise 1	3
2.2	Exercise 2	5
2.3	Exercise 3	7
2.4	Exercise 6	8

Appendix A – Copy of Presentation

1 Introduction

As part of the development of the development of the Sandwell Green Space Strategy a workshop was held with staff and partners with a biodiversity, countryside and natural environment focus.

This report is a record of the workshop event and the discussion and comments made by participants. As such the comments will inform the future strategy, but they do not necessarily reflect Sandwell Council's current and future position.

Date / time & location	7 February 2019 12.45am - 4pm Sandwell MBC staff and partners Venue: Sandwell Park Farm, Salters Lane, West Bromwich, B71 4BG
Content	Introductory presentation about works that has been carried out so far and then a series of exercises to explore the key issues, potential solutions and approaches that may be adopted through the Green Space Strategy.
Purpose	For attendees to gain an understanding of and inform the GSS.

2 Workshop Structure

There were 16 participants in attendance as well as facilitators from the Council and CFP. Officers represented the service areas of Parks Management, Sandwell Valley / Countryside, Planning and Historic Conservation, other representatives came from a variety of local Friends Groups, RSPB, the Wildlife Trust and the Canal and River Trust

The agenda for the session was as below.

Title	Description
Registration and coffee	Orientate participants
Introduction	Welcome and Introduction
Audit / Strategy Update	What it is and what we'd done so far. Focus on natural / semi-natural green space etc.
<u>Exercise 1</u>	Biodiversity & countryside in Sandwell – Value? Linked to the Sandwell Vision Functions? BAP species & habitats / Pollinator strategy / climate change adaptation / SUDs / health & wellbeing etc Future contribution? How is it managed?
<u>Exercise 2</u>	Green Corridors – extending the links? How can better networks of green corridors / GI be better developed in Sandwell Look at quantity analysis results Mapping – A1 plans
<u>Exercise 3</u>	New designations for SINCs & SLINCs New designations for LNRs How do we ensure that there is nature nearby? Look at shortage by Town / Ward
BREAK – check refreshments available	
<u>Exercise 4</u>	Issues
<u>Exercise 5</u>	Solutions
<u>Exercise 6</u>	Using an Impact – Implementation Matrix to Develop an action plan
Round up and Q&A	Summary Next steps and timescales

2.1 Exercise 1

Exercise 1 sought to draw out how green space contribute or could further contribute to the 10 ambitions of Sandwell Council. Attendees split into 2 groups to discuss this.

The table below shows each ambition and connections made to green spaces (combined results from 2 groups)

Number	Ambition	What Green Spaces can deliver
1	Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.	Children are given equal opportunities through access to space to play, take part in sports, learn and have fun. Consider links between deprivation and green space quality.
2	Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.	Better physical and mental health outcomes from getting outdoors. Health benefits of connection to nature. There is a wealth of evidence about the benefits of green space and mental / physical health.
3	Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.	Green spaces can provide accessible routes to education and learning.
4	Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.	Outdoor spaces can help people grow an understanding of nature which hopefully in turn will change their behaviour towards it. Green spaces can make an excellent learning environment.
5	Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.	Consider opportunities for gaining the views of Sandwell's diverse communities to inform the development of the strategy. West Bromwich New Square shopping centre has high footfall and would be a good venue for public consultation.
6	We have excellent and affordable public transport that connects us to all local centres and to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands.	Consider traffic free / active travel routes. Consider the opportunities to deliver the 'Green Bridge' route linking West Bromwich to Great Barr

Number	Ambition	What Green Spaces can deliver
7	We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes.	Link the strategy to the national 25 Year Environment Plan. Link to the Natural Capital Investment Strategy (Black Country). Historic Landscape Assessment is being undertaken across the BC.
8	Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.	There are many green spaces / landscapes (and buildings) in Sandwell of historical significance that contribute to local distinctiveness. The development control process is important in safeguarding and enhancing local character and distinctiveness (inc green spaces). Eco-record holds data about protected and priority species. The green space audit has good evidence and data to draw upon. Supplement with data from other sources.
9	Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.	The BC Core Strategy and Local Nature Partnership place emphasis on improving the image and attractiveness of the region.
10	Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.	The strategy will need high level commitment (officers and members) if it is to be successful. The strategy will need a political champion. There are a number of partner organisations that can help deliver the green space strategy (many are here today & there are others). There is a high degree of uncertainty looking to the future – ensure the strategy is reviewed at regular intervals.

Generally, both groups felt that the Sandwell Vision did not fully recognise the value of the natural environment. Many participants reflected that the ambitions were people centred and relatively short term which didn't express the importance of caring for biodiversity and countryside.

In terms of those policies or initiatives which were mentioned as being of relevance to the Green Space Strategy;

- Planning Policy- Sandwell is committed to opening up watercourses
- Sustainable Drainage which is promoted to developers to prevent flooding and enhance biodiversity but often see engineered solutions delivered instead
- Birmingham and the Black Country Nature Improvement Area
- Angling and Water Safety Policy
- Geopark application
- Black Country Urban Forest
- 25 Year Environment Plan
- Natural Capital Investment Strategy (currently draft)

2.2 Exercise 2

Attendees were asked in groups to discuss how better networks of green corridors can better developed in Sandwell in reference to A1 plans showing current greenspaces. Comments included;

- There is a site which is included in the Local Plan for development but a participant would like to see it kept as open space as the area has greened over and is well used by people from Oldbury and Tipton as a link to Sheepwash Nature Reserve. It was stated that this is a 'hazardous' waste pool and next to that a piece of land which has been owned by a developer for an extended period but has yet to be developed.
- Lion Farm Playing Fields - developers are seeking permission to develop into a shopping centre and this is currently being reviewed through the planning process.
- Titford Pools - is going to have a relatively small area of it given over to a sustainable urban drainage (SUDS) solution, and this land will be transferred to Highways England.
- Portway Hill Open Space (5011) is a recent Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) designation. The Rowley hills are fragmented with some areas in private ownership. The Wildlife Trust owns a small site, other areas are in public ownership. Some landowners have aspirations to develop the spaces and consequently Article 4 directions has been applied to remove permitted development rights.

- Green Bridge – West Bromwich to Great Barr – funding was sought through the Big Lottery Living Landmarks People’s Millions Programme (but was unsuccessful). The concept however is still considered to be viable.
- For CRT priority areas include Galton Valley (includes a project with the Gurdwara to create a community garden).

It was felt that the direction of travel with regard to developing joined up greenspace planning was not in the right direction. There are areas which are accessible and green and used by the public but they are not improved or protected from development.

It was felt there was a need to consider;

- Protecting and greening other corridors which could contribute including train lines, tram lines, canals, roads and hedgerow already in place. Some of this work should be done by others such as National Rail.
- Look at large gardens in older areas which often have mature trees and make a real contribution in this area (Hampstead, Hansford).
- Think about green / ecological networks not corridors as this is too linear looking at current configuration.
- Look at micro maps of different habitats and think about corridors for species i.e. where is the wet meadow for the water voles.

2.3 Exercise 3

The groups were asked to consider the need for new designations for wildlife sites and how we ensure that there is nature nearby for all.

The designations that the groups were asked to consider were:

- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

Comments included:

- There is a need to be selective in order to maintain significance. Designations should be used to protect the most important sites and the designations need to be defensible otherwise this potentially jeopardises or weakens the process.
- New designations might be needed in some areas but we are not getting the most out of those we have. We have very little in the way of a baseline of what diversity is where and when this information is available it is not then kept up to date. There is a need for review once sites are designated.
- LNR designation is the highest statutory designation that is likely to be achieved in Sandwell. LNR designation does offer protection and none of the current LNRs have been subject to development threat. This provides additional protection through planning policy.
- Politicians understand the value of having designated spaces.
- Some towns have no LNR and there are areas which must meet the standard including Allerton Court (Mill Pool, Rydding Lane?) and a site off Hyde Road (by River Tame in Wednesbury?)
- The sites we have are not being monitored and given drone technology etc there must be better ways to do this and to communicate change politically and to the public
- There are lots of sites which might be worthy of designation but they are not surveyed and when they come up for development the developer is asked to survey the site but these surveys aren't compared with the observations of other.
- Current SINC and SLINC are only revisited every 8 years and this is long enough for a site not being managed to deteriorate and lose a special feature such as an orchid field.

- It is the most isolated sites that are most at risk
- There is a site next to an existing reserve which the RSPB would like to manage and provide access to for the public as it is. The site is currently closed to the public until the Environment Agency has restored the site after previous industrial use. The restoration will remove features which have been embedded. Sandwell are going to go ahead with restoration then assess any income generation potential- which RSPB suspect there is little and after the restoration special features will be lost.
- There would need to be political will to care for current sites and to designated more otherwise there is little point.

2.4 Exercise 4

The groups were asked to identify issues which prevent greenspaces delivering the full range of benefits or which might prevent delivery of a successful GSS.

Comments included;

- Failure to engage young people over 10 with nature..
- Need to ensure that all communities are engaged in discussions about green space and developing the green space strategy.
- Lack of quality baseline and monitoring- how can we make informed decisions.
- It's hard to be strategic when we are unsure about funding and when funding pots available are tied to localities not spent on priorities overall.
- Lack of ownership and interest from the public.
- Reductions in funding.
- Little priority given to these issues organisationally/ politically- they are always an 'add-on'.
- Planning conditions mean sites are restored to former condition which can destroy emergent ecological and geological features.
- Services around maintenance are being privatised and which there is time pressure maintenance of areas is done in the quickest way to the detriment of biodiversity.
- Failure to access money from the Community Infrastructure Levy
- Failure to see the bigger picture- school expansions happening with sustainable development which can be an education resource and long term economically sound decision.
- Disparate funding streams

- Maintenance of the urban forest planting is needed
- The urban forest is important for carbon capture – consider the wider value of the environment
- Addressing fly tipping is costly
- How is quality to be maintained against a backdrop of budget reductions?
- Consider the design of green space
- Management and Maintenance Plans need to be updated
- Uncertainty about the future – Brexit and the impact on EU legislation and funding streams
- Better connectivity between new developments is needed
- The Council vision needs to recognise the value of the natural environment
- A political champion for green spaces is needed
- Asset transfer to local communities may increase ownership and bring benefits
- Involve all communities in discussions about green spaces.
- The diversity of the borough is not represented at this workshop
- Community participation is very important.
- Look at how financial planning can look beyond the short term
- Consider how green space issues are reported through Council Committee structures. Standing agenda items?
- Capital projects have been delivered successfully. But what about revenue funding for maintenance?

2.5 Exercise 5

The groups were asked to identify solutions which would help address the issues raised and support delivery of a successful GSS.

Comments included;

- An 11th Sandwell Ambition to champion green space and biodiversity
- Making the council aware it could be a leader in this area and that it can be something to be proud of
- Establishing a strong baseline for Sandwell sites so we know what we have- don't need to do this alone can collaborate with Nature Improvement Area and learn from others- this has been done in Warwickshire
- Ecological network have started to be identified by the NIA- identify areas where there might be cooperative land owners and incentivise action
- Drive promotion of green space facilities, volunteering and events on Discover Sandwell
- Get a political or other champion to drive forward this agenda
- Have a strategy which is specific about ambition for areas, say what you would like to see happen then look to find funding or partner
- Support Friends Groups with a network as they do in Birmingham and they will be able to deliver much more
- Engage the public to take action in their own gardens- have information at council sites and events
- Focus on small projects at small sites which are more likely to find sources of funding
- Take forward changes to maintenance which benefit biodiversity and are popular, wildflowers, mown paths etc
- Have simple and prominent interpretation about wildlife so everyone can understand
- Grown understanding and action with the public on greenspaces and political will will follow

2.6 Exercise 6

The group were asked to arrange their solutions onto an impact- implementation matrix as a form of action planning classifying each proposal by the scale of impact and the ease of implementation.

	IMPLEMENTATION		
IMPACT	Easy	Medium	Hard
High	Get a political or other champion to drive forward this agenda Staff to support volunteers	Political champions (officers & members) Create a single organisation to support volunteers	Ecological network have started to be identified by the NIA- identify areas where there might be cooperative land owners and incentivise action An 11th Sandwell Ambition to champion greenspace and biodiversity Support Friends Groups with a network as they do in Birmingham and they will be able to deliver much more Demonstrate the links between green space and the Sandwell Vision / Ambitions. Provide solutions for each Ambition (Sandwell Vision) More strategic allocation of funding
Medium	Health funding Evidence about community participation (value and scale) Wider promotion of volunteer opportunities	Drive promotion of green space facilities, volunteering and events on Discover Sandwell	
Low	Engage the public to take action in their own gardens- have information at council sites and events		Sponsorship and corporate giving.

Appendix A

Sandwell Vision

Our vision for Sandwell



VISION 2030 SANDWELL



In 2030, Sandwell is a thriving, optimistic and resilient community.

It's where we call home and where we're proud to belong - where we choose to bring up our families, where we feel safe and cared for, enjoying good health, rewarding work, feeling connected and valued in our neighbourhoods and communities, confident in the future, and benefiting fully from a revitalised West Midlands.



Ambition 1

Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.



Ambition 2

Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.



Ambition 3

Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.



Ambition 4

Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.



Ambition 5

Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.



Ambition 6

We have excellent and affordable public transport that connects us to all local centres and to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands.



Ambition 7

We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes.



Ambition 8

Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.



Ambition 9

Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.



Ambition 10

Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

Appendix B

Copy of Presentation

(NB the data presented in the presentation is for information purposes only and represents early draft analysis and is subject to review and further change in the final strategy)

Sandwell Green Space Audit & Strategy

Biodiversity & Countryside Workshop

07 February 2019



Agenda

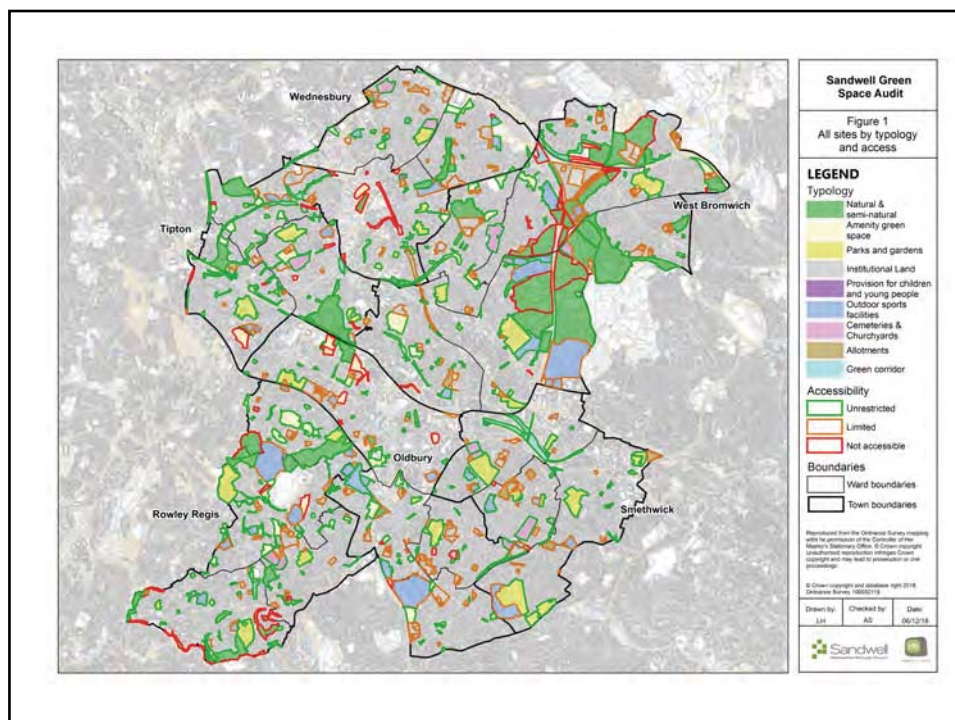
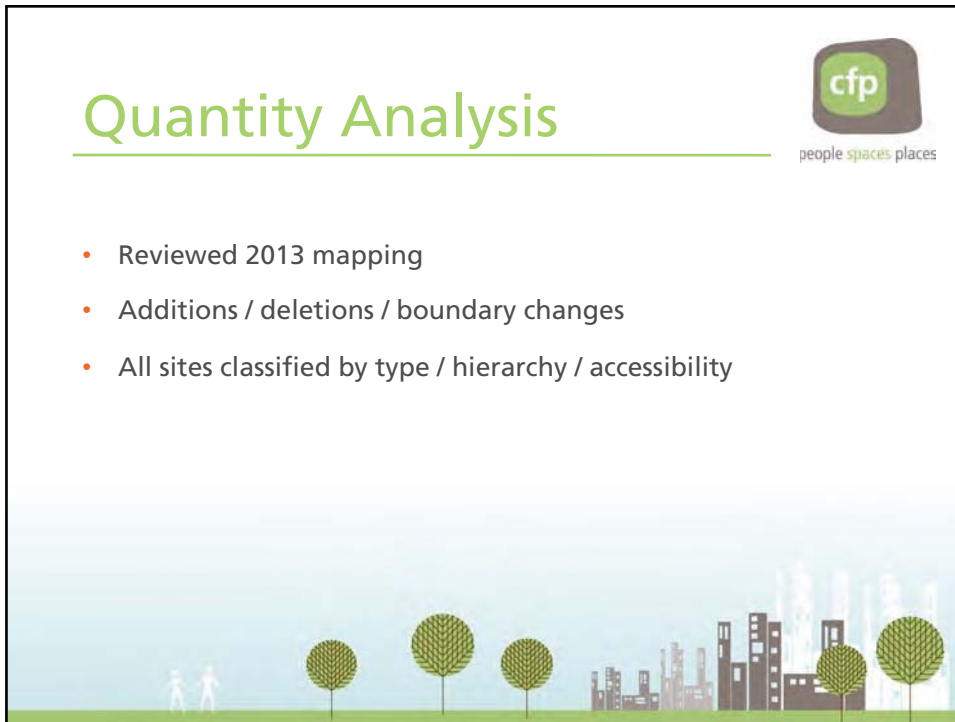
- Update on work to date
- Links to Sandwell Vision 2030
- Green Corridors
- SINC / SLINC / LNRs
- Issues & Solutions & Prioritisation
- Summary & close

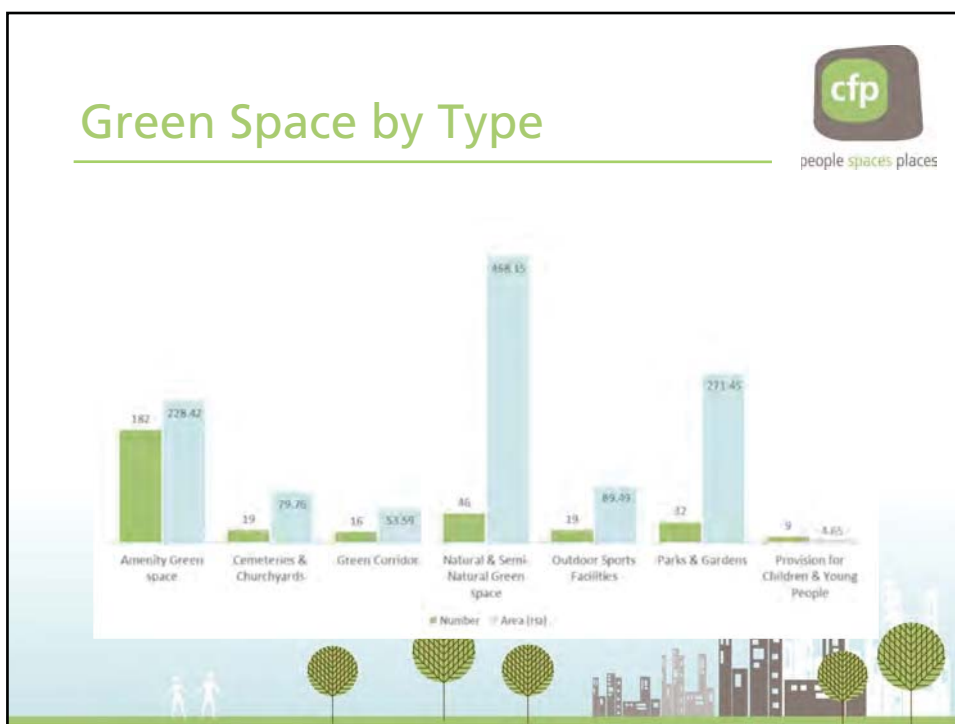
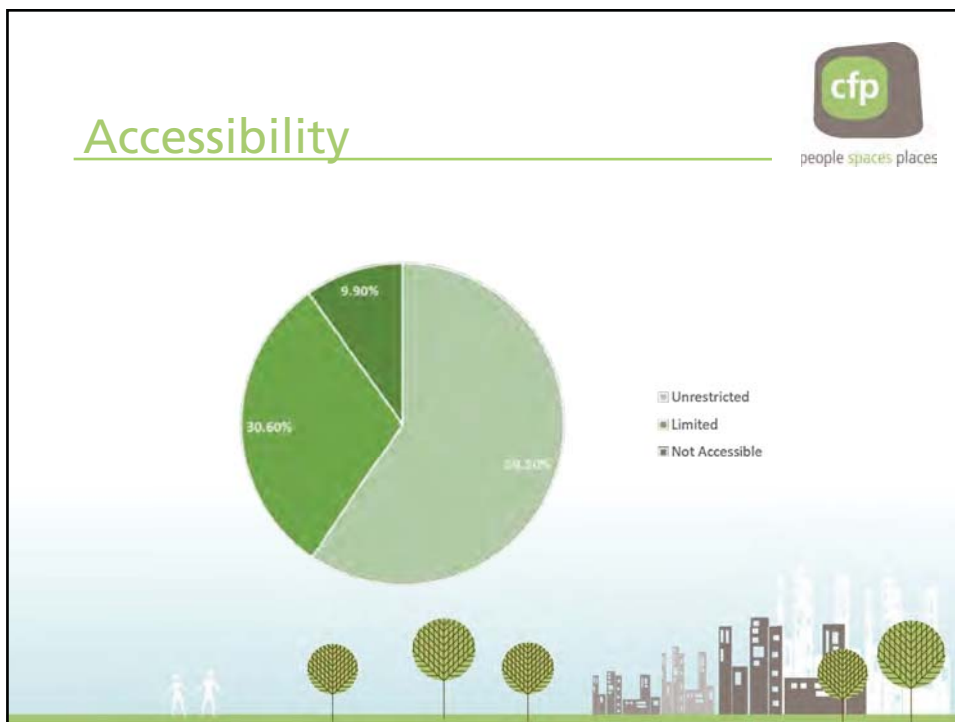


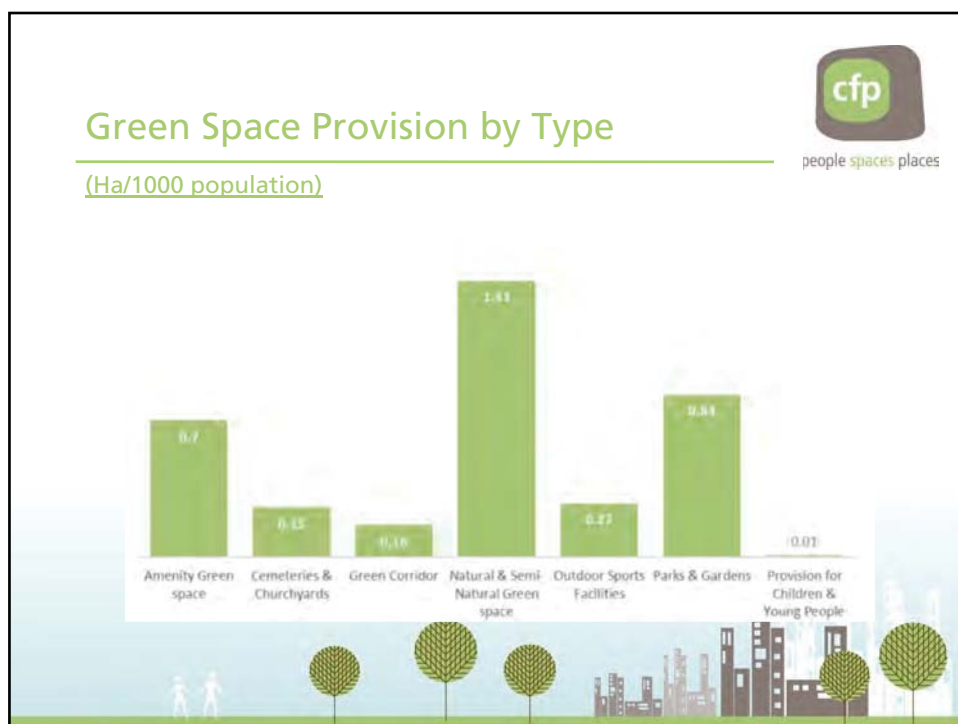
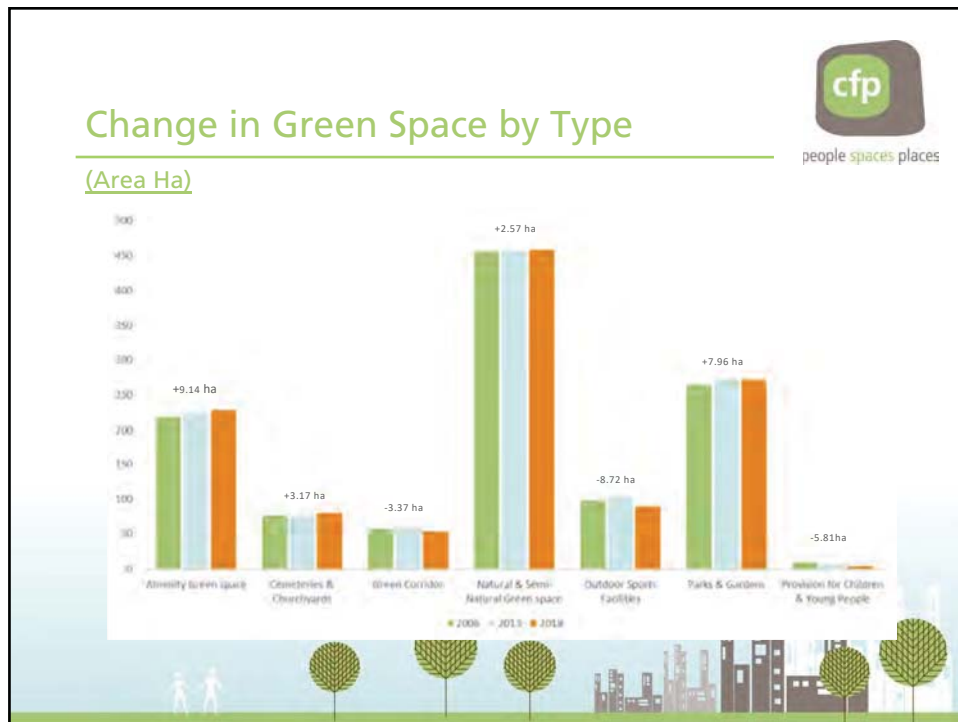
Quantity Analysis

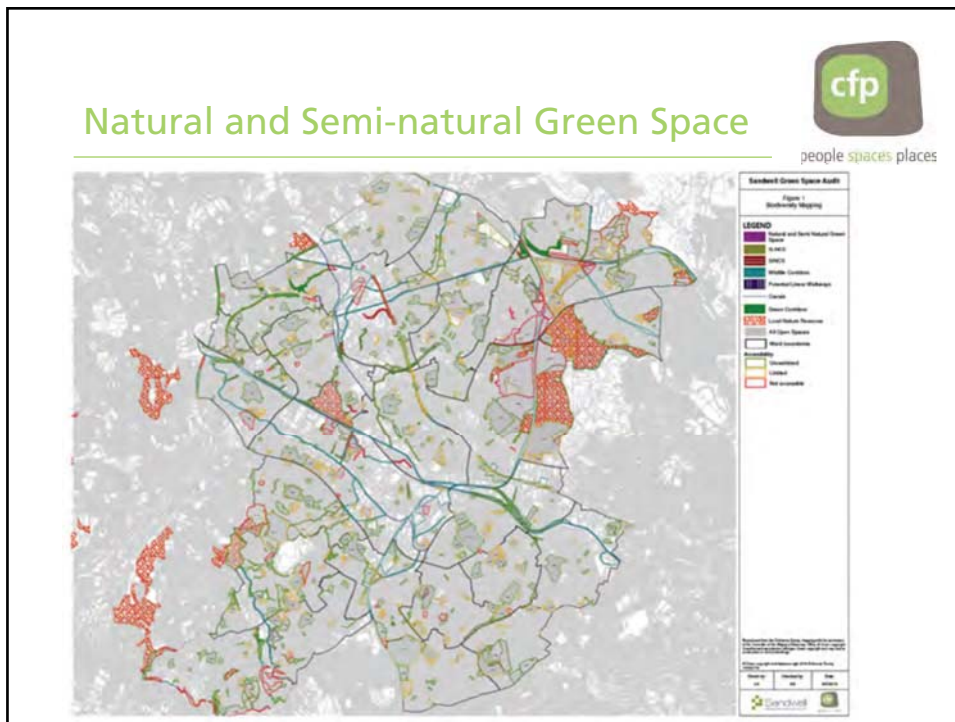


- Reviewed 2013 mapping
- Additions / deletions / boundary changes
- All sites classified by type / hierarchy / accessibility







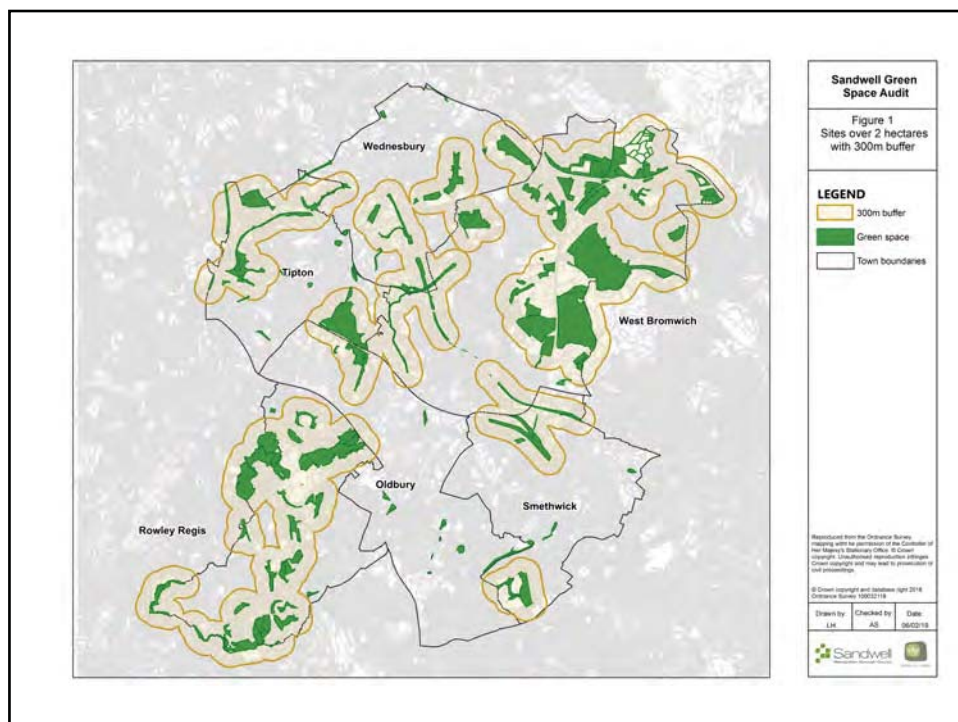


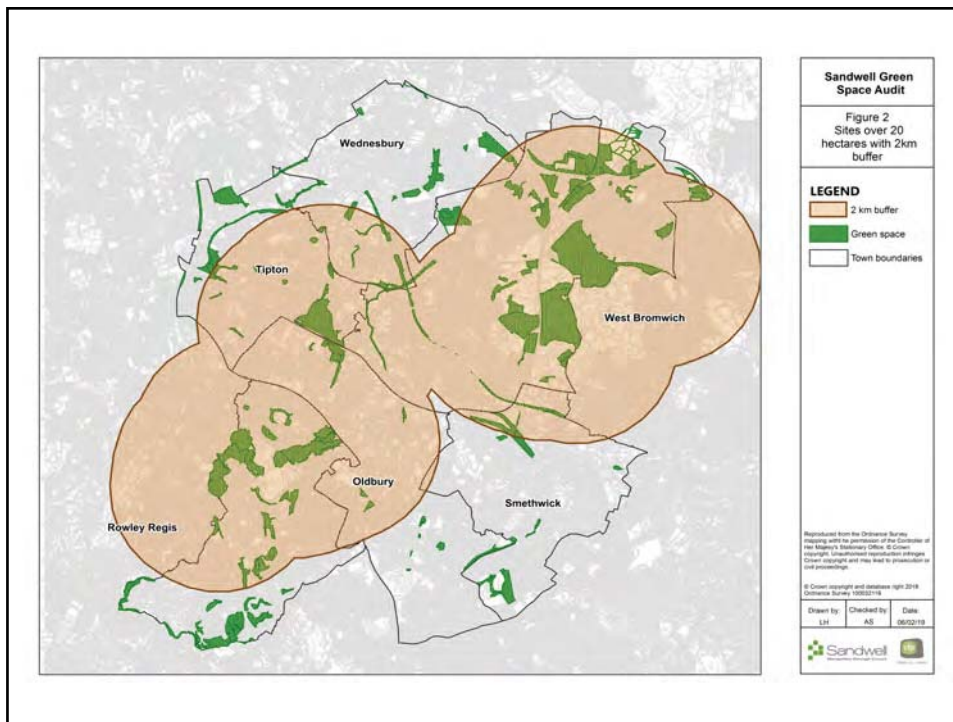
cfp people spaces places

Natural and Semi-natural Green Space

Town	SINC	SLINC	LNR	TOTAL
Wednesbury	3	7	0	10
West Bromwich	14	20	7	41
Smethwick	4	6	0	10
Oldbury	5	10	0	15
Rowley Regis	11	20	4	35
Tipton	3	9	1	13
TOTAL	40	72	12	124







Quality Assessment



people spaces places

Quality assessment based upon the Green Flag Award criteria

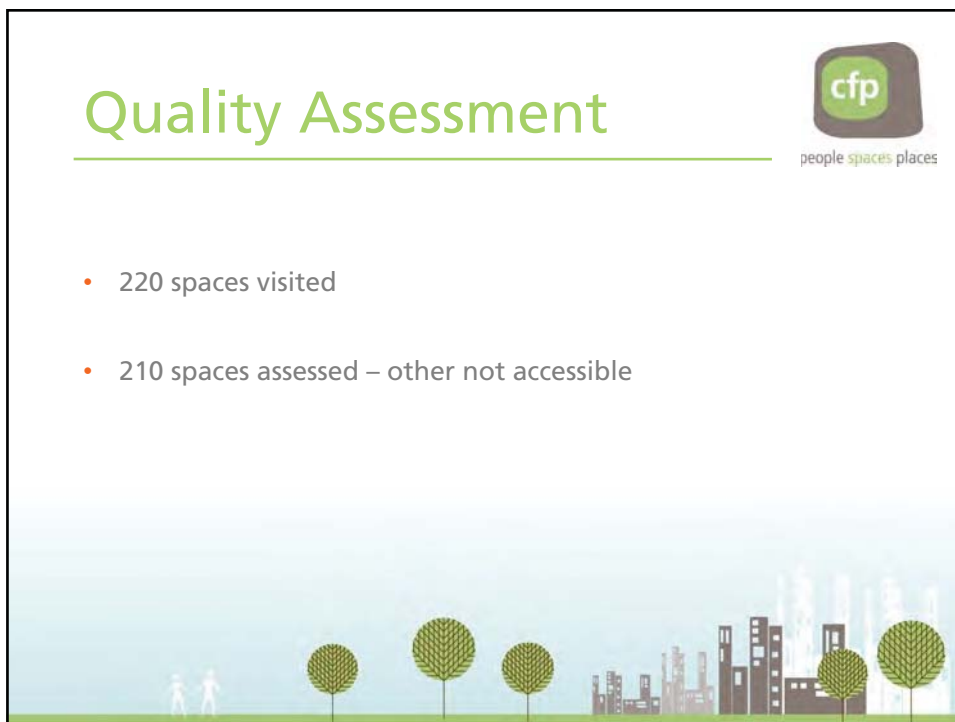
- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management



Quality Assessment



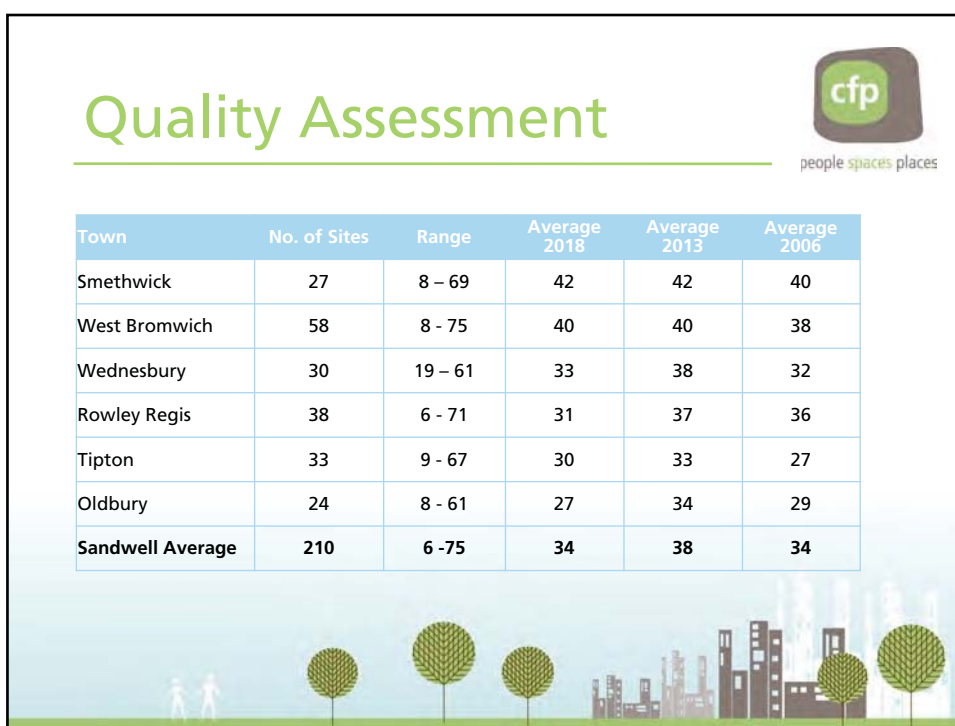
- 220 spaces visited
- 210 spaces assessed – other not accessible

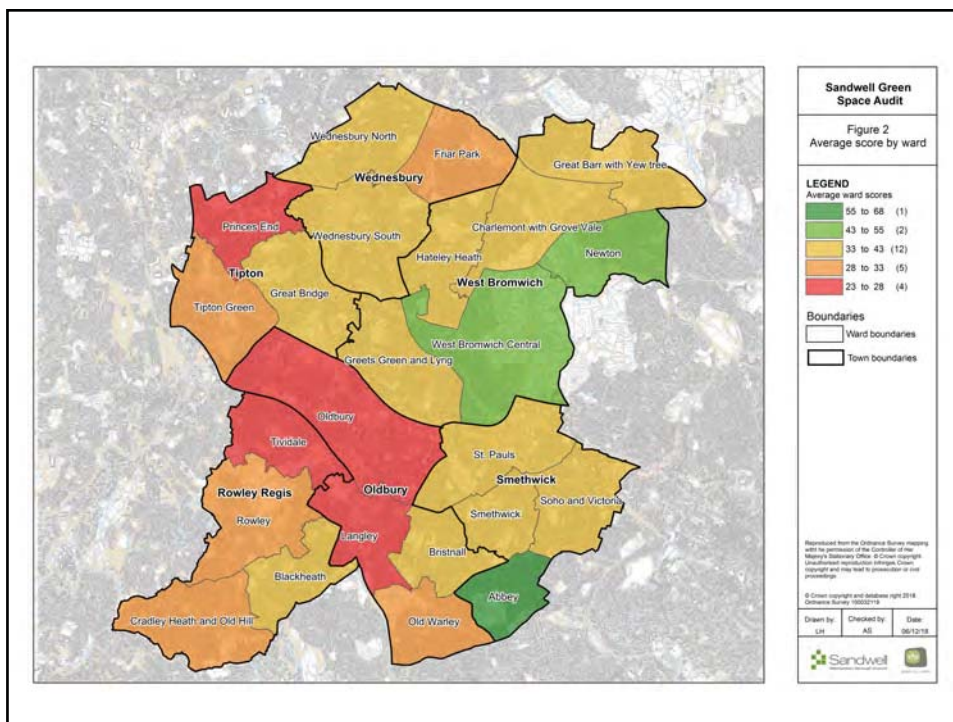


Quality Assessment



Town	No. of Sites	Range	Average 2018	Average 2013	Average 2006
Smethwick	27	8 – 69	42	42	40
West Bromwich	58	8 - 75	40	40	38
Wednesbury	30	19 – 61	33	38	32
Rowley Regis	38	6 - 71	31	37	36
Tipton	33	9 - 67	30	33	27
Oldbury	24	8 - 61	27	34	29
Sandwell Average	210	6 -75	34	38	34



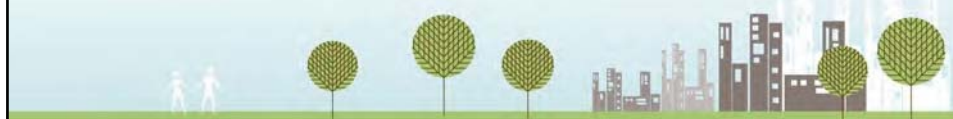


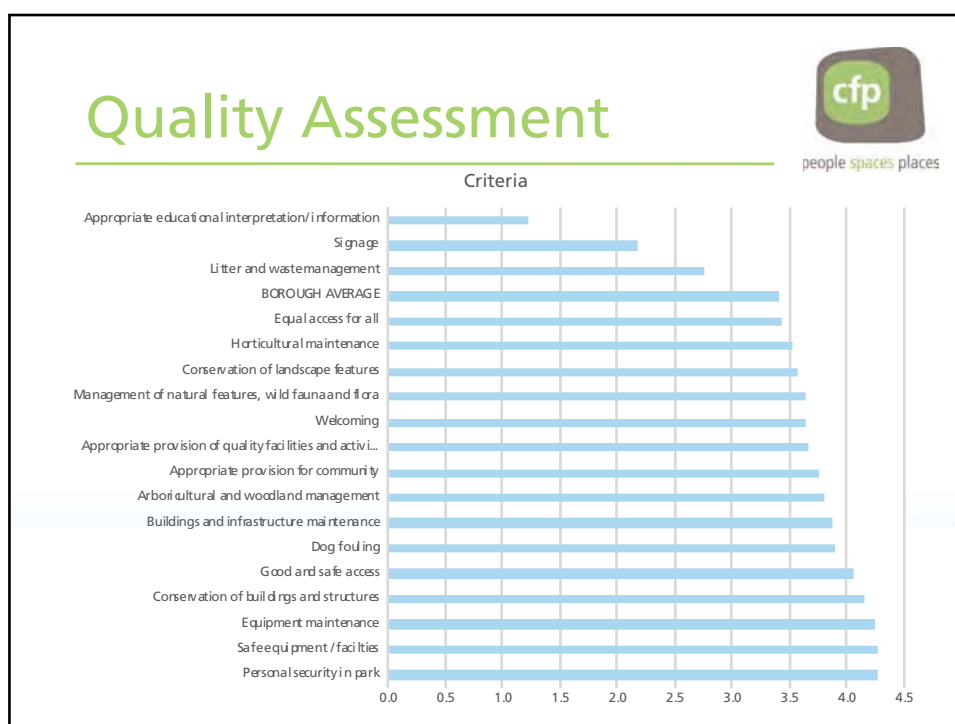
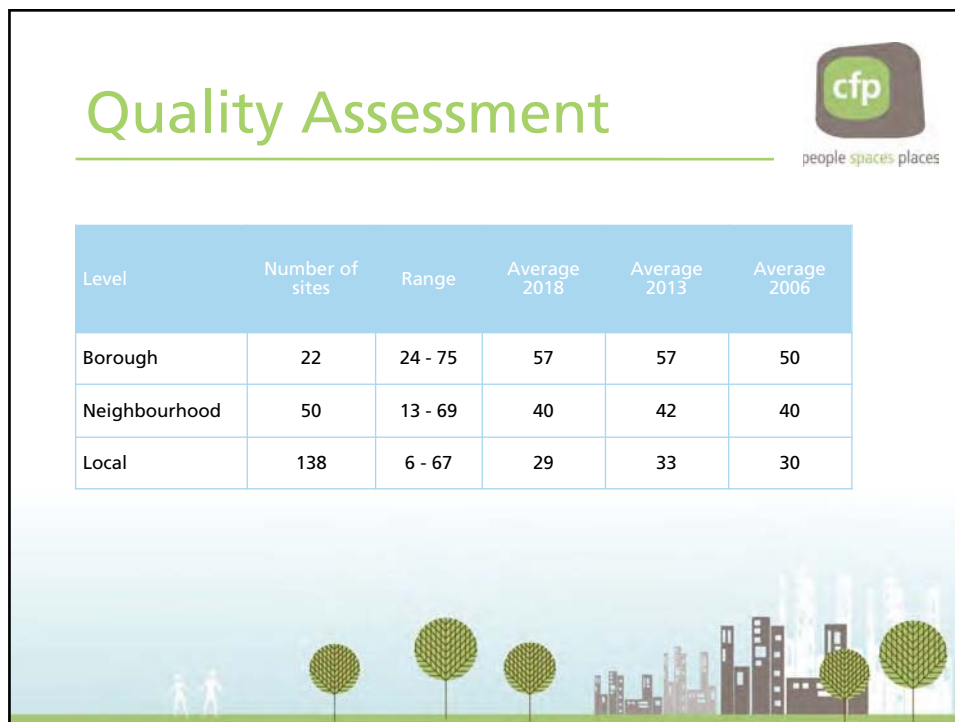
Quality Assessment

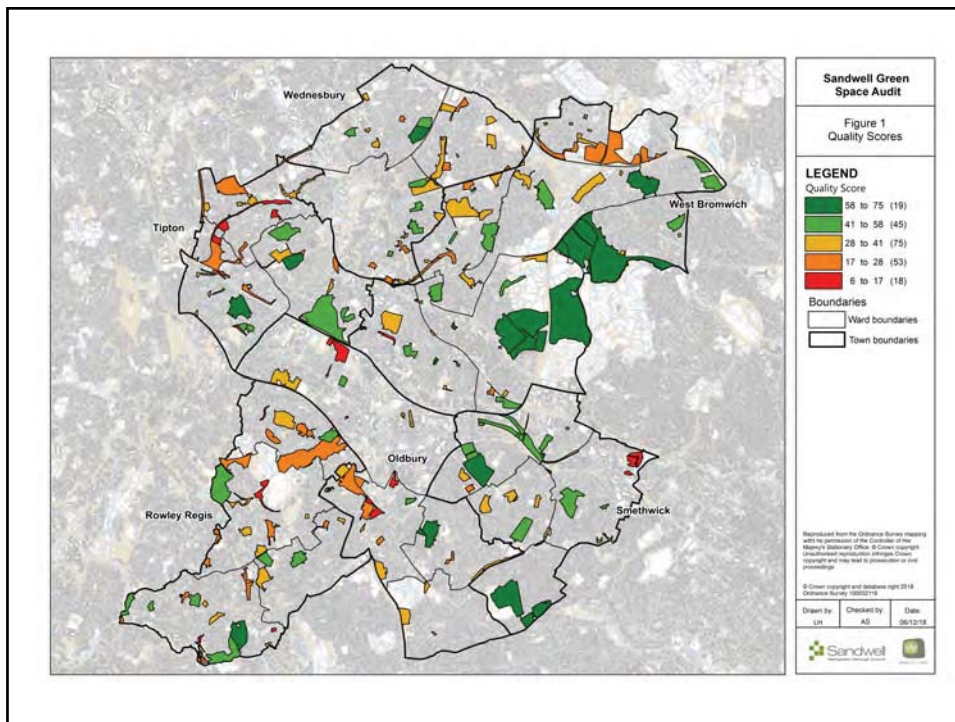


people spaces places

Green Space Type	No of Sites	Range	Average
	2018	2018	2018
Amenity Greenspace	84	6-60	29
Cemeteries & Churchyards	8	25-67	51
Green Corridor	15	13-57	28
Institutional Land	1	23	23
Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	43	7-71	32
Outdoor Sports Facilities	19	24-60	36
Parks & Gardens	32	13-75	51
Provision for Children & Young People	8	13-51	36
Total	210	6-75	34







Consultation Strategy



- Household Survey
- Community Group / User Group Survey
- Stakeholder Workshops
- Consultation with CYP
- Consultation on Draft Strategy






Consultation Strategy



Stakeholder Workshops (Feb – Mar 19)

- Staff & Partner Organisations
- Biodiversity & Countryside
- Income generation and funding
- Friends Forum & Community Groups (Drop-in)
- Health & Wellbeing

1 – Sandwell Vision 2030

Our vision for Sandwell

In 2030, Sandwell is a thriving, optimistic and resilient community.

It's where we call home and where we're proud to belong - where we choose to bring up our families, where we feel safe and cared for, enjoying good health, rewarding work, feeling connected and valued in our neighbourhoods and communities, confident in the future, and benefiting fully from a revitalised West Midlands.

- 10 Ambitions – Identify Links and opportunities

2 : Green Corridors



How should the green space strategy improve the current:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Accessibility



3 : Designations



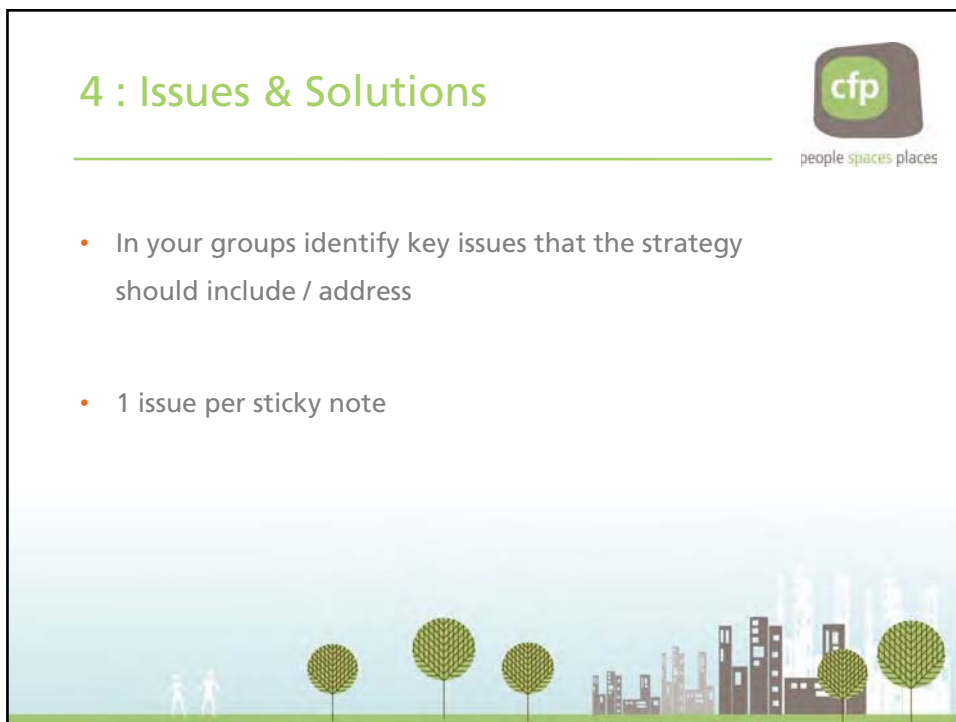
- New designations for SINC / SLINC?
- New LNRs?
- Addressing deficiencies?



4 : Issues & Solutions



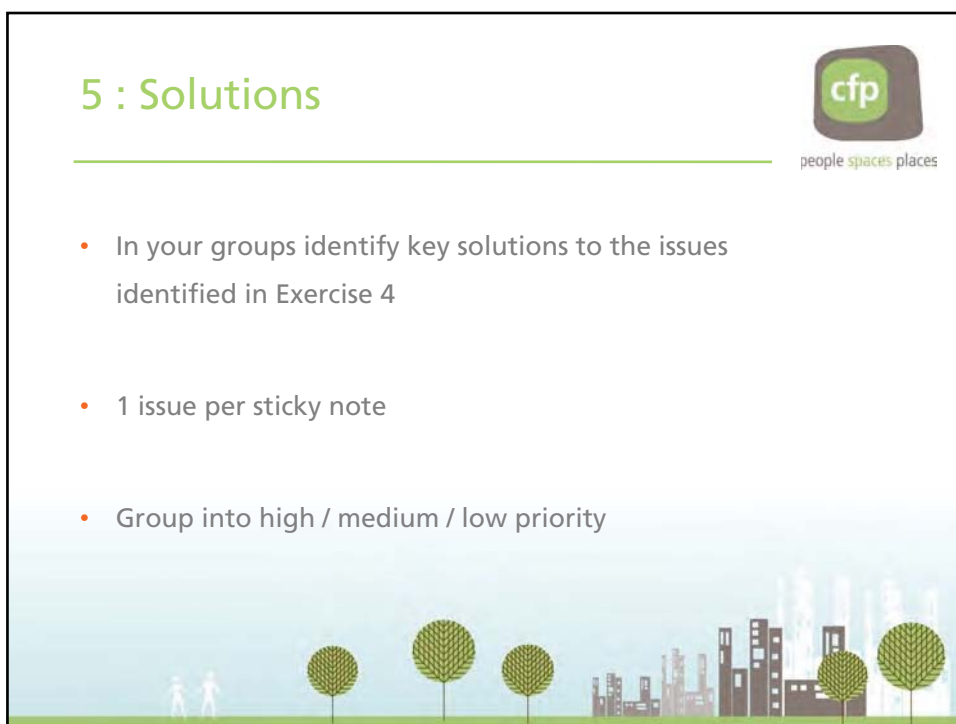
- In your groups identify key issues that the strategy should include / address
- 1 issue per sticky note



5 : Solutions



- In your groups identify key solutions to the issues identified in Exercise 4
- 1 issue per sticky note
- Group into high / medium / low priority

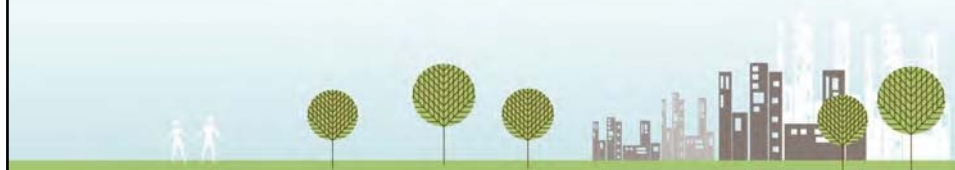


6 : Prioritisation



people spaces places

- Impact – what scale of scale / difference will the solution make? H / M / L
- Implementation – how easy or hard is it to do?
Hard / Medium / Easy

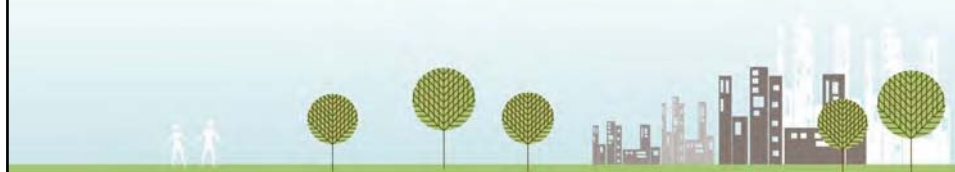


Summary



people spaces places

- Summary of work to date
- Sandwell Vision 2030
- Green Corridors
- Further designated spaces
- Issues / Solutions / Prioritisation



Next Steps



- Further workshops
- Community Drop-in session – 28/02/19
- Green Space Audit – April 2019
- Green Space Strategy (draft) - May 2019



Appendix I

Workshop Reports: Income Generation & Funding



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Income Generation & Funding Workshop

Issue number: 2

Status: FINAL

Date: 06 March 2019

Prepared by: Adrian Spray

Authorised by: Adrian Spray

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Income Generation & Funding Workshop

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Workshop Structure	2
2.1	Exercise 1	3
2.2	Exercise 2	5
2.3	Exercise 3	6
2.4	Exercise 4	7
3	Next Steps	8

Appendix A – Copy of Presentation

1 Introduction

As part of the development of the development of the Sandwell Green Space Strategy a workshop was held with staff and partners with a focus on funding, income generation and business opportunities.

This report is a record of the workshop event and the discussion and comments made by participants. As such the comments will inform the future strategy, but they do not necessarily reflect Sandwell Council's current and future position.

Date / time & location	11 February 2019 4.00 – 7.00 pm Sandwell MBC staff and partners Venue: Wednesbury Town Hall
Content	Introductory presentation about works that has been carried out so far and then a series of exercises to explore the key issues relating to funding, income generation, business opportunities asset transfers, and resourcing the new green space strategy.
Purpose	For attendees to gain an understanding of and inform the GSS, particularly funding, income generation and business opportunities.

2 Workshop Structure

There were 9 participants in attendance including officers from Sandwell Council (parks and green spaces, public health, Lightwoods Park, Property Services, Sandwell Valley) and representatives from Dartmouth Golf Course, SCIPS and Sandwell Valley Riding Centre.

The agenda for the session was as below.

Title	Description
Registration and coffee	Oriente participants
Introduction	Welcome and Introduction
Audit / Strategy Update	Presentation covering: Purpose of the Green Space Audit and Strategy Overview of findings to date Setting the scene with respect to funding for parks and green spaces, nationally and within Sandwell.
<u>Exercise 1</u>	Resourcing the Strategy – considering different options for additional funding
<u>Exercise 2</u>	Current situation – assessing the current situation with respect to income generation and business opportunities. What works well? What are the barriers and potential solutions
<u>Exercise 3</u>	Commercial Activity – discussion around Sandwell market conditions and future opportunities.
<u>Exercise 4</u>	Community Asset Transfer – what has been done to date? Opportunities for the future? Role of the community and voluntary sector.
Round up and Q&A	Summary Next steps and timescales Future consultation opportunities

2.1 Exercise 1

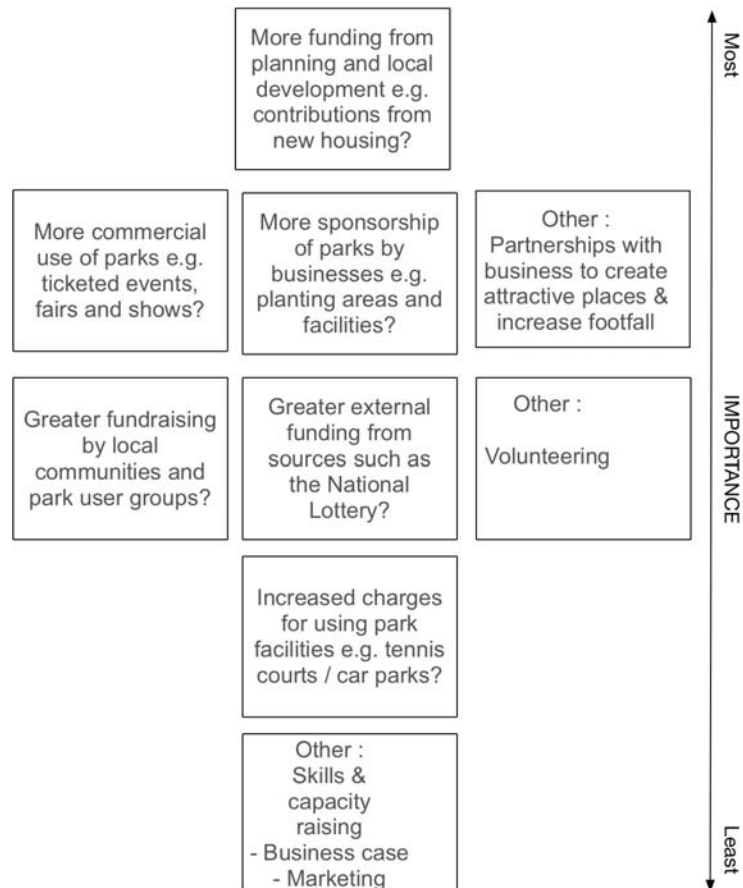
In two groups participants were asked to consider the relative importance of a range of funding opportunities. The list of options included those used in the Public Survey as part of the HLF State of UK Parks Research Project in 2016. This exercise was also carried out at the staff and partners workshop. Additional options were written on blank cards by the participants.

The graphics below show the order in which each group ranked the options.

Group 1:



Group 2 :



Both groups highlighted the importance of the value of volunteers and volunteer participation with respects to green spaces and community life. It was strongly felt that volunteer participation had a monetary value in addition to the range of social and other values derived by the participants, neighbourhoods and communities.

There was discussion about the need to have a more structured approach to supporting community based organisations contributing to parks and green spaces. Some groups received support and officer time to develop their skills and capacity others were less fortunate and were reliant on finding their own way. If volunteering is to be further developed in the borough it was argues that there needs to be more resources for developing capacity, building skills and supporting community groups over the medium to long term.

2.2 Exercise 2

Exercise 2 sought to explore the current issues relating to income generation, funding and business opportunities in the Borough. The following comments were recorded:

- There are a range of existing partners at Sandwell Valley. There is considerable scope for better joint working and increased marketing. SVCP has the potential to offer a whole day out but this needs to be better marketed and communicated.
- There are a number of SME businesses that operate in SVCP and these add considerable value to the visitor offer (Sandwell Valley Riding Centre and Dartmouth Golf Course were represented at the workshop).
- Dartmouth Golf Course CIC is a new start up and is excited by the opportunities to engage young people and families in sport.
- The development of new budget hotel accommodation in West Bromwich offers opportunities for marketing to tourists / overnight visitors.
- There are barriers to accessing SVCP and other green spaces. Sandwell is not an affluent borough and travel costs will deter some potential visitors.
- Car parking charges at SVCP have not been popular but the charges offer good value for money (£2 per day). Additional entry fee for the farm.
- Gym equipment has been provided in parks and green spaces using public health funding and this provides a free alternative to paid use of indoor gym equipment.
- Public Health Development Officers also run taster sessions and longer courses to encourage greater physical activity in parks and green spaces.

- Better information about fees and charges (for example running events in parks) should be made available on the Council website.
- There is currently a limited education offer at SVCP and this could be developed further. Forest schools are popular. New central government funding for outdoor learning has been announced (£10m commitment).
- There is no overall plan for developing commercial activity in parks and green spaces across the Borough and the current approach is piecemeal and ad hoc.
- A Business Development Plan should be produced and reviewed annually.
- Council run programmes such as the Summer Festivals and Winter Wonderland do not cover their costs.
- Many green spaces lack adequate infrastructure for anything other than small events. For example the 'showground' at Sandwell Valley has no drainage or other infrastructure. Large events in bad weather can cause significant damage for more than one season (i.e. Birmingham Rocks).
- At Lightwoods Park the commercial events have tended to be limited to funfairs and circuses. Lightwoods House (and the small events lawn) has been successful with weddings and private hire.
- Grass roots support for friends group is needed if the groups are to grow and go onto to do more.
- Small scale community litter picks can be a popular environmental and social event and offer financial savings.

Podsmead Big Local (Gloucester) project developed a community hub and some social enterprises have been started up operating out of this. One local young man set up a ground care SE and is now maintaining local community green spaces in the neighbourhood.

2.3 Exercise 3

Local market conditions in Sandwell are challenging:

- Sandwell is the 13th most deprived local authority area in the country
- Deprivations includes low incomes, poor health, poor education attainment and low quality environment.
- However population expected to grow by 30,000 over the next 11 years to 2030 (Sandwell Vision period).

- As discussed earlier increases in fees and charges are not popular, do not necessarily bring in significant amounts of income and can suppress use.
- Residents in Sandwell are perceived to be very price conscious. Need to ensure affordability and value for money.
- Transport costs create barriers to accessing services including green spaces.
- Opportunities to attract visitors from outside the borough and visitors staying overnight.
- Opportunity to offer additional services / facilities which are fee charging alongside free entry.
- Local authority budget for Sandwell's green spaces has been cut significantly (by over half in the last 8 years) as discussed in the presentation.
- There is the need to consider alternative ways of bringing in sustainable income streams. Revenue funding is the key in order to sustain services and quality. Capital investment in the borough has been significant but how can quality be sustained over the medium to long term?
- Public health funding in the borough is also under pressure, funding has been provided for outdoor gyms (capital) and Public Health Development Officers (revenue).
- Active Parks Programme in Birmingham is successful but very little funding available to maintain green space infrastructure which is under greater pressure due to increased use.
- Discussion is needed with the Clinical Commissioning Group.

2.4 Exercise 4

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and the greater involvement of the community and voluntary sectors:

- There are relatively few examples of Community Asset Transfer in Sandwell Borough.
- Warley Woods Community Trust is the only third sector organisation managing a significant green space in the Borough. The organisation is successful but WWCT receives ongoing revenue support from Sandwell Council in order to be sustainable.
- 2 pavilions have been transferred to community based organisations (including Victoria Park Smethwick under a Service Level Agreement)
- Brasshouse Community Centre is community run.

- Sons of Rest Buildings are all council run / supported.
- Alternative models – Sandwell is not especially good at hybrid models and partnership working. There tends to be a very binary approach where something is either Council-led or it is delivered entirely by the voluntary or community sector. Genuine partnerships in the borough are perceived to be rare.
- Sandwell is an organisation with strong political leadership and this is both a strength and weakness. Ideally there would be more sharing of roles, responsibilities and risks through new partnerships.
- If CAT is to be developed there needs to be better information available to the community about the process, who to contact and how to get to the right officers / Councillors.
- The Council Vision promotes the concept of greater partnership working but more needs to be done around the mechanics of this.
- Dartmouth Golf Course may be interested in developing further sports facilities (including a 4G pitch) with Phoenix School.

3 Next Steps

Large scale consultation to inform the development of the Green Space Strategy is planned and will commence shortly:

- Household Survey – random sample of 15,000 households across the borough and also offered online
- Friends and User Group Survey – to all known community based organisations and user group involved in parks as well by other groups with a vested interest in parks and green spaces. It is also offered online.

The links to the online surveys will be made available shortly. Help promoting these surveys was requested.

Friends Forum and Community Group Drop-in Session – Thursday 28 February 2019 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm at West Bromwich Town Hall.

Appendix A

Copy of Presentation

(NB the data presented in the presentation is for information purposes only and represents early draft analysis and is subject to review and further change in the final strategy)

Sandwell Green Space Audit & Strategy

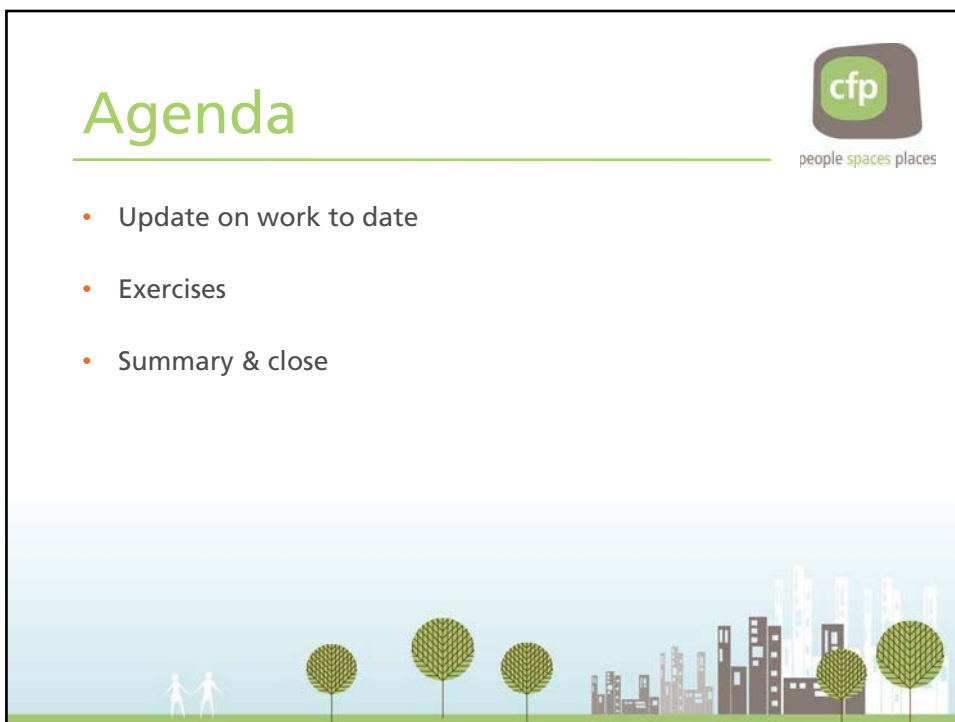
Income Generation & Funding

11 February 2019



Agenda

- Update on work to date
- Exercises
- Summary & close

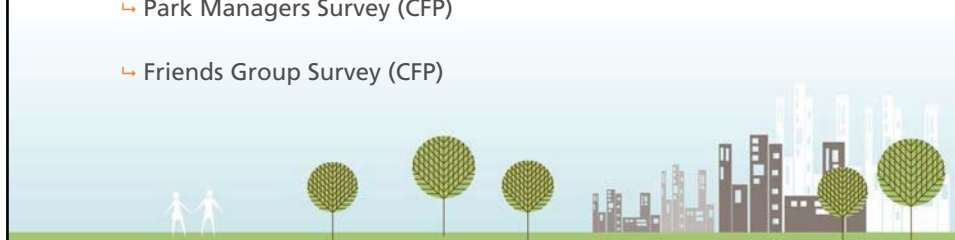


Context State of UK Parks



people spaces places

- Useful to understand wider trends in the sector
- Follow on to the original State of UK Parks in 2014
- 3 main strands of primary research
 - ↳ Public Opinion Poll (Britain Thinks)
 - ↳ Park Managers Survey (CFP)
 - ↳ Friends Group Survey (CFP)



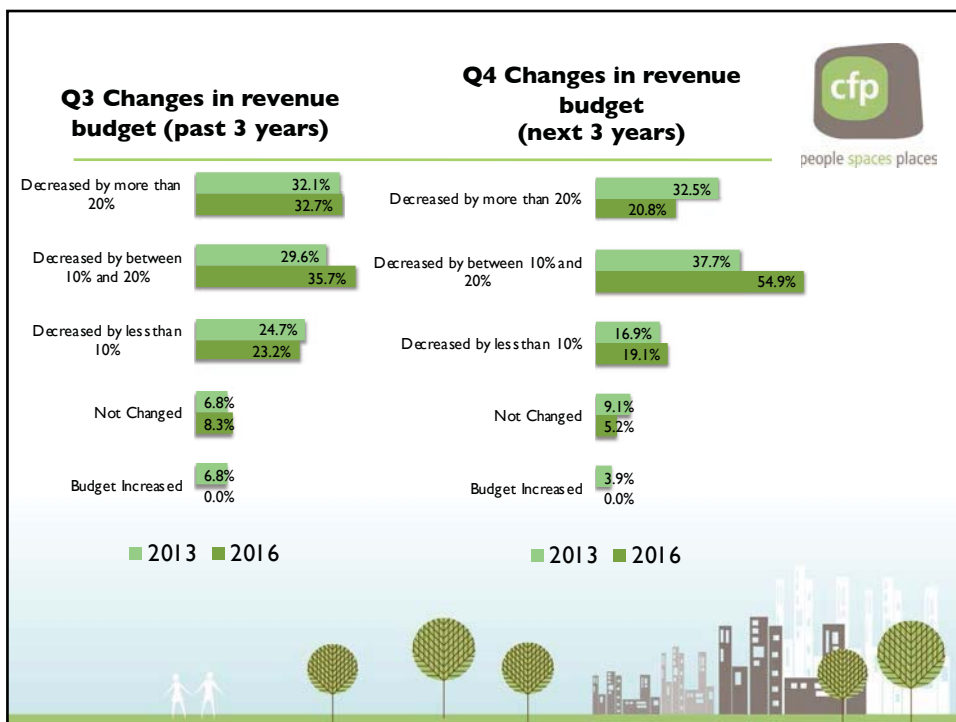
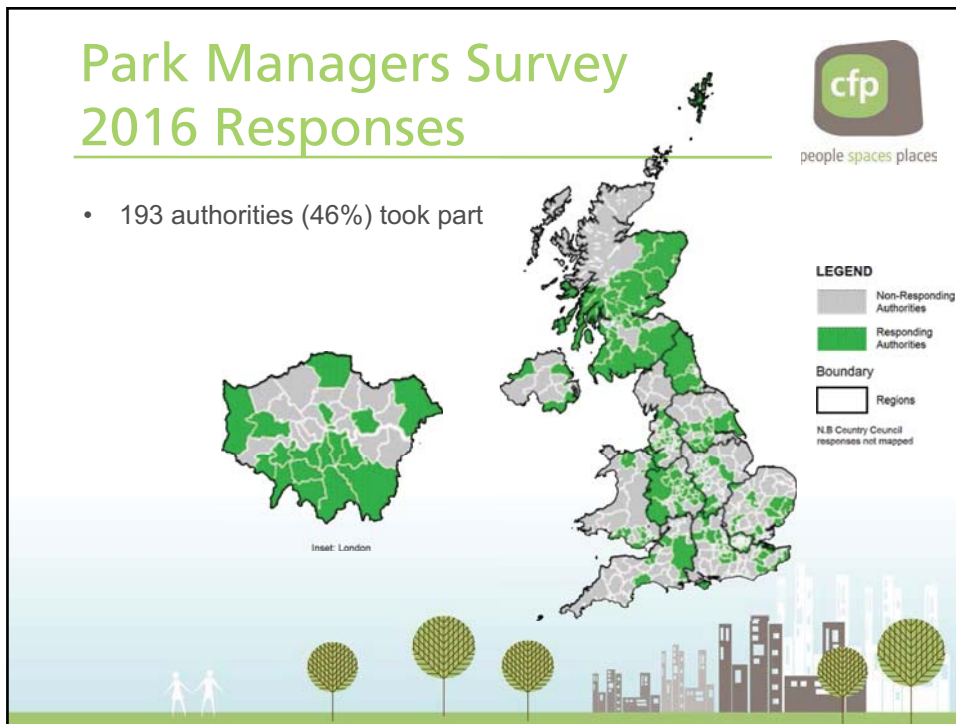
Public Opinion Poll



people spaces places

- Market research survey of 2130 adults across UK
- 85% of people use parks (35% weekly)
- 49% think local park is in good condition
- Majority concerned about cuts affecting parks

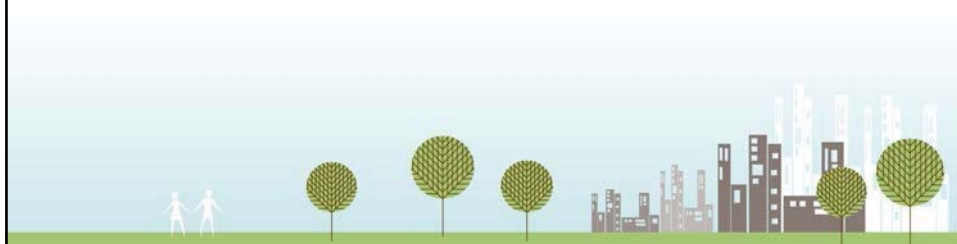




Visitors



- 50.8% report increasing satisfaction over last 3 years
only 5% decreasing
- 70.7% report increasing visitor numbers over last year

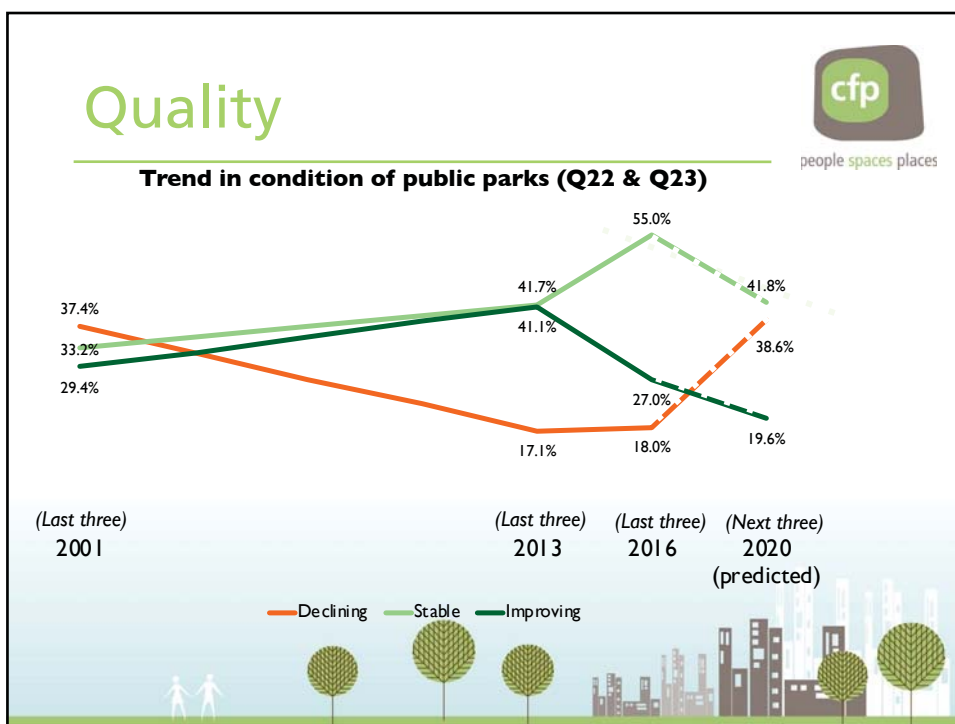
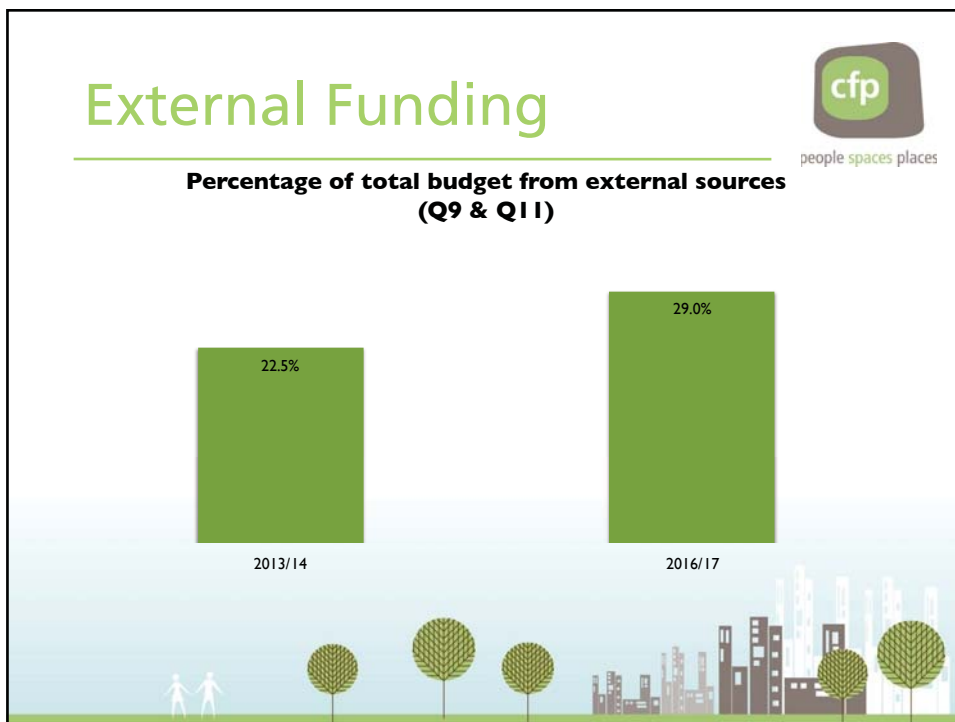


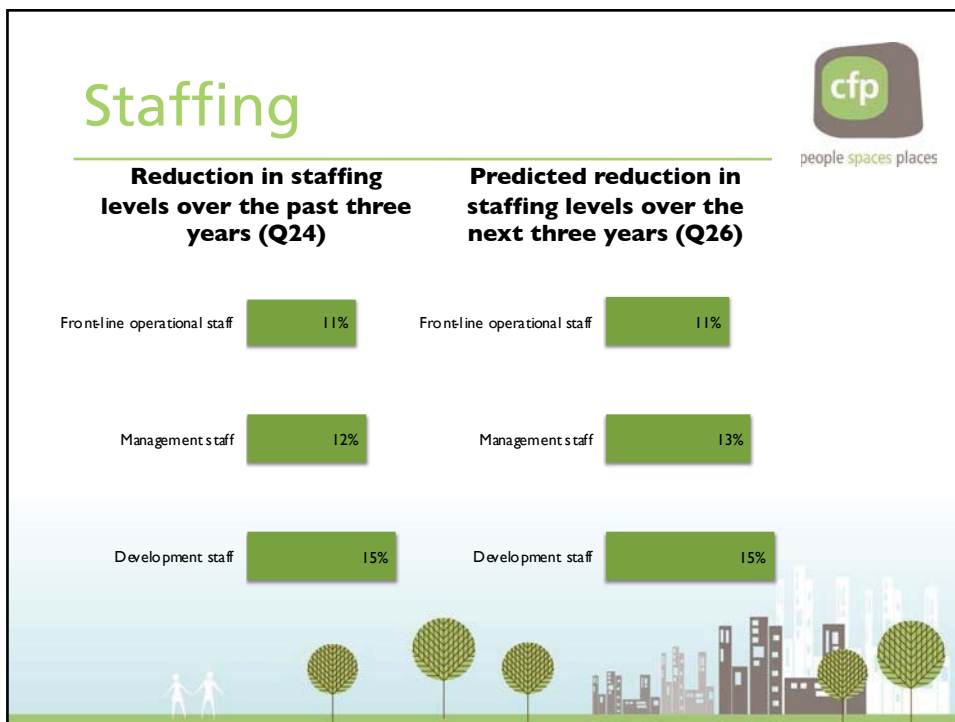
Volunteering



- 53.4% see number of friends groups increasing
over next 3 years
- Groups report membership increasing
- Estimated contribution £29m - £45m per annum



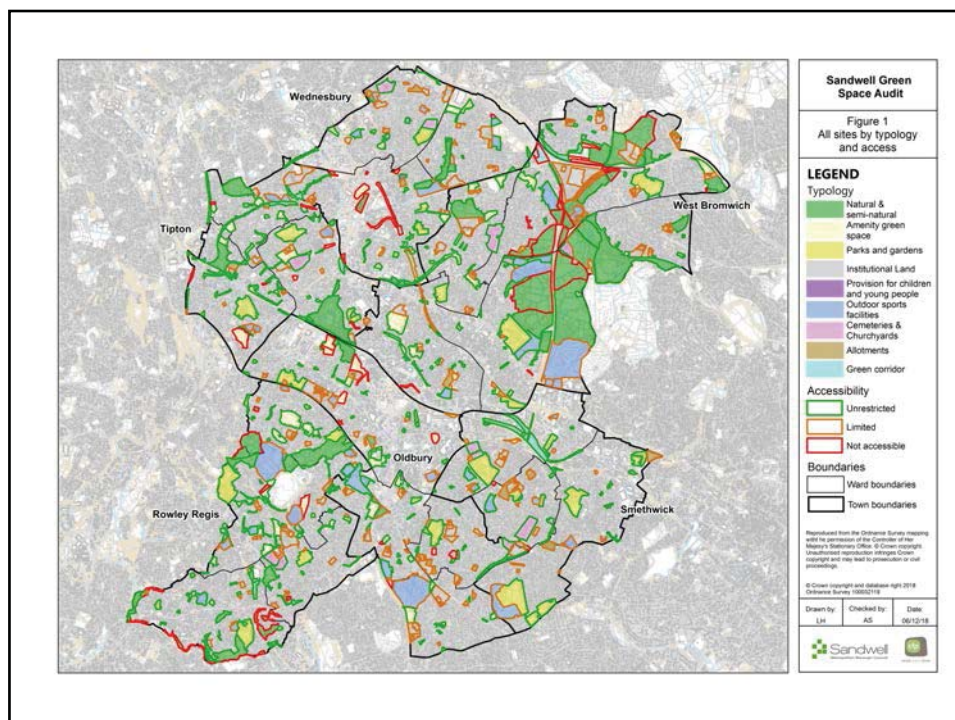
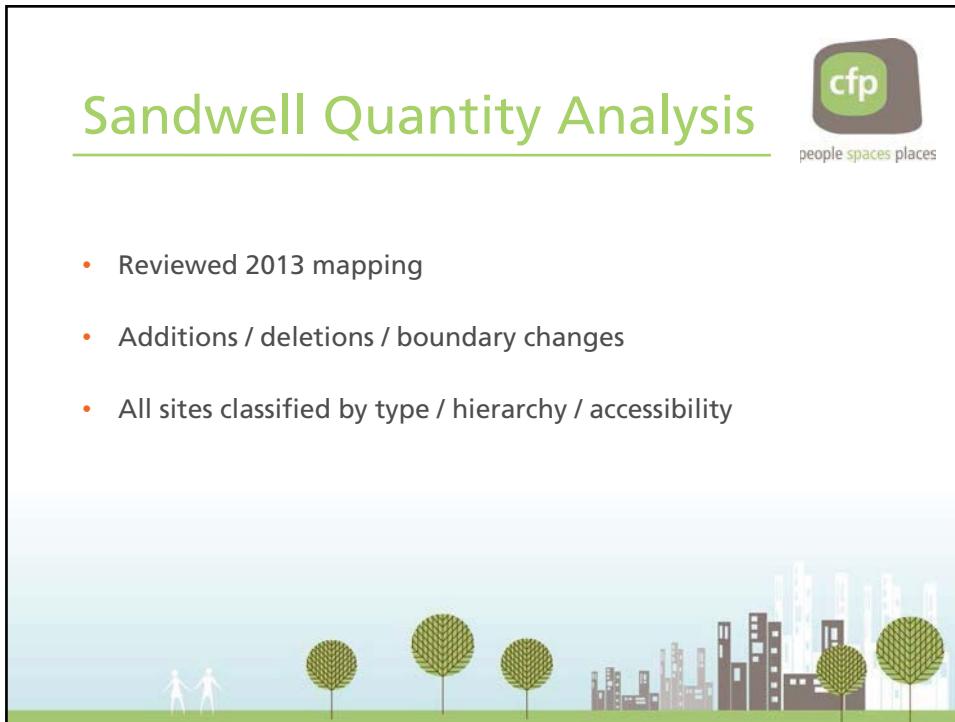


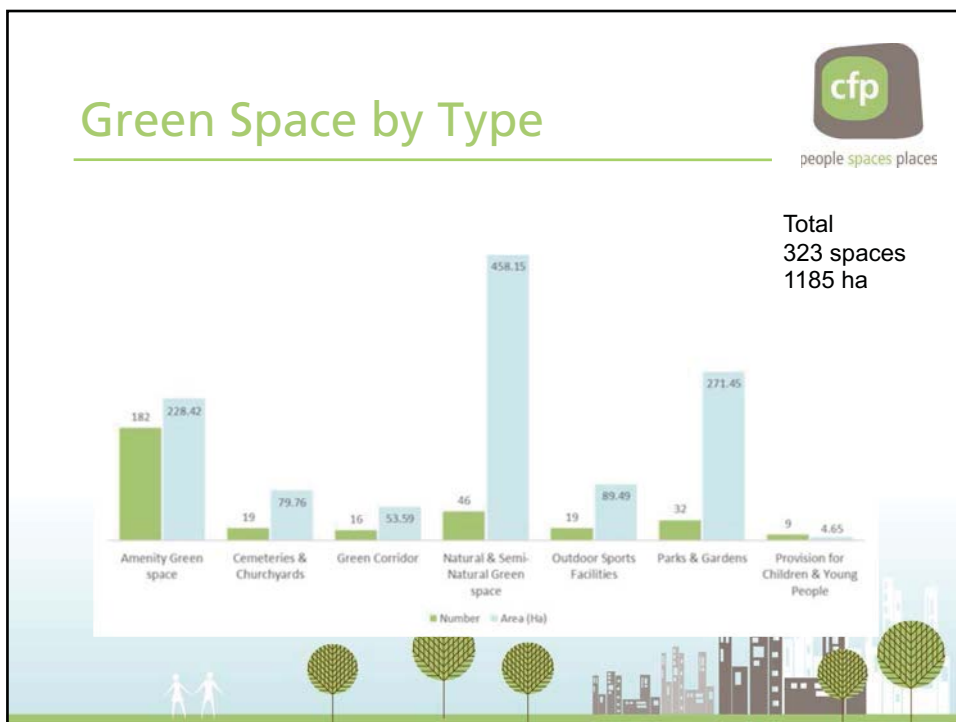
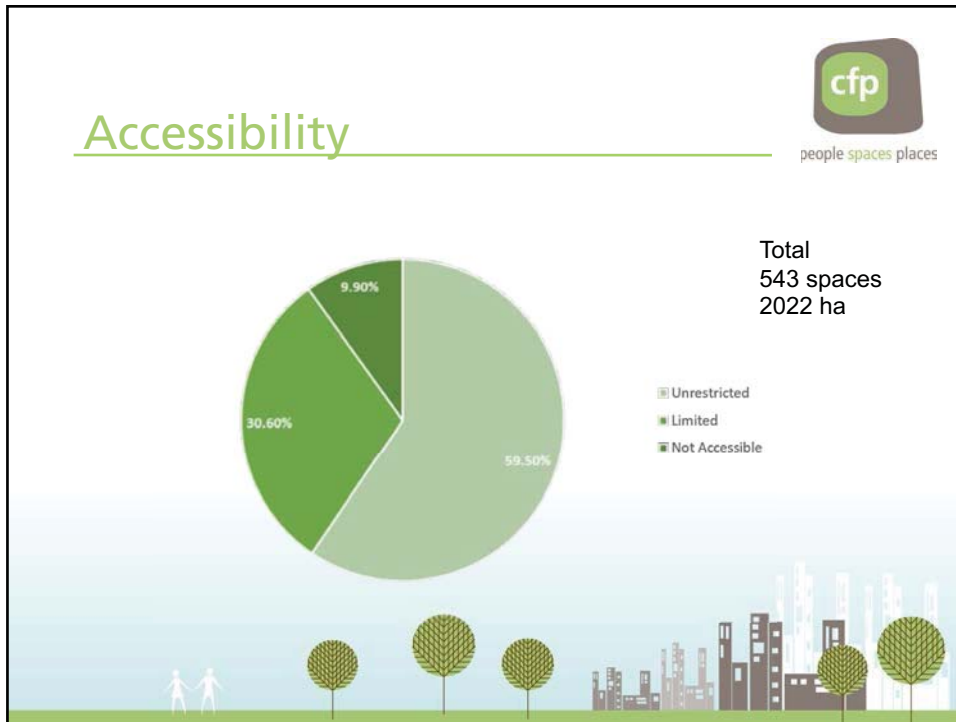


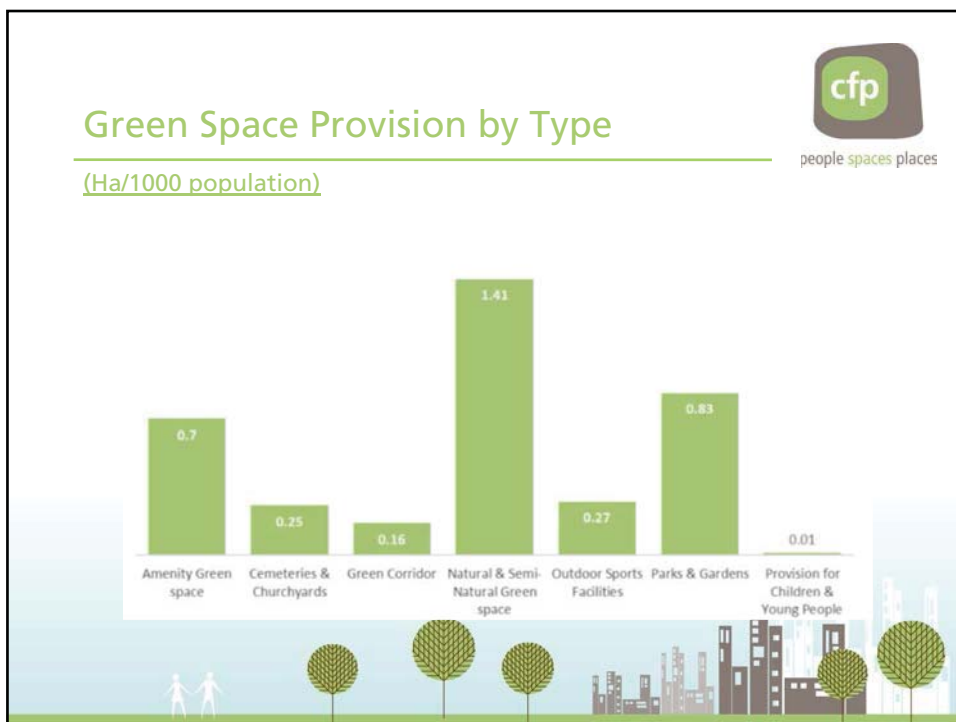
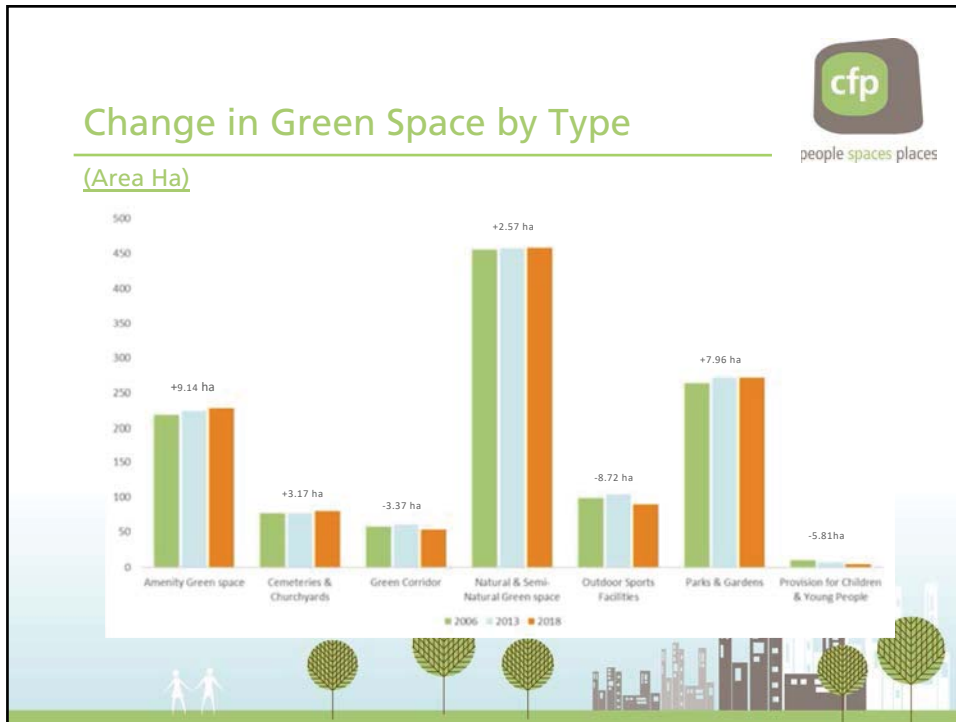
Sandwell Quantity Analysis

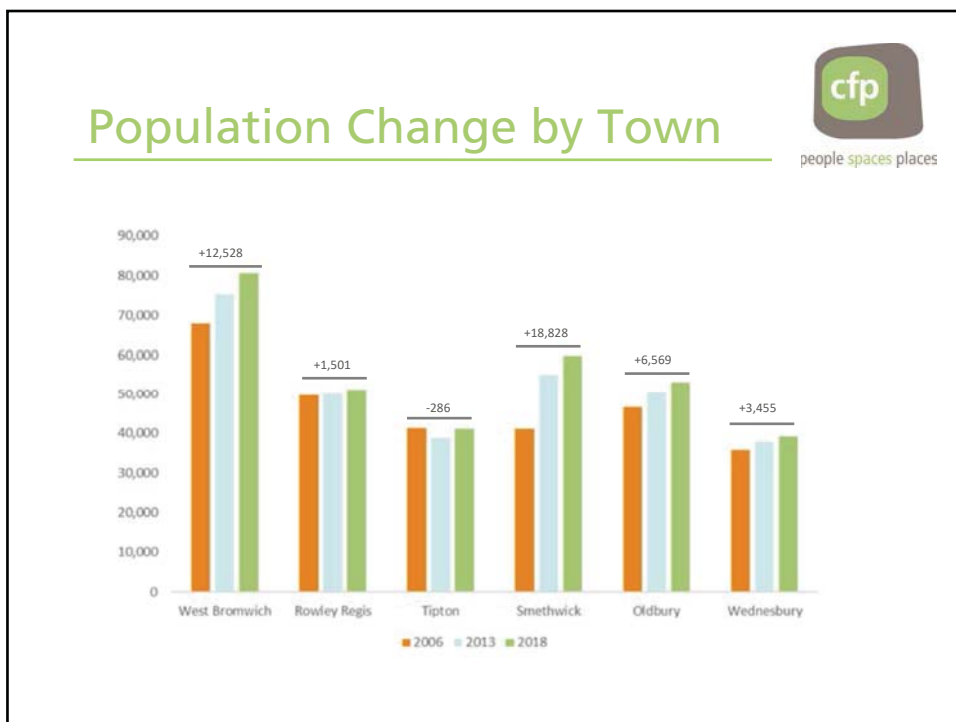
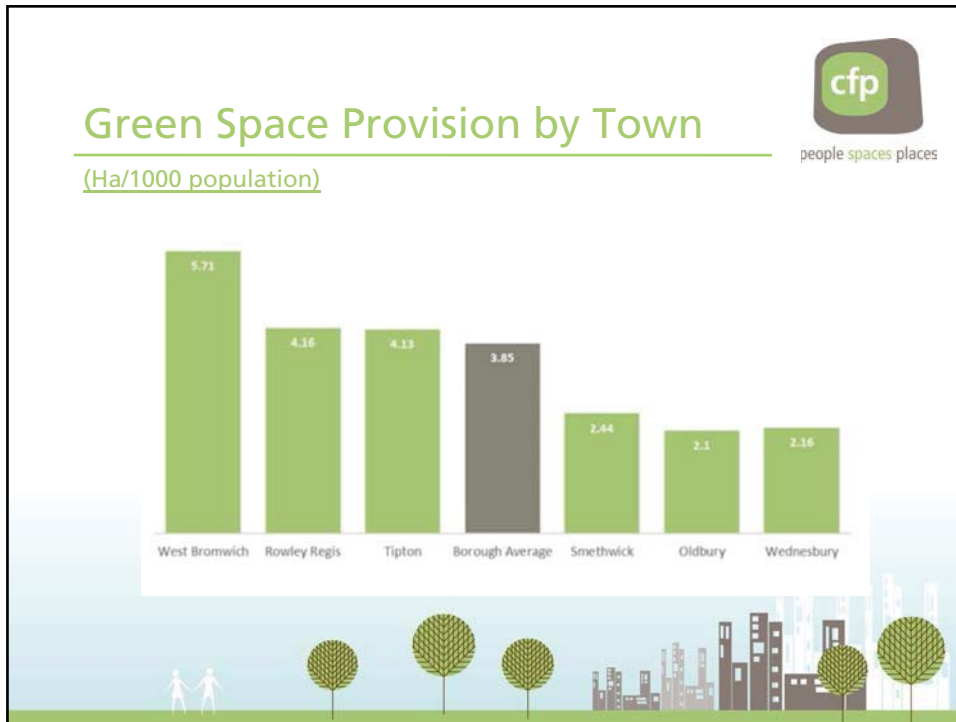


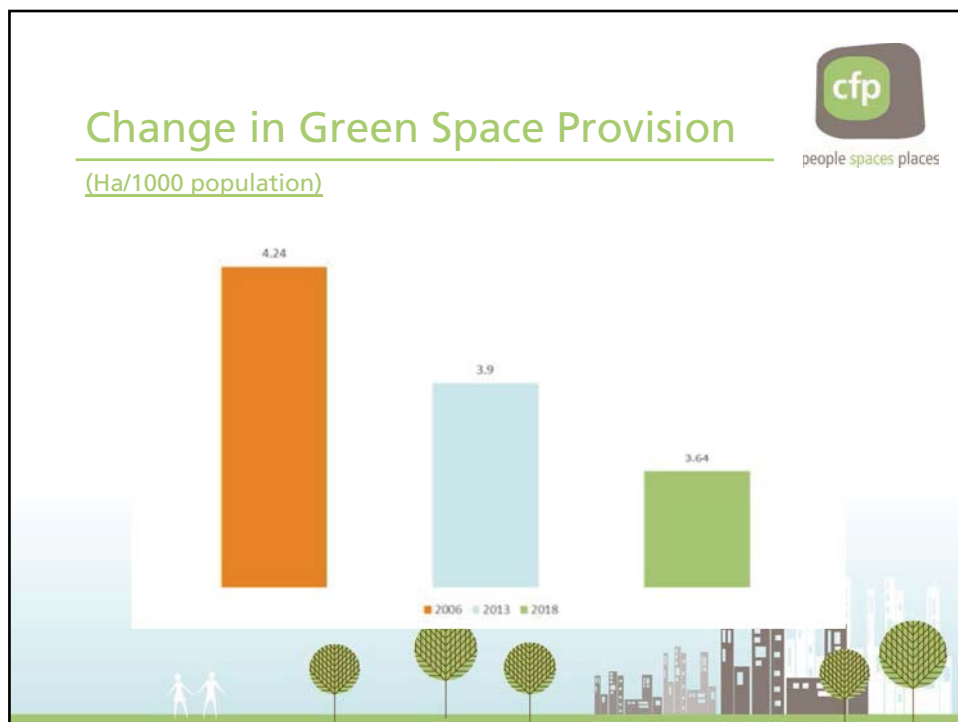
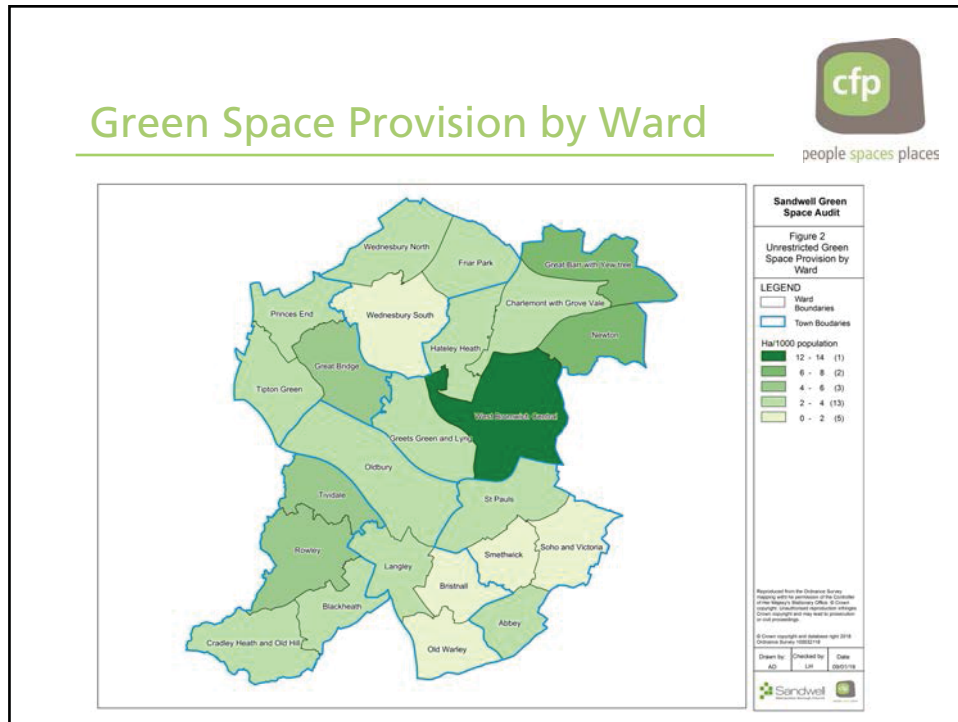
- Reviewed 2013 mapping
- Additions / deletions / boundary changes
- All sites classified by type / hierarchy / accessibility











Quality Assessment



people spaces places

Quality assessment based upon the Green Flag Award criteria

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management



Quality Assessment



people spaces places

- 220 spaces visited
- 210 spaces assessed – other not accessible

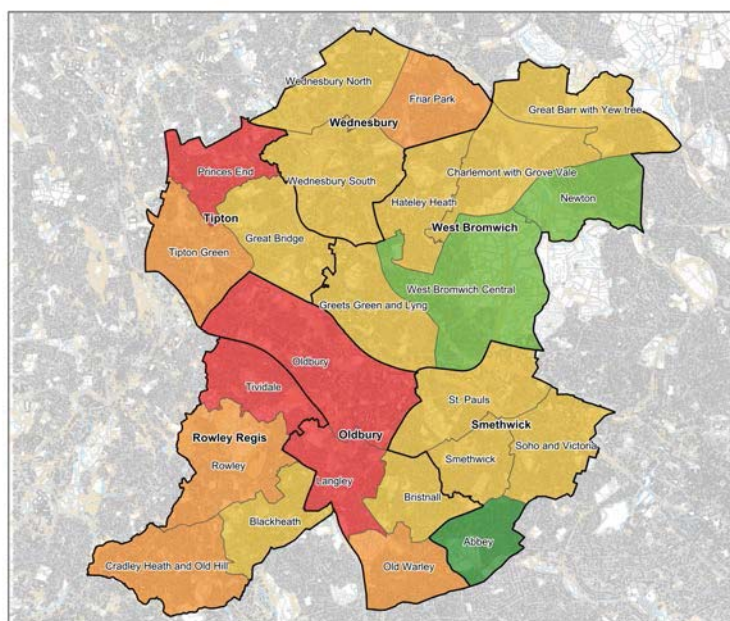
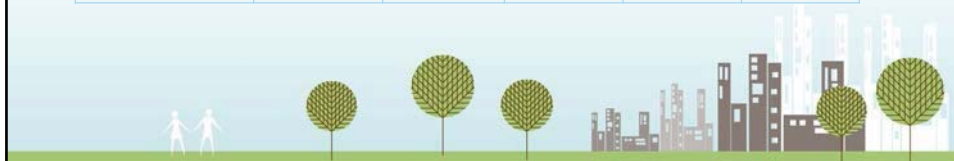


Quality Assessment



people spaces places

Town	No. of Sites	Range	Average 2018	Average 2013	Average 2006
Smethwick	27	8 – 69	42	42	40
West Bromwich	58	8 - 75	40	40	38
Wednesbury	30	19 – 61	33	38	32
Rowley Regis	38	6 - 71	31	37	36
Tipton	33	9 - 67	30	33	27
Oldbury	24	8 - 61	27	34	29
Sandwell Average	210	6 -75	34	38	34



Sandwell Green Space Audit

Figure 2
Average score by ward

LEGEND
Average ward scores

- 55 to 68 (1)
- 43 to 55 (2)
- 33 to 43 (12)
- 28 to 33 (5)
- 23 to 28 (4)

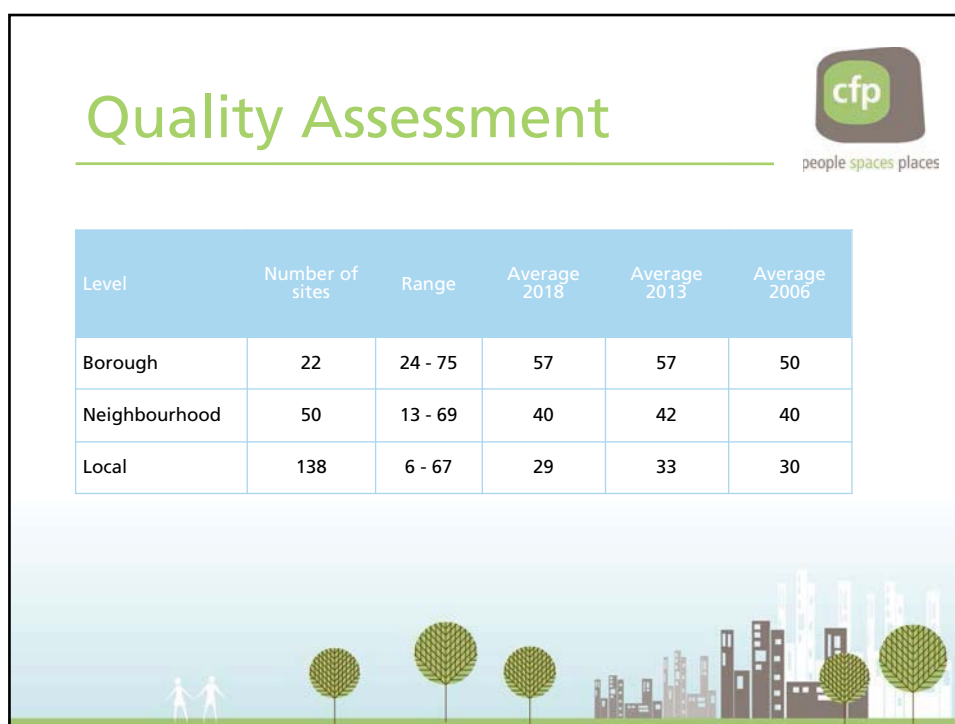
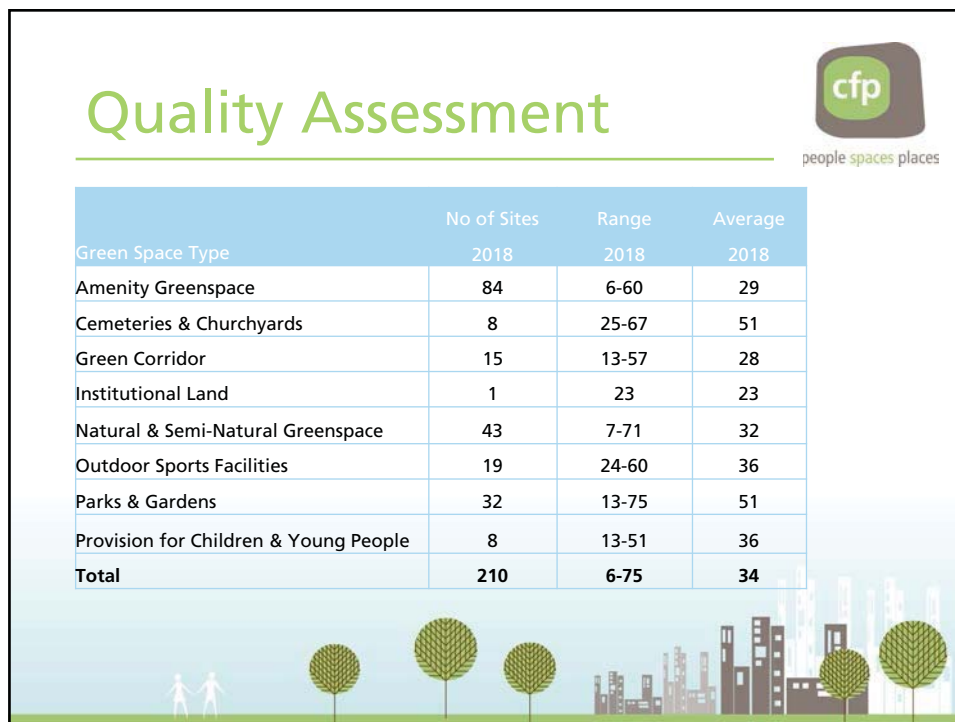
Boundaries

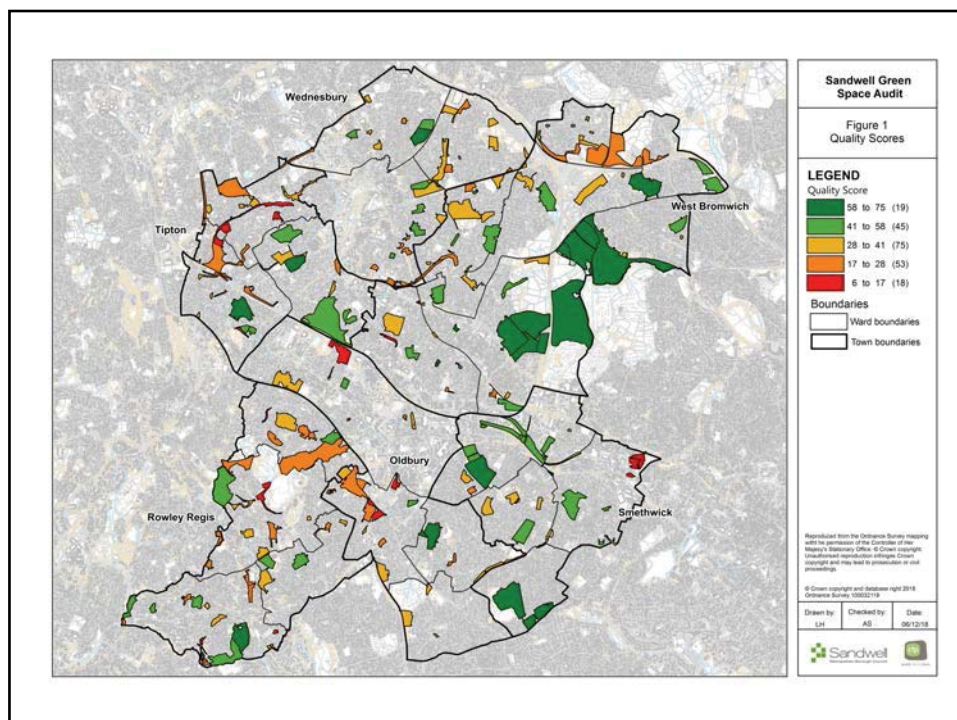
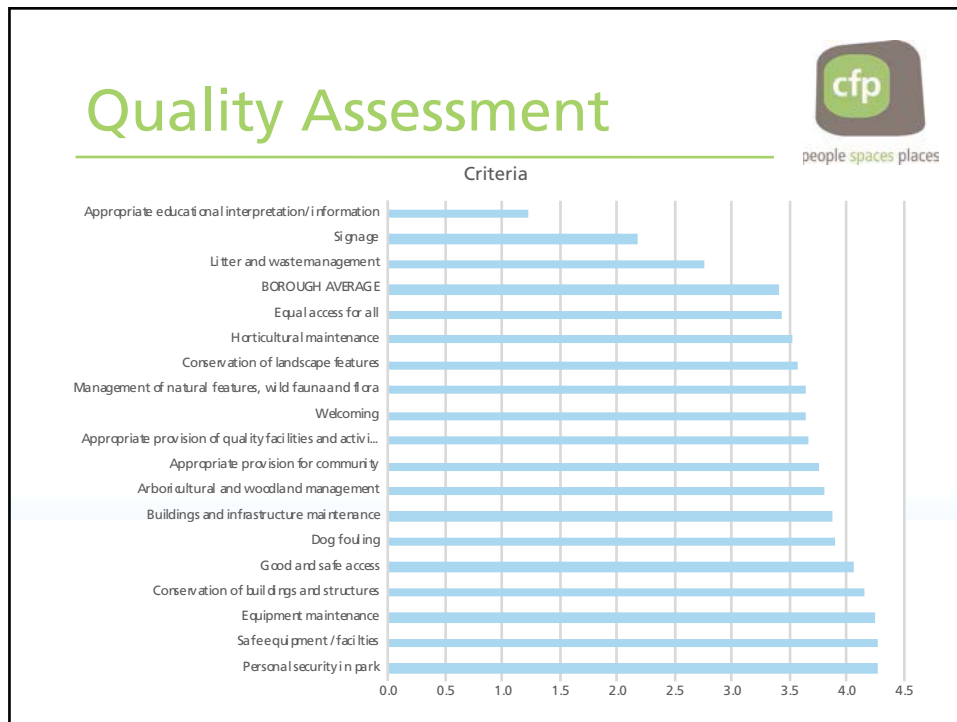
- Ward boundaries
- Town boundaries

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Drawn by: LH	Checked by: AS	Date: 06/12/18
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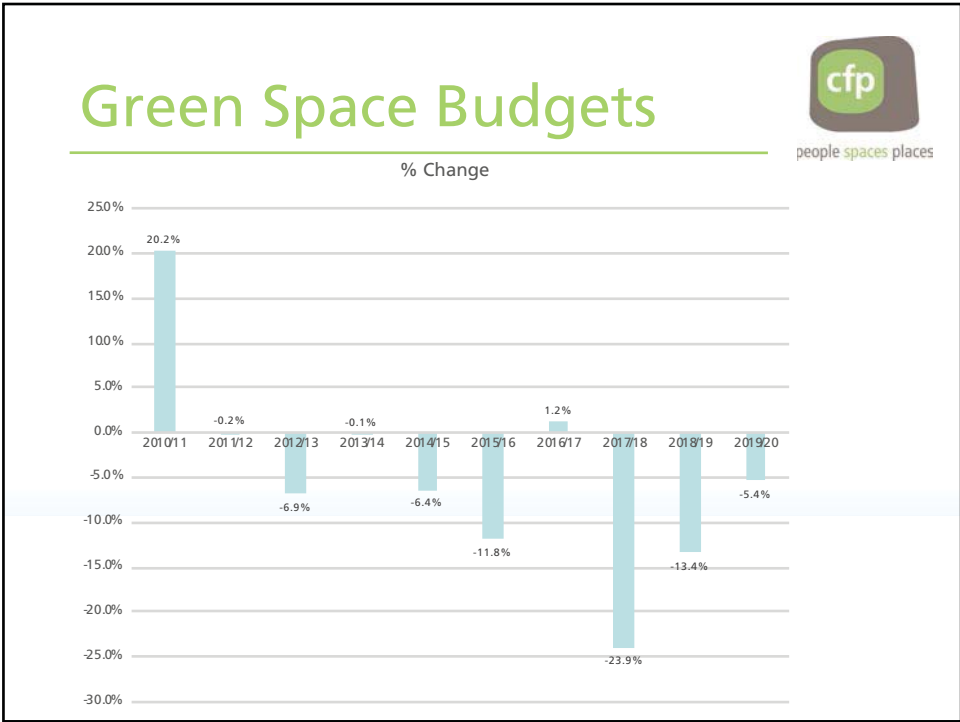




Green Space Budgets



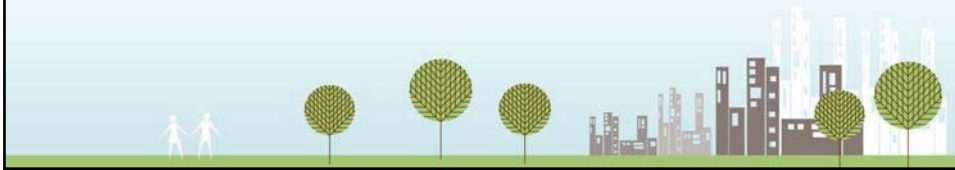
- 2003 - 2009 £15 million capital investment
- 2008 Playbuilder £2.7m
- Dartmouth Park – £6.4m
- Lightwoods Park & House £5.2m
- West Smethwick Park £5.2m (now in delivery)
- Total £31.8m



Green Space Budgets



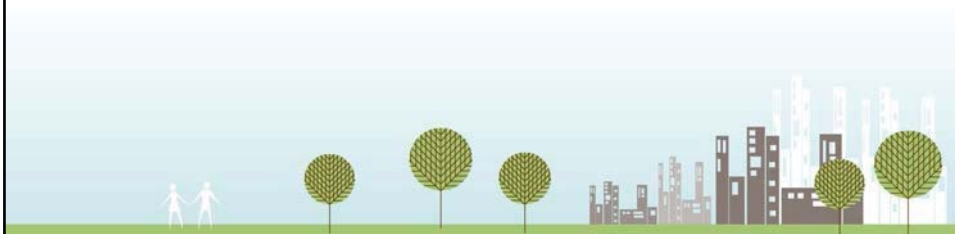
- Budgets are 48.4% of 2010/11
- Equivalent to £3.3 million
- Reductions in staffing levels, loss of warden service & other
- Future years – minor reductions



Workshop Sessions



- Exercises

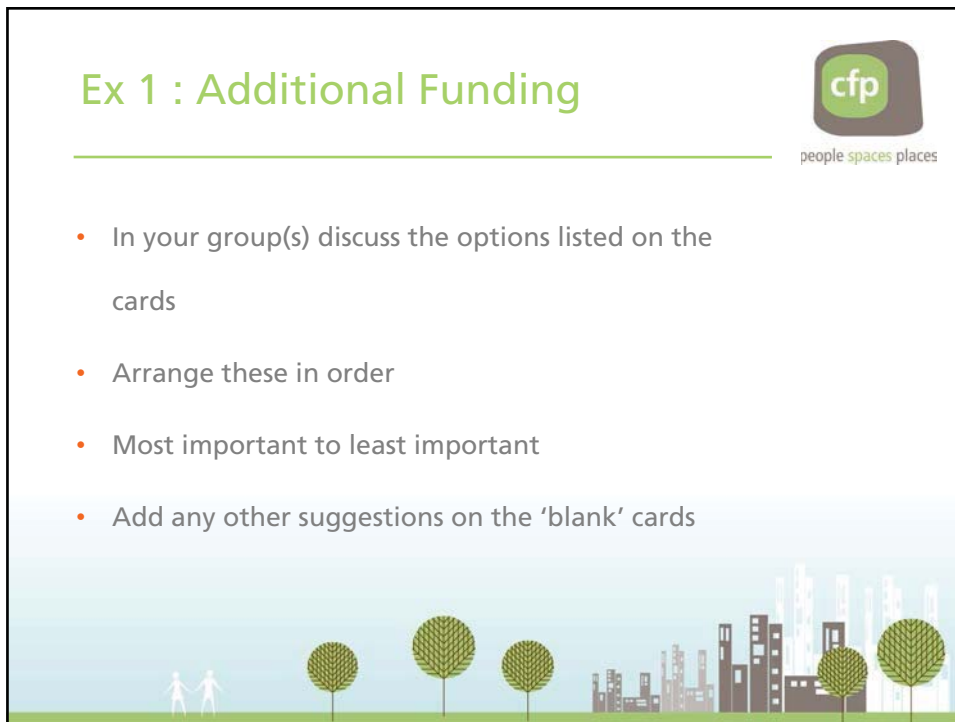


Ex 1 : Additional Funding



people spaces places

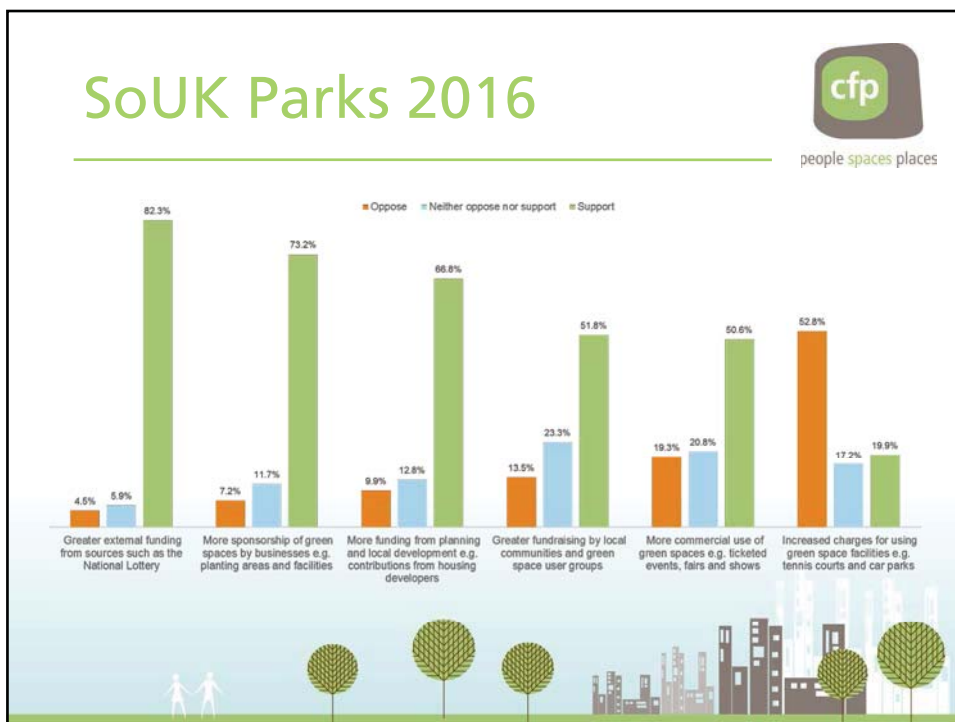
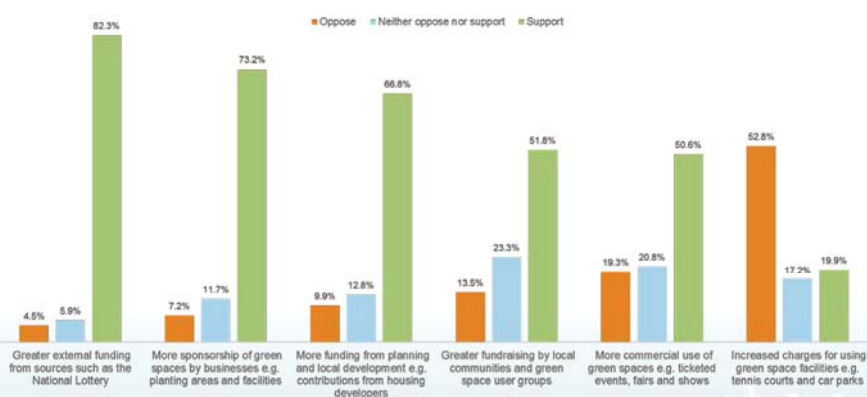
- In your group(s) discuss the options listed on the cards
- Arrange these in order
- Most important to least important
- Add any other suggestions on the 'blank' cards



SoUK Parks 2016



people spaces places



Summary



- Summary of work to date
- Additional Funding



Next Steps



- Further workshops
- Community Drop-in session – 28/02/19
- Green Space Audit – April 2019
- Green Space Strategy (draft) - May 2019



Appendix J

Workshop Reports: Friends Drop in Session



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Friends Forum/Community Drop-In Session

Issue number: 1

Status: DRAFT

Date: 06 March 2019

Prepared by: AD / AS

Authorised by: Adrian Spray

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Friends Forum/Community Drop-In Session

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Comments and Findings	2
2.1	Station 1 – The Value of Green Space	2
2.2	Station 2 – Wishing Tree.....	6
2.3	Station 3 – Additional Funding Options.....	11
2.4	Station 4 – Priorities for Management, Maintenance & Development.....	13
2.5	Station 5 – Your Views.....	14

1 Introduction

As part of the development of the Green Space Strategy for Sandwell. A number of workshops and consultation processes were delivered to identify key issues and to inform the development of proposals.

A drop in session was held at West Bromwich Town Hall on Thursday 28 February between 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Invitations were sent out to a mailing list comprising of friends groups, sports user groups, residents associations and other community based organisations with an interest in Sandwell's green spaces. The event was also promoted on social media.

A total of 28 representatives from the following organisations were in attendance:

- 10 Acre Wood
- For Britain
- Friends of 10 Acre Wood
- Friends of Black Patch Park
- Friends of Haden
- Friends of Red House Park
- Friends of Sheepwash
- Friends of Sots Hole
- Friends of Tividale Park
- Friends of Victoria Park
- HCBL
- Hill Estate
- Libraries Friends
- Sandwell Councillors
- Sandwell Police IAU
- Sandwell Skidder
- Sandwell T INS
- Save Lion Farm Fields

- SMBC Urban Design
- SUPS
- Sutton Football League
- Warley District Sunday LGE
- WDSL

Participants were invited to visit a number of tables or 'stations' around the main hall. At each station there was a task or question that participants were invited to complete.

This report is a record of the consultation event and the discussion and comments made by participants. As such the comments will inform the future strategy, but they do not necessarily reflect Sandwell Council's current and future position.

2 Comments and Findings

2.1 Station 1 – The Value of Green Space

Participants were invited to record on sticky notes why their green space was important to them or their group. The comments are recorded below:

Site/Organisation	Comments
10 acre wood, Wednesbury	The small wood is a haven for wildlife, which then visit our gardens
Black Patch Park	Tourism, Football, Sport, Forest School, Ecology, (Fresh Housing?)
General	Plan routes that link green spaces for pleasant walk
General	Sandwell health indices for health and wellbeing are some of the worst in the country. Asthma/COPD and other issues have contributed to an increase in deaths.
General	Air pollution in Sandwell is not given proactive methods to reduce Need more free planting
General	We are losing too much of our spaces to development. This does not bode well for the future
General	Our green space is important ultimately because it is "our" green space

Site/Organisation	Comments
General	We have brown field sites a plenty and these should be used not green spaces. Green spaces/trees give us all hope for our future generations.
General	More designation of sites for wildlife such as former 'Duport's Tip' adjacent to Rattlechain -Oldbury
General	Greenspaces are the lungs of urban environment. We all need space to breathe freely.
General	Family time, mental health, safety, wellbeing
General	A lot of money has been spent on exercise equipment in our parks which is not being maintained, wear tear, safety
General	Groups of grass moderate the local environment and look nice
General	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mental health 2) Physical health 3) Intergenerational meeting (informal) 4) Help build community 5) Wildlife
General	Green space is important as it helps reduce pollution which is a major issue in Sandwell. I have concern in Great Barr levels of pollution and Oldbury
General	I have concerns with obesity levels in Sandwell which in adults + children are among the highest in country. Green space assists with exercise to reduce this
General	Mental health is far less in children who are brought up in the countryside. We therefore need to retain as much greenspace as possible to reduce levels of mental illness.
General	Sandwell suffers from high levels of air pollution, some of the worst in the west midlands, green spaces are vital to help combat this!
General	Green space is very important to the people of Cradley Heath. Without it there would be nowhere to walk and for children to play
General	People in Sandwell suffer high levels of poverty. It is important that green space is within walking distance of people's homes as finance does not permit long journeys
General	Trees are important in Sandwell due to high pollution levels we need more trees to combat pollution
General	Clear links to good mental health; clean spaces/free for all to use; Sandwell has a low % per head of green open spaces.
General	Green space is important so that young children have a place to play. Most homes in Sandwell lack spacious

Site/Organisation	Comments
	gardens for children so we need to retain and increase green space
General	Children need to have access to green spaces to express themselves and grow We lose our green spaces now they will not come back.
General	Green space is pleasing, calming and aesthetic Greenspaces contribute to good health and wellbeing Years of history has been invested in our trees.
Lion Farm Park	Needs to be preserved
Lion Farm Playing Fields	Sandwell has some of the highest levels of child obesity in the UK; losing 19 hectares of playing fields (at Lion Farm) can only make this worse
Lion Farm Playing Fields	Oldbury currently has just over the minimum (2.59) unrestricted greenspace hectares per 1000 people, if it loses Lion Farm Playing Fields it will have well below – about 2.16. Simply Unacceptable.
Lion Farm Playing Fields	Tividale/Oldbury does not have much green space we have to protect what we have. It's invaluable to the younger generation. Removal will have a negative impact.
Lion Farm Playing Fields - Oldbury	1) Its free to use 2) Good for physical and mental health to have green space 3) 3 deprived area – needs children's free activity (Skate park, MUGA)
Red House Park	Important because it is surrounded by motorways and this green space is vital for good air quality for the local people. Our lungs!
Red House Park	Accessible to all and is sometimes the earliest contact some of our children have with fresh air, nature and a place to enjoy their childhood
Red House Park	Keeping the park for sports, football is important to us not only for organised games but for informal playing.
Red House Park	A gem of a park that I love and have done for the last 65 years since I first went there as a child. Oh the freedom to play!
Red House Park	Red House park lies between Sandwell, B'ham and Walsall and tends to be a bit forgotten but how can anyone forget or ignore this lovely open space. It has so much to offer.
Sheepwash nature reserve	Wildlife and biodiversity, peace and quiet, exercise in a natural setting
Sots Hole	Important to my group as it is a small woodland in the middle of housing and wildlife need somewhere to live as well as human

Site/Organisation	Comments
Titford Pools	1) Wildlife 2) Cycling/Dog walking 3) Fishing
Tividale Park	More funding is needed from local council to help improve Tividale Park
Victoria Park – West Smethwick	Not safe – dangerous dogs not on lead or muzzles. Too many incidents of families and children
Victoria Park Smethwick	Green space is important to people of Smethwick. Victoria Park without our Park we will not have events like Sandwell/Birmingham mega fireworks event. Families to bring their children to play.
Warley District Sunday League	Green space is vital to a healthy pastime with over 700 on Sundays

2.2 Station 2 – Wishing Tree

Participants were invited to write up to 3 wishes for the next 10 years on colour coded luggage tags, these tags were then displayed on a tree so that they could be viewed by other participants:

- Red – For my group
- Yellow – for my green space
- Green – more general wishes

The following comments were recorded:

Red - Your Group
Friends of Haden Hill Estate – Keep getting the green flag
At least continuation of the green spaces we have today
Friends of 10 acre woods Encouragement of wildlife in this area of Wednesbury. Provision of quiet place for relaxation and contemplation of nature
WDSL – Football is still an option in Sandwell
I hope my group will be able to not only save Lion Farm Playing fields from the concrete mixer, but fight to make the fields even more useful to the 'local community'
Equal opportunities for funding. Large amounts of funding are given to some parks whilst others are struggling to cash to improve their green spaces Regular tree maintenance and information about the trees in our green space so we can see how the area of the park is evolving. Continued improvement to our wood areas to encourage young and old to get out and enjoy a walk with nature!
Councillors should not be part of the organisation, they should support not coerce or influence
I would like to see more effective engagement with the public, friends groups and partners I would like to see green space used to generate income in the Borough e.g. more events.
Friends of Tividale Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A community hub - Facilities for families and schools - A football field with changing facilities for local under 16's team
Friends of Sheepwash nature reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More members - Better funding opportunities

To have equal and fair opportunities for access to funding There is an imbalance across the borough All bids/funding and outcome reports should be in the public domain
To maintain interest and encourage more group participation
Green spaces well utilised by local communities following free and inclusive engagement
To be free of political influence and bias Labour clearly control and influence too many groups
Essex avenue TRA
Hatley Cross Big Local
Black Patch Park

Yellow – Your Green Space
The population is growing in Sandwell. I would like to see an increase in green space to accommodate the growing population. I would like to see developments only concentrated on brownfield sites. I would like to see all our green spaces have green flags as this is a mark of quality.
Haden Park – Dogs on leads, less dog fouling
Parks – open spaces and grass verges should be preserved
Integration of all school of local green spaces community allotments
True community ownership – not governed by idealistic cabinet members
“Fields in trust” to be held to account when fields are given to developers
Green spaces, woods, SINC, SLINC etc to be maintained preserved and improved where possible Study wildlife, trees and create promotional material to make more aware of the precious space, trees and nature areas we have.
More regular maintenance of our parkland, flowerbeds and trees. We’re aiming for green flag status so need more council commitment in aiding us to achieve this. Public toilet is much needed and requested. Boundary fencing for when the park is closed at night to prevent anti-social behaviour Dog fouling offenders to be accountable and dog controls to be enforced.
Reformat golf to make economic and so help maintain their beautiful facilities Could have cycle track etc within boundaries and paths Driving rangers seem to make money?
Friends of 10 Acre Wood – maintain the space as buffer zone in the urban area
1 – Somerset green 2 – Kesteven green 3 – ‘Milky’ millpool 4 – Marsh Lane 5 – Denbigh Drive

Green space to be fully protected and not a temporary "protection" put on it that can be removed should develops want the land Re: "Fields in Trust"
Lion Farm, currently under threat of being redeveloped. The hope is for the space to remain untouched and lots of green space meetings take place.
I hope Lion Farm Playing Fields will still be used by Warley & District Football League in 10 years' time, and turned into a green space for the whole communitiy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Somerset green 2) Kesteven Green
<p>Titford Pools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Visitor Centre 2 – Trim Trail 3 – Flat field (no bogs) 4 – barg facilities
That maintenance will be increased so as unsociable behaviour doesn't move back.
<p>Community of people</p> <p>Community of interest (sports, ecology)</p> <p>Black Patch park</p>
<p>Friends of Sheepwash Nature Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection from development - Protection of nature/wildlife corridors - Visitors centre - Better management/bye-laws and protection
<p>Lion Farm playing fields</p> <p>Skate Park</p> <p>MUGA</p> <p>Cinema</p> <p>Homeless Shelter</p>
Clear advice training and guidance for the voluntary sector – no cost

Green - General
Everyone should be able to walk to and between green spaces without having to travel by car
Your political advancement is not the most important thing to us
WDSL – where will Lion Farm be in 2 years???
Use green space to reduce pollution increase health reduce obesity. If grants for green space are obtained, other factors to be look at e.g. anti-social behaviour. Its no use just 'doing np' assets uf they are then vandalised.
The council if they decide to put green space in trust via Fields in Trust it needs to stay in trust.
Your political advancement is not the most important thing to us (not a repeat of

above)
There is far too much politics in community matters. Communities, orgs and groups should be heard and listened to!
That sots hole will continue to be available for residents and visitors to always use
Regular council involvement with the green spaces they own. Regular maintenance. Don't run green spaces as 'business' – use common language that we can all identify with. Together we can make our green spaces great spaces.
Green space is invaluable it has major impact on individual well-being next 10 years the focus needs to be on preservation not redevelopment.
I hope SMBC will stop selling off vital greenspaces to developers.
The health and wellbeing of everyone living and working here depends on it
Black Patch park – to maintain the biodiversity that currently thrives and be the hub of regular football activity
Free use of parks and continued facilities we have today
Londonderry playing fields new swimming pools needs to be promoted in the community to be fused for healthy options offers for family use.
Listen – you are not in charge
Listen – you are not in charge (not a repeat of above)
More money to be given to Victoria Park to promote family events
If consultation events are put on, invites should go out to ALL, not the cliques and groups that agree to the political group in council
We hope we can get more people involved, have more gardeners, dogs on leads.



2.3 Station 3 – Additional Funding Options

Participants were invited to rate / score a number of statements about possible additional funding sources for green spaces. The statements were taken from the State of UK Parks Research carried out in 2016. The findings of the national research are included below for comparison.

Source of Funding	Sum of Ratings (max 100)	Average Rating (1=not supportive, 5=very supportive)
Greater external funding from sources such as National Lottery	90	4.5
More sponsorship of green spaces by businesses e.g. planting areas and facilities	75	3.75
More funding from planning and local development e.g. contributions from new housing	77	3.85
Greater fundraising by local communities and green spaces user groups	63	3.15
More commercial use of green spaces e.g. ticketed events, fairs and shows	57	2.85
Increased charges for green space facilities e.g. tennis courts and car parks	35	1.75

Other comments provided are recorded below:

More sponsorship of green spaces by businesses e.g. planting areas and facilities
As long as they don't take control
Good funding opportunity
More funding from planning and local development e.g. contributions from new housing
As long as housing does not encroach on green spaces and is distributed fairly
Localised ring-fenced
Ring fenced to area
Yes as they would use the park more
Funds going to the green spaces local to the development
Greater fundraising by local communities and green spaces user groups
Free of political coercion
With appropriate support
Depends on how much help the groups can get

More commercial use of green spaces e.g. ticketed events, fairs and shows
As long as area is not 'protected' and full cleans is sorted
At larger showgrounds
As long as it does not have an adverse effect on the park
Sometimes this can damage the environment of green spaces it's trying to help
Increased charges for green space facilities e.g. tennis courts and car parks
Sandwell has mainly low-income families would exclude them from their local activities
Could exclude some families because of cost

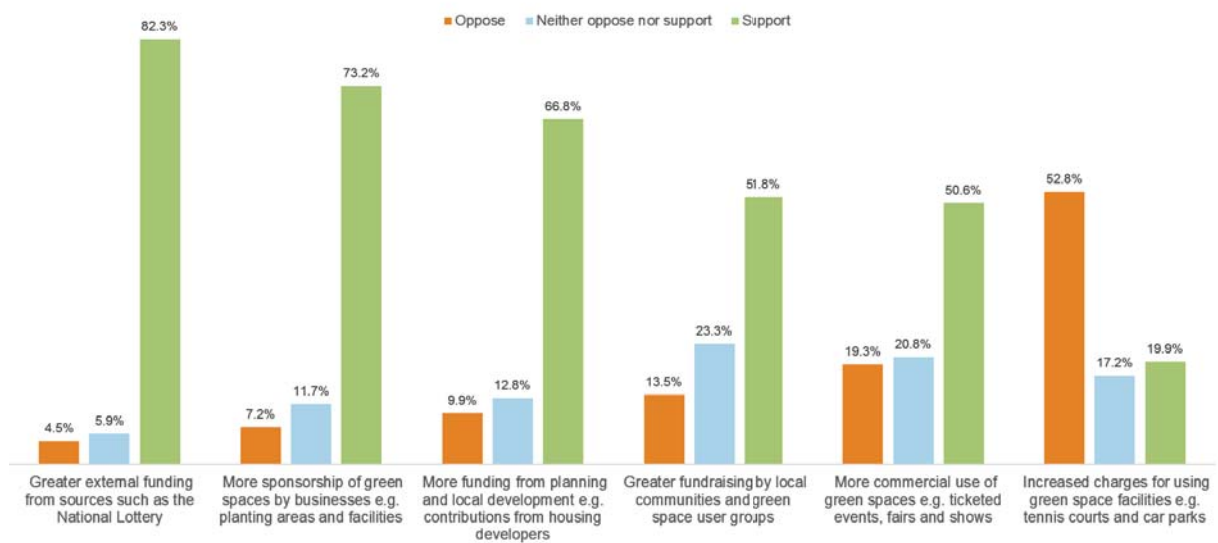


Figure 1 – Results from the State of UK Parks Research 2016

2.4 Station 4 – Priorities for Management, Maintenance & Development

Participants were invited to score the priorities for Management, Maintenance & Development in order to gain an insight into future priorities that the strategy may need to consider. The results are recorded below:

Management	Sum of Ratings	Average Rating (1=not important, 5=very important)
Managing Health, Safety and Site security	78	4.59
Monitoring maintenance standards	75	4.41
Financial Management	77	4.28
Managing facilities and events	70	3.89
Writing management plans	61	3.59
Setting fees and charges	54	3

Maintenance	Sum of Ratings	Average Rating (1=not important, 5=very important)
Removal of graffiti, litter and fly tipping	80	4.44
Maintenance of paths and hard surfaces	78	4.33
Maintaining play, youth and sports structures	77	4.28
Maintenance of flowers, plants and trees,	75	4.17
Grass Cutting	72	4
Maintenance of buildings and structures	72	4

Development	Sum of Ratings	Average Rating (1=not important, 5=very important)
Making improvements to support and encourage wildlife	84	4.67
Developing community and partner led initiatives	78	4.33
Developing volunteering	75	4.17
Educational programmes	73	4.06
Developing activities and events	71	3.94
Marketing and promotion	66	3.67

2.5 Station 5 – Your Views

Participants were invited to record any other comments:

Green space is a must for our health in Sandwell and events and parks need to be promoted more e.g. walking groups
There is little point in having a strategy for green spaces, if you continue to ignore it, and simply sell off any that can make a good profit for the council. (Lion Farm Playing Fields)
Help out wildlife – dog attacks are not natural. If caught the dog owners should be prosecuted
The pools need to be cleaned and maintained more often
Last strategy based on 2001 census. We have had a major increase in population in most wards. Please be aware of this.
Green space needs to be integrated into our streets and buildings to combat pollution
More wardens on patrol more often in the park to keep an eye on dog fouling.
1 - Charging for fishing 2 - Protection of wildlife 3 - No culling of wildlife 4 - Bye-laws for all nature reserves
More designation of nature reserve sites LNRS etc
As a tree is removed – replace it with similar
We need green spaces. Its free. 1 - Physical and mental health benefits 2 - Retain wildlife 3 – Residents to be sent notification – not advertise on a board that not everyone sees
To be told about things before they happen, not after
Golf course use is declining across the UK. Warley Woods golf course is ineconomic and always will be – it should be scrapped and the land returned to the general public.
Please at a minimum provide 4-24 hectares of green space per 1000 population. 5 of 6 towns are probably below this marker now
The last strategy did not include allotments. I feel these need to be included
We were promised that 14 green spaces would have green flag by 2020. My records indicate 8 at most. If you have a strategy it needs to be kept to otherwise it becomes worthwhile
What about consideration of sites for Romani and travelling communities?
Since the gates have been left open, Barnford Hill Park has become a 'hot bed' of drug use, particularly in Spring/Summer. Drug dealers threaten people and someone will get

<p>badly hurt soon if this is allowed to continue. The previous park keeper left his job due to regular threats of violence from drug pushers, who in their words 'are taking over the park now'</p>
<p>Ensure byelaws that are in place for some nature areas are applied to all green spaces, parks and nature reserves.</p>
<p>What is the future of Warley Woods? Will the council take it on?</p>
<p>Maintain and use our historical features which are part of our green spaces. Be proud of what we have.</p>
<p>Public liability insurance ought to be a blanket cover for all community groups or council give third party cover for group</p>
<p>There is no clear tree replacement policy. This needs to be done.</p>
<p>Population has risen. Housing Needs will rise. We therefore need to ensure green space is sufficient for population. National Planning Guidance has changed but the old planning guidance PGG IY gave sound planning guidance</p>
<p>Woodland walking is good for mental health and wellbeing</p>
<p>Make available details of all monies and funding opportunities available to all.</p>
<p>Make available for download without cost to the community, maps and information pertinent to green space</p>
<p>The population aged 60+ in Sandwell is expected to increase by 30.9% I understand. Please take account of this when working at the strategy.</p>
<p>Lock park gates at night to help prevent anti-social behaviour: This behaviour deters our park visitors from spending time in the park</p>
<p>More activities which involve community engagement. Clear communication regarding redevelopment being allowed to participate in consultation</p>
<p>Tree planting is important and we need a management plan for this</p>
<p>Please enforce bye-laws e.g. dog control, pollution of waterways from external sources.</p>
<p>Full community involvement and engagement. Full proper and proportional consultation</p>
<p>Litter bins emptied regularly – they are sometimes missed – littering encourages littering – and vermin!</p>

Appendix K

Workshop Reports: Health & Wellbeing



people spaces places

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Health & Wellbeing Workshop Report

Issue number: 2

Status: FINAL

Date: 04 April 2019

Prepared by: AS

Authorised by: AS

Sandwell Green Space Strategy

Health & Wellbeing Workshop Report

Contents

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Appendix A – Copy of Presentation

1 Introduction

As part of the development of the Sandwell Green Space Strategy a workshop was held with staff and partners with an interest in health, wellbeing, physical activity and play.

Date / time & location	05 March 2019, 10.00 – 12.45 pm Sandwell MBC staff and partners Venue: Sandwell Park Farm, Salters Lane, West Bromwich, B71 4BG
Content	Introductory presentation about works that has been carried out so far and an initial review of green space quantity and quality data linked to deprivation and health data. This presentation was followed by a series of exercises to explore the key issues, potential solutions and approaches that may be adopted through the Green Space Strategy.
Purpose	For attendees to gain an understanding of and inform the GSS.

There were 8 participants in attendance as well as a facilitator from CFP. Participants represented the service areas of Parks Management, Public Health / Health Development, Sports and Leisure, Urban Design, Planning Policy, Sandwell Go Play, Cycling UK and Warley Woods Community Trust.

This report is a record of the workshop event and the discussion and comments made by participants. As such the comments will inform the future strategy, but they do not necessarily reflect Sandwell Council's current and future position.

2 Workshop Exercises and findings

2.1 Mapping Existing Provision and Services

Sandwell Play Service is one of the few remaining local authority-led play services in the country. There is limited capacity and excess demand for services. There are three 3 full-time and 3 part time staff supplemented by sessional workers. The service runs forest schools sessions at Warley Woods and that Sandwell Valley Country Park. There is also holiday and term time provision of outdoor play activities

Hateley Cross Big Local has commissioned play services on local green spaces. This includes den building, sports, arts and crafts activities. All services are free at the point of access but typically grant funded. The play service also provides grant support for other providers.

Lifestyle Services is a public health program. Client groups are typically less active people and those with weight issues. The service has limited capacity and promoting self-help agenda. The reach of current services is typically 1.5% the borough population.

Many health and well-being services within the borough will need to consider how they enable people to look after their own health and well-being. This may include use of digital apps and other resources. The focus is on facilitation rather than direct delivery.

In terms of using green spaces, perceptions of safety is a key issue and potential barrier that will need to be addressed.

The play service is looking at exploring street play and playing out with local communities that are interested in developing such schemes and changes to the physical environment.

Within Sandwell's communities there is a need for capacity building. Management and procedural operation is often reliant on key individuals. Therefore, there is fragility in the current provision. Consideration needs to be given to skills, training and qualifications in order to support organisations and communities develop (and sustain) their own capacity.

Affordability is the key issue – there is a tension between low cost services that are accessible (but difficult to sustain) and those that charge a fee.

Sports and Leisure and Health Development teams have submitted an application to the Healthy Activities Fund. More details are available about this.

In terms of volunteering, consider the role of corporate volunteer activities. Warley Woods works with a range of companies including HSBC.

A specialist audience or market is the home-educators / self-educators. They could be potential interest in training people as Forest Schools leaders which would increase capacity. However, within the segment, trust will need to be established over time and relationships developed. Sometimes there is mistrust of the local authority and their motives.

Generally, in terms of capacity and the voluntary sector there is an ongoing need to train new leaders. Friends groups need support to develop capacity and to achieve their goals.

Forest Schools Leaders take typically 6 to 9 months to train. However, many of the less risky activities can be delivered without formal Forest Schools qualifications.

Healthy Schools Leaders and Public Health Development Officers encourage cross boundary working. There are good examples of joint working between parks, the play service and Public Health.

At some parks such as Victoria Park Smethwick there is a program of sports and leisure activities. However, coverage is patchy.

The sports clubs in many parks generally do a good job of helping to provide a route to leading more active lifestyles.

Many parks have outdoor gyms, equipped play facilities & youth facilities which encourage children and young people to get active. However, it should be noted children and young people will often play in creative ways given the chance. Local access is important.

Sandwell had previously developed a number of strategies around play activity and so on and many of these documents are now out of date. However, there is a view that many of these plans and strategies are still relevant. But are they being worked to?

There is a large event each year in Lightwoods Park for National Play Day which is attended by around 500 people. It provides a great opportunity for promoting the range of services that are available.

A physical activity and sports strategy has been drafted which has a number of principles;

- It is town based
- It seeks to achieve a Commonwealth Games legacy
- Work streams are currently being set up
- Adoption by November 2019 is the target

The Playing Pitch Strategy will be finalised and adopted in summer 2019.

Sustainability of funded activities is often a challenge. During the grant funded period the activities are often subsidised which helps increase the levels of participation. However, once the funding ceases, fees and charges are increased to levels that makes them more self-supporting but this increase in fees is often very significant and leads to a very low take-up. The jump from say £1 per session to £3 per session is perceived negatively even if the increase charges offer good value for money. This scale of fees represents a real economic barrier to some residents.

There are some initiatives in the borough to create more child-friendly neighbourhoods and pilot projects - for example one with Friar Park Community Association has experienced issues with transport and highways not understanding or supporting the proposals. A more consistent approach is needed.

There is a need for much greater marketing and promotion of opportunities around physical activity within parks and green spaces, but also across the board.

In terms of cycling, there are some projects within parks and green spaces however there has been issues with vandalism of the cycle hubs. There are some led rides at Wednesbury Park, Lightwoods Park, Jubilee Park but some of the spaces are really too small to be ideal.

For those new to cycling, sometimes the distances that can be covered is off-putting. However, many people are more comfortable with describing the length of time that the activity takes

rather than the distance that will be covered. To a certain extent this is an education or expectation issue that can be overcome with support and training to build confidence.

The HLF funded Community Engagement Officers such as those at Lightwoods Park and West Smethwick Park provide an additional resource.

Health walks are offered across the six towns and are still successful. This is a program that has successfully recruited, trained and retained volunteer leaders.

Many public health programs in the borough look to train community activators and have people in similar roles. However, many of the programs are time-limited. The council and its partners seek to manage expectations but it can be challenging to ensure the programs leave behind a lasting legacy.

In terms of reaching people, there is a need to refresh the offer – the novelty factor is important and people like to participate in things that are new and on trend.

“Borrow my Doggy” is an innovative scheme that allows people contact with dogs before committing to becoming pet owners. The Cinnamon Trust also has a volunteer dog walker program. Consider options such as this that can provide benefits in terms of increased physical activity and social interaction within parks and green spaces.

There are six public-health development offices (previously called Can-Dos and Weight Management Officers). The team can identify needs and bring together services but the focus is on facilitation rather than direct service delivery. The team look to connect the dots or bring services together in way that has not been tried before. There are four existing routes through GPS / Schools / workplaces and community settings.

Sandwell friends groups are not that well-connected and networked. How do we get them to take a more active role? There is a need for a volunteer management role and Birmingham benefits from the Birmingham Open Spaces Forum which is run by paid staff.

Marketing and promotion within the borough around health and wellbeing services is not coordinated.

There is a Healthy Sandwell website but this could be developed further.

Sandwell Go Play has recognised the need for a role for someone to lead on social media.

The recent digital Sandwell conference identified the need to improve the council's website and web presence. Also digital services need to be improved for example it is not currently possible to pay for car parking fees through an app or online, only to pay car parking fines.

Sandwell Leisure Trust provides a range of routes to access physical activity programs and facilities.

The Family Information Service provides information about activities relevant to children and young people.

Social and lifestyle prescribing is being developed in the borough but at the moment it is early days. Delivery is somewhat piecemeal across the borough and not well-developed and the economic side is not really joined up. At the moment the mechanism is not really there.

Warley Woods promotes itself and the site through posters in GP surgeries. This is effective and low cost.

Sandwell Leisure Trust has been developing some initiatives in this area – there was a pilot project at Portway.

Parkrun at Sandwell Valley Country Park continues to be popular but it is the only parkrun in the borough.

There are various Couch to 5K initiatives and a range of charity runs such as Race for Life and Resolution Runs that also typically take place in the Sandwell Valley.

National governing bodies provide assistance with the promotion of sports – for example there has been a recent initiative around tennis.

The Commonwealth Games should help to significantly raise the profile of sport within the region and it is hoped that this increased awareness only to greater participation and greater membership of existing sports clubs.

Some schools are involved with allotments, community gardening and food production. This has been successful in encouraging participation from young people and also pupils with special needs. There is a need to ensure that schools fully understand the commitment and that this is an all year round activity.

A further comment was made by email after the workshop:

I could just reiterate what I said about access to greenspaces on the basis of the ward level figures . . . presented, ie the figures suggest that people in nearly half of Sandwell's wards are under-provided for in terms of the amount of greenspace available to them. This will of course vary widely across the wards, eg from where I live in Bearwood I can walk to Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods well within 5 minutes, but others a much further away and need to walk up a fairly substantial hill. This might suggest that additional greening of some neighbourhoods is needed, possibly using street trees (especially if linked with air pollution problems). Such an expansion of green infrastructure to support wellbeing might not have been intended as being part of the strategy, but it would be interesting to hear what others think about this.

2.2 Future Opportunities

Create an online portal which provides access to all services relating to physical activity and health and well-being.

Low-tech solutions such as posters can be effective.

There is a need for greater networking and coordination across providers. There is a lack of joined up working and coordination. Consider the best vehicle to achieve this goal.

Increased the level of volunteer participation and the opportunities for this.

Consider how we create child-friendly spaces which includes physical networks and improved navigation and attractiveness.

Consider active travel and traffic free routes - seek to link existing spaces and to create new links.

Look at development as a tool for place making – link in with initiatives such as the Black Country Garden City and the New Build Healthy Homes standards.

Design of the public realm is important in order to create attractive and well used spaces and to remove barriers to access.

Antisocial behaviour and the management of antisocial behaviour is important in terms of reducing barriers to access. However, the definition of antisocial behaviour needs to be reviewed. Children playing out is not necessarily antisocial behaviour and is something we should seek to encourage.

Playable spaces and communities need to be designed in from the outset. There is a movement away from designing residential areas around cul-de-sacs in order to increase permeability. Consideration needs to be given to not generating additional traffic.

There is an issue about who leads on developing or improving physical links between green spaces and creating these walkable routes. Is this solely a planning function or is a wider partnership approach required?

Spatial mapping was carried out in 2009 - this should be reviewed and updated.

An example of an estate with good connectivity is the Friar Park estate in Wednesbury - there are links from Price Road over the River Tame.

Look at developing the cycle networks which also provide traffic free routes for walkers and other users. There is a 43 mile circular route from Forge Mill which only takes in 5 miles on road using cycle paths, canal towpaths and other traffic free routes.

Canal towpaths are important in terms of providing walking and cycling routes and there is already joint working with the Canal and River Trust.

Identify new funding streams to deliver or sustain physical activity programmes and those that contribute to health and well-being. Sport England are due to announce a new funding model shortly.

The Commonwealth Games will provide an opportunity to get people more active and to engage sports clubs in this process.

In terms of creating accessible spaces, consider the needs of disabled visitors in terms of mobility but also in terms of visual and other impairments.

Generally, there is a need for cultural change where everyone needs to make time for health activities as part of their daily routine – important if significant scale change is to be achieved.

There are capacity issues if more children and young people are to be engaged in play services. The play service currently reaches around 12,000 people each year and Go Play partnership reaches a similar number.

Primary schools and the learning community provide a good route into communities.

Youth orientated forms of physical activity and sports such as wheeled sports remain popular. There is a lecturer at Dudley college seeking to explore issues around participation in wheeled sports and the design of such facilities and whether dispersed designs within the wider environment are more effective / attractive.

Sport England programme “This Girl Can” is considered to have been an effective way of encouraging young women to participate in physical activity and sport. It is likely to be refreshed shortly based on the findings from the initial phase.

Buggy walks have been in effective way of engaging young mums and social setting. They have been run at Warley Woods the last six years. Although the leader has now moved on to lead other activities.

Black and minority ethnic groups across the borough have generally being well engaged through the lifestyles programmes. Evaluation of these programs has shown that they generally have an effective reach in terms of participation across Sandwell’s diverse communities. Similarly, disabled people have participated and targets have been exceeded.

Look at whether the ‘borrow a dog’ scheme could be implemented in Sandwell.

Marketing needs to be improved and look at working with existing partners and organisations to develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach.

Consider providing mobility scooters in some parks which can be hired or borrowed if there is demand.

Look at providing a greater number of benches and resting points in key spaces if this will reduce barriers for disabled people or those with limited mobility.

Walking trails can be an effective and low-cost way of encouraging greater physical activity and exploration within green spaces. They can be good for getting regular visitors to break out of their usual routine. Also, for younger people it’s a way of getting them to take exercise without this is being the primary purpose, it’s more of a fun activity.

2.3 *Prioritisation*

Participants were asked to consider one or more proposals that could contribute to Sandwell being a healthier and more active environment. These were then prioritised by considering the scale of impact and the ease of implementation.

		IMPLEMENTATION		
IMPACT		Easy	Medium	Hard
	High	<p>A champion for events to facilitate (temporary) road closures and street play</p> <p>For people to be walking as normal daily thing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great in its own right • Needs to other physical activity • Treat yourself as well as a dog! <p>Increase perceptions of 'safety' (this space is for me!!)</p> <p>More walking as the 'default' option</p>	<p>Green space connected by car free travel</p> <p>See more people are engaged in sport and physical activity</p> <p>Gamification of visits to green spaces / to gain rewards points (Need to read barcodes with a phone on routes / different places in parks. May need a sponsor to pay for rewards).</p> <p>Create a knowledge hub / portal (and promote this) for is various park activities - searchable on the basis of:</p>	<p>Develop a Return on Investment model to secure future resources based on prevention and delivering health & well-being benefits</p>

	<p>To see all 'no ball games' signs taken down in Sandwell</p> <p>Good access to green spaces for individuals to enjoy there space in their own way to benefit their health and well-being (promotion)</p> <p>Realise the impact that small areas of green space, street trees, verges and the front garden landscape can have on well-being – these make walking a pleasure, increase property values etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age group • Type of activity • Location and proximity to home • Time of day / week • Male / female 	
Medium			
Low			

Appendix A

Copy of Presentation

(NB the data presented in the presentation is for information purposes only and represents early draft analysis and is subject to review and further change in the final strategy)

Sandwell Green Space Audit & Strategy

Health & Wellbeing Workshop

05 March 2019



Agenda

- Update on work to date
- Existing services and provision
- Future Opportunities
- Prioritisation
- Summary & close



Green Space & Health



people spaces places

- C19th Public Health Acts supported the creation of public parks
- Physical activity & obesity – leading cause of death in developed countries
- Physical activity & access to nature is effective in the treatment of mental illness and contributes to wellbeing
- Children prefer to play outside but are often not given the choice
- Exercise has migrated towards indoor provision reducing the lobby for good quality parks

Returning Urban Parks to their Public Health Roots – Centre for Public Health Liverpool John Moores University

Green Space & Health



people spaces places

- The poorest are most likely to benefit in health terms from access to parks but are typically the lowest users
- There has been a reversal of the decline of urban parks focusing on improving facilities and overall appeal. But at the expense of marketing / programmes / increased usage (?)
- Access to information about local urban parks is poor (ParksHerts - www.parksherts.co.uk)
- Facilitating use for Health Benefits – Urban Park Health Rangers

Returning Urban Parks to their Public Health Roots – Centre for Public Health Liverpool John Moores University

Green Space & Health




people spaces places

- Parks are (incredibly) valued by users and non-users, improving the environment, local neighbourhood, attracting investment, tourism and jobs & increasing land / property values.
- Parks provide a space where parallel communities can mix and are one of the few neutral spaces where multi-cultural events can take place
- Design of parks is important in meeting the needs of different audiences (young, old, disabled)

Returning Urban Parks to their Public Health Roots – Centre for Public Health Liverpool John Moores University




Sandwell Vision 2030



people spaces places

Our vision for Sandwell

VISION 2030 SANDWELL



In 2030, Sandwell is a thriving, optimistic and resilient community.

It's where we call home and where we're proud to belong - where we choose to bring up our families, where we feel safe and cared for, enjoying good health, rewarding work, feeling connected and valued in our neighbourhoods and communities, confident in the future, and benefiting fully from a revitalised West Midlands.

Sandwell Vision 2030



Ambition 2

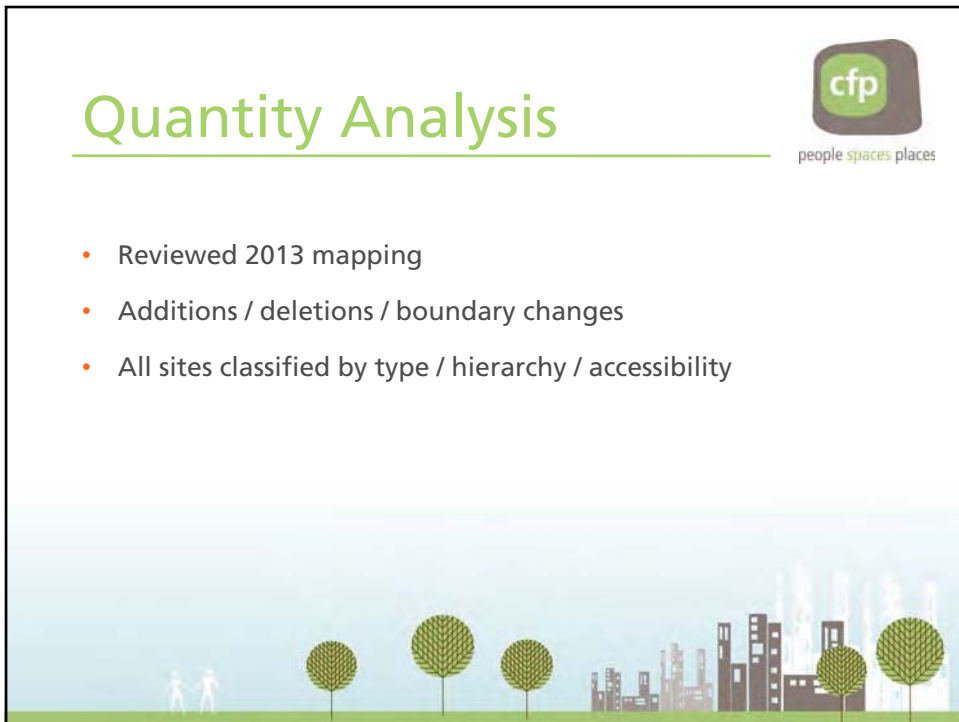
Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

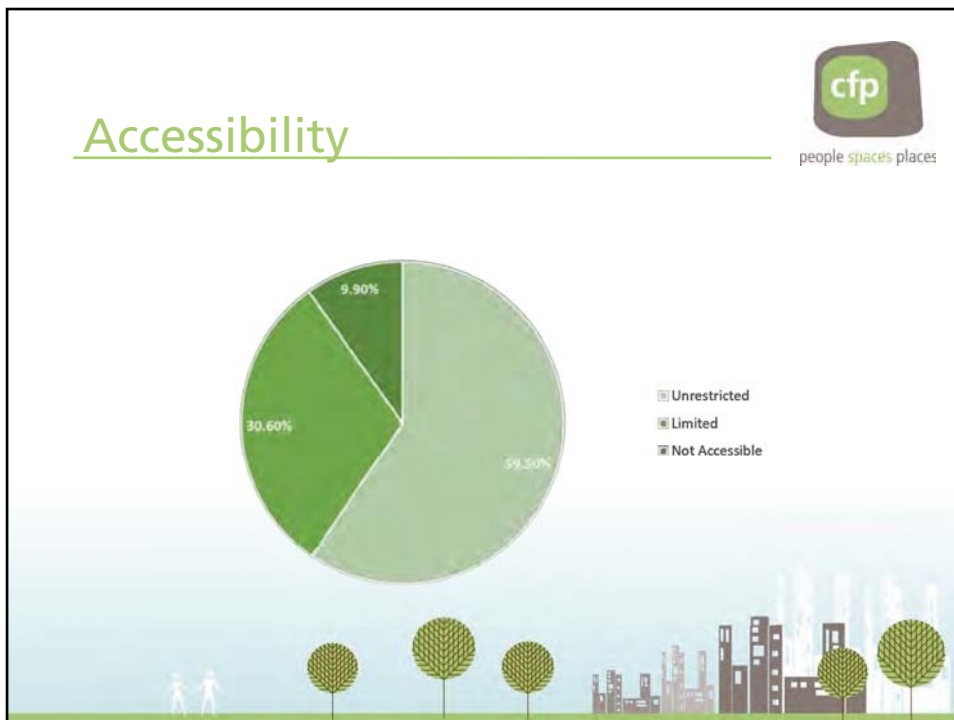
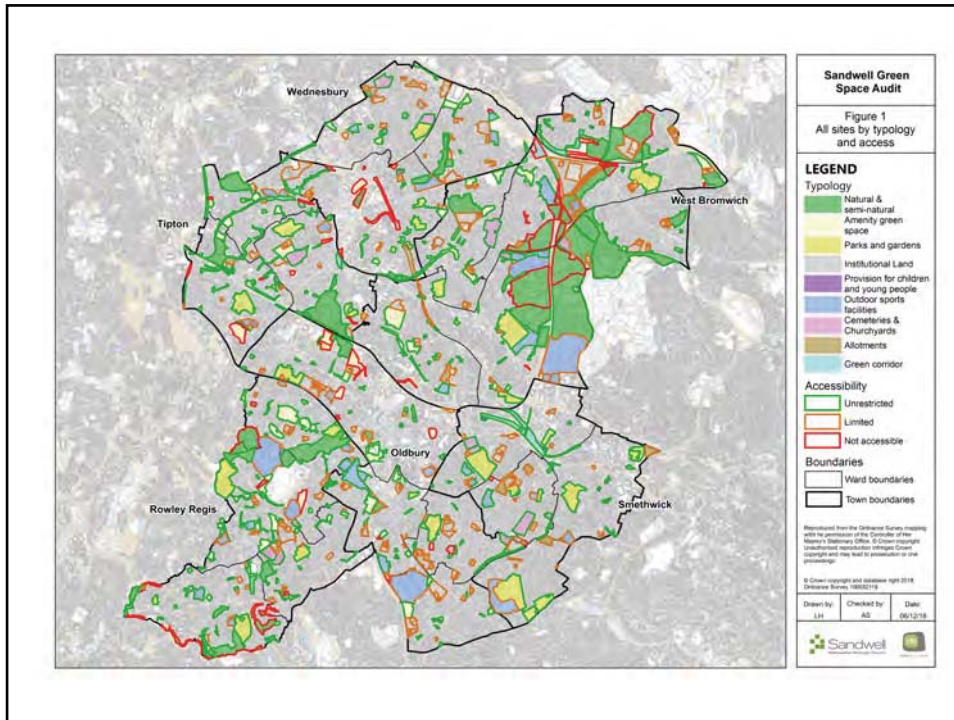


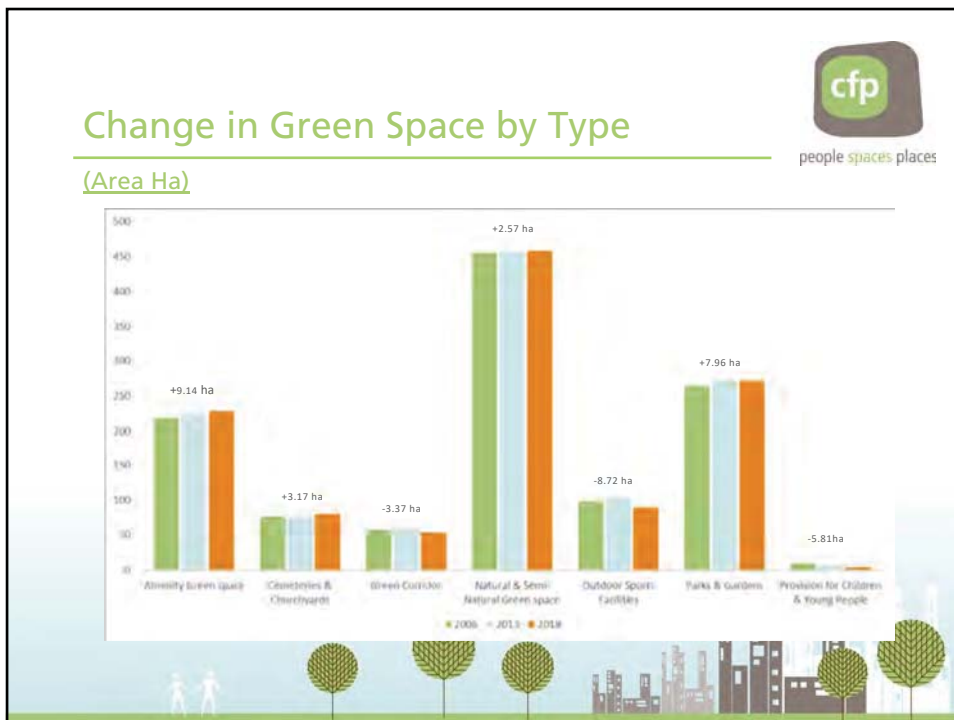
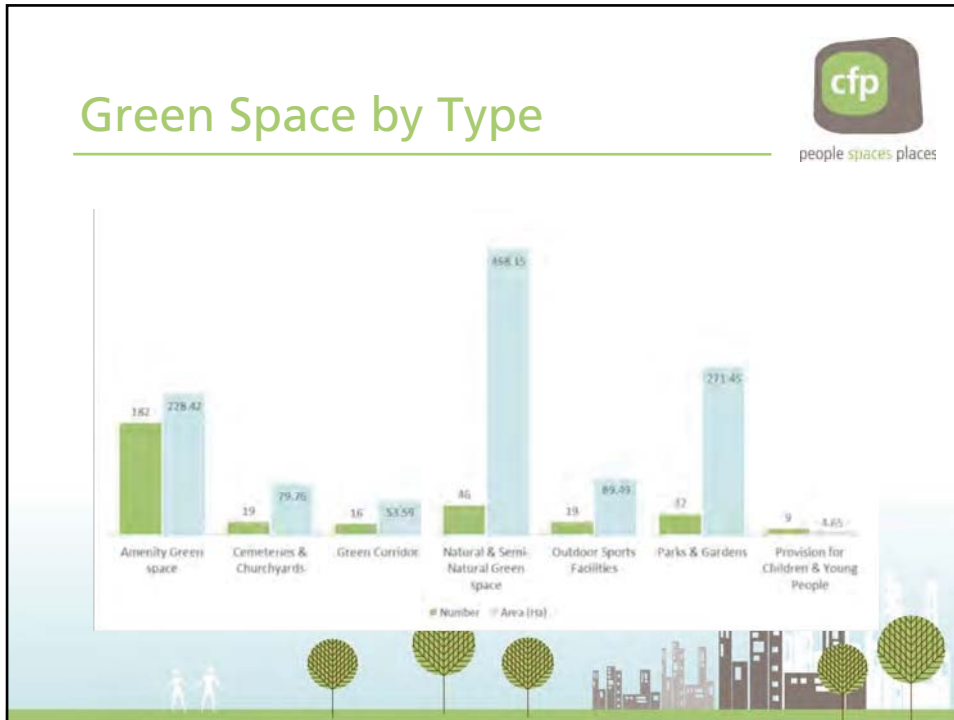
Quantity Analysis

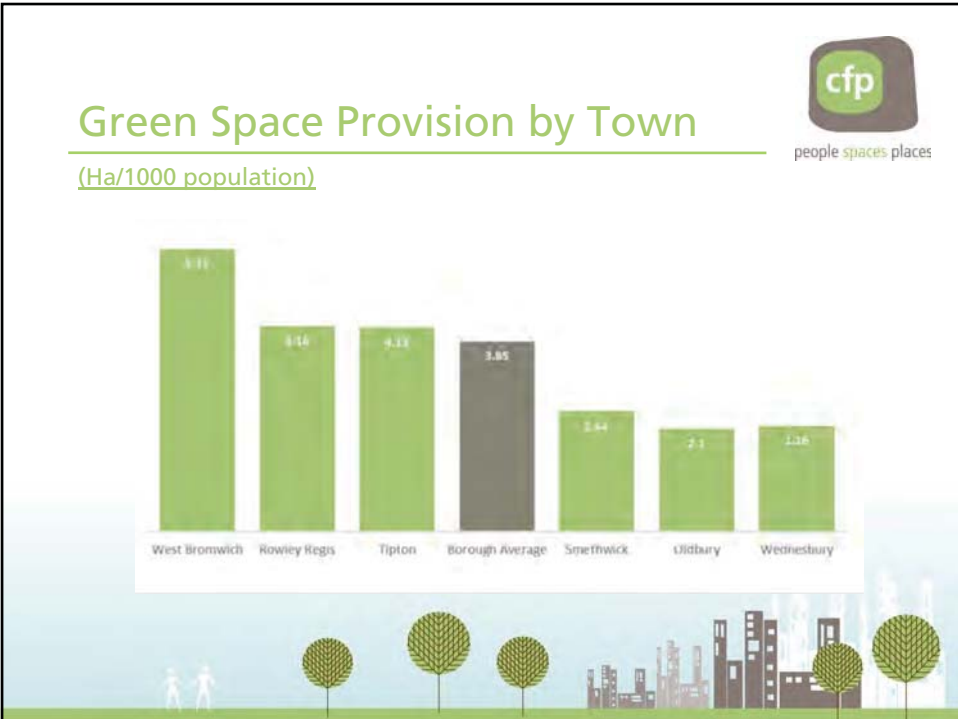
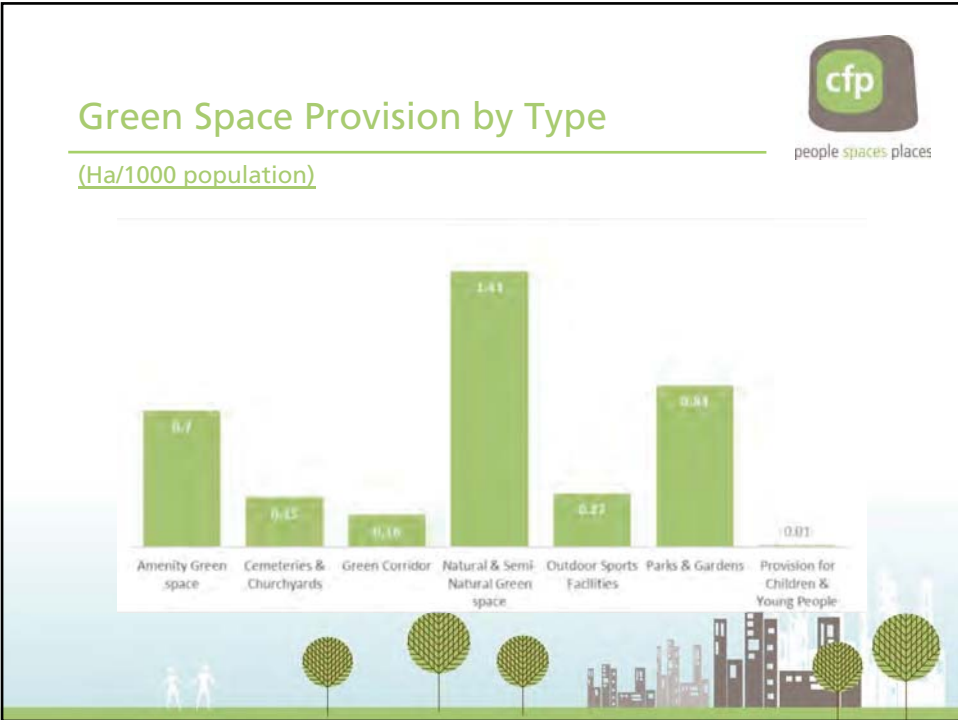


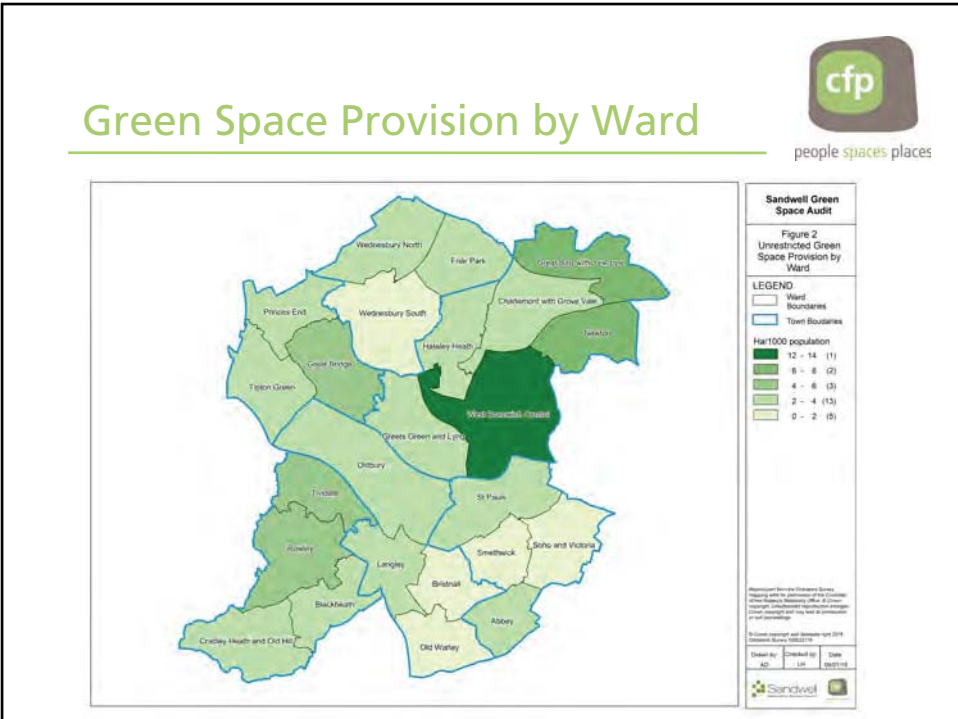
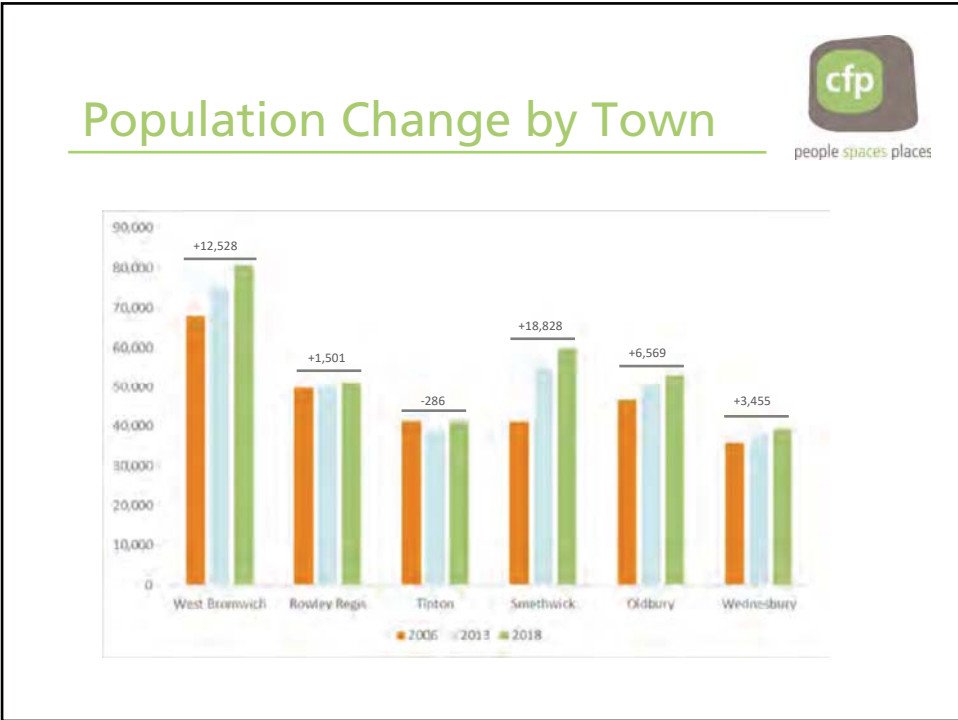
- Reviewed 2013 mapping
- Additions / deletions / boundary changes
- All sites classified by type / hierarchy / accessibility

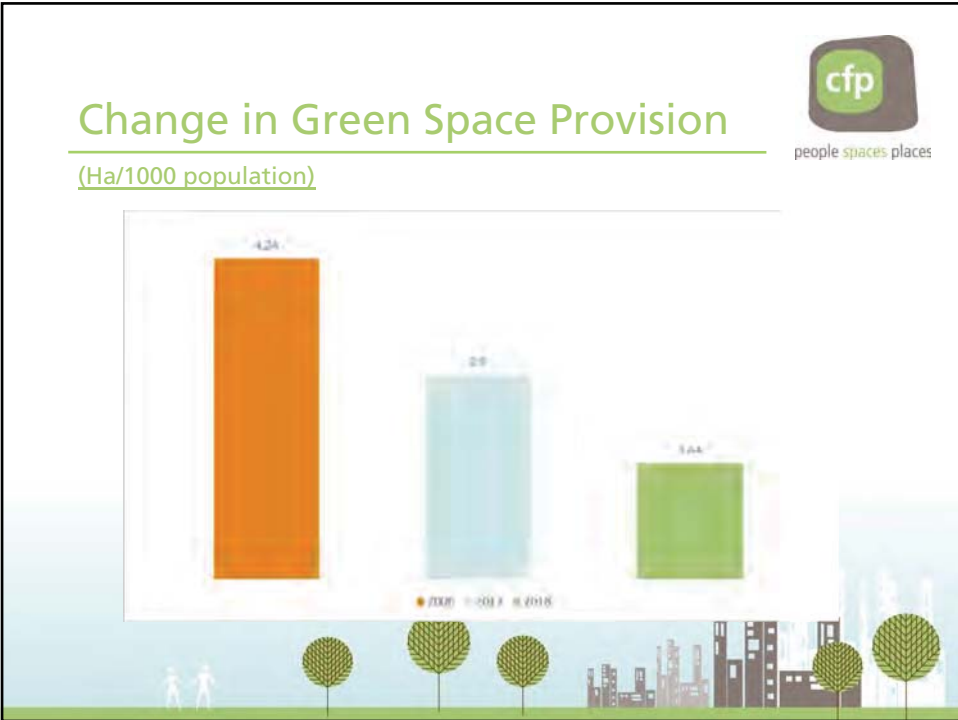








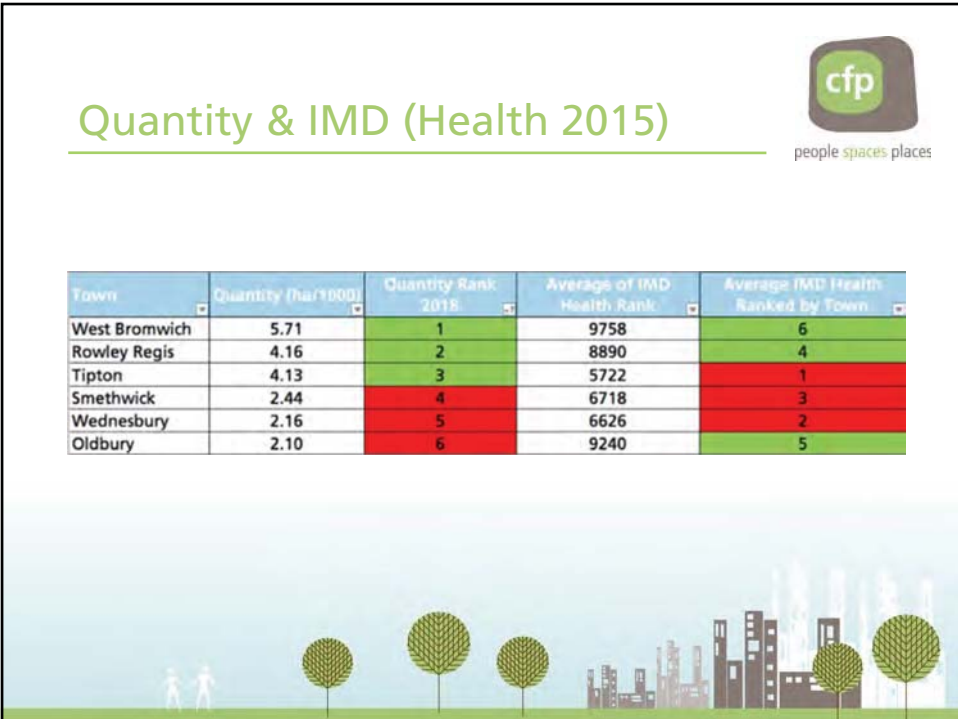
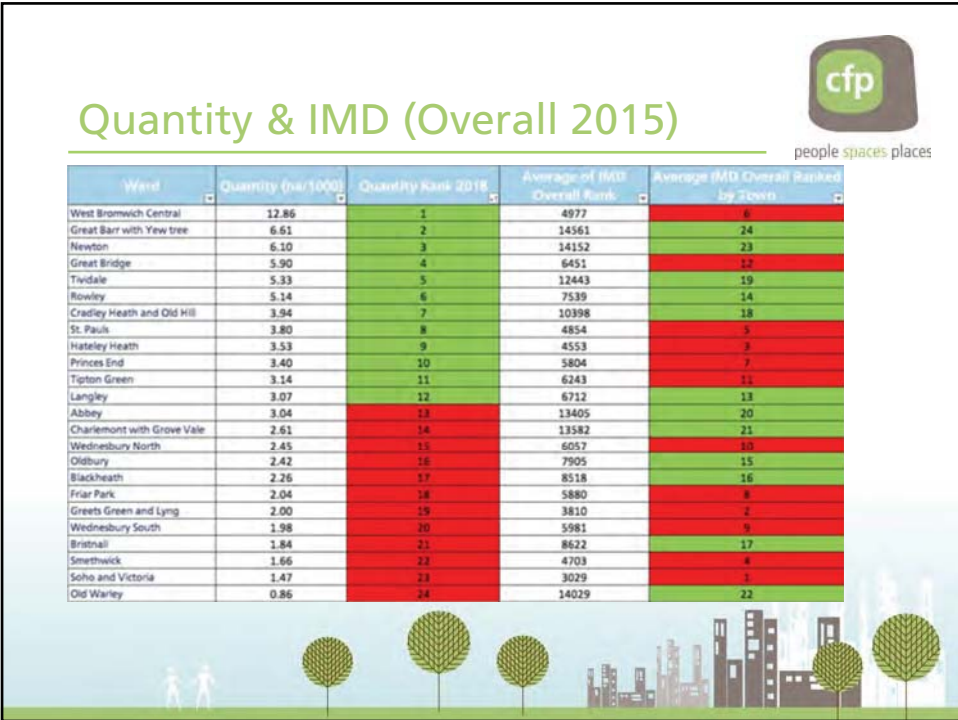


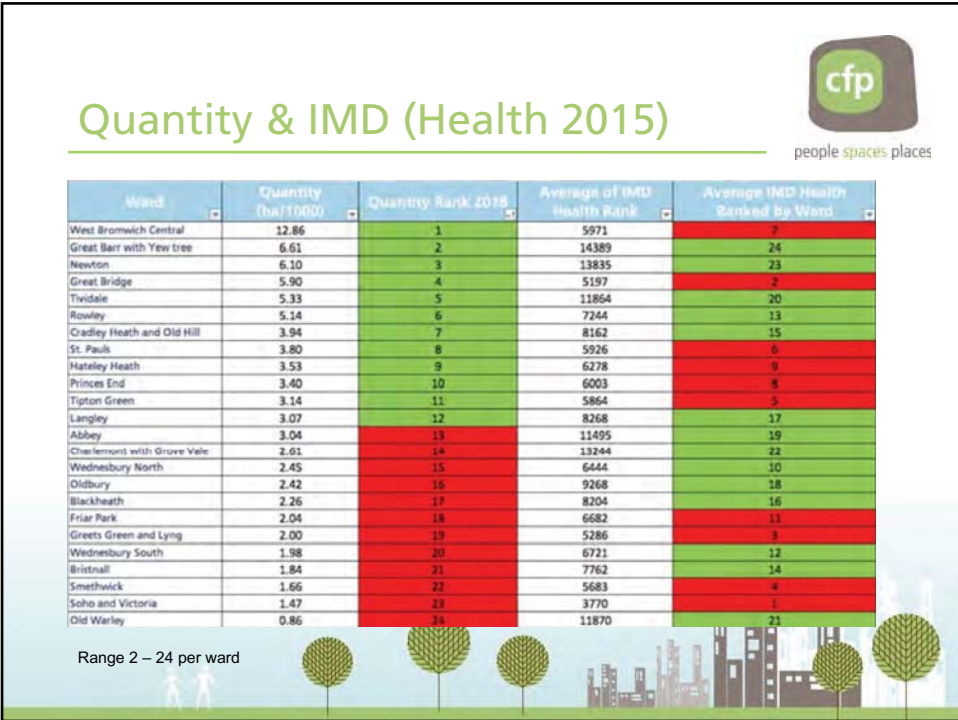


Quantity & IMD (Overall 2015)

cfp people spaces places

Town	Quantity (ha/1000)	Quantity Rank 2018	Average of IMD Overall Rank	Average IMD Overall Ranked by Town
West Bromwich	5.71	1	9181	4
Rowley Regis	4.16	2	9764	6
Tipton	4.13	3	6139	2
Smethwick	2.44	4	6498	3
Wednesbury	2.16	5	5965	1
Oldbury	2.10	6	9247	5





Quality Assessment



people spaces places

Quality assessment based upon the Green Flag Award criteria

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management




Quality Assessment




people spaces places

- 220 spaces visited
- 210 spaces assessed – other not accessible

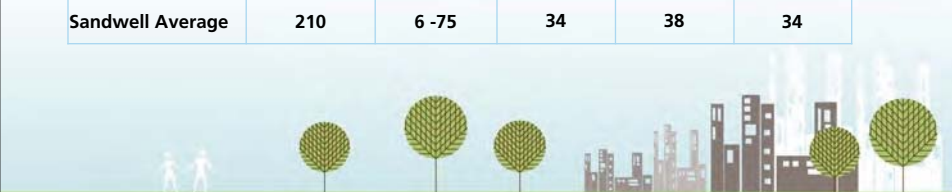


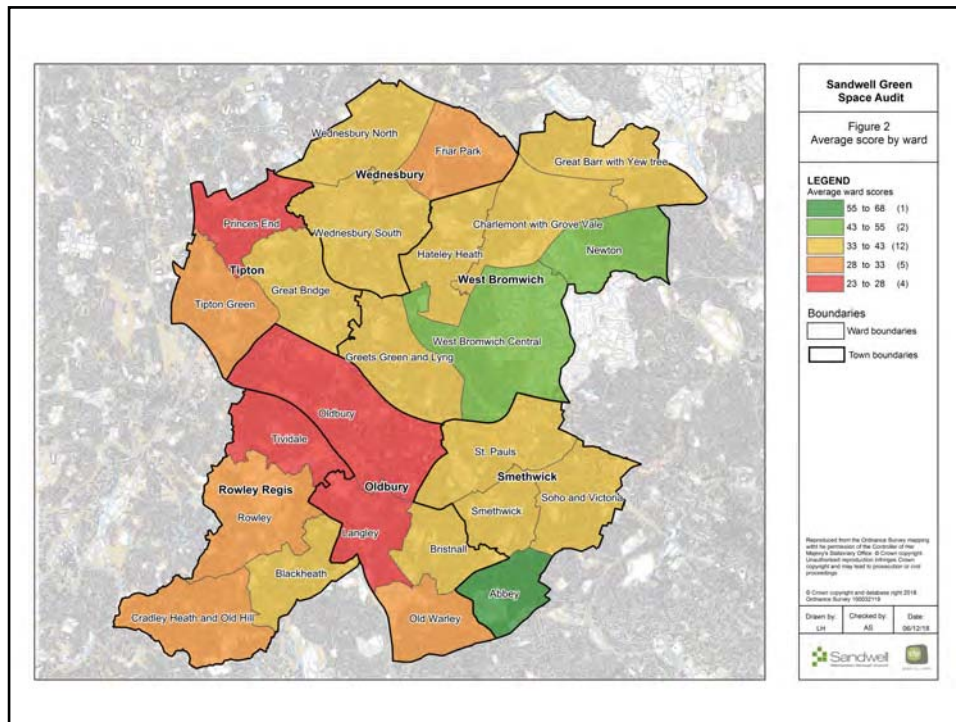
Quality Assessment



people spaces places

Town	No. of Sites	Range	Average 2018	Average 2013	Average 2006
Smethwick	27	8 – 69	42	42	40
West Bromwich	58	8 - 75	40	40	38
Wednesbury	30	19 – 61	33	38	32
Rowley Regis	38	6 - 71	31	37	36
Tipton	33	9 - 67	30	33	27
Oldbury	24	8 - 61	27	34	29
Sandwell Average	210	6 -75	34	38	34





Quality Assessment



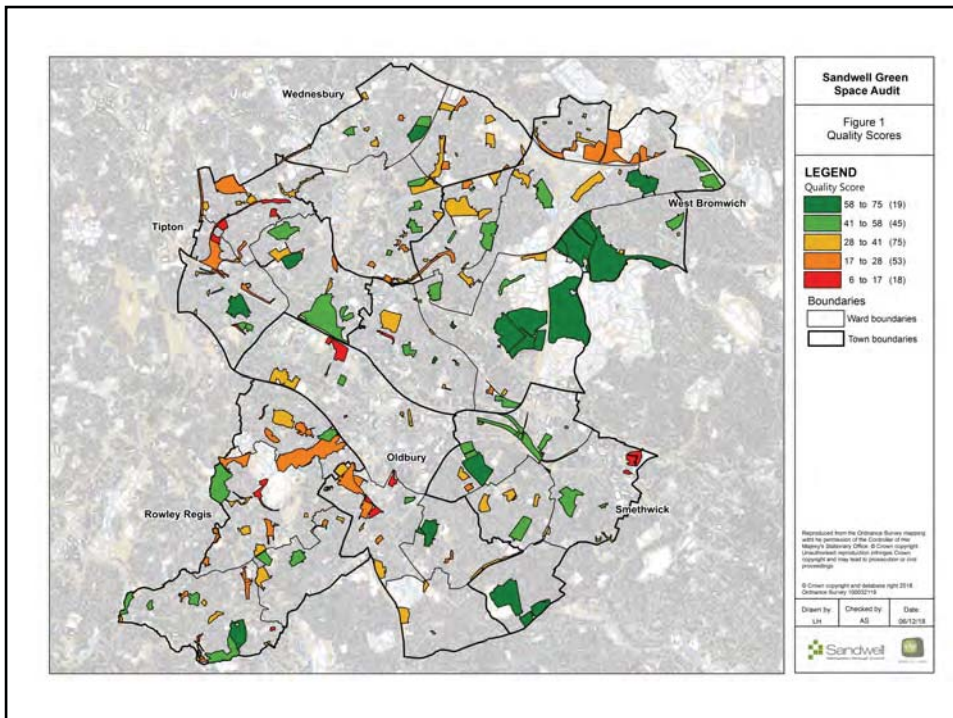
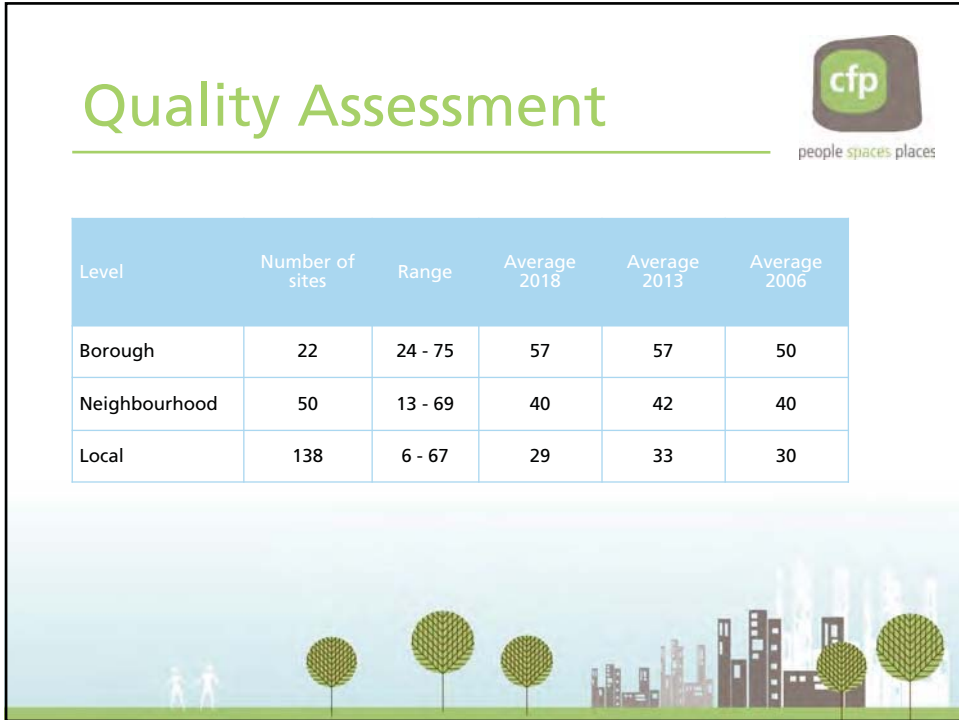
Green Space Type	No of Sites		Average
	2018	Range 2018	2018
Amenity Greenspace	84	6-60	29
Cemeteries & Churchyards	8	25-67	51
Green Corridor	15	13-57	28
Institutional Land	1	23	23
Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	43	7-71	32
Outdoor Sports Facilities	19	24-60	36
Parks & Gardens	32	13-75	51
Provision for Children & Young People	8	13-51	36
Total	210	6-75	34

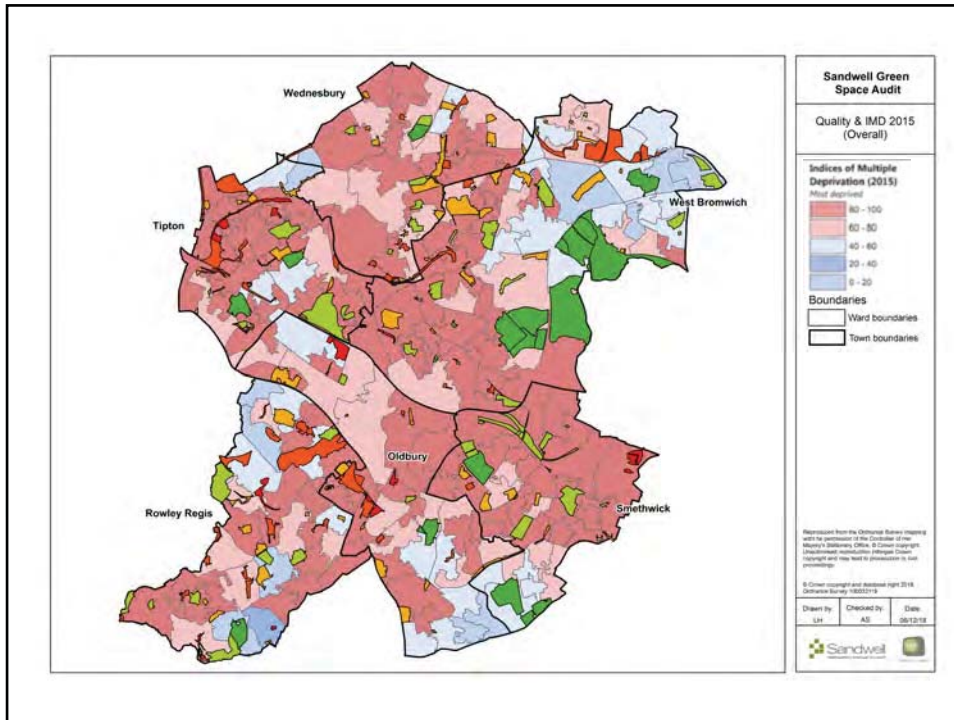


Quality Assessment



Level	Number of sites	Range	Average 2018	Average 2013	Average 2006
Borough	22	24 - 75	57	57	50
Neighbourhood	50	13 - 69	40	42	40
Local	138	6 - 67	29	33	30



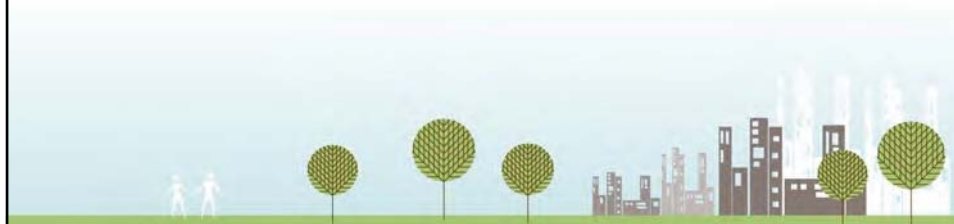


Quality & IMD (Overall)



people spaces places

Town	Average Quality Rank 2018	Average IMD Overall Ranked by Town
Smethwick	1	3
West Bromwich	2	4
Wednesbury	3	1
Rowley Regis	4	6
Tipton	5	2
Oldbury	6	5



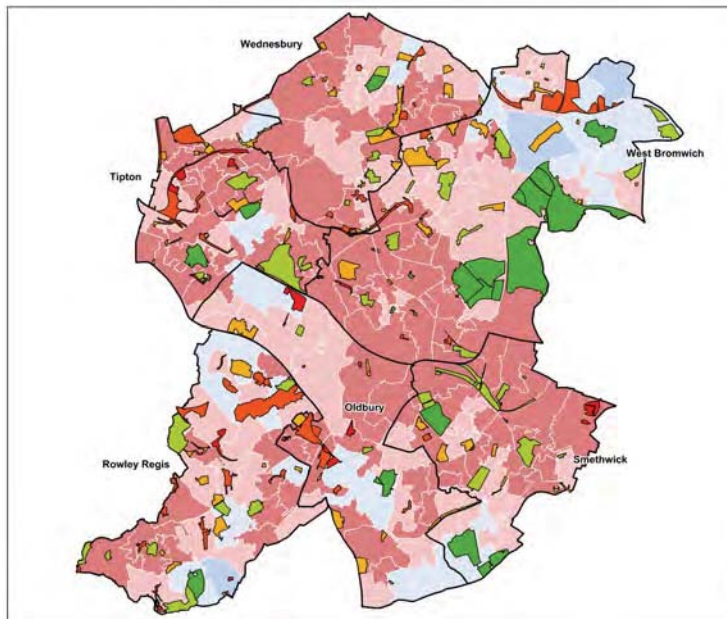
Quality & IMD (Overall)



people spaces places

Ward	Average Quality 2018	Average Quality Rank 2018	Average of IMD Overall Rank	Average IMD Overall Ranked by Trees
Abbey	68	1	13405	20
West Bromwich Central	50	2	4977	6
Newton	46	3	14152	23
Great Bridge	42	4	6451	12
St. Pauls	42	4	4854	5
Smethtwick	41	6	4703	4
Charlemont with Grove Vale	38	7	13582	21
Wednesbury North	38	7	6057	10
Blackheath	37	9	8518	16
Bristnall	37	9	8622	17
Great Barr with Yew tree	37	9	14561	24
Wednesbury South	35	12	5981	8
Soho and Victoria	34	13	3029	1
Greets Green and Lyng	33	14	3810	2
Ashtley Heath	33	14	4553	3
Old Warley	32	16	14029	22
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	31	17	10398	18
Rowley	29	18	7539	14
Tipton Green	29	18	6243	11
Friar Park	28	20	5880	8
Langley	26	21	6712	13
Princes End	24	22	5804	7
Trivdale	24	22	12443	19
Oldbury	23	24	7905	15

Range 2 – 17 per ward



Sandwell Green Space Audit

Quality & IMD 2015 (Health)

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2015)
 Most deprived

- 80 - 100
- 60 - 80
- 40 - 60
- 20 - 40
- 0 - 20

Boundaries

- Ward boundaries
- Town boundaries

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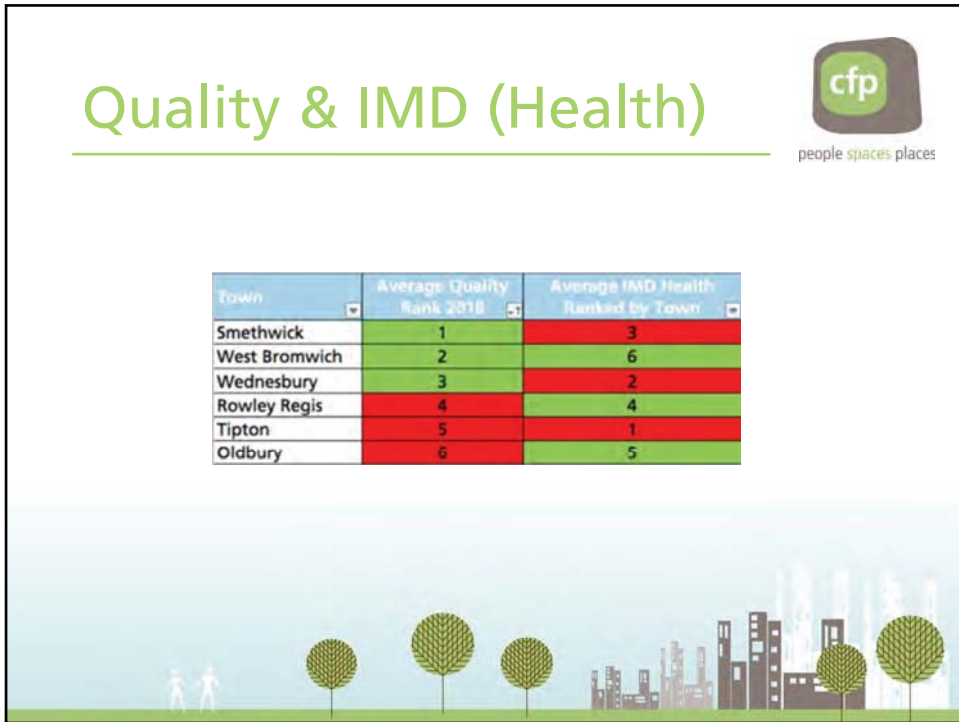
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Quality & IMD (Health)



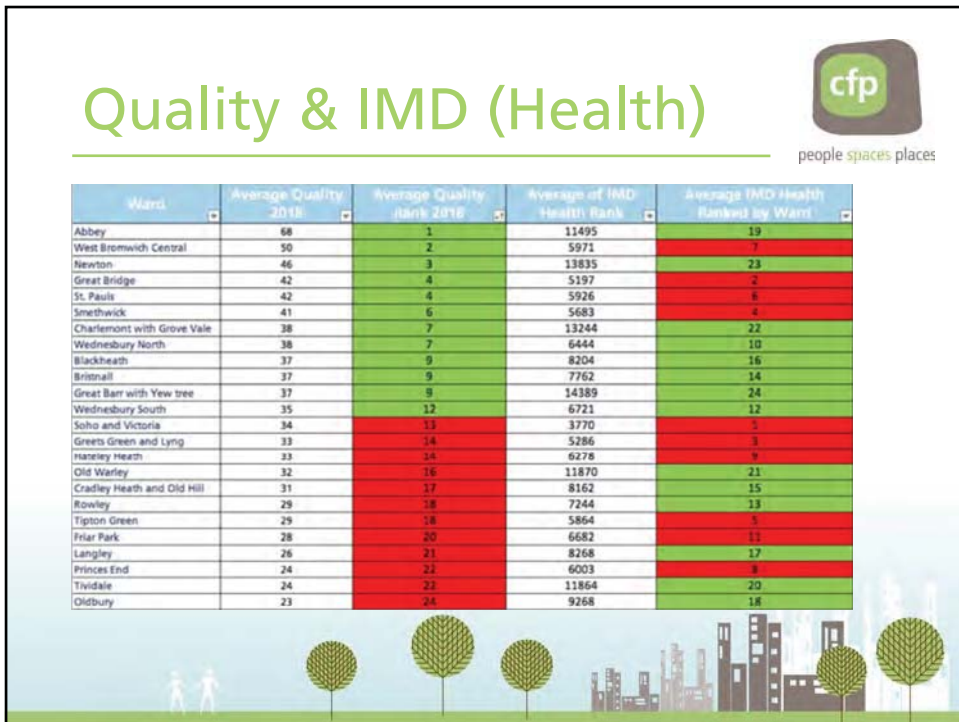
Town	Average Quality Rank 2018	Average IMD Health Ranked by Town
Smethwick	1	3
West Bromwich	2	6
Wednesbury	3	2
Rowley Regis	4	4
Tipton	5	1
Oldbury	6	5



Quality & IMD (Health)



Ward	Average Quality 2018	Average Quality Rank 2018	Average of IMD Health Rank	Average IMD Health Ranked by Ward
Abbey	68	1	11495	19
West Bromwich Central	50	2	5971	7
Newton	46	3	13835	23
Great Bridge	42	4	5197	2
St. Pauls	42	4	5926	8
Smethwick	41	6	5683	4
Charlemont with Grove Vale	38	7	13244	22
Wednesbury North	38	7	6444	10
Blackheath	37	9	8204	16
Bristnall	37	9	7762	14
Great Barr with Yew tree	37	9	14389	24
Wednesbury South	35	12	6721	12
Soho and Victoria	34	13	3770	5
Greens Green and Lyng	33	14	5286	3
Hanley Heath	33	14	6278	9
Old Warley	32	16	11870	21
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	31	17	8162	15
Rowley	29	18	7244	13
Tipton Green	29	18	5864	5
Friar Park	28	20	6682	11
Langley	26	21	8268	17
Princes End	24	22	6003	8
Thivdale	24	22	11864	20
Oldbury	23	24	9268	18

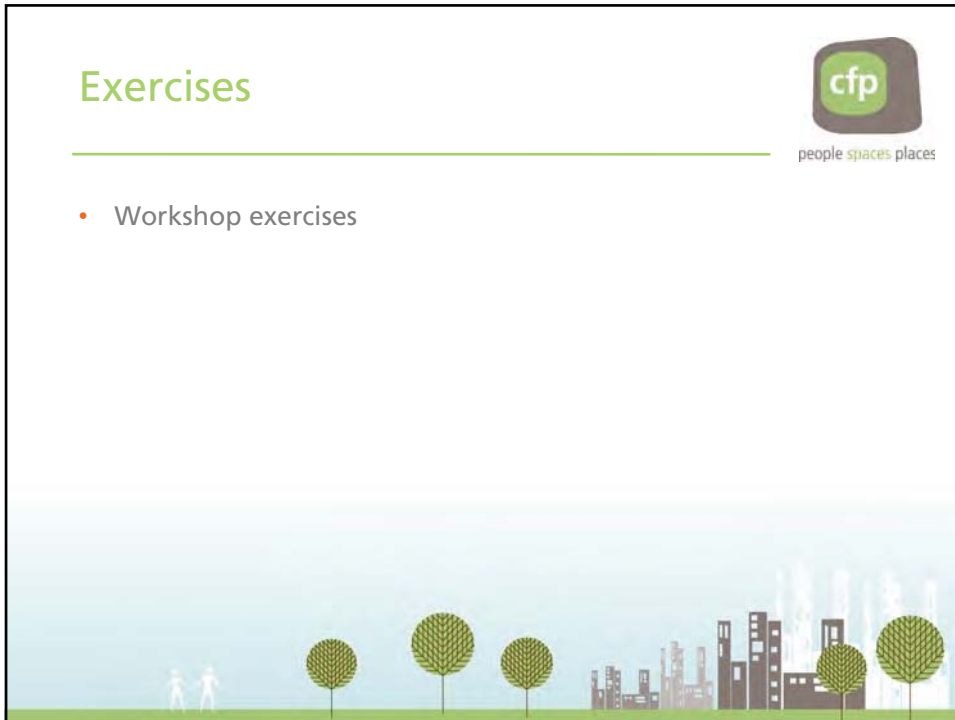


Exercises



people spaces places

- Workshop exercises



Summary



people spaces places

- Summary of work to date
- Inequality in terms of access to green space, quality of green space
- Some areas with highest levels of deprivation have access to less green space of lower quality
- Existing provision
- Future opportunities



Consultation Strategy



- Household Survey - www.sandwell.gov.uk/greenspacesurvey
- Community Group / User Group Survey
- Stakeholder Workshops
- Consultation with CYP
- Consultation on Draft Strategy



Next Steps



- Green Space Audit – May 2019
- Green Space Strategy (draft) - June 2019

