



Ideas and Options Paper

St George East and West Area Green Space Plan

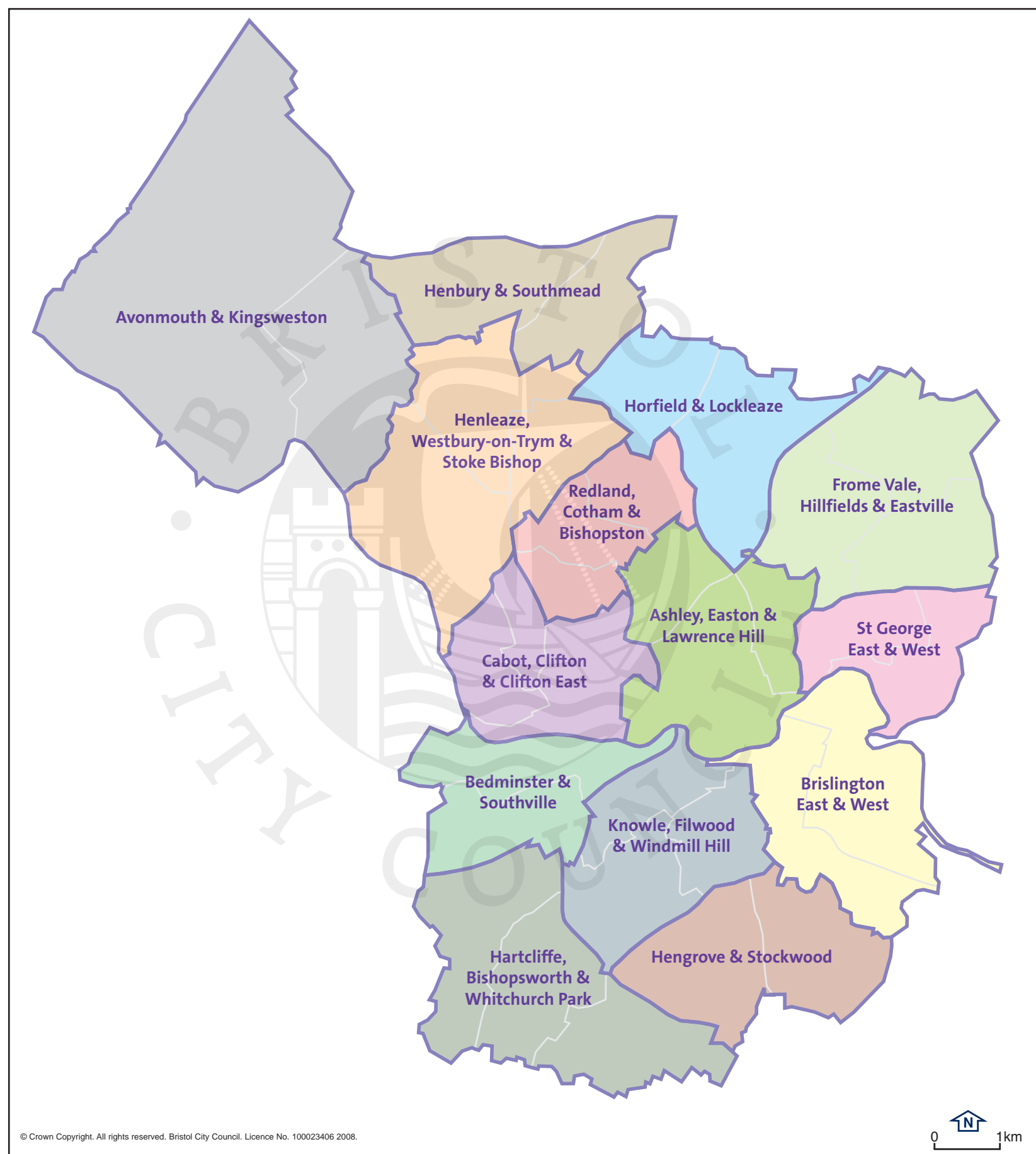
A spatial and investment plan for the next 20 years





Ideas and Options Paper St George East and West Area Green Space Plan

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





Vision for Green Space in Bristol

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

Source: Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008



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Section 1.

Introduction

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

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



Consultation on the Ideas and Options Paper for St George East and West - how to make your comments.

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

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

The public consultation is open for 20 weeks and will end on 29th October 2010

All ideas and options are open for comment.

How to make your comments

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

Online at www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp

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

Paper and cd versions

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

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

Or by telephoning: 0117 922 3719

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

Drop in sessions

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

Park.Strategy@bristol.gov.uk

Available to view

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

What happens next

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

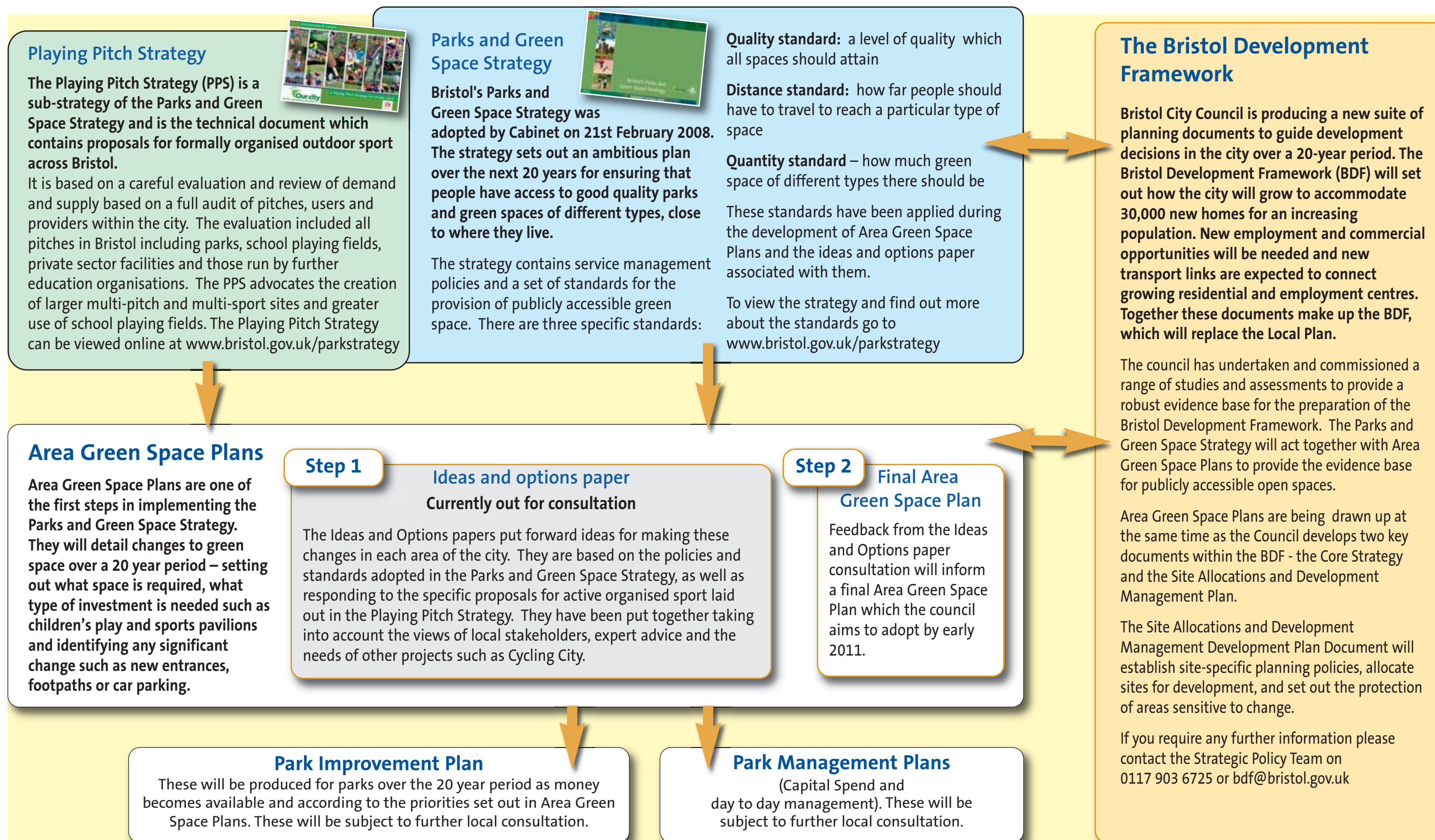
In addition to St George East and West, ideas and options papers are also available for comment on the following areas:

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

Other consultations you may be interested in

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

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





Ideas and Options Paper St George East and West Area Green Space Plan

What green space will the Area Green Space Plan cover?

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

Type of space and key attributes Map key (Legend)

Children and young people's space



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

Formal green space



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

Informal green space



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

Natural green space



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

Active sports space



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

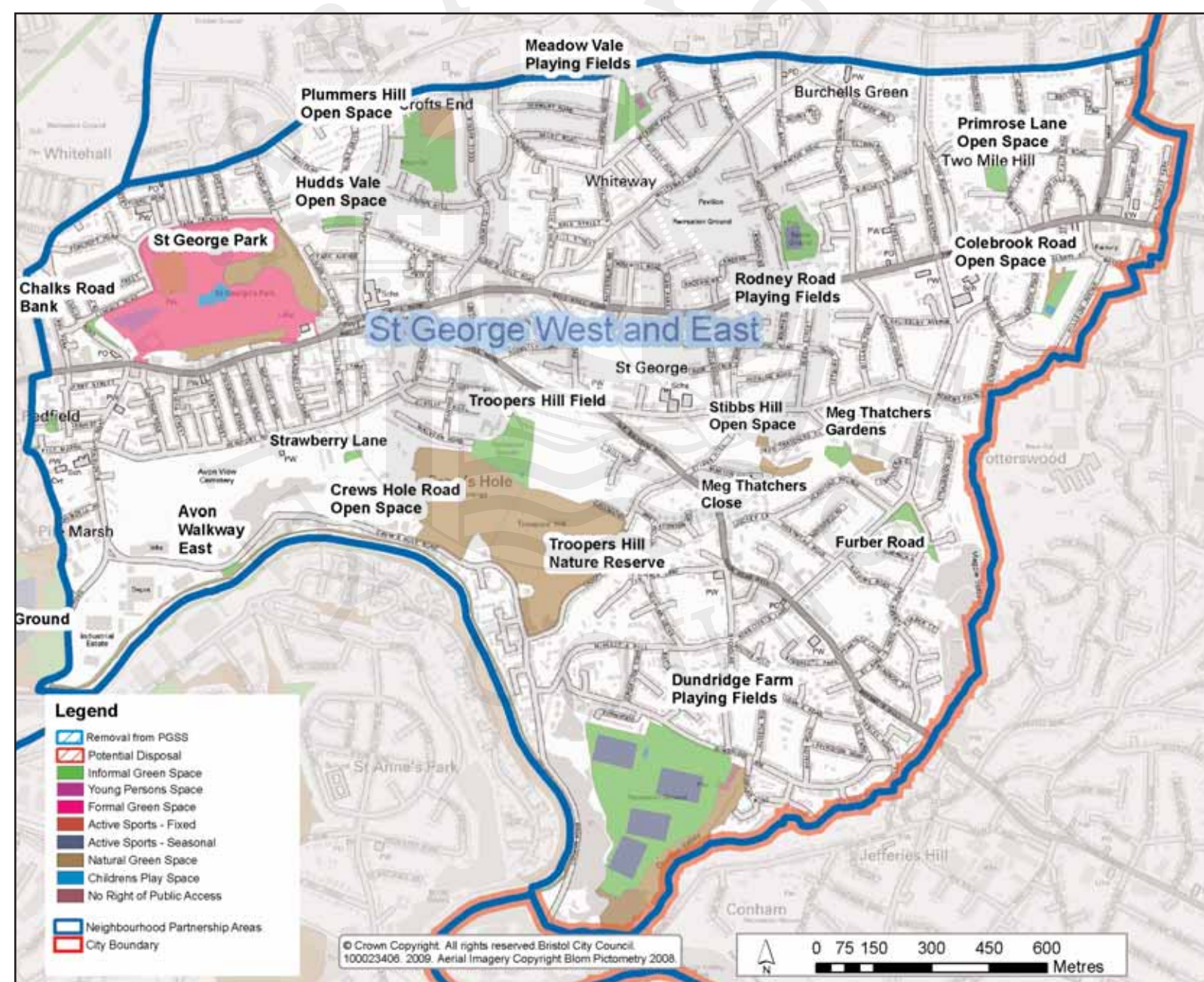
What isn't included in an Area Green Space Plan?

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

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

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

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



Green Space in St George East and West

The Area Green Space Plan is defined by the boundaries of the St George East and West Neighbourhood Partnership area - itself defined by the two electoral wards.

The St George East and West Neighbourhood Partnership Area has a wide range of different green space including public open space, grazing meadows, allotments, private agricultural land, private sports facilities, private woodland, churchyards, burial grounds and schools' grounds. The Area Green Space Plan considers only the public open space element of this. The map of green space that will be considered by the plan, and therefore by this Ideas and Options Paper is shown here. These spaces are categorised into five different types as outlined in the Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008.



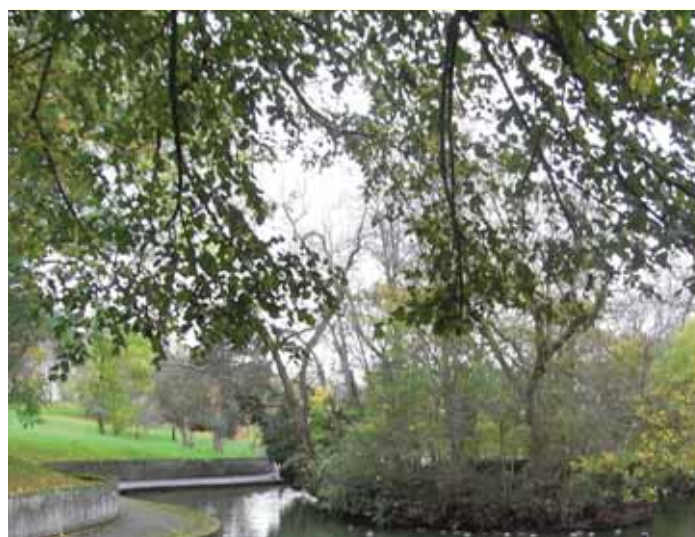
Spaces that have been included or excluded in this Area Green Space Plan

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

No additional spaces have been adopted as publicly accessible in this area.

The following spaces identified originally as publicly accessible are no longer considered to be and will not be considered as part of an Area Green Space Plan for this area:

Space	Why?
Part of Terrell Gardens	The southern section of the space is considered to be a road verge and not publicly accessible for recreation.
Part of Plummer's Hill Open Space	The space to north east is allotment space that has recently come back into use. This area is therefore not legitimately publicly accessible.
Stibbs Hill Open Space	This land is to be tranferred to allotments and therefore not legitimately publicly accessible.
Strawberry Lane	The space is on a 99 year lease from the council and is effectively used as private garden space and therefore not legitimately publicly accessible.



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

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

It is also recognised that people from across the city use the destination parks of Ashton, Blaise and Kingsweston, Hengrove Play Park and Oldbury Court Estate & Snuff Mills, city centre spaces and sports facilities for organised sport, and that often people travel to visit other spaces outside their Neighbourhood Partnership Area. During local consultation parks such as Eastwood Farm Local Nature Reserve, Conham River Park, Magpie Bottom, Hengrove Park and 'Kingswood Park' were mentioned.

St George East and West is also connected to the wider area through the urban environment, footpath networks and cycle routes - whether they are specifically marked out or just in common use. Strong connections exist to Brislington and the city centre moving west along the Avon River Trail and also moving east to Conham River Park and Keynsham beyond. The natural green space of Magpie Bottom provides residents with a green link between South Gloucestershire and Bristol along some of the boundary.

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

- the provision of sports surfaces and facilities;
- the provision of different types of space where the boundary between Neighbourhood Partnership Areas is easily crossed;
- the role of St George's Park as a main traditional park for the wider community;
- the strategic management of natural green spaces for the benefit of wildlife;
- the provision of a traditional park and the facilities it may offer;
- long distance cycle and pedestrian routes to the River Avon Trail and beyond;
- the influence of The Netham.

In practical terms, the St George East and West Neighbourhood Partnership Area is most easily connected with that of Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill and Frome Vale, Eastville and Hillfields. It is in these areas where types of space and facilities will serve the St George Community.



Who has been involved so far?

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

Those that we asked for comments in St George East and West included:

- ▶ Representatives of the Neighbourhood Partnership
- ▶ The Police and Safer Bristol
- ▶ Local primary schools
- ▶ Local youth workers
- ▶ Young people from the Youth 1 Forum
- ▶ Members of the local parks and community groups
- ▶ Bristol City Council officers including park managers, landscape designers, archaeologists, ecologists, highways engineers, the cycling team, planners and sports development workers

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

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

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

The role of park groups

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

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

- Friends of Troopers Hill
- Friends of St George's Park
- Meadow Vale Community Association

Funding the proposals

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

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

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

Area Green Space Plans will propose which green spaces the council might dispose of to raise money to reinvest back into park improvements. The council's usual policy is that all receipts from disposals should go into a 'single capital pot' for distribution to overall priorities but in this case 70% will be ring fenced for reinvestment in to all parks. Section 4 gives options for which sites in St George East and West could be disposed of.

In some cases the value of a space could be improved by its partial development - for example allowing housing to be built facing onto the space and providing natural surveillance. In this case, what is often a poorly and misused backland site, can become of greater value to the local community with the opportunity to make improvements which attract more people to use it. One backland site partial open space disposals is suggested for St George East and West at Plummer's Hill Open Space, details of which are in Section 4. Section 3 details the investment options for the remainder of the space.



Section 3.

Investment ideas and options

This section presents a range of spatial and investment options and proposals for all accessible green spaces within the St George East and West Neighbourhood Partnership Area. The proposals aim to meet the policies and open space standards set out in the Parks and Green Space Strategy and also to respond to ideas gathered from members of the local community and professional stakeholders in 2008/9.

Area Green Space Plan Officers considered all ideas put forward alongside any constraints and an analysis of individual open spaces to put together draft proposals.

For each open space or park, key proposals are highlighted for each site and if adopted, would be used to provide guidance for a future park improvement plan when resources become available.

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

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

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St George's Park

St George's Park is one of Bristol's main traditional parks and a good example of Victorian park design in the city. The park is multi-functional with a wide variety of different types of space for people to enjoy.

The design of the park is much more sophisticated than any of the other urban parks in Bristol with its combination of axial paths focussed on the bandstand and its elegant serpentine circuit walk around the lake integral to the design. Historically the lake was one of only two used for boating in the city. A magnificent avenue of Plane trees edge the park.

Unfortunately over time some of the original historic features have been lost.

The park is popular with young people as the skate park is the largest in the city. There are also good quality tennis courts, a bowling green and a new children's playground.

The existing car park is well used and provides for local shoppers as well as park users. The boundary of the car park and its relationship with the park itself could be greatly improved.

The stakeholder consultation process revealed very contrasting proposals for improving the park.

There is an active park group at St George who work with the Parks Service to improve the park. The group and residents are passionate about the park.



KEY

Movement & Circulation

Existing footpath

Existing views

Boundaries and Edges

A+ Good level of surveillance from adjoining residential properties which face towards the park

A Limited surveillance due to residential properties /development backing onto park

B Limited surveillance due to density of vegetation

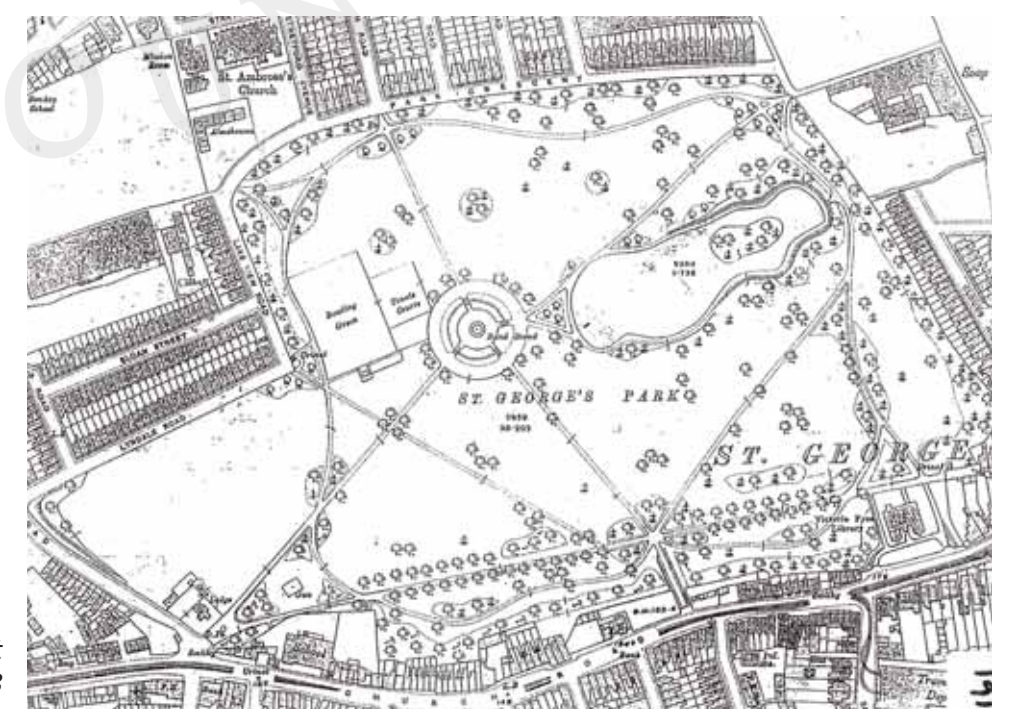
C Boundaries in poor condition

Access / Entrances

P Parking

A Park Improvement Plan was developed in the late 1990s for this park based on consultation with local residents. This information, more recent residents' ideas, the objectives of the Parks and Green Space Strategy and operational needs have all been used to inform draft proposals.

Historic map of St George's park 1918



St George's Park

What we want to achieve

An excellent quality multi-functional, traditional park attracting visitors from across Bristol. The park will host high quality tennis courts and a bowling green, diverse play equipment for all age ranges and be enhanced with respect to its historical significance and importance. The formal space will demonstrate horticultural excellence and the park will be managed to significantly improve the feeling of safety for users.

Ideas and Options

- Replace and renew the pavilion and changing rooms, keeping original historic features. The pavilion will provide changing facilities for tennis and bowls, toilets for all park users, operational space for the park keeper and a cafe. The new pavilion would be broadly constructed at its current location.
- A lower cost pre-fabricated café building is currently being considered for St George's Park.
- Consider the restoration of a park boundary along Park Crescent and Lyndale Road. This would act to deter vehicles and motorbikes accessing the park, improving safety and park management. If supported, views are also sought on what form the boundary should take e.g railings, knee-high wall, hedgerow etc.
- Continue to provide five tennis courts with two being lit for all-year-round use.
- Continue to provide a single bowling green.

- Continue to improve the children's playground so that a range of traditional and natural play elements are provided. Install picnic benches close to the play area.
- Option to provide a new multi-use-games-area adjacent to the skate park facility or at a new location close to the tennis and bowls area.
- Significantly improve all entrances with railings, gates and signs where appropriate, particularly the entrance at the Chalks Rd / Church Rd junction.
- Demonstrate horticultural excellence throughout the park but particularly at the entrance from the Chalks Rd / Church Rd junction.

- The trees on the lake island will be thinned and lower branches removed to restore views across the lake and discourage vermin.
- Ban fishing on the historic boating lake.
- Explore with the police the advantages of improving lighting at park entrances and extending lighting in to the park to improve safety and evening use.
- if new toilets are provided in a new pavilion and cafe building, review the provision of the existing toilets at the entrance to the park at the junction of Chalks Road and Church Road. These toilets would be retained if new facilities were not provided.

- Improve the management of existing trees, removing lower branches to improve views and improve the perception of safety in the park.
- Restore a broken historic footpath link from Lyndale Rd to Church Rd.

"It's a good place to socialise"
"It's a good place to take small children"

local stakeholder comments

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



KEY

- Existing trees
- Hedge option
- Footpaths - existing
- Footpaths - improved
- Footpaths - new option
- Parking
- Enhanced Access / Entrances
- Public art option
- Possible Fence/ New boundary treatment
- Seating area
- MUGA option
- Tennis court option
- Multi-purpose building



St George's Park

Option to make significant improvements to the boundaries to the car park area that are in keeping with one of Bristol's main traditional parks. This could include new railings, formal flower beds along Chalks Road, replacement of grass mounding with an alternative boundary, new signs and gate pillars.

Grassed bund removed and replaced with low level grass and tree border with low fence to prevent cars entering the park

Option to improve and redesign skatepark and further option to incorporate multi-use games area



Enhanced street front

Enhanced entrance with footpath and road delineated. New signs and park information. New stone piers to mark entrance as seen at the entrance to St George's Library

Idea to enable people to access lake island



Example of a Café in a park with outdoor seating



Example of a Bandstand

The River Avon Trail

The River Avon Trail passes through the historic harbour village of Pill, the spectacular Avon Gorge, the modern city and ancient port of Bristol, the beautiful countryside where the Avon Valley meets the Cotswold Hills and ends at the famous Pulteney Bridge in the Georgian city of Bath.

The Trail offers the visitor a fascinating insight into the wildlife and the geological history of the south west region. The Trail, which used to be known as the Avon Walkway, has been upgraded so that much of it can now be used by cyclists, as well as walkers. The section between Conham and Hanham is a public bridlepath, permitting horse riding.

The section of the Trail within the Neighbourhood Partnership of St George East and West extends from Netham Lock in the west to Hanham Lock in the east.

The River Avon Trail is promoted by the Avon Frome Partnership, an organisation that develops projects to improve local heritage, landscape, recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat in the Avon and Frome Valleys between Bristol and the edge of the Cotswold Hills. Community participation forms an essential part of these projects.

The Avon Frome Partnership is funded by Bristol City Council, Bath & North East Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council and is co-ordinated by a steering group that also includes the Environment Agency and BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).

What we want to achieve

To continue to manage this part of the Trail so that it is accessible to pedestrians and cyclists and linkages to other open spaces are well-signposted.

Ideas and Options

- Ensure that the Trail is accessible to both pedestrians and cyclists at least up to the ferry boat crossing to Eastwood Farm.
- Ensure that the Trail is accessible to pedestrians up to Hanham lock, the edge of Bristol City Council's administrative area.
- Improve signposting and path entrances to and from the Trail that lead to neighbouring open spaces including Crews Hole Woodland, Dundridge Playing Fields and Troopers Hill.
- Provide new seating along the Trail close to Butler's Walk in Hanham.

- Improve the open space along the Trail at the river crossing from St Anne's Park so that it acts as a better gateway to the Trail. Potential to provide disabled parking bays, improve the quality of both site boundaries and signposting.
- Work with Highways to make road crossings to and from the Trail much safer where the Trail leaves the river's edge and makes use of the pavement on the other side of Crews Hole Road in Hanham.
- Work with South Gloucestershire Council to link and promote access to Conham River Park and Avon Valley Woodlands.

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



Section of River Avon around St Annes



Section of River Avon around Eastwood Farm



Section of River Avon towards Keynsham



Dundridge Playing Fields

Dundridge Playing Fields is a well-used open space with a strong rural and sporting character and tradition. At times, when in use by football teams, the site has well over a 100 visitors at one time. This open space offers children's play, active sport, informal green space and natural green space.

Dundridge is one of the largest open spaces in the city outside of the five Destination Parks and is an important football hub - hosting four official pitches and a training pitch. Its direct connections to the River Avon provide a continuous link to the open countryside of South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset and makes the space a recreational gateway.

The objectives of the Parks and Green Space Strategy and the size and location of Dundridge in relation to other local spaces suggests that there is a need and opportunity for the space to be more diverse and provide for a greater range of people and uses.

Residents and users value the space for its rural qualities and its use for sport but there are significant differences in opinion on how the site might be used in the future.

What we want to achieve

To improve and manage the open space as a strategically important site that is able to cater for the needs of a wider range of people and uses. The space should be enhanced in such a way that it retains its existing character as a sporting hub for football and a rural gateway natural green space whilst at the same time introducing new, sensitively designed elements that make the park more multi-functional.

Ideas and Options

- Retain and improve four adult pitches or equivalent as an important, good quality football hub.
- Provide a footpath around the perimeter of the park with year-round surfacing to support access by parents/ carers with buggies and people with a physical impairment.
- Improve the boundary of the space with Dundridge Lane - removing existing fencing and replacing with a more sensitive and welcoming style.



- Explore with the Public Rights of Way team the opportunity to better connect Dundridge Playing Fields and Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve by creating a new link from Beaufort alley off Bull Lane. There may be safety and topography concerns that prevent this however.



- Improve the footbridge to make sure it is safe and fully accessible. Improve and broaden the pond area at this location



- Improve interpretation and signage throughout to improve understanding of connections and routes to other open space and the River Avon.
- Work with Highways to improve crossing of Conham Hill to allow safer access to Conham River Park.

“The whole area is important for wildlife”
local stakeholder comment

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

Dundridge Playing Fields



1 Introduce a sensitively designed formal area at the front of the park along the boundary with Dundridge Lane and connected to the pavilion and car parking. The space will act as a separate 'room' within the park and be designed so as to enhance the overall character of the space. This space would take precedence over the retention of a junior pitch in this area.

2 Expand the children's play space to provide a greater range of play opportunities incorporating both equipped and natural elements for 0-13 yr olds. Relocate the play area so that it sits within the new 'designed' area at the front of the park and is therefore connected to the pavilion and car parking.

3 Install a new, more multi-functional pavilion to support both sports and other users. The pavilion will host changing rooms and toilets with the potential for a meeting room or multi-functional space and a space for a seasonal cafe or concession. The location and aspect of the pavilion should be changed - bringing it slightly further west - so that it serves both the sports pitches and the new, designed area at the front of the park and relocated children's playground.

4 Expand the current car parking facility so that it serves both sports and other users and improve the surface conditions.

5 Provide an all-weather surface multi-use-games-area in a suitable location, away from the front of the site, for the benefit of children and young people. A preferred location might be to the south of the new or the existing pavilion.

6 Provide a seating and picnic area at the edge of the slope, to the south of the football pitches, so that views can be enjoyed across the river. Move the location of the fence down the slope to allow views.



7 Significantly improve the "deer path" through the woodland to Conham River Park so that it is fully accessible.



8 Explore potential of woodland to the south and east of the site hosting a nature and adventure trail leading from Dundridge to Conham River Park.

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



Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve, Troopers Hill Field and Crews Hole Woodland

Troopers Hill is a Local Nature Reserve on a hillside that has been quarried and mined in the past. Troopers Hill contains a fascinating mix of history, wild plants and animals. With heather and broom, rocky crags, spoil heaps and gullies, and stunning views, Troopers Hill is one of the most spectacular wildlife spots in the city.

The Reserve supports the only significant area of Lowland Heathland and Lowland Acidic Grassland in the Bristol area. Both of these habitats are identified under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as UK Priority Habitats.

Troopers Hill has a very active community group that contribute a great deal to its management and encourage people to visit; primarily through events, walks and talks. The group also work to improve both Troopers Hill Field and Crews Hole Woodland.

Green Flag status has been achieved for the Reserve - a recognition of excellence in open space provision and management.

The Reserve has a management plan setting out the long and short-term aspirations for the site. The management plan has been consulted on and adopted and the Area Green Space Plan does not seek to review this work but does make some additional proposals.

To view the management plan for Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve go to www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

Troopers Hill Field is next to but outside the Local Nature Reserve and therefore outside the detailed scope of the management plan. With stunning views the Field is an important local asset and community space. Activities and events that take place include dog shows, dog-walking, organised walks and informal children's play - including after-school kick-about, football training and cricket. The Field is one of the few green spaces in the area that is flat enough for ball games and is soon to be improved for children's play with a small playground.

Crews Hole Woodland shares a boundary with both Troopers Hill and Troopers Hill Field. The woodland covers a large sloping area and the majority of trees are young, at about 30 years old. There are informal paths that run through the woodland but it is generally an underused open space with the potential to be much improved. The woodland is a key site for improving access to nature within the Bio-diversity Action Plan.

What we want to achieve

A holistic vision for Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve, Troopers Hill Field and Crews Hole Woodland is to realise the combined potential of these sites so that together they provide a unique and exemplary natural green space experience and a diversity of space that attracts the widest possible audience. The success of the community in achieving Green Flag status for the Nature Reserve should be built on with an ambition to achieving this for all three sites.

Ideas and Options

Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve



- The footpath network should complement proposals to improve the network in Crews Hole Woodland, provide circular routes and better connect these spaces to the River Avon Trail.

Troopers Hill Field

- Extend and improve the planned new play area to provide play facilities for young children. Ensure that this space is dog-free through new fencing and plant trees for shade if needed.

- Ensure that there continues to be ample informal space to enjoy ball games and hold events. Provide 5-a-side goalposts.
- Widen the entrance from Summerhill Road with a kissing gate to control access.
- Ensure views are available through Crews Hole Woodland either at intervals or along the whole boundary and provide more seating.
- Provide all-weather footpaths to support access to the new children's playground and to the Nature Reserve from Summerhill Terrace.

Crews Hole Woodland

- Significantly improve the footpath network through the woodland ensuring that routes from Crews Hole Road and the River Avon Trail through to the Nature Reserve and the Field are clear and well signposted. Routes should be wide to improve perceptions of safety and provide additional wildlife habitat. Circular routes leading to and from the Field and Nature Reserve should also be explored.



- Introduce seating areas at appropriate places to appreciate views across the Avon Valley.
- Make access to Crews Hole Woodland from the Field more welcoming, encouraging exploration and enjoyment of the woodland environment.

*"Given the small size and isolation of this site, its conservation significance for invertebrates is really quite extraordinary. The only sites so far investigated which have proved to be better than Troopers Hill are very large more diverse sites, often abutting other good areas in the wider countryside. If we had sufficient information to score all the species according to their rarity, Troopers Hill would probably come out as the most important site of its type in the Bristol region. This is not only because of the large number of local rarities, including some new county records, but the presence of an endangered species, *Nomada guttulata*, massively increases its importance. Not even the spectacularly productive Dolebury Warren has any species so rare. Records from previous years only serve to confirm these conclusions."*

David Gibbs, 2000

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



Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve, Troopers Hill Field and Crews Hole Woodland

1

Introduce sensitively designed formal space at the entrance from Malvern Road, providing seating and ensuring that views across the Avon Valley to the south are unobstructed.

2

Widen the entrance to the Local Nature Reserve by removing some trees, bushes and shrubs and remove the existing gate.

3

Provide a new footpath directly opposite the Public Right of Way from the River Avon Trail. This should act to make road crossing safer, make the woodland more welcoming and encourage greater connectivity between the Avon Trail, Troopers Hill, Crews Hole, Dundridge Farm and Conham River Park/Avon valley Woodlands.



4

Provide a formal car parking area to encourage use of the woodland, Troopers Hill and the River Avon Trail provided along Crews Hole Road.



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



Rodney Road Playing Fields

Rodney Road Playing Fields is, as the name suggests, a former school and public playing field. The site is a good size for a range of recreational activities which is unusual in this part of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. For this reason it is an important space for all the local community, young and old.

Rodney Road is currently designated as an informal green space. The boundaries of the site with Rodney Road and the Knightstone Housing development are poor as is the access to the site. This leads to the site being hidden from the wider community.

The open space has only one entrance from Rodney Road and the pinch point on Rodney Road itself is a barrier to visitors safely accessing the site through traffic.

Local residents value the space for its natural, open appearance but there is difference in opinion on how the site might be used between residents living adjacent to the park and those that live further afield.

What we want to achieve

To make the site more attractive to a wider number of people from the local community by introducing an element of carefully considered design to the site, introducing children's play and retaining its current main use as an informal kickabout area.

Ideas and Options

- Introduce a new children's playground. The playground will include natural play elements and be of sufficient size to cater for children aged 0-13 years from the local area.
- Move and improve the boundary of the open space along Rodney Road so that access to the site is made much easier and safer. Explore with Highways and others a range of options including road-widening and the introduction of a footpath along this boundary.
- Introduce a new welcoming and formal, gated entrance to the park along Rodney Road.

- Improve boundary treatments across the park where it is the council's responsibility to do so.
- Explore with residents and the police the option of opening up a new, gated entrance to the space from Freshland Way to support access to the space from the east.
- Make the park more attractive to a wider range of visitors by sensitively introducing formal open space elements to the park e.g through entrances, signs, seating, boundary treatment and selective planting.
- Decommission football pitch for formal sport.



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

Primrose Lane Open Space

Primrose Lane Open Space is a small informal open space in a very hidden, residential location. The site is designated as statutory allotment managed as open space and shares a boundary with the remainder of the allotment to the north and west. This part of the Neighbourhood Partnership is poorly served for open space.

Primrose Lane is located next to older people's sheltered accommodation and is well-used by dog walkers, children and young people in the summer. The entrance to the space has been the focal point of significant anti-social behaviour but this appears to have been resolved.

What we want to achieve

To either retain the space to use as allotments or continue to maintain the site as public open space and to introduce a children's play space - supporting the need to meet minimum open space provision standards locally.

Ideas and Options

- Change the use of the space to allotments.
- Introduce a small children's play space into a corner of the site that will provide for younger children. The area taken up by the play space will be restricted in order that the remainder of the site is still available for informal ball games.
- Make the park entrance more distinct and welcoming with signs and widening with shrub removal.



“Could put in a play area as otherwise you have to cross a main road to Colebrook Road to get to one”

local stakeholder comment

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



Plummer's Hill Open Space

Plummer's Hill Open Space is an open informal green space to the north of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. It is likely to serve, in the main, communities to the east of the space as other close-by residents would be more likely to use St George Park.

The space is primarily used for dog-walking, informal ball games and as a cut-through to shops and schools. The space is shared with an allotment in the north east corner, which has recently been brought back in to use. The wider area is short of allotment space and so this function will continue long-term. The allotments are now no longer considered within the Parks and Green Space Strategy as they are not legitimately publicly accessible.

Plummer's Hill is a 'backland site' with the rear of housing backing on the site on all boundaries. Like a number of backland open spaces there has been a history of anti-social behaviour and low-level crime. Local residents' actions are having a positive impact on this.

What we want to achieve

To enhance the site by considerably improving the perception of safety and discouraging mis-use of the site, introducing children's play and retaining its current main use as an informal kickabout area.

Ideas and Options

1

To introduce a single row of new housing along the southern boundary of the site. The aim will be to ensure that the fronts of housing face on to the space - so the space is overlooked throughout the day and evening.

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

2

Keep open the flat area to the north west for ball games. Introduce 5-a-side goalposts and ground markings if supported by young people.

3

Work with the existing landowner to try and ensure the building is made safe, demolished or converted to open space. This would remove a safety concern and a source of anti-social behaviour.

4

Introduce a new children's playground. The playground will have equipment and natural play elements, include seating and be of sufficient size to cater for children aged 0-13 years. The most likely location for the play area is close to the entrance to the space from Plummer's Hill, but subject to local consultation at the time.

- Significantly improve all existing entrances to the park so that they are more welcoming and the site is more obvious to casual passers-by. Open up and enhance the access from Naseby Walk off Crown Hill as a gated entrance.

5

Retain area currently designated as allotments for this purpose

6

Manage the existing area of trees on the site by clearing selected bushes, shrubs and low level branches

- Introduce selected and appropriate tree planting to diversify the landscape whilst ensuring the main uses of the site are not restricted.





Stibbs Hill, Meg Thatchers Gardens and Meg Thatchers Close

There are three open spaces that make up Stibbs Hill and Meg Thatchers Gardens. These are separated by either housing or land in private ownership. The spaces are good for wildlife but are generally of poor quality, under-managed and often suffer from flytipping. There is a history of anti-social behaviour on the site and illegal use by motorbikes and scooters.

Stibbs Hill is not currently accessible, effectively landlocked in open space terms, and is designated as statutory allotment. A decision has already been made that this will be used as allotments in the future. Sections of Meg Thatchers Gardens are old quarry and mine workings that scrub vegetation has been allowed to cover.

There is a great deal of local interest in these spaces but a recognition by stakeholders that they are difficult to manage for the benefit of all residents. Although consultation has shown no clear consensus amongst local residents on how to improve Meg Thatchers Gardens, some ideas have been repeatedly proposed - for example a children's playground.

What we want to achieve

To make a much improved, larger and joined up open space that is good for wildlife but generally more open. The site should feel much safer to use and be more effectively and actively managed to deal with mis-use and the competing needs of recreational users and wildlife.

Ideas and Options

- New footpaths created to physically connect the two spaces of Meg Thatchers Gardens and Meg Thatchers Close.
- Scrub and vegetation more assertively managed to ensure that existing Public Rights of Way are open and feel safer for pedestrians.



- Manage the site overall to provide a better balance between natural green space and accessible open space - without detriment to the important wildlife on the site. Significantly cut back bushes and shrubs to the west of the site so the land can be brought into wider recreational use. Open up the site east to west for better views and open up existing access points where possible.
- Introduce seating at selected locations.

“There has always been a childrens playground near Meg Thatchers Gardens, so it seems a good idea to build one again”

local resident's idea

1

Explore the opportunity to designate the privately owned space adjoining Meg Thatchers Gardens as public open space. This would create a much larger continuous space stretching from the end of Meg Thatchers, behind houses on Headford Lane to Hillside Court. This would be dependent on the council being clear of any liabilities involved in this option. Known constraints are past quarry workings and the presence of Japanese Knotweed.

2

Improve entrance to the site from Hillside Court to deter motorbike access and incorporate signage.

3

Provide a new children's playground to fill a considerable gap in provision in this part of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. The location should be the space previously occupied by a removed children's playground, expanded to include slopes as positive play elements. The playground should incorporate equipment and natural play elements. An alternative site for a new playground is Furber Road. There is no proposal to provide a new facility in both Furber Road and Meg Thatchers.

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

Furber Road Open Space

Furber Road Open Space is a small, flat, informal area of open space on a junction with the busy Kingsway Road. The site is well used by local children playing football and is well thought of in the community with regard to informal children's play.

Furber Road is close to the much larger Magpie Bottom open space but provides the only flat, recreational space in the local area. The nearest flat open space is a 15 minute walk away.

Furber Road is made up of five separate parcels of land divided by highways and private access roads. The site is only partially owned by Bristol City Council.

What we want to achieve

To enhance the site in order to create a much more attractive and distinct park space in contrast to the current informal 'space left over', with more opportunities provided for children to play.

Ideas and Options

- 1 Provide a new, small children's playground to fill a considerable gap in provision in this part of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. The location would be the largest part of Furber Road Open Space next to the Kingsway. The area of this space taken up by play equipment would be restricted so as to continue to allow space for informal kickabout.

An alternative site for a new playground is Meg Thatchers Gardens. There is no proposal to provide a new facility in both Furber Rd and Meg Thatchers.

- 2 Dispose of a smaller part of Furber Road Open Space for development. This is the part on the corner of Furber Road and Sheldare Barton.

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



Colebrook Road Open Space

Colebrook Road is a poorly situated informal open space in a backland site on the east fringe of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area. It hosts a poor quality children's playground with a main entrance that is not accessible due to encroaching scrub. The goalposts on the site are well used by children and young people for informal football games.

Colebrook Road is in an area where there is little open space provision and therefore it is a space that is important to retain and enhance where possible. The space must serve a large and heavily populated area for children's play.

What we want to achieve

To improve all aspects of the park within its limitations so that it offers local residents a more welcoming, better quality, local open space. The space needs to perform better for children and young people's play.

Ideas and Options

- Provide a new, better quality children's play space within a substantial dog-free space. The playground will offer equipped and natural elements for an age range of 0-13 years and provide seating.

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

- 1 Open up and significantly enhance the entrance to the space from Albany Street, ensuring it is visible, free of obstruction and welcoming.

- 2 Widen the entrance from Colebrook Road by moving the existing fence line to the south so that it is more welcoming, feels safer and properly allows for access by parents/carers using buggies and for wheelchair users. Residents of the older people's dwellings to the south will need to be consulted.

- Cut back bushes and shrubs to increase the size of the informal space to benefit informal games and kickabout. The goal posts should be retained.





Meadow Vale Open Space

Meadow Vale is a small but locally important open space in the Speedwell area of the Neighbourhood Partnership. The space is considered as informal green space in the Parks and Green Space Strategy and has proven to be an important space for young people over a number of years. A teen shelter and a games area were provided as part of a project with young people in 2005.

Meadow Vale shares a boundary with both Meadow Vale Community Centre and Speedwell Nursery School. A well-used footpath goes through the site providing local residents with a short cut to Speedwell Road.

There has been interest in improving the space from a local community group, the local Neighbourhood Partnership and residents over a number of years. Several facilities have been suggested for the space – from formal flowerbeds to a wheels park / skateboard park. Because of the limited available area some larger facilities could not be accommodated and an agreement would be needed on priorities.

What we want to achieve

To provide a much improved and safer public open space that continues to cater for all residents, but especially young people.

“The entrances to this open space are unwelcoming and uninviting – you have to know it’s there already”

local stakeholder comment

Ideas and Options

- Make the site more welcoming and improve perceptions of safety by making significant improvement to entrances including enhancing visibility into the space, providing new signs and entrance gates.
- Work with the Meadow Vale Community Association to make the community centre and park work better together both in terms of animating the space and widening the entrance from Meadow Vale. This might include swapping land with the community centre should the centre ever be rebuilt.
- Consider a formal lease or community management arrangement with a suitable local body/organisation.
- Continue to provide facilities for young people. The type and location of facilities should be subject to local consultation at the time of investment and be suitable for the size of the space.
- Continue to provide enough unobstructed open space to encourage informal kickabout.
- Maintain the public Right of Way to Speedwell Road – providing lighting in the future.
- Designate the space as a dog-free zone.

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



Hudds Vale

Hudds Vale is a small open space to the east of St George's Park. Adjacent to the site is a new housing development that, along with existing housing, acts to make this a site that is considerably well observed by local residents.

The site is a simple informal space with a few trees and a footpath that leads to Park Crescent and St George's Park from Plummer's Hill. The site also hosts the source of a spring that feeds the lake in St George's Park.

What we want to achieve

To continue to maintain the current function of the space as open, informal green space allowing pedestrian access to local homes and streets.



"The old work house has a nice view over it and as its a historic building it is nice to see the green in front of it"

local stakeholder comment

Magpie Bottom

Magpie Bottom is a large, well-used natural green space straddling the administrative border between Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

A number of different habitats make up the space including meadow, woodland, scrub, and wetland. There are a number of formal and informal paths linking nearby streets to the north and south, east and west and some small areas of short, amenity cut grass.

This space is both owned and managed by South Gloucestershire Council which has been actively working with a local community group to make small-scale improvements to the site over a number of years. The Parks and Green Space Strategy did not originally consider this site is outside the influence of the council. A decision has been made to now recognise the site as publicly accessible space with the Bristol open space provision standards applying to it (see Appendix 1). However, its future remains outside the control of the council, but within the remit of the Bristol planning authority.

What we want to achieve

Discussions have begun with South Gloucestershire Council regarding joint-working on the provision of open space and open space services. This will be an important part of early work after the adoption of Area Green Space Plans. For Bristol City Council, the key principle is that the Area Green Space Plan ensures that open space provision standards and policies adopted by the Parks and Green Space Strategy are met for the residents of St George.

This draft of the Area Green Space Plan has adopted a precautionary approach - making sure that the standards and policies are met through the open space resource of Bristol City Council until partnership working with South Gloucestershire can be properly explored.

There are no proposals for this space as it lies outside the control of the council





Section 4. Possible open space disposals in the St George East and West Neighbourhood Partnership Area

As stated in Section 1, one of the sources of funding investment proposals is from the disposal of small amounts of green space. The council is committed to reinvesting 70% of any money raised back into improving parks and green spaces.

Potential green space disposal sites are also identified in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and Proposals map - documents that are part of the emerging Bristol Development Framework. The Site Allocations is subject to a public consultation at the same time as Area Green Space Plans - Ideas and Options papers.

The Site Allocations will in many instances suggest an alternative use for a potential disposal space. For example, for residential housing. If so, its proposed use is also identified here.

If the Site Allocations does not propose an alternative use then the future use of the land would be determined by the purchaser and, if relevant, the application of planning policy in the normal way - the future use of a disposal site is more likely to be for built development.

How have disposal sites been identified?

Green Space Standards adopted by the Parks and Green Space Strategy guide decision-making on disposals.

One of the main factors determining whether a site should be disposed of is its value as land which contributes to the local community or has wider benefits – such as ecological value. It is not based on its financial value.

The table below summarises the key factors that have been considered when assessing a space – a more detailed description of these can be found in the Parks and Green Space Strategy - appendix 5.

Factors for assessing value

The following factors have been included in the assessment:

- Level of use
- Community views of the space
- Community involvement
- Equalities considerations
- Educational significance
- Demographic change
- Level of anti-social behaviour
- Events potential
- Local context and significance
- Accessibility
- Landscape significance
- Nature Conservation significance
- Archaeological/Historical significance
- Legal Status
- Contribution to the local economy
- Sustainability significance

A value assessment took place for all sites identified for possible disposal in St George East and West, checks on its significance in all the key areas were considered. Through the stakeholder involvement, views from the local community were sought, identifying amount of use, key barriers to use and consideration as to whether these barriers could be overcome to make this space a viable space for the local community.

In St George, one space has been identified as low value and is proposed for disposal. In addition three partial site disposals are proposed. These disposal sites are given on the following page.

In some cases the value of a space could be improved by its partial development, allowing housing to be built facing onto the space and providing natural surveillance to the remainder. Then, what is often a poorly and misused backland site, can become of greater value to the local community and attract more people to use it. In the St George Neighbourhood Partnership Area, this policy applies to the proposed partial disposal at Plummer's Hill Open Space.

Control of housing design in relation to partial site disposals.

Where it is considered appropriate to partially develop council land in order to improve the remainder of the space, the method of disposal will take whatever form is the most likely to bring about the intended benefits of the development within acceptable timescales. Prior to marketing, the council will issue a developers brief on which relevant stakeholders will be consulted. Normally the Council will proceed by way of a building agreement and would only transfer the freehold interest in the site when an acceptable development had been completed in accordance with the brief.

Your comments

We welcome your comments on the possible disposal sites put forward here.

Map showing proposed Disposal Sites





Disposal Sites

1. Gladstone Street Children's Play Ground

It is proposed to dispose of all of this site. The site is underused and has a small catchment area given its isolated location and park users are much more likely to visit the larger play areas at Netham Park and St Georges Park, which are both in very close proximity. It is therefore considered that a playground is not needed here in order to meet the open space standards set out in the Parks and Green Space Strategy.

A Public Right of Way runs adjacent to the site and would need to be retained or re-routed.



2. Part of Furber Road Open Space

It is proposed to dispose of part of the site that is on the corner of Furber Road and Sheldare Barton. The larger piece of land is to be retained and invested in with an option for children's play. Please refer to page 19 for full details of the investment ideas and options.

It is recognised that the space is often used for informal kickabouts, but enough space will be retained on the larger section of the site for this to take place there.



3. Terrell Gardens

These are technically two grass verges. It is proposed to dispose of the larger of these, though it is recognised that development opportunities would be restricted and that it may be of interest only to the house-owner next to the site. The other space will no longer be considered as recreational space under the Parks and Green Space Strategy.



4. Part of Plummer's Hill

Plummer's Hill is a backland site found to the north of the Neighbourhood Partnership. It has suffered from anti-social behaviour and low level crime in the past, though it is noted that this has dropped in recent times. It is proposed to dispose of a part of the southern section of the site in order to introduce more natural surveillance into the site and help curb anti-social behaviour and improve perceptions of safety in line with Policy LM7 of the Parks and Green Space Strategy. It should also be pointed out that an area to the north of the site will be re-established as allotments and will therefore not be legitimately accessible to the public.

The remaining site will be invested in with a new children's play area and for informal activities. Please refer to page 17 for full details of the investment ideas and options.



Section 5.

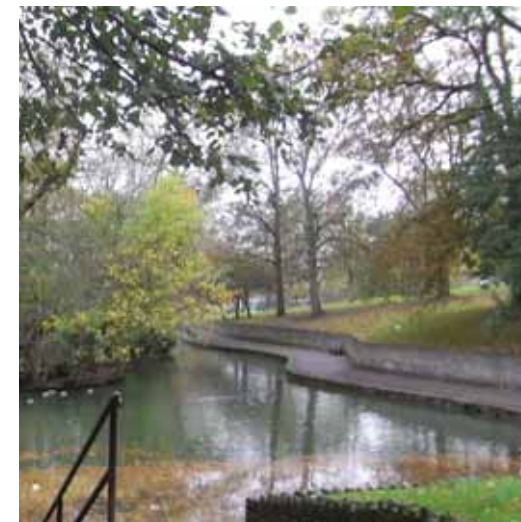
Future opportunities

St George East and West is well served for publicly accessible open space. The ideas put forward by the members of the local community professionals/experts were comprehensive and the proposals in the Area Green Space Plan reflect this. As a result a good draft strategic vision for open space that meets the aims and objectives of the Parks and Green Space Strategy has been drawn up.

However, in addition a number of further opportunities could be explored in the future which haven't been possible to consider so far:

The Neighbourhood Partnership Area is predominantly formed by dense residential areas, meaning that there are few opportunities to bring in new open space here. However, the area is relatively well catered for in terms of access to every type of open space and the demand for new space is low.

One potential option that could be explored in the future is the introduction of toilets at Troopers Hill Field. The space is not included within the boundary of the Nature Reserve and used for a number of varying activities including informal sports and children's play. It is thought that toilets could be considered in the future to complement the diverse functions of the space. However, as a proposal it is not in line with the Parks and Green Space Strategy Policy and is not included as a formal idea for public consultation.





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

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

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

A key aim of this Area Green Space Plan is to propose how these standards will be met in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area of St George East and West.

Quality

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

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

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

Distance Standard

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

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

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

The distances proposed are in the table below:

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

Barriers to access

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

The St George East and West Neighbourhood Partnership Area is relatively free of barriers to access. The River Avon forms part of the southern boundary, which restricts access into and from neighbouring Brislington. The main road of the A420 runs east to west through the area, but with many places to easliy cross the road, its impact on access is low.

All barriers to access have been factored in when applying the distance standard in St George.

Children's playgrounds

There are currently three children's playgrounds in St George East and West at St George's Park, Colebrook Road Open Space and Dundridge Farm Playing Fields. In addition there are single items of play equipment at Troopers Hill Field and Gladstone Street Children's Play Ground. A new playground is soon to be installed at Troopers Hill Field.

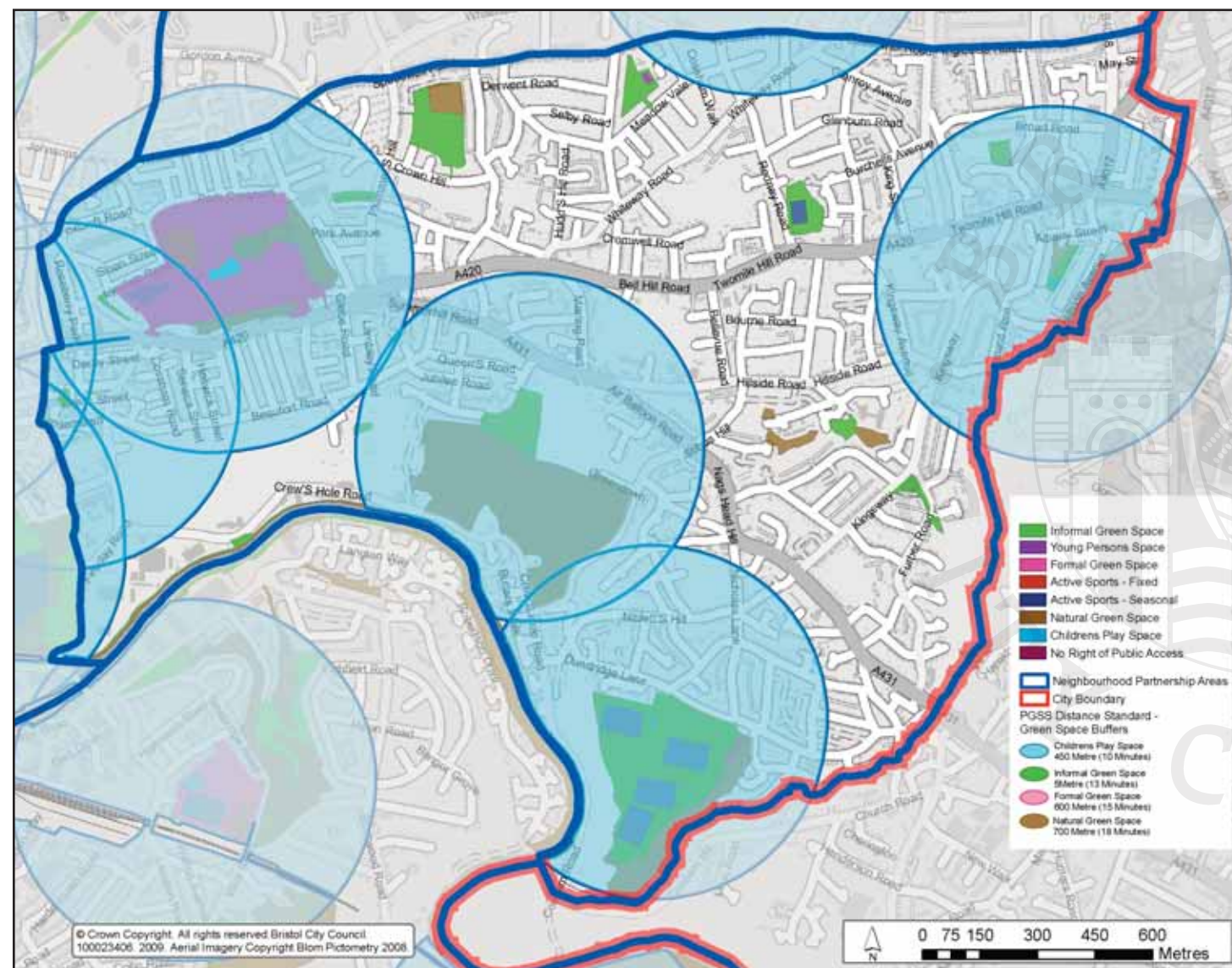
Outside of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area there are three playgrounds that are providing in small part for the residents of St George East and West. These are at the Netham, Brook Street and Argyle Road Playing Fields.

In order to better meet the distance standards for children's playgrounds it is proposed to provide new playgrounds at Plummer's Hill, Rodney Road Playing Fields and Primrose Lane Open Space. A further playground will be provided at either Meg Thatchers Gardens or Furber Road Open Space.

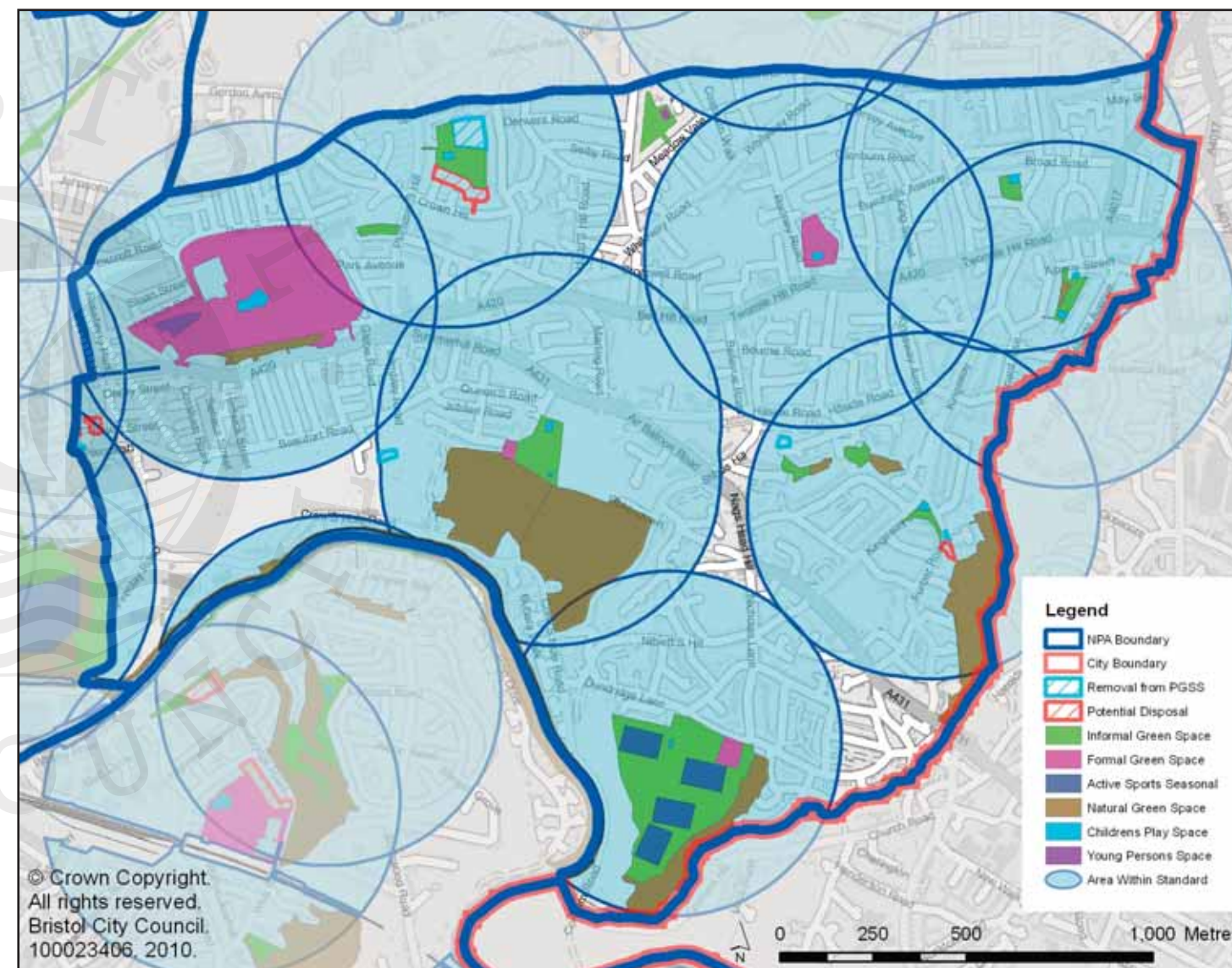
It is proposed to delete a playground at Gladstone Street.

The percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standard for a Children's Play Ground will fall from 47% to 8%. This will leave a small area of St George under-served for an equipped children's playground but there are no other spaces suitable for a safe, easily accessible and sustainable facility that don't conflict with existing uses.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years



Formal Green Space

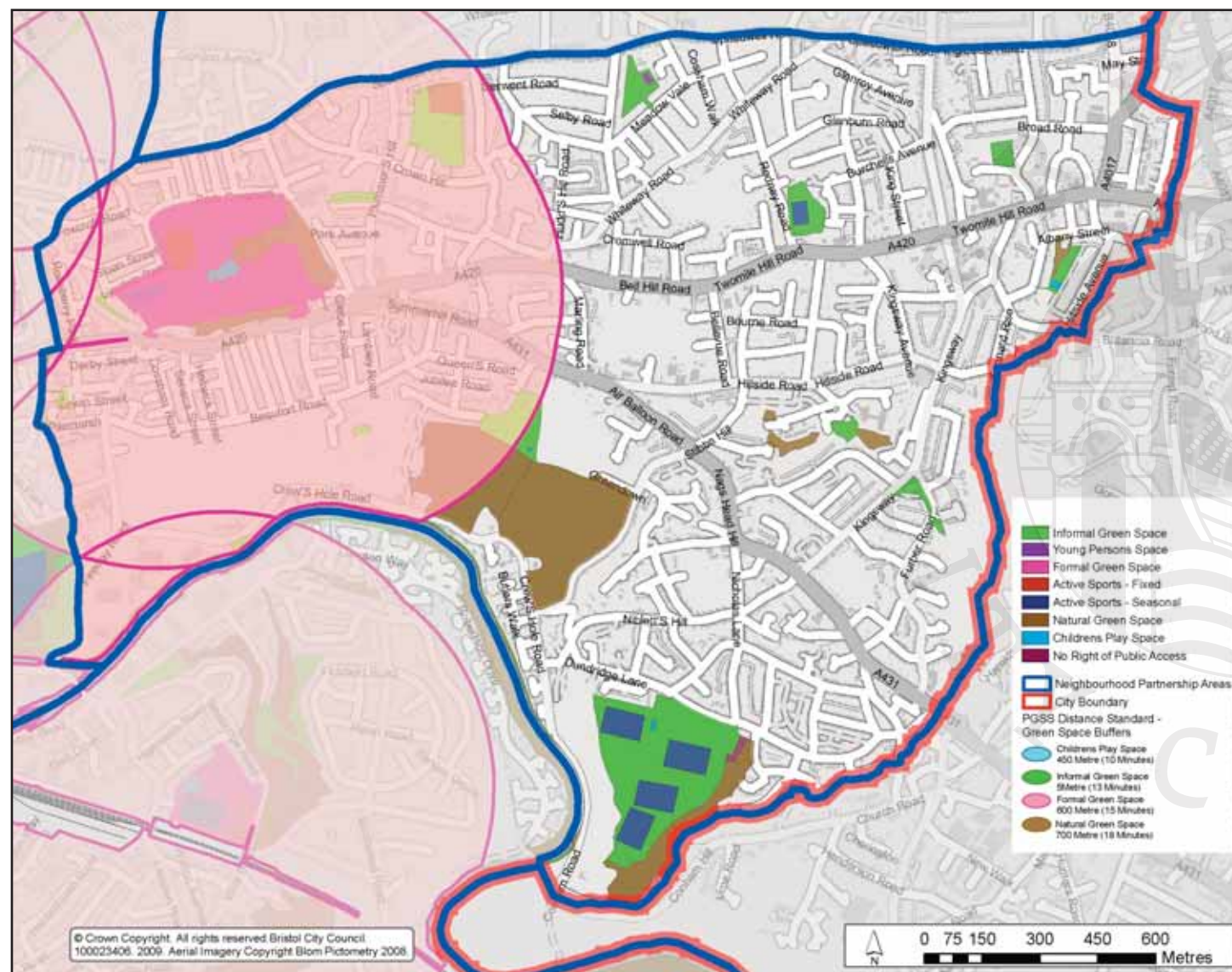
The Neighbourhood Partnership Area only has one area of formal green space - St George Park. Two further areas at Owen Square and Bloy Square are theoretically acting for St George residents and are located in the Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Area Green Space Plan. However it is unlikely that St George residents travel to benefit from these spaces.

In order to better meet the distance standard for formal green space new formal spaces are proposed for Rodney Road Playing Fields, Dundridge Farm Playing Fields and Troopers Hill Field.

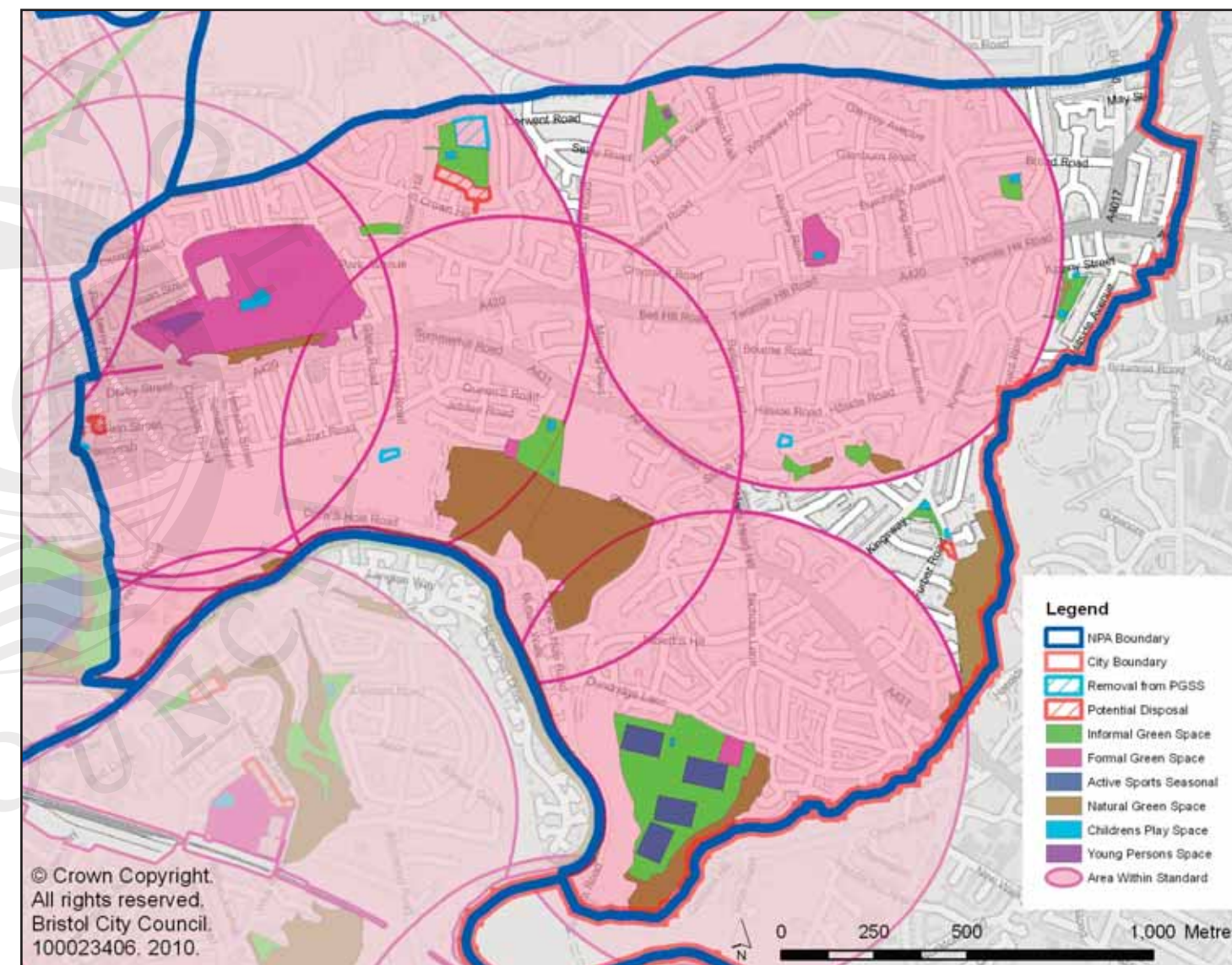
The percentage of the predicted future population that will be outside the distance standard for formal green space will fall from 68% to 12%

It is not thought the standard can be met for formal green space in two areas to the east of the Neighbourhood Partnership as the existing function and character of the available spaces either needs to be retained or is difficult to change significantly.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years

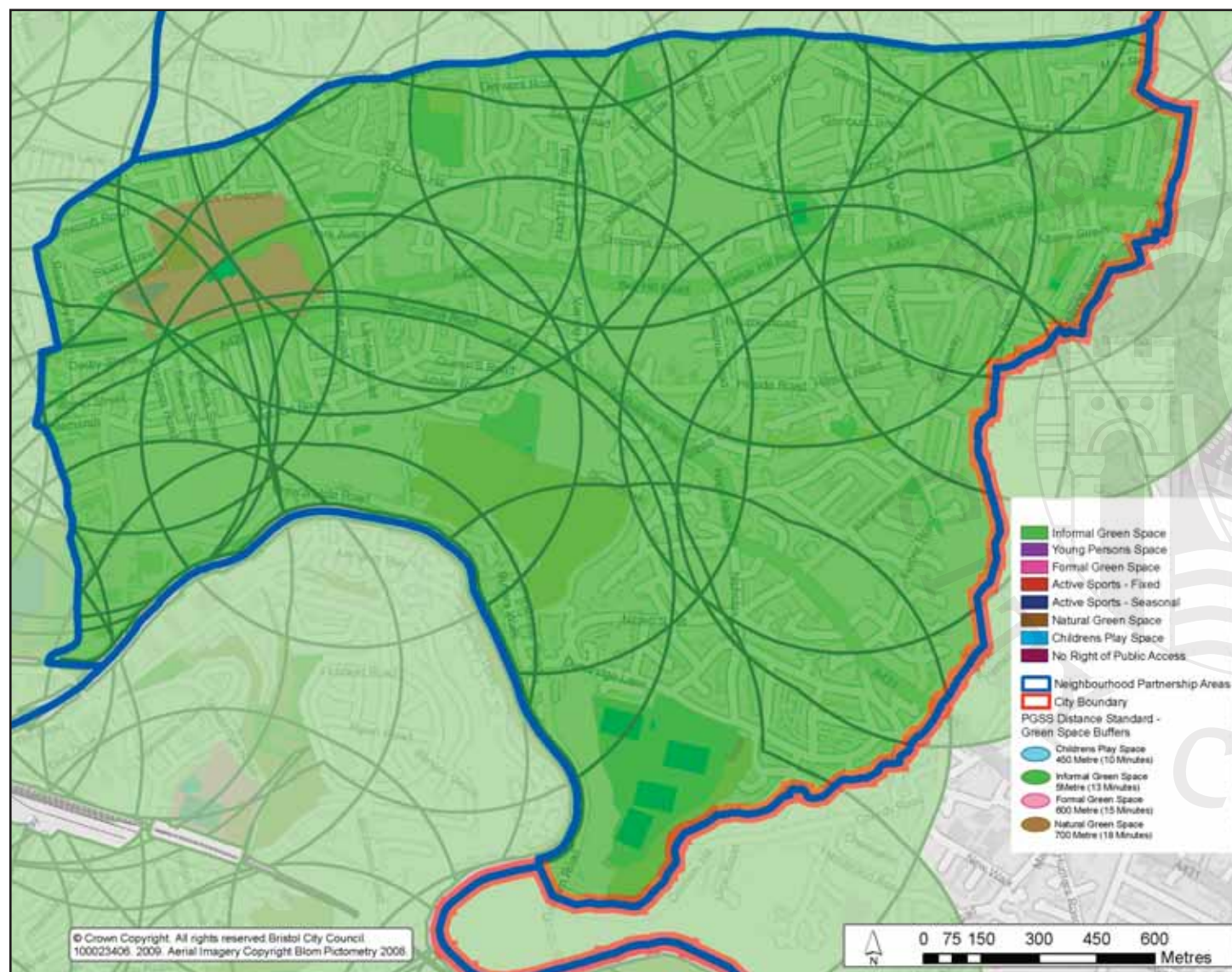


Informal Green Space

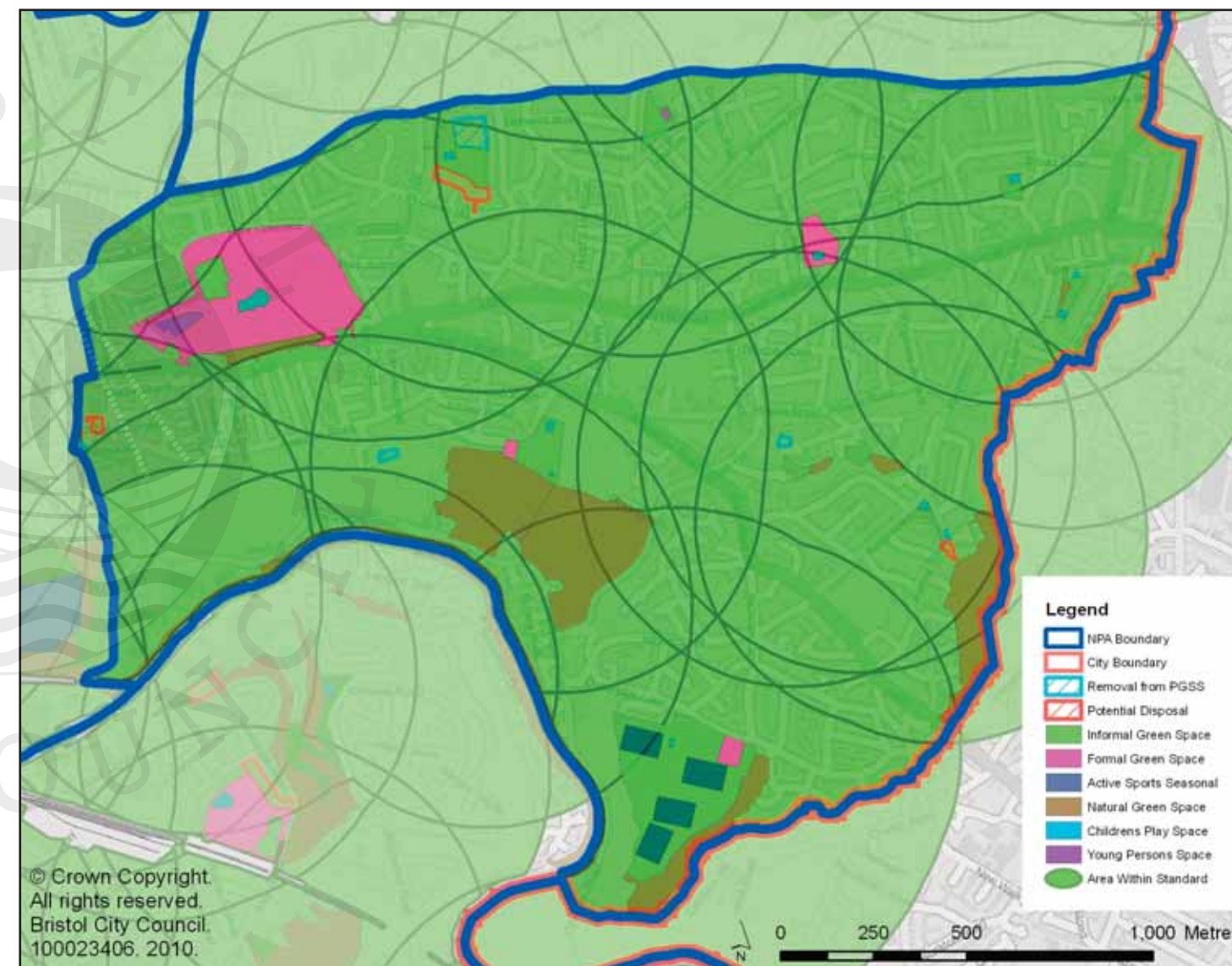
At present 0% of the population in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area are outside 550m of an informal green space.

The proposals in the Area Green Space Plan create a small area where the distance standard is no longer met. However this area falls within St George Park and so no residents are affected. The percentage of the population outside the standard will continue to be 0%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years



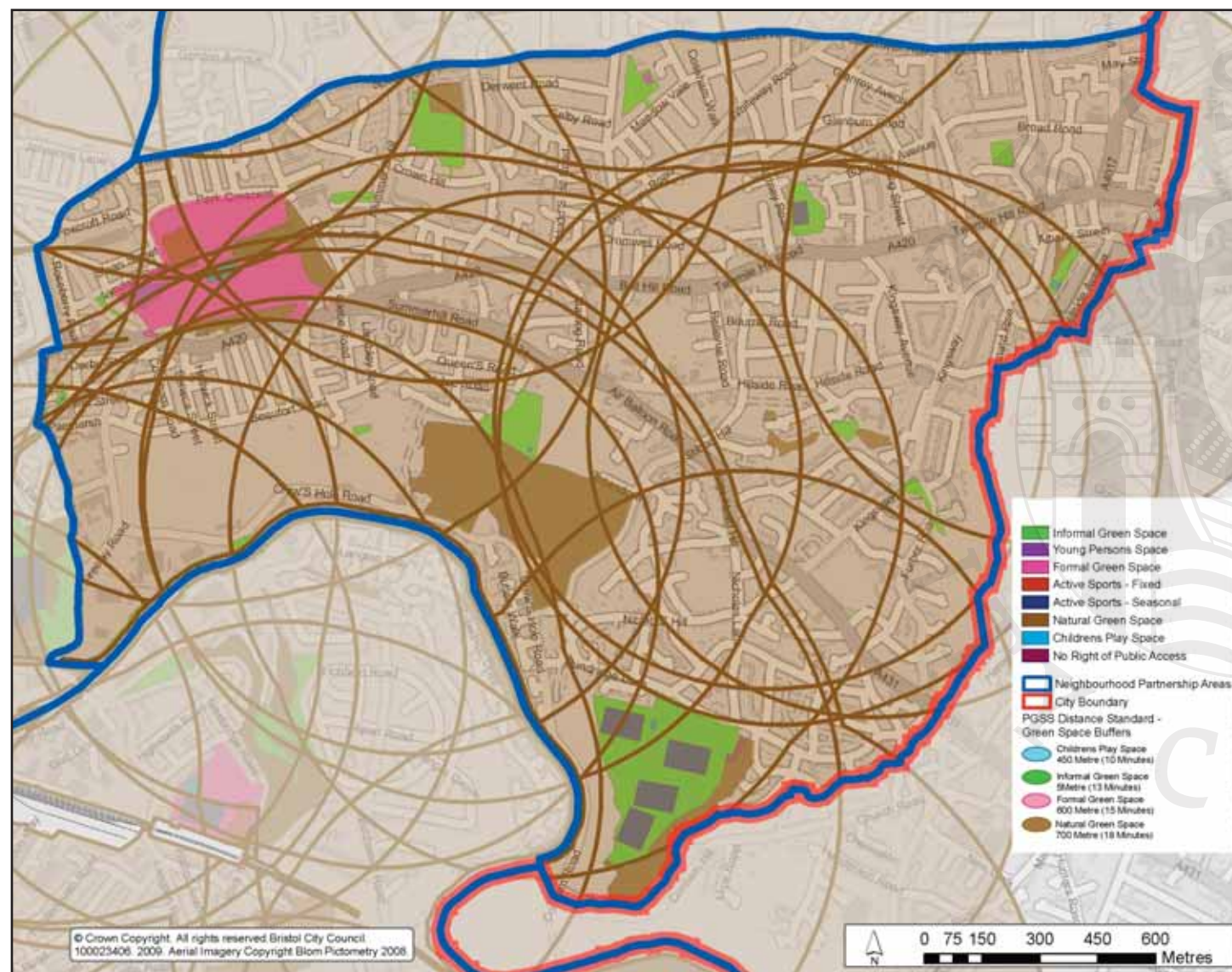


Natural Green Space

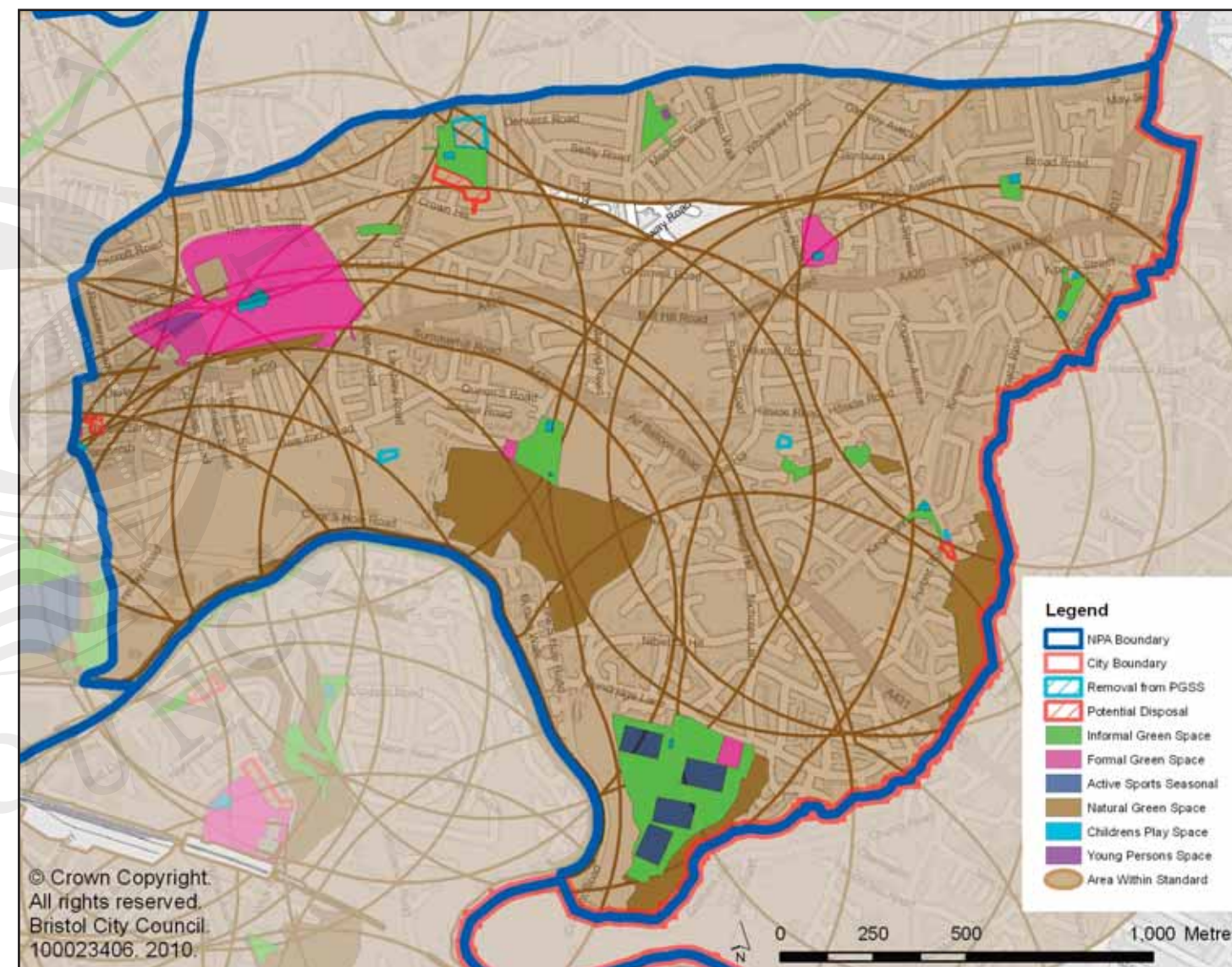
At present almost 0% of the population in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area are outside 700m of a natural green space. There are approx 80 dwellings in the Whiteway area where residents have to travel a further 40 metres to a natural green space within the Bristol City Council boundary.

The proposals in the Area Green Space Plan do not change the area of the Neighbourhood Partnership Area for which this standard is met. The percentage of the population outside the standard will continue to be close to 0%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years

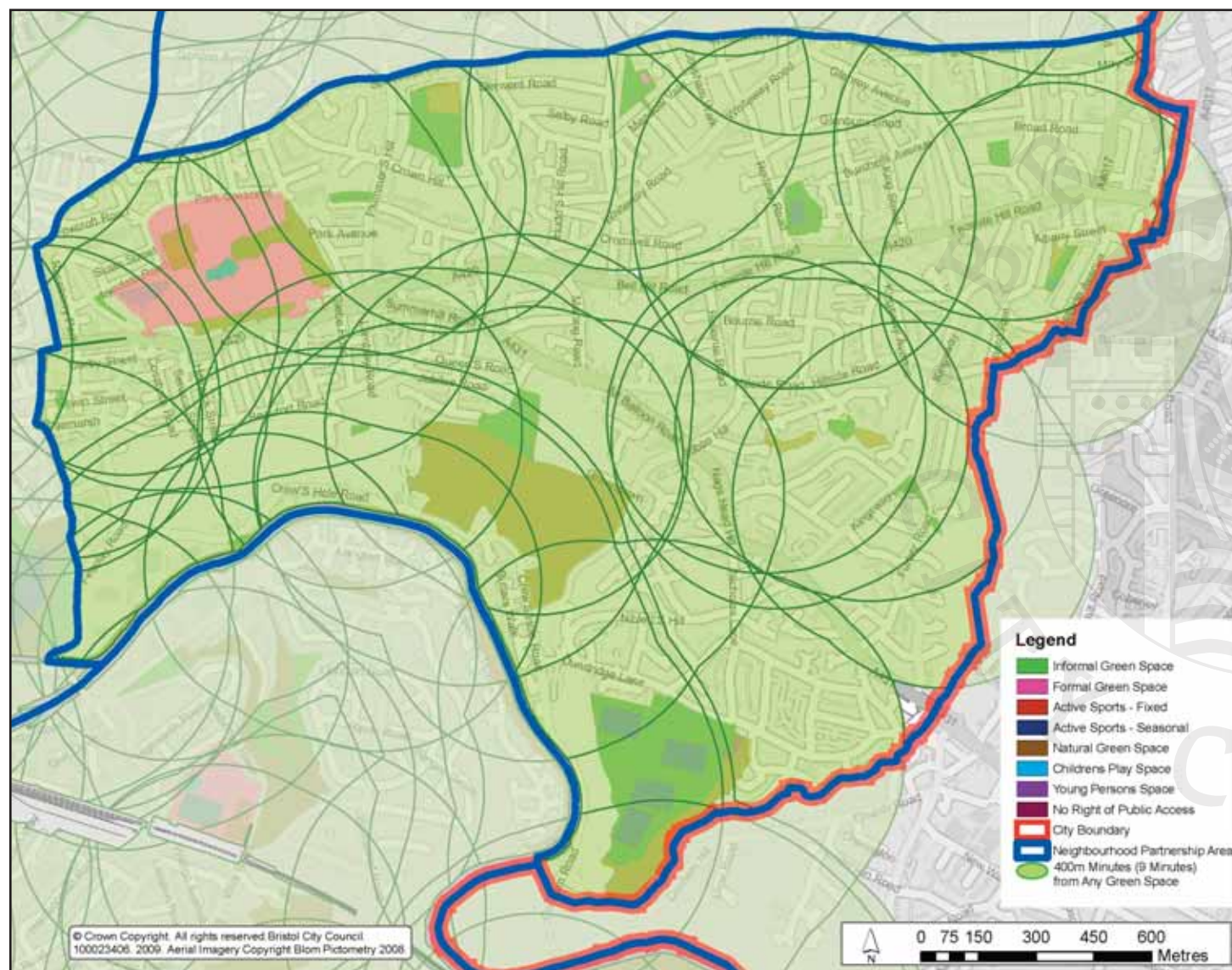


Distance to the nearest green space

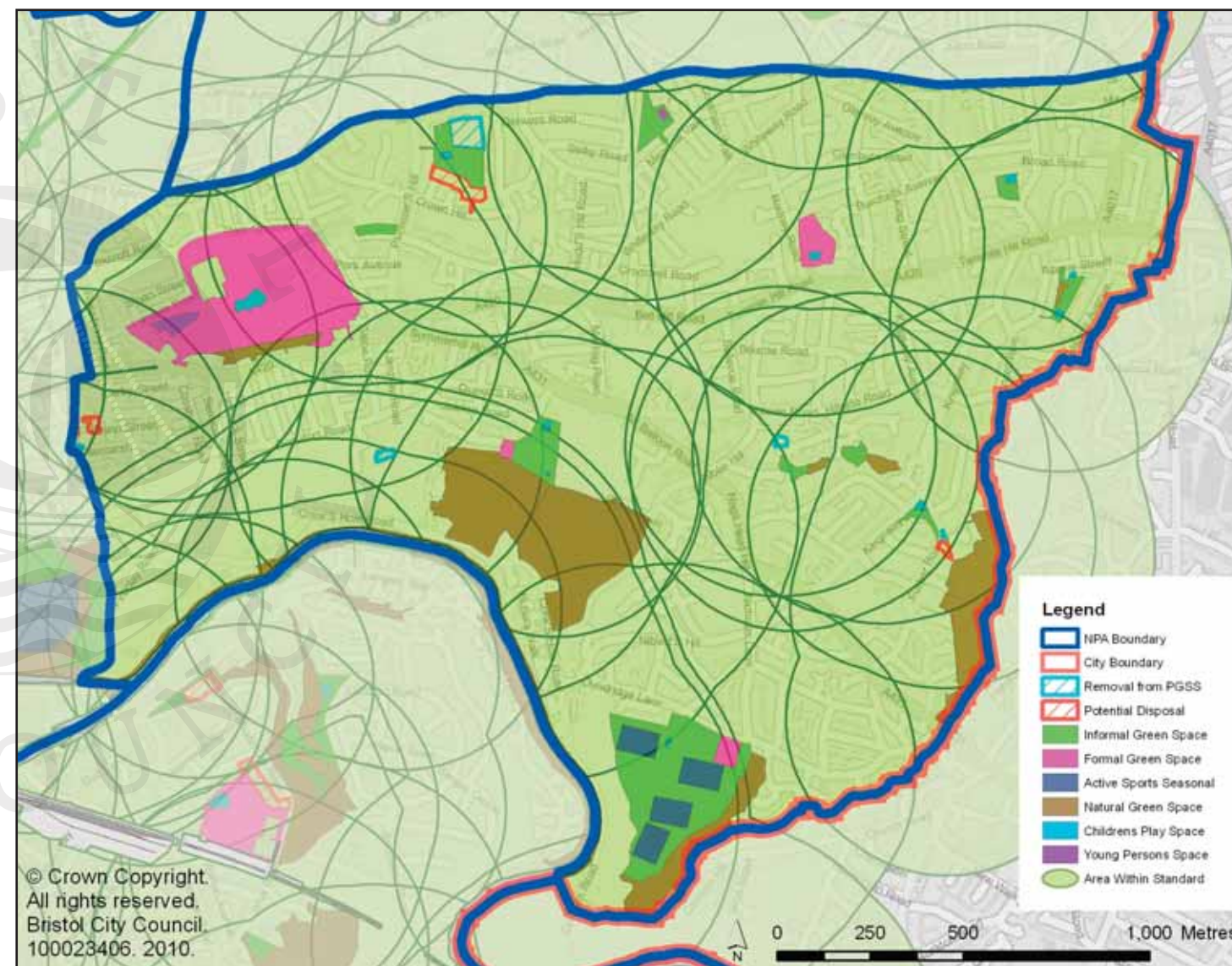
At present 1% of the population in the Neighbourhood Partnership Area are outside 400m of a publicly accessible open space. There are 17 dwellings in the Cross Street area that would have to travel a further 40 metres to a green space in the Bristol City Council boundary.

The proposals in the Area Green Space Plan cover a gap in provision close to Magpie Bottom where the standard is not currently met. The percentage of the population outside the standard will drop to 0%.

Areas where the standard is currently met



Areas predicted to be within the standard in 20 years





Quantity

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

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

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

Proposed minimum quantity standard:

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

Locality Standards for different types of space:

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

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

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

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


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

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



	Standard sq m/person	Current provision sq m/person	ONS 2026 population estimate sq m/person	GLA 2026 population estimate sq m/person
Children's play space	0.3	0.17	0.25	0.29
Formal green space	2.0	4.59	5.12	5.93
Informal green space	8.0	7.93	5.27	6.11
Natural green space	9.0	9.52	8.65	10.02
Locality standard	18.0	22.21	19.28	22.34

Appendix 2.

How the Area Green Space Plan is meeting the PGSS policies

Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
<div>Children and young people</div> <div>  </div>	Developing a diverse range of children's play spaces including natural play	<p>CY1</p> <p>New children's play space is proposed for Plummer's Hill, Rodney Road, Furber Road and Primrose Lane. Improvements to playgrounds are proposed at Dundridge Farm and Colebrooke Road. Improvements to play at Troopers Hill Field have been completed. New natural play opportunities are proposed for Colebrooke Road, Plummer's Hill and Rodney Road. Existing playgrounds at Dundridge Farm and St George's Park will also provide natural play.</p>
	Provide diverse, exciting and challenging spaces for young people	<p>CY2</p> <p>It is proposed to continue to provide a skate park facility at St George's Park and to introduce a new multi-use-games-area and challenging play equipment for older children.</p> <p>Meadow Vale Open Space will be a focal point for young people and facilities will be provided according to local consultation. It is not proposed to introduce a skate park here.</p> <p>A new multi-use-games-area is proposed for Dundridge Farm.</p>
	Enhance the wider park environment for play	<p>CY4</p> <p>Informal kickabout will be encouraged at Plummer's Hill, Rodney Road, Troopers Hill Field and Dundridge Farm. Goalposts may be added to all of these spaces. Goalposts will continue to be located at Colebrooke Road.</p> <p>The opportunity to provide a woodland adventure trail at Dundridge Farm will be explored</p> <p>Support for cycling - the opportunity to enable cyclists to access the River Avon Trail from Dundridge Farm will be explored</p>



Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
Formal Green Space		
	FG1	St George’s Park will continue to act as the main traditional park for the St George East and West area.
	FG2	<p>Providing a Park Keeper in all main traditional parks as a minimum</p> <p>Park keepers are already in place at St George’s Park and part time at Troopers Hill.</p> <p>If possible a part-time park keeper at Dundridge Farm would be beneficial when positive improvements are made to the site.</p>
	FG4	Enhance entry points and boundaries See proposals for individual parks.
	FG7	Provide visual planting schemes in key formal green spaces The quality and scope of formal planting will be much improved in St George’s Park. The introduction of formal space at Troopers Hill Field, Dundridge Farm and Rodney Road Playing Fields provides the possibility of formal planting schemes. This would be dependent on local consultation at the time.
Informal Green Space		
	IG2	<p>Tackle anti-social behaviour focusing on prevention and greater responsiveness to incidents, access and visibility</p> <p>Many open spaces in St George East and West have suffered from significant anti-social behaviour including St George’s Park, Plummer’s Hill, Dundridge Farm, Meg Thatchers Gardens and Primrose Lane Open Space. The actions of residents and the authorities have had some success in curbing this in all of these spaces but it persists to some degree.</p> <p>Police incident recording data tells us that most reported incidents in St George take place in St George’s Park. The park had the fifth highest number of incidents of any open space in Bristol in 2008/9. A lower number of incidents are recorded for Plummer’s Hill, Dundridge Farm, Meg Thatchers Gardens, Primrose Lane, Rodney Road, Colebrooke Rd and Troopers Hill.</p> <p>All investment proposals made in the Area Green Space Plan will act to reduce the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour in the long term by ensuring that the number of visitors increases.</p>

Policy Area

PGSS Policy No.

How ideas and options would act to meet the policy

Informal Green Space (continued)

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

IG3

It is proposed to improve the majority of Furber Road Open Space by enclosing the site and creating a dog-free area.

It is proposed to enclose a small part of Dundridge Farm Playing Fields close to the entrance and designate this space as dog-free.

Natural Green Space



Establish a network of 16 Local Nature Reserves providing access to high quality sites for wildlife and a focus for supporting community involvement.

NG1

Troopers Hill is a designated Local Nature Reserve and also Bristol's only Green Flag Nature Reserve. Green Flag is an award for excellence. The council is considering where a further seven Local Nature Reserves will be located but it is unlikely to include any new ones in this area.

Improve maintenance and management regimes ensuring optimum conditions for wildlife alongside attractive, welcoming and easily accessible places for people to enjoy.

NG2

Better management of woodland and scrub to improve visibility and access is proposed for Meg Thatchers Gardens.

Scrub clearance is proposed at Colebrooke Road to enable access and create more actively useable space.

Develop a skilled and dedicated workforce specialising in management of nature conservation sites, with suitable specialist equipment.

The creation of new footpaths and the significant improvement of existing footpaths and entrances is proposed for Crews Hole Woodland.


Improve entrances and routes through natural green space to improve welcome and security.

Footpath improvements are proposed for the natural green space at Dundridge Farm.

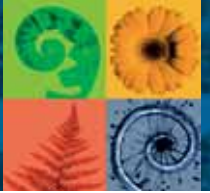
Both the signposting and design of entrances to Crews Hole Woodland, Troopers Hill and Dundridge Farm could be improved from the River Avon Trail to support connections between spaces.



Ideas and Options Paper St George East and West Area Green Space Plan

Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
Active Sports Space		
	AS1	<p>St George East and West currently has the following formal, active sports facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">5 x tennis courts at St George's Park2 x bowling greens at St George's Park4 x adult and 1 x junior football pitches at Dundridge Farm1 x disused football pitch at Rodney Road Playing Fields <p>Football: It is proposed that Dundridge Farm Playing Fields be significantly improved as a quality sports offer. Improvements will be made to the quality of pitches and a new pavilion with changing rooms and toilets installed.</p> <p>It is proposed to decommission the single football pitch at Rodney Road Playing Fields.</p>
	AS2	<p>Tennis It is proposed to maintain a good quality tennis facility of five courts at St George's Park. Two courts will be floodlit to allow all-year round play.</p>
	AS3	<p>Bowls It is proposed to retain one bowling green at St George's Park and to decommission another. One of the greens has recently gone out of use.</p>
	AS5	<p>See proposals for individual parks</p>

Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
Other land management policies		
	Restore and develop park buildings for a range of alternative uses.	LM3 It is proposed to develop a multi-purpose building at St George's Park through the improvement and restoration of the existing toilets and changing facilities adjacent to the bowling green and tennis courts.
	Provide good quality accessible toilets	LM4 It is proposed to provide new, fully accessible toilet facilities at both St George's Park and Dundridge Farm Playing Fields. The new facilities at St George's Park will be located in a pavilion next to the tennis courts and bowling green. The existing toilets at the entrance to the park at the junction of Chalks Rd and Church Hill will be reviewed.
	Improve access to green spaces for a wider range of people by creating dog free spaces whilst ensuring dog walkers retain a varied choice of green space to visit	LM5 Please refer to notes for Policy IG3
	Develop and re-design some backland sites to provide frontages of houses looking onto the site - creating a community focal point and improve feelings of safety	LM7 The introduction of development in Plummer's Hill Open Space will introduce natural surveillance from low-level traffic and people accessing their properties. New properties would face on to the open space and make the space feel less hidden.
	Establish greater connection with transport planning to improve access, entrances and pathways to and within sites for different users	LM11 At Rodney Road we will explore with Highways and others a range of options to make accessing the space easier and safer. This might include road-widening and the introduction of a footpath along the park boundary.



Policy Area	PGSS Policy No.	How ideas and options would act to meet the policy
Other land management policies (continued)		
Improve the quality of green corridors, riverside routes and cycle/walkways for recreation, biodiversity and commuting	LM12	<p>St George has two elements of the Strategic Green Infrastructure network as proposed in the Core Strategy of the Bristol Development Framework. These are the valley of the River Avon and a route running from St George’s Park north to the Bristol and Bath Railway Path.</p> <p>It is proposed to enhance the connectivity and integrity of the River Avon network by improving signage and access to the open spaces of Troopers Hill, Crews Hole Woodland and Dundridge Farm from the River Avon Trail. Improvements to footpaths will also make this links easier to use. Opportunities to improve links for cyclists will be explored, particularly at Dundridge Farm, but steep topography in all these sites makes access less than straightforward.</p>



St George East and West

Draft Area Green Space Plan

