

# Parks and Green Space Strategy

Overview of approach

## Vision

A city where everyone benefits from excellent quality parks and green spaces.

## Mission

We will work together with Bristol's citizens to nurture excellent quality, nature-rich, attractive and enjoyable parks and green spaces in every part of Bristol.

## Goals

Every part of the city has a range of parks and green spaces to meet everyone's needs.

Everyone has access to an excellent quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk from their home.

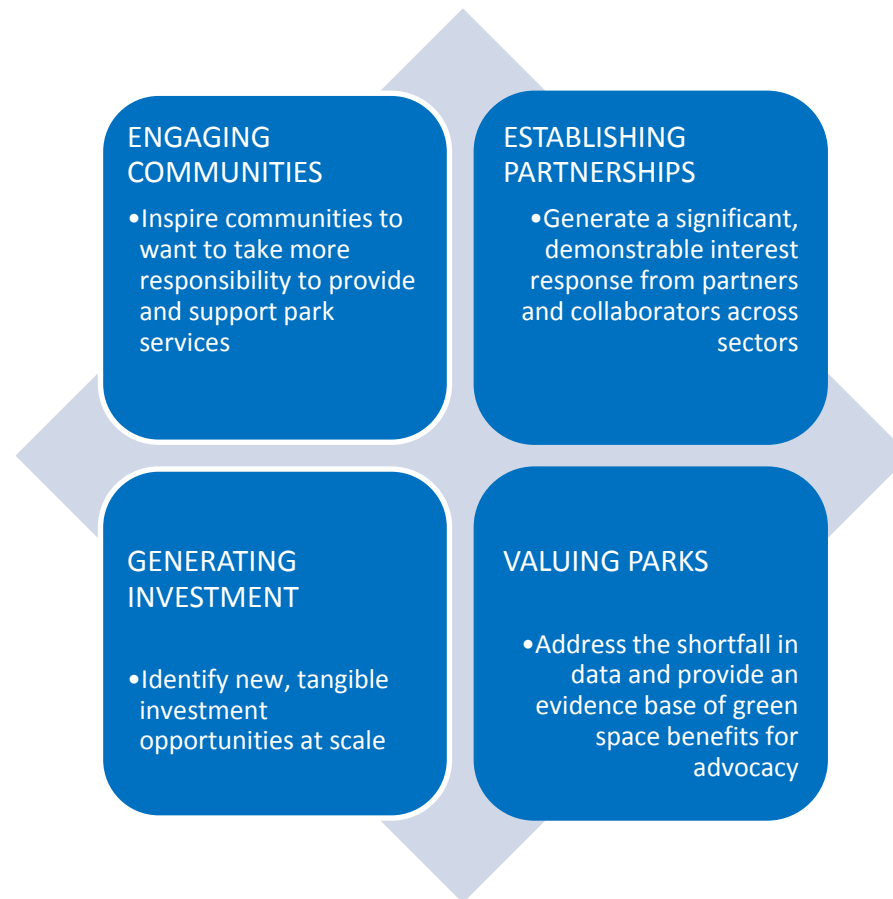
Our parks and green spaces are safe, clean, well maintained and welcoming to all.

Bristol's parks and green spaces are part of the solution to the climate and ecological emergencies.

Bristol's park's service is financially secure and sustainable.

# Delivering to the vision

The Strategy will set out a transformational process creating a shift in the way Parks and Green Spaces are managed.

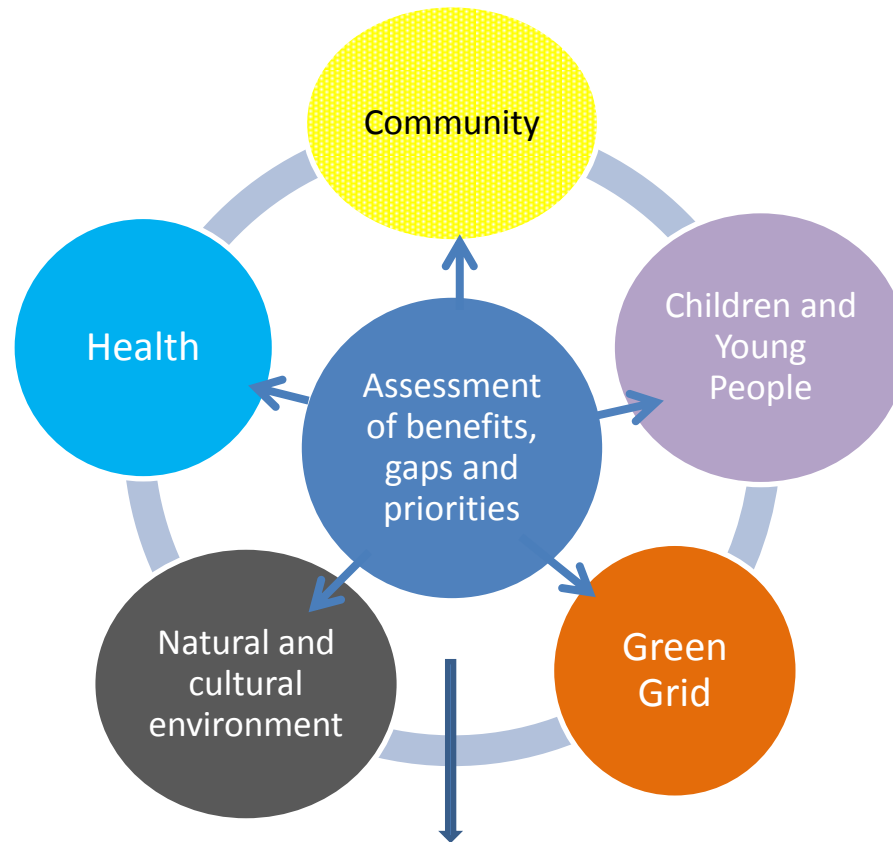


Maximise opportunities to work in partnership with other services and integrate with other council work programmes



## PGSS Work packages:

Several work packages have been set up to help develop the strategy and keep to its commitments. Here are the seven key work packages:



**Financial Sustainability** :- generating income from assets; strategic CIL, capital investment programme; grants and philanthropic giving.

# Income generation

The aim of this work stream is:

Through the wealth of assets we have across the city we will develop new and innovative ways to generate income which can be directly invested into our parks and green spaces. We will do this by promoting our assets to businesses and communities sectors locally and nationally and invite them to present their ideas and work with them to create exciting opportunities which will see Bristol's Parks and Green spaces becoming financial sustainability by 2030.

## Site Information and planning

Data collection & analysis to make key decisions on sites for Income Generation activities such as: key features, constraints, beneficial timing of release for EOI

To inform land and asset use policies and plans within the revised PGSS

Determine the extent of site planning required for EOI phases

## Business Modelling

Develop prototype business models pre EOI

rental/lease

profit share

joint venture

Business models will be finalised once negotiations have taken place and contracts being drawn up.

## Finance and Budget Structure review

Develop budget structure to enable tracing of income and expenditure related to FP projects.

Develop an approach where new income streams can be ring-fenced to enable the service to reinvest into parks and green spaces, for both revenue and capital budgets

## Attracting Partners and generating ideas

Develop and implement the "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) process to attract partners

Implement the selection process

Procurement process

Negotiation & Contract

# Natural and cultural environment

## The aim of the work package is:

Ensure Parks and Green Spaces play a full role in supporting the City's Sustainability goals by aligning with the Ecological Emergency Action Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan, Historic Environment Framework and Going for Gold Sustainable Food Strategy.

### Align with Ecological Emergency Action Plan

- Habitat assessment and modelling across P&GS to map the ecological network and determine sites for habitat creation and enhancement.
- Establish receptor sites for Biodiversity Net gain with Strategic planning.
- Review of management operations to bring in line with environmental standards.
- Meadow Bristol sponsorship scheme
- Promote community led / volunteer rewilding initiatives

### Protect, enhance and interpret Cultural landscape

- Assessment of significance by mapping designations, registered assets and collation of existing masterplans.
- Community informed characterisation and evaluation of place to determine "sense of place"
- Development of management prescriptions in line with future vision of parks
- Development of interpretation, communication and branding strategy "Telling Bristol Story".

### Build resilience and mitigate against climate change. Support carbon neutral targets

- Sustainable City heat mapping tool to promote the role of Parks and Green Spaces in providing "cooling effect"
- Development of Climate Change adaptation strategies to ensure landscape management, horticultural and arboricultural decisions consider climate change.
- Assessment of land availability for sustainable energy projects

### Promote Urban Food Growing

- Optimisation of land assets for food growing by reviewing tenancy arrangements
- Engagement and communication targeted to underrepresented communities and areas of high health inequality.
- Support community food growing initiatives through the EOI phase
- Bring allotment management in line with environmental standards .

# Communities and shared solutions

## The aim of this work package is:

To enable communities to manage and maintain green spaces and green space assets and to run services from them in order to achieve better parks and deliver a sustainable parks service.

Work to achieve this will build community capacity and interest in parks and in meeting this aim, change the Council's approach, capacity and skills to be an effective partner and create pragmatic tools to deliver real opportunities and projects

### Community Engagement & Action

To understand the community perspective on how well park provision meets their needs and interest.

To inform and develop the road map to community empowerment and autonomous action.

To generate interest in 'investing in parks' and the social capital to do this

### Community Development

To build processes, tools and information for working with the council and developing sustainable community projects in parks.

Support Foundation to attract funds and provide resource to support agreed Community supported projects/initiatives .

Support Foundation to develop philanthropic investment routes, via a co-design approach that will support communities and community projects.

### Internal Change

To implement a practical and cultural change in the Parks Service so that community ownership and investment is encouraged.

Supporting communities to gain investment.

Advance volunteer offer in line with Volunteer Strategy, to include new volunteer roles

### Community Volunteering

Explore barriers (societal and within Parks volunteer offer) and identify actions to widen appeal of volunteering.

In partnership with BBPF, develop and launch a promotion 'Volunteering and Parks' brochure.

Support Foundation to engage business and other partners and develop philanthropic investment routes, via a co-design approach.

Work in partnership with BBPF to develop shared message and roles to support volunteering action.



# Health

## The aim of the work package is:

To identify and contribute towards reducing Health inequality and make Parks a venue for delivery of health and wellbeing activities. We will do this by supporting social prescribing and other health activities & working with commercial team to deliver activities that will help increase usage of the Parks to provide health benefits to the citizens.

### Identifying Health Inequalities

- Identify health inequality across the city and explore need linked to proximity of our parks and look at gaps by April 2021

### Social Prescribing

- Study the current health and social prescribing networks
- Create working partnership to contribute towards reducing health inequality

### Licensing Health Business

- Work with commercial team to work up licensing system that makes delivering activities for health via social prescribing attractive
- Work with health activity providers to explore social value opportunities within parks

### Increasing investments

- Increase investment in parks from health or national budgets through National Lobbying & fund raising with Cohort

# Children and young people

## The aim of the work package is:

Increase provision for children and young people in targeted areas of need to overcome barriers and increase access to Parks and Green Spaces.

Develop an evidence base that ensures the need for park based provision for children and young people is considered in investment and commissioning processes.

### Compile and map the evidence

- Review policy to identify key drivers and targets for CYP services that relate to Parks and Green Spaces.
- Carry out a spatial analysis of CYP deprivation proxies to determine area of high vulnerability for poor health and development outcomes.
- GIS sufficiency analysis of areas that fall short of formal play areas and natural green space.

### Engagement with Children and Young People

- Conduct surveys of 300 young people (12 plus) with Youth Council representatives across Bristol
- Targeted engagement activity in areas of need by detached youth workers
- Targeted focus group to engage 8 plus group, BME and disability groups

### Advocacy for targeting commissioned services and other investments in to Parks and Green Spaces

- Understand existing funding and commissioning arrangements for CYP
- Identify EOI projects with CYP benefit
- Work with CYP commissioning services and BBPF to explore joint programmes
- Work with health activity providers to explore social value opportunities within parks that engage CYP

### Development of participation standards

- Review existing policy and practice to involve CYP in changes to provision in Parks
- Draw up a list of CYP service providers who have capacity to involve CYP in participation activities
- Develop a set of processes and standards for Park service

# Green grid

## The aim of the work package is:

A Green Grid Is a combination of spaces and routes that encourage people to walk, cycle and enjoy their local environment. Put simply, the more attractive, safe and convenient these spaces and routes are the more people will use and care for them. At the same time , greener spaces and routes help tackle climate change, health inequality, regeneration and biodiversity. This work strategy aims to promote the Green Grid as mitigation to Open Space deficits that can not be brought in line with quantity standards and improving access to Parks and Green Spaces by improved connectivity.

Identify links with Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy and Green Infrastructure Plan

- Capturing needs of different work stream to “sell” the concept of Green Grid such as ‘greening’ high streets, increasing amount of public realm, support for active travel.

Identifying opportunities for small scale new space (less than 0.3 hec)

- Assessment of BCC property to identify surplus land

Identify pilot area to trial Green Grid methodology

- Define an area for implementation of Secondary network of the Green Infra structure plan.
- Carry out review of connectivity enhancements and compile evidence base.
- Establish community engagement process

Policy and Funding

- Embed strategy in the Local Plan
- Secure BCC capital funding across directorates
- Advocate for Strategic CIL
- Explore external funding sources

# Assessment of benefits and sufficiency

## The aim of the work package is:

To provide a policy context that defines the added benefits parks and green spaces contribute to corporate strategies that address the city's key challenges on health inequality, nature recovery, and social division.

Policy appraisal to determine value added to Parks and Green Spaces

- Develop a summary of corporate policy links that relate to the Parks and Green Space Strategic Goals.

Review of sufficiency and transition to Green Flag Quality Assessment

- Implement Open Space Sufficiency Report Recommendations
- Develop capacity of the Service and volunteers to implement Green Flag assessment
- Develop and deliver phased programme of assessments

Spatial assessment of priorities (need and deliverability) against different park functions

- Ensure baseline data and wider needs analysis is collated and mapped from each work stream.
- Promote GIS tool to show how priorities are balanced and weighed up in deciding where investment makes the biggest difference to corporate objectives.

Collation of analysis to distil priority themes and actions

# Time-frame and involvement opportunities:

- Draft strategy must be ready by September 2021
- Consultation period September – February 2022
- Adoption: March 2022

Involvement opportunities:

- **Working groups in action:**
  1. Assessment of benefits and sufficiency
  2. Health and wellbeing
  3. Natural and cultural environment
  4. Children and young people
  5. Green Grid
  6. Community engagement and shared solutions.
- **Steering group to be convened**

Please get in touch with Mary-Jane if you would like further information or to enquire about getting involved

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