



Bristol's Parks and Green Space Strategy



Adopted February 2008

PEOPLE
PARKS &
NATURE
working
together



• raising quality • setting standards • providing variety • encouraging use •

Bristol's Parks and Green Space Strategy

"...a measure of a city's greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares" John Ruskin



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■ • *raising quality* • *setting standards* • *providing variety* • *encouraging use* •

Bristol's Green Space – a natural network of places, living and growing for us all to enjoy

CABE Space Visioning Workshop



Foreword

Bristol has a fantastic opportunity to make significant improvements to its parks and green spaces. We are extremely fortunate to have a wealth of parks and green open space across the city. They are very popular with local people, and many local community and park groups play an important role in making necessary improvements to their local parks. Their role as the 'green lungs' of the city is of increasing importance as the need to tackle the effects of climate change intensify.



*Councillor Rosalie Walker
Executive Member for
Health and Leisure*

The quality and provision of facilities is currently below what people expect them to be. This strategy sets out our proposals for raising quality, and giving people across Bristol better access to a variety of types of green space and facilities such as children's play and traditional parks. Based on the views of Bristol People, the policies contained in this document address key public concerns such as quality, anti-social behaviour, and children's play provision, including creating up to 70 new play areas across the city. The introduction of Park Keepers into our major traditional parks will help us to tackle safety fears and improve maintenance. Of course, these improvements have significant cost to them and will take time, which is why this is a 20 year strategy.

In summer 2007 we carried out a large scale public consultation on this strategy, and we made some important modifications as a result. We were delighted that there was strong and widespread support for the main proposals. My thanks to the many people who took time to submit their views*.

*for a summary of the consultation see www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy

Section 1 Introducing The Strategy

Introduction

Over 25 million visits are made by 83% of the Bristol population to parks and green spaces in Bristol every year, making it the most used leisure facility in the city.

Parks and green spaces are integral to the cultural life of the city – they provide breathing space and are crucial to the successful functioning of urban communities. People pass by green space, walk through it on the way to work or the shops, or stop to enjoy it. Parks offer places to relax and enjoy the natural environment away from the stresses of everyday life, to take children to play, and for sport and recreation. In addition they play host to a range of events and festivals on both a small and large scale which attract local, regional and sometimes national audiences.

A long-term lack of funding and investment has led to a decline in green space, in a way that has become progressively apparent to green space users. This is a national problem not just in Bristol.

Bristol is surrounded by fine countryside, much of it accessible, but people need green spaces close to where they live. Within the city boundary there are 1500 hectares of accessible green space, but this is unevenly distributed. In addition, there is a significant variation in quality and facilities available. Certain areas of the city have large amounts of low quality green space. Significant improvements are needed to provide residents across Bristol with good access to good quality parks and green spaces.



The Parks and Green Space Strategy (P&GSS) outlines a 20 year investment programme for the future provision of green space and the facilities and services that should be provided.

The strategy is part of a wider focus on how the city as a whole will develop. Work is currently taking place to produce the Bristol Development Framework (BDF), a new planning framework for the city and it is anticipated that the standards will be incorporated into the adopted BDF. In addition it supports the council's Balanced and Sustainable Communities and Green Capital initiatives.

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.

Within twenty years everyone in Bristol will have easy access to:

- ▶ A high quality traditional park, staffed by a park keeper in daylight hours, with features such as mature trees, ornamental planting, seating, toilets and a café.
- ▶ Good quality playing fields and changing rooms providing for a variety of sports, games and exercises.
- ▶ Open, welcoming and well managed natural green space, either meadows, woodland or riverside, with protected wildlife habitats.
- ▶ Well-kept, well-maintained, imaginative and challenging play facilities, from traditional equipped playgrounds to natural play spaces, wheels parks or games areas.
- ▶ Well maintained green space for informal recreation.

Objectives of the strategy

1. Raise the quality of parks and green spaces.
2. Encourage greater use and enjoyment of Bristol's parks and green spaces by all sectors of the community.
3. Contribute to the wider planning of the urban fabric of the city by providing a range of good quality parks and green spaces, which play a significant role in meeting the needs of balanced and sustainable communities and enhancing the urban landscape, to help make Bristol a green and sustainable city.
4. Protect needed green space from development.
5. Rectify shortage in particular types of green space across the city to ensure all residents have access to formal, informal, natural, sports and children & young people's spaces.
6. Provide a clear basis for beneficial investment in green spaces - identifying those areas of Bristol where investment and improvements in green space are most needed - helping the council 'spend better'.
7. Encourage active and healthy life-styles and promote social inclusion.
8. Encourage community participation in the improvement and management of green spaces.

What themes does the strategy cover?

The two main areas that the strategy covers are:

1. A set of policies for service improvement and development.
2. The development of a set of standards for the provision of accessible green space across the city, responding to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17):
 - ▶ Quality standard - a level of quality which all spaces should attain.
 - ▶ Distance standard - how far people should have to travel to reach a particular type of space.
 - ▶ Quantity standard - how much green space of different types there should be.

Section 1 Introducing The Strategy

National, Regional and Local Context

National context

At a national level government has encouraged improvements to parks and green spaces with the appointment of CABE (www.cabespace.org.uk) to take a lead for these improvements in the form of CABE Space. Three reports have specifically focussed on the need for a strategic approach to be taken:

- ▶ Green Spaces Taskforce 'Green Spaces, Better Places'. Department of Transport, Leisure and the Regions (DTLR), 2003
- ▶ Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), 2003
- ▶ Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, and its companion guide Assessing Needs and Opportunities – July 2002) directed Local Authorities to provide local standards for green space.

Regional context

The draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) lays out the importance of high quality green spaces and green space networks to the development of sustainable urban communities, within the context

of government requirements for Bristol to build 28,000 new homes by 2026.

The RSS requires urban developments to incorporate adequate 'Green Infrastructure' - the strategic network of green spaces (including parks, woodland, informal open spaces, nature reserves and historic sites) as well as the linkages between them (such as river corridors and floodplains, wildlife corridors and greenways).

Local Context

The local planning context

The Council is preparing a Local Development Framework which will replace the current Local Plan, and we anticipate this will incorporate the standards of this strategy. In the meantime the Local Plan remains in place. It contains many policies which affect open space, but few provision standards.

In addition Supplementary Planning Document 4 (SPD4) sets out the city council's approach to planning obligations when considering planning applications for development, including obligations for provision of new or enhancement of existing green space through Section 106 contributions (see appendix 6 for more information).

Local Policy Context

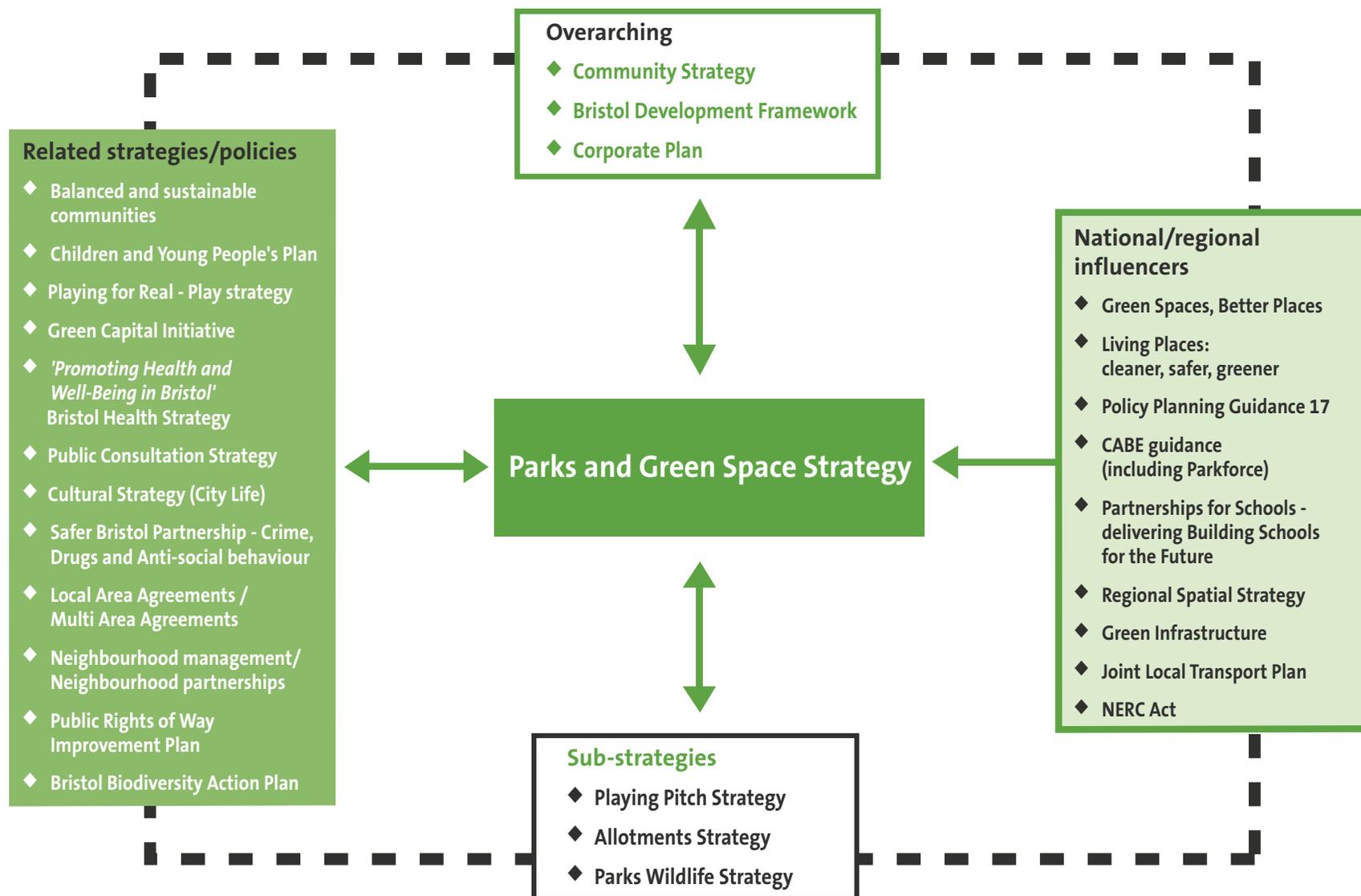
The Bristol Partnership's Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan set out five aims:

- ▶ A thriving economy
- ▶ Learning and achievement
- ▶ Health and wellbeing
- ▶ A high quality environment
- ▶ Balanced and sustainable communities

These aims provide a long-term framework for the work of the council and parks have a key role in delivering them. To find out more visit the Bristol Partnership online at www.bristolpartnership.org or look for the Corporate Plan online at www.bristol.gov.uk

There are many local strategies and policies which influence the P&GSS. Some are detailed in the diagram opposite. Of particular and growing importance are Local Area Agreements and the emerging Multi-Area Agreements, which focus funding and prioritisation.

Parks and Green Space Strategy - diagram linking strategies and policies



Section 1 Introducing The Strategy

What green space does the strategy cover?

The Strategy considers all green spaces for which there is legitimate public access and which provide recreational benefit. The council owns almost all of this but there are small areas in other hands – for example Arnos Vale Cemetery is owned by the council but run by a Trust.

The strategy considers five different types of space – children and young people’s space, formal green space, informal green space, natural green space, and active sports space. As well as setting out plans and policies for these types of space, the strategy proposes provision standards.

Type	Key attributes
<p>Children and young people’s space</p> 	<p>These are spaces specifically designed to increase opportunities for children and young people to play or meet safely within equipped and unequipped environments.</p> <p>Sub-types include, wheels parks, games areas, children’s play space.</p>
<p>Formal green space</p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Informal green space</p> 	<p>Informal in layout and character, where the emphasis is on informal recreation. They generally have few or no additional facilities.</p>
<p>Natural green space</p> 	<p>Sites providing people with access to, and experience of nature. It includes woodland, grassland, scrub, hedgerows and wetland.</p>
<p>Active sports space</p> 	<p>Those areas which are used for a variety of organised and competitive sports.</p>

See Appendix 7 for a map showing the location of these different types of space across the city.

What spaces are not considered by this strategy

The Strategy does not consider green spaces that are not freely accessible to the public, including allotments, city farms, school grounds, or Sites of Nature Conservation Interest 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.

In practice it is sometimes difficult to decide if some sites should be included or not – for example Bristol's city farms. However we recognise the contribution of all these spaces to the urban green infrastructure of the city, for wildlife, leisure and gardening. Whilst not included in the strategy as such, when drawing up Area Green Space Plans (see page 45), the contribution of these spaces to the wider green infrastructure of the city will be considered.

See also Typology document at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy

Allotments
Leased to private tenants – no public access

School grounds
No or limited public access

Council grazing land
No or limited public access

Highway Landscape including verges, traffic islands, central reservations
No recreational opportunity

Space left over after planning (SLOAP)
No obvious legitimate recreational opportunities on these spaces which were a result of poor design

Cemeteries that are operational
Not promoted for recreational or educational use

Public Rights of Way
Those rights of way that are merely paths through private land are not included as they have no wider recreational use

Street Trees
Not about recreational use

Protection of wildlife across the city (outside of strategy types)
Not about recreational use

Adventure Playgrounds
Not open all the time

Community Gardens
No right of public access

City farms
Do not afford 'freedom to roam' as of right and have restricted opening times

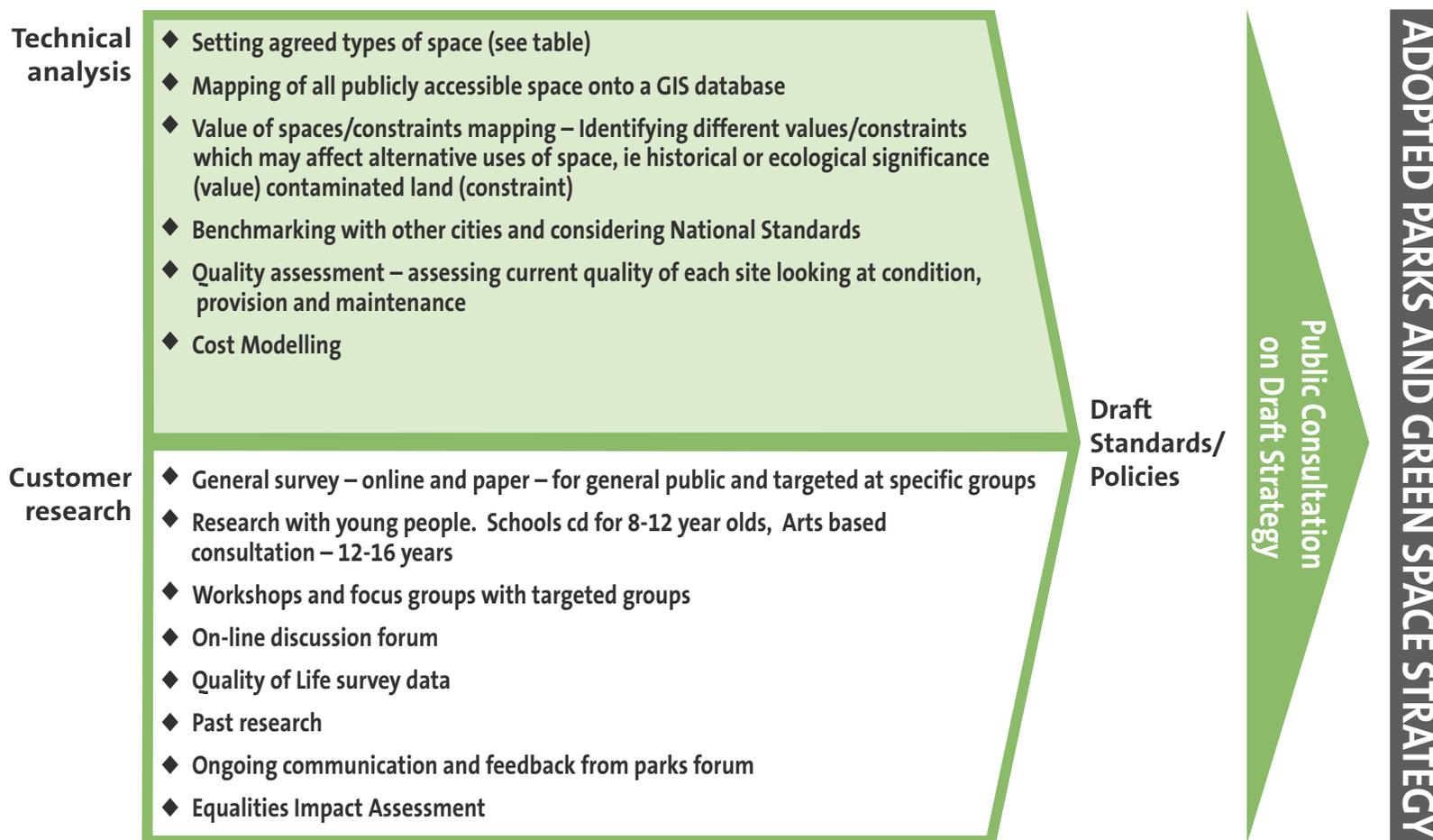
SNCIs in private ownership
No public access

Churchyards associated with churches/buildings for active worship
Not promoted for recreational or educational use

Section 1 Introducing The Strategy

How we developed the strategy

This diagram shows the key strands of work that have taken place to produce this strategy:



Section 1 Introducing The Strategy

Key customer research findings

A significant level of customer research has taken place to both inform the proposed provision standards for Bristol and its service improvement and development policies. Over 5,500 Bristol people have contributed their ideas. A further 281 individuals and 34 organisations responded to a consultation on the strategy in summer 2007.

In addition an equalities impact assessment (www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy) has been carried out on the current service being offered by Bristol City Council. This has highlighted where current service provision needs to be adapted to provide a good service to all sectors of the community.

Top line results

- Quality is the overriding factor affecting satisfaction.
- People were relatively clear and consistent on how far they would travel to get to different types of space, which has directly influenced the distance standards given on page 32.
- Many people want a traditional multifunctional park.

- The main barriers to use of parks and green spaces are issues associated with poor maintenance, dogs' mess, litter, fears for personal safety and anti-social behaviour.
- Some equalities groups are less frequent users and less satisfied with green spaces, finding travel distance, litter and perceived personal safety particularly problematic.



Examples of customer research:

- Young People and a bench - Once (top)
- Design a park schools cd 8-12 yrs (right)
- Workshops and focus groups (left and above)

Section 1 Introducing The Strategy

Quality

People use parks and green spaces in different ways, seek different experiences from them and look for different facilities and features. All of these factors affect whether an individual feels that he/she is visiting a good quality green space. As a result, defining and creating good quality green space is challenging. Public consultation indicates that a quality experience is broadly dependent on the following factors:

- ▶ There being a comprehensive maintenance regime.
- ▶ The immediate repair or replacement of run down, damaged and vandalised facilities.
- ▶ There being a variety of facilities.
- ▶ Green spaces being and feeling safe to use.
- ▶ There being no dog mess in parks and the issue of dogs exercised off a lead being addressed.
- ▶ The provision of a variety of types of spaces e.g. play space or wildlife space, that may be used in different ways.

- ▶ The provision of multifunctional parks that may provide a broad range of experiences in one place.
- ▶ The provision of accurate and up to date information on green spaces in a range of formats.

Therefore the proposed quality standard and the policies laid out in this document must work together to meet these aspirations.

A short summary of the research as well as more detail on how we responded are in appendix 2 and appendix 4. Detailed reports on the research and consultation findings can be found at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy



‘A community centre without a roof’.

Definition of a park

CABE Space Visioning Workshop

“The Downs is great but our local parks in Henbury and Brentry are awful - we need more facilities for kids and less vandalism and rubbish around”

Louise and Kyla 9



Service Improvement and Development Policies

The strategy outlines key policies for delivering improved, accessible green spaces. This section details policies for each of the different types of space:

- ▶ Children and young people's space
- ▶ Formal green space
- ▶ Informal green space
- ▶ Natural green space
- ▶ Active sports space

In some cases policies appear in one section that can also apply to other types of space. We've tried to put them where they are most applicable. This does not mean it won't also apply to other types of space. For example we have a policy for park keepers to be in all the main traditional parks as a priority but we will be considering them elsewhere as well, including in the form of neighbourhood park keepers in our more deprived areas, where need and resources allow.

In addition this section includes a range of other land management policies such as dog free spaces, destination parks, backland sites and sustainable management.

Children and young people's space



Parks and green spaces have a vital role in helping children and young people learn a variety of skills through play and social interaction. Exploring the wider environment such as woodlands, streams, wildlife areas - provides the freedom to choose what they do and where they go, stimulating the imagination and testing boundaries.

The council's Play Policy ("Making Play Matter" available from www.bristol.gov.uk/play) states that 'children and young people should be encouraged to take acceptable risks in environments that are challenging and stimulating'. Safety concerns of

parents and carers, however, sometimes prevent younger children exploring and playing outdoors. This section looks at a range of initiatives to redress this.

The policies are designed to provide adequate play provision for the full range of ages up to 19 years.

The Urban Park

Case Study

Over the last two years, young people and residents have worked with Community at Heart and Bristol City Council to design an 'urban park' at the heart of the Barton Hill estate, situated in one of the main regeneration areas of Bristol. The park was designed to breathe new life into the space between the high rise blocks that no-one used and create a new focus for community life in the area.

The area between the flats used to be a largely unused space with a dog fouling problem. There was a small play area for younger children, but nothing for young people.

The Urban Park now has a range of play equipment for both the over and under-tens, including swings, spinning dishes, springers, slides, climbing rocks, see-saws, gyro-spirals, rodeo-boards and a climbing roundabout, including equipment designed especially for disabled users.

The access roads to the park have all been designed as 'home zones', which aim to balance the needs of road users and those living in the street, and the main paths through the park are pedestrian and cycle friendly.

Particular successes of the project include:

- ▶ The introduction of challenging equipment for teenagers, recognised as a gap in what Bristol Parks offers across the city.
- ▶ Ensuring that the access needs of disabled children and carers are met.
- ▶ Re-energising a run down, hardly used area into a community focal point.



Children's Play Space

Traditionally children's play in parks has been based on the provision of equipment in designated play spaces. While Bristol has some wonderful play spaces such as Blaise and Hengrove it also suffers from many small, poor quality and poorly located equipped playgrounds, often determined by localised funding or housing development.

Creating diversity and stimulating imaginative play are essential for our children to grow and learn. We plan to introduce more natural play opportunities within a safe environment, instead of an over-reliance on equipment. Children love climbing on rocks and tree stumps, playing in water and sand, and running around trees. Well-designed spaces using natural materials or a mix of natural and traditional equipment, in a safe dog free environment will transform children's play opportunities.

Providing a network of larger and better play spaces will offer a wider range of experiences and challenges for children. Parents and carers will also benefit from adequate seating in grassed areas within play spaces to sit and relax while their children play. To further improve the environment for children, all play spaces will be promoted as smoke-free.

The standards detailed later in this document indicate that up to 70 new children's play spaces will be created over the next twenty years.



Types of natural play environments that can be created





Children's Play Space



Major Play Space

Bristol currently has three major play spaces, Blaise, Hengrove and Oldbury Court which act as a destination for people all over the city and beyond, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. We intend to upgrade Oldbury Court alongside other improvements and maintain all three at the highest standard. These three are well distributed across the city and there is no plan to increase the number of major play spaces.

Spaces for Teenagers



Spaces for teenagers have until recently been a secondary consideration, although good examples do exist of wheels parks and multi use games areas such as at Hengrove, and challenging equipment for teenagers at Greville Smyth and The Urban Park, Barton Hill.

But parks should be able

to provide good facilities for teenagers. The aim is to greatly extend the provision of facilities for teenagers, ensuring their involvement in choosing what they want. Research with young people shows that somewhere which is 'their' space to meet, such as swings designed for them rather than younger children, is sometimes all that is needed.

The possibility exists for a few children's play areas and multi-use games areas to be shared use between the community and schools and the feasibility of this is currently being investigated.

Policies for children and young people's space

Policy number	Policy
CY1	<p>Provide a diverse range of children's play spaces from fixed equipment to natural play spaces, each with seating and grass run-around space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increase the number of play spaces, providing larger, better quality spaces well distributed across the city, working to a minimum size of 600m². ▶ Develop natural play spaces which are actively designed using both the natural landscape and the introduction of natural play materials. ▶ promote children's play space as smoke-free
CY2	<p>Provide diverse, exciting and challenging spaces for young people, including equipment, wheels parks and shelters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provide a good quality wheels park within 2km of home, which includes space for spectators. ▶ Provide a multi-use games area within 1km of home ▶ Where possible, provide teenage areas on sites where children's playgrounds are located (but separately from them) including seating areas and a range of challenging equipment.
CY3	<p>Maintain and enhance three high quality major play spaces which attract citywide and regional users.</p>
CY4	<p>Enhance the wider park environment for play and work with children and young people to explore and use green spaces positively.</p>

Section 2 Service Improvement and Development Policies

Formal Green Space

Bristol has a rich heritage of formal green space much of which is provided in public parks and gardens across the city. It is the aesthetic experience of these spaces that distinguishes it from other types of green space. A formal green space can be a designed landscape such as within Victoria Park or Blaise, an ornamental garden with planting schemes and statues such as the Rose Garden at Ashton Court, or a designed square such as Queen Square.

This section includes policies for enhancing and safeguarding formal green space. In addition it seemed logical for part of this section to consider the vital role that traditional parks play – these parks usually have a significant amount of formal green space as well as other types of space such as children's play.

The strategic importance of traditional parks in enhancing quality of life, serving recreational needs and enhancing the urban environment has been recognised at both national and local level. Local customer research tells us that traditional parks are the most used and wanted space so we plan that traditional parks, offering a range of facilities, are available across the city. The main traditional parks will have a park keeper who can respond to day to day needs and provide a sense of security to park users.

Parks and specifically formal green space, by their nature, show the most obvious signs of a decline in quality. Conspicuous care in these spaces is essential to improving perceptions of quality of green space overall across the city – park keepers are part of the solution but making improvements to entrances and boundaries and raising horticultural standards will make a great difference .

How park keeper, Constantine Blake, has made a difference to St Agnes Park Case Study

The general air of neglect and virtual absence of staff on site was an open invitation to drug users and dealers to pursue their activities. Fear of crime kept the public away from St Agnes Park. The semi-derelict lodge, overgrown shrubs and trees, sub-standard play area and old signs created dark, secluded and uninviting areas.

Since 2000 over £200,000 has been spent on restoring the lodge for community use and improving the main areas of the park. But one of the most effective changes was the appointment of a park keeper, Constantine Blake. Constantine, from St Paul's himself, has been able to actively manage maintenance on-site – some of the first tasks being to fell dead trees and clear overgrown shrubs to make the park brighter, open and welcoming. The next was to persuade the drug users and dealers to move out of the park which Constantine successfully achieved.

Local people gradually started to notice the difference and today the park is well used – people have picnics, events take place – it's a social place to visit. Public confidence has been closely linked to Constantine's presence.

The Park and Lodge won an award from the Institute for Leisure and Amenity Management for its transformation in 2001.



Bristol has gone a long way to restoring some of its great landscapes, such as at Blaise Castle and Ashton Court estates – the restoration of key historic estates and parks will continue, benefiting from the variety of design styles available in Bristol. Future plans include the restoration of Oldbury Court and Kingsweston estates. The future ownership and management of Brentry Park and Stoke Park will also be resolved.

The city has a number of formal squares which have the capacity to form a significant focal point for local people but which do not currently meet this potential. Investment in Queen Square has reaped rewards – a focus during the day for workers, with events and activities attracting citywide audiences. In the suburbs squares such as Victoria Square in Clifton have lost much of their intrinsic character and are in need of restoration. Enhancement of squares such as Sea Mills Square will add significant value to local people.

Policies for formal green space

Policy number	Policy
FG1	Ensure that there is a good quality traditional park within easy reach of home offering a range of facilities.
FG2	Introduce park keepers into the main traditional parks across the city.
FG3	Restore, enhance and safeguard key historic estates and parks, respecting historical features whilst responding to modern day needs.
FG4	Enhance entry points and boundaries to improve the welcome to the space and reinforce the designed-landscape within.
FG5	Safeguard a variety of designed landscapes which have arisen from the historic development of the city to enhance the variety of experience available.
FG6	Invest in horticultural training as a significant aspect of investment in raising horticultural standards.
FG7	Provide highly visual perennial planting schemes in key formal green spaces.
FG8	Restore and enhance formal squares to act as a focal point for local residents and business communities.



Section 2 Service Improvement and Development Policies

Informal Green Space

Informal green space is informal in layout or character, with a low level of landscaping and few or no additional facilities. The Downs is an exceptional example of a vast informal green space (complemented by areas of natural green space) whose character is enhanced by its informal nature. The Downs is used by a wide variety of people to fly kites, do exercise, play sport, explore wildlife and have picnics. There are many smaller informal sites which soften the urban landscape.

Much of Bristol's informal green space provides flexible space for recreation and play, major and neighbourhood festivals and events, whilst some informal green space is also used as playing fields where organised games such as football take place on a regular basis.

However, Bristol has a significant amount of poor quality informal green space which is perceived as less safe and inaccessible and consequently has low levels of use, and detracts from the local area. This type of space can attract anti-social behaviour (see definition in box opposite), particularly fly-tipping and motorbikes. Some smaller spaces have been left over from developments with little thought to how they fit with the neighbourhood. Tackling anti-social behaviour in some of these sites will be a priority in order to upgrade them to a good standard. In some cases such spaces which offer low value may be disposed of to invest in other services including other local parks, or

changed to other types of space. It is vital that sufficient space is retained, and the provision standards later in this strategy are designed to ensure this.

The quality of Bristol's informal green space is limited by the performance of the existing grounds maintenance contract and, in recent years, the quality of grounds maintenance across the city has been in question, so focussing on improvements to basic grounds maintenance will make significant improvements to these spaces. However there are many cases where more fundamental changes are needed to make informal spaces work to their potential.

Many smaller spaces at ends of streets are used for play and kickabout but they lack levels of safety and cleanliness to serve this purpose effectively. Upgrading these spaces with railings to separate children from traffic, making them dog free and adding in simple equipment such as goal posts will make these more usable and safe.



What is low value green space?

Low value in this context does not mean financial value – it means land which has limited value assessed by a range of factors including wildlife, historical, archaeological significance, and importantly, value placed on spaces by the local community. (see page 36 and appendix 5 for more information on this)

What is anti-social behaviour?

The following are examples of anti-social behaviour:

- vandalism, graffiti and flyposting
- people dealing and buying drugs on the street
- people dumping rubbish and abandoning cars
- begging and anti-social drinking
- misusing fireworks
- reckless driving of mini-motorbikes
- prostitution
- intimidation/harassment
- vehicle related nuisance
- nuisance neighbours

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines anti-social behaviour as acting in a manner that caused, or was likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household. More information is available online at www.bristol.gov.uk

Safer Parks

Case Study

The Safer Parks Project was a two-year project to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Bristol's parks and green spaces such as vandalism, fly tipping, graffiti and fear of crime. The project focused on Neighbourhood Renewal areas across the city and was funded jointly by Bristol City Council and the Safer Bristol Partnership.

The project has achieved the following:

Physical Improvements

The first phase of the project delivered a number of physical improvements in parks and green spaces in three priority areas of Easton, Knowle and Southmead.

Data Analysis

Changes to data collection have enabled a better assessment of police priorities and improved effectiveness and subsequent deployment of police resources.

- ▶ Improvements to the police computer system now ensure that calls to the police about parks are registered. Previously, as parks have no postcode they weren't.
- ▶ Improved monitoring of the money spent by the parks service on tackling crime, ASB and vandalism, and the identification of the number of enquiries related to public nuisance.

Park Force

Bristol has started to introduce park keepers into a few of its parks, with plans to greatly increase this number. Two of the large estates already have dedicated ranger teams.

Multi Agency Working

Bristol Parks, the police, antisocial behaviour teams and experts from across Bristol City Council now focus on the issues of anti-social behaviour in parks and green spaces. Communication between organisations and teams has improved significantly. This has enabled a more coordinated approach to tackling anti-social behaviour.

Policies for informal green space

Policy number	Policy
IG1	Improve grounds maintenance focussing on the basics of grass cutting, litter and fly tipping and dog fouling.
IG2	Tackle anti-social behaviour in informal green space focussing on prevention and greater responsiveness to incidents, access and visibility.
IG3	Upgrade some areas of informal green spaces to allow for safe informal play and sport, including enclosing them with railings and making them dog free.
IG4	Where there is a lot of green space, some low value green space will be considered for alternative purposes, such as changing its use to another type or for built development in order to generate the funds for reinvestment. Where there is a shortage the aim will be to upgrade informal green space.



Section 2 Service Improvement and Development Policies

Natural Green Space



Natural green spaces are important refuges for wildlife and places where we can experience and enjoy contact with the natural world. In Bristol, many such sites are protected in recognition of their nature conservation importance and their contribution to the attractiveness and liveability of the city. Some sites with

nature conservation value do not have public access, and are not addressed by this strategy which concentrates on providing good access to attractive wildlife sites. Further information about how the council protects biodiversity across the city can be found in the Parks Wildlife Strategy (www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy)

The natural green space in Bristol is immensely varied reflecting the differing scale, location and character of such sites. Examples include Blaise Castle Estate with its extensive areas of semi-natural woodland; the Downs with its large and important areas of wildflower meadow and the rivers Avon, Frome and Trym that provide corridors of natural green space through many sites. Smaller sites can be equally important such as the Local Nature Reserves of Troopers Hill and Royate Hill, which all have strong community groups associated with them. Other areas of natural green space include patches of rough grassland, land being colonised by wild plants, and rock faces.

Troopers Hill

Case Study

Troopers Hill, in St. George, was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1995 in recognition of its importance to wildlife and people. As the only site in Bristol to support heathland and acid grassland, the site has very high nature conservation value.

Following a survey to see what people thought of the site and how they would like to be involved a group was formed in 2003 with the support of Bristol Parks. The Friends of Troopers Hill have quickly gained in strength with a current membership of over 300 local households. The group runs monthly work parties, organises community events, holds exhibitions about the wildlife and history of the site, and produces regular newsletters. They have worked hard to raise money to finance improvements to the site.

An updated management plan was produced by Bristol Parks and the Friends of Troopers Hill in spring 2007 to effectively plan future work. In addition the relationship between the friends group and the city council has been formalised into a Community Parks Agreement to clarify the relationship and arrangements for working on site. Work on site is carried out by council contractors as well as volunteers. New from Spring 2007 will be the introduction of a park keeper via the city council's contractors.



Customer research suggests that natural green space is one of the most valued spaces, but also raises issues about their accessibility on a practical level. Whilst there are a number of well-managed sites in the city such as Troopers Hill and The Downs, many natural green spaces are neglected, damaging their value for nature conservation and making them threatening and unattractive. We intend to make substantial improvements to these spaces through more active intervention including the improvement of footpaths by making them more open, free from overhanging vegetation, and clearing scrub to make sites feel more open and welcoming, at the same time as maintaining and enhancing their wildlife interest. We intend to develop a skilled dedicated workforce specialising in the management of nature conservation sites.

Establishing a network of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) will be a priority – this is a nationally recognised designation where community involvement in management is a key aim. Bristol currently has four LNRs: Royate Hill, Stockwood Open Space, Troopers Hill and Lawrence Weston Moor. A further three are currently being designated at Badock's Wood, Eastwood Farm and Manor Woods Valley. Narrowways and Northern Slopes are the next ones planned with a further 7 to be identified making a total of 16.

In addition, the creation of community woodlands with local people can help foster a sense of ownership and help sites to feel more welcoming.

Policies for natural green space

Policy number	Policy
NG1	Establish a network of 16 Local Nature Reserves providing access to high quality sites for wildlife and a focus for supporting community involvement.
NG2	<p>Improve maintenance and management regimes ensuring optimum conditions for wildlife alongside attractive, welcoming and easily accessible places for people to enjoy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a skilled dedicated workforce specialising in management of nature conservation sites, with suitable specialist equipment. Improve entrances and routes through natural green space to improve welcome and security.
NG3	Safeguard and enhance rich and diverse habitats and species within parks and green spaces through a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Bristol.
NG4	Achieve favourable conservation status on all publicly accessible Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) controlled by Bristol City Council by 2020.
NG5	Create new habitats for wildlife to remedy shortfalls in natural green space.



Section 2 Service Improvement and Development Policies

Active Sports Space



The council has already adopted a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) which provides the key proposal for formally organised sport across the city. These include proposals to increase the number of pitches available to the community by forming dual use agreements with schools; to upgrade pitches so that they can sustain much more use without deterioration; to focus on multi-pitch sites which can sustain a good infrastructure of changing rooms etc; and to develop a number of hub sites with a

range of facilities including club houses, floodlit artificial turf pitches and multi use games areas, where coaching programmes can be focused.

The PPS is also the tool for determining what provision of sports pitches is needed. This includes the standards in terms of quantity and distance so no standards for formally organised sports space have been set in this strategy. The PPS also gives guidance on the quality of facilities that groups should expect (to view the PPS go to www.bristol.gov.uk/sportstrategies). The Parks and Green Space Strategy sets a quality standard for all its spaces (see standards page 31) which apply to any sports space or facility situated in parks and green spaces, and is in line with the PPS.

Netham Park

Case Study

Netham Park is located in what was an industrial area of the city. In previous lives the park has been a chemical works, a place where the Civil Defence trained during the war and a landfill site including contaminated industrial waste. In more recent years it has become an assortment of playing fields and, like many sites of this nature, has suffered from a lack of investment and anti-social behaviour.



With funding from Community at Heart, Sport England, VIVALDI, the Football Foundation and the English Cricket Board, the site is being transformed into a significant outdoor sports centre as well as acting as a local community park.

A new £1.7 million pavilion with accessible changing facilities, community room and café has just been completed. In addition the site has improved playing pitches and a cricket square, with the site now being the home venue of the Bristol Pakistanis Cricket Club. Work on a multi use games area is underway, and a new children's play area and a measured mile are planned. Netham Park will have a permanent manager on site and a team of parks and sports officers to oversee the further development, marketing, management and maintenance of the park.

Apart from sports the intention is for the site to offer events and other community activities, and further plans include making the park more accessible by creating more welcoming entrances, footpaths and introducing traditional park features such as benches, trees and planting schemes.

The Parks and Green Space Strategy deals with the management of sports and sports facilities where they exist in parks and green spaces, a principle aim being to improve the quality of pitches and associated facilities. It also considers the need to upgrade tennis courts and find alternative methods of managing them to maintain their quality and provide opportunities for people to play. Bowling provision needs to be reviewed as a number of clubs are declining in membership. This requires a further piece of work to determine what bowling facilities are needed.

Green spaces have an important role in providing opportunities for informal sports such as jogging, softball and kickabout and less formally organised games of cricket and football. We aim to improve parks to provide simple ways to aid sports activities such as measured miles and goal posts as well as sport and exercise related activities. In addition it is proposed to provide a specific sports space within 1.0 km of home for informal sport – this could be a games area (see children and young people's space page 12) or playing pitch which is used for sport both formally and informally.

Policies for active sports space

Policy number	Policy
AS1	The quality of experience and carrying capacity of a playing pitch will be enhanced by improving changing facilities, pavilions and pitch quality.
AS2	A smaller number of locations will provide tennis courts - but these will have multiple courts (ideally four or more) managed by either a club or someone to take bookings.
AS3	Review and rationalisation of bowling provision.
AS4	Support clubs and individuals by providing the right facilities and encourage participation in outdoor sport.
AS5	Enhance the wider park environment for informal sport.



Section 2 Service Improvement and Development Policies

Further land management policies

Destination Parks and city centre spaces

Some spaces have a significant role to play not only in providing green space for local residents, but in attracting visitors from the whole city, neighbouring areas and occasionally beyond. While policies relating to these sites appear in other sections a policy related to the spread of destination sites across the city is needed in addition.

Bristol currently has four destination parks:

- ▶ Ashton Court Estate
- ▶ Blaise Castle Estate/Kingsweston Estate combined
- ▶ Clifton and Durdham Downs
- ▶ Oldbury Court Estate/Snuff Mills

These sites are spread in an arc through the east, north and west of Bristol. There is currently a gap in the south of the city with the potential for the proposed new park at Hengrove filling this gap. As well as the existing playground which attracts people from across the city, and the new leisure centre due to open in 2010, there is an exciting plan to create a well-designed destination park.

Much of south Bristol suffers from too low a density of housing to sustain good local services, and there is a lot of low quality open space. There will be pressure on some of this over the next twenty years, and it makes sense to balance this with a high quality park in Hengrove.

Many of the city centre spaces have a city wide and tourist audience, as they are visited as part of a wider visit to the centre or by workers in the central area. The key sites are College Green, Queen Square, Brandon Hill and Castle Park. Hard surface areas such as the dockside and Millennium Square are also included in considerations of city centre spaces as they have a similar recreational role.

Policy number	Policy
LM1	Enhance destination parks and city centre spaces fitting Bristol's status as a major city with international and national profile, maintaining them to the highest standard.
LM2	Create a major new park at Hengrove, offering traditional park features but also new and exciting leisure opportunities.

Use of Park Buildings

In recent years a number of buildings within parks have been brought back into use after years of deterioration and lack of use. There is scope to continue this approach by creatively using the buildings for a variety of activities, such as for pre-school or toddler groups, linkage centres for older people, or café facilities. Multiple use of existing and new buildings will be considered to maximise their use and increase security for the buildings and help bring new use and life to the park.

There is strong customer demand for good quality accessible toilets to be provided in parks and green spaces. Our priority will be to provide these in the main traditional parks and sports grounds.



Consideration needs to be given to sustainability principles and techniques in both construction and management of new and existing park buildings.

Policy number	policy
LM3	Restore and develop park buildings for a range of alternative uses.
LM4	Provide good quality accessible toilets at main traditional parks and sports grounds, meeting the British Toilet Association Standard.

Creating Dog Free Spaces and Controlling Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is one of the biggest barriers to the use and enjoyment of parks and green spaces. The problem exists on a national level even though it remains illegal to leave dog mess lying on the ground in a public place. Uncontrolled dogs off the lead are an additional problem for certain people - particularly disabled people, children and parent/carers with young children.



Although poop scoop campaigns, such as recent ones in Southville and Bedminster, have improved the position, education alone has not delivered an acceptable solution. This strategy aims to retain adequate and legitimate access for dog owners, but to deal decisively with the problem.

We propose a combination of providing dog free areas within parks or completely dog free spaces, with ongoing education and enforcement. In a small number of cases it may be appropriate to provide dog exercise areas.

Most dog owners are responsible but the degree to which this problem (created by a significant minority) affects visitors shouldn't be underestimated. It is essential to provide this service to ensure that we do not exclude particular communities from using green spaces in Bristol.

In doing this we will ensure that dog owners, who are valuable users of parks, will continue to have a varied choice of green space to visit close to where they live.

Policy number	Policy
LM5	Improve access to green space for a wider range of people by creating dog free spaces across the city whilst ensuring that dog walkers retain a varied choice of green space to visit.
LM6	Develop the role of on-site parks staff and dog wardens to tackle problems of dogs' mess and uncontrolled dogs through education, encouragement and enforcement.



Backland Sites

Some backland sites would benefit from increasing the sense of natural surveillance inherent in many traditional parks that are overlooked by properties and edged by roads. A backland site is one which has few if any houses or buildings fronting onto it. These spaces are often poorly used and are perceived as unsafe. They can attract significant levels of anti-social behaviour. Some backland sites would benefit from some level of redevelopment and redesign which would open up the site by providing frontages of houses looking onto the site and therefore traffic and passers by. This would improve feelings of personal safety and create a community focal point. In making decisions about such sites ensuring that the site remains at a size large enough to sustain future local use is essential.

Policy number	Policy
LM7	Develop and redesign some backland sites to provide frontages of houses looking onto the site - in so doing create a community focal point and improve feelings of personal safety.



The orange houses represent new development fronting a green space which improves supervision and makes a site less prone to vandalism and anti-social behaviour

Climate Change and Sustainability

Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

Climate change is already occurring and further changes appear inevitable. In general it is predicted that summers will be warmer and drier, and winters milder and wetter, but there will also be more extreme weather events such as heat waves, intense downpours of rain and storms.

Parks and green spaces will be directly affected by the changing climate but also have a vital role to play in reducing the effects of climate change on Bristol's people and its wildlife.

Increasing temperatures are likely to result in greater, more intense use of public green spaces for longer periods of the year. An extended thermal growing season will require changes in management, such as more grass cutting, and potentially increased costs. Decisions need to be taken in designing parks for the future, for example in the choice of trees to withstand more extreme weather conditions, and in water storage, recycling and efficiency measures.

Green spaces will be central to the way cities adapt to climate change, including their role in capturing and storing water after heavy rainfall, preventing localised flooding. Green spaces also provide an important cooling effect in cities.

Among potential new uses for low value green space are the re-use as allotments, food production or woodland planting for both amenity and timber/biomass production.

Trees

Trees provide shade and protection from the elements, remove pollutants from the air, reduce noise, and provide shelter for wildlife.

Many neighbourhoods across the city are short of these benefits. To improve our environment we need to conserve and plant more trees where space allows especially where there is a deficit.

This strategy covers trees and woodlands in accessible green space. Street trees will be covered by separate but related policies and initiatives.

Sustainability practices in the management of spaces

Bristol Parks must address its own management practices to make them more sustainable. From recycling materials, use of biomass for heating, energy efficient transport and renewable energy production, to ensuring that contractors of both grounds maintenance services and those with long term leases, such as cafes, follow best practice.



Policy number	Policy
LM8	Build into our green space planning measures to adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change; including trees for shade, drought resistant planting and water storage.
LM9	Adopt sustainability targets in the management of Bristol's parks and green spaces
LM10	Manage and plant more trees to improve distribution across the city, and advocate the importance of trees in adapting to climate change.

Section 2 Service Improvement and Development Policies

Access and Transport Planning

The access standards laid down in the following section detail the maximum distance any household should be from a particular type of space. In addition it is essential that a close working relationship is established with those providing key public transport services to ensure that access to green spaces is as easy as possible, for example looking at where bus stops, crossings and cycle routes are located in relation to green space entrances and incorporating facilities such as cycle parking.

Policy number	Policy
LM11	Establish greater connection with transport planning to improve access, entrances and pathways to and within sites for different users.

Cycleways and greenways

Bristol has a number of strategically important green links, providing important traffic free cycling and walking routes, as well as acting as significant wildlife corridors.

The River Avon Trail and Frome Valley offer long walks within Bristol and into neighbouring

authorities. The Bristol to Bath Railway Path offers pedestrians and cyclists safe routes away from traffic. People use the path for both long and short journeys, often commuting to work. Other smaller routes can be found across the city. We will continue to support joint projects with neighbouring authorities to enhance these routes, and ensure their quality is improved and maintained to encourage an increase in cycling and walking within and through the city.

The Parks and Green Space Strategy must work alongside the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan to maintain and improve routes, and will need to balance the importance of these routes against the need to protect green space users by preventing access to green spaces by motorbikes.

Policy number	Policy
LM12	Improve the quality of green corridors, riverside routes and cycle/walkways through the city for recreation, biodiversity and commuting.
LM13	Put measures in place to reduce motorbike access to green space whilst seeking to enable the fullest access for legitimate users.

Project Biker

Case Study

Focusing on the south west and south east of the city, Project Biker, a joint project between the police and Bristol Parks, is proving successful in addressing motor bike nuisance but also in dealing with other elements of anti-social behaviour.

The project is an adaptation of similar projects elsewhere, specifically geared to our needs. Police regularly visit specific spaces including Hengrove and the Whitchurch Cycle Path, acting as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour. Head cams allow evidence gathering to increase the ability of the police to challenge and prosecute offenders.

A major benefit of police involvement is their ability to make arrests and seize motorbikes and mini-motors on site. It also gives confidence to park users that the problems associated with motorbike use in green space are being addressed.

The city council and police are currently considering how to roll this approach out across the whole city.



'The Government believes that open space standards are best set locally. National standards cannot cater for local circumstances'

Planning Policy Guidance 17

'The calculation of land requirements for open spaces has always been one of the most complex and difficult problems in urban land use planning'

Bristol Local Plan 1997



Setting the standards

What are the Bristol Green Space Standards for?

The standards are designed to ensure that all people in Bristol have access to a range of good quality spaces and associated facilities. The standards will be used for planning and prioritising future work for the council in meeting this aim. It is intended that the key standards will be incorporated into the Bristol Development Framework and provide developers and the city council with clarity over the future provision of green space in planning decisions.

The standards supplement planning policy protection for open spaces by ensuring there will be adequate quantity, close enough to where people live. For the first time, they also measure quality and give the council a target to increase quality to a good level. The standards proposed are for **minimum levels of provision** (ie provision should not drop below this standard and is likely to be above, in the same way that the minimum wage applies) and their application will take into account future population trends and growth areas across the city, with an estimated population growth of around 53,800 between 2006 and 2026.

Section 3 Setting The Standards

There are three specific standards which comprise the Bristol Green Space Standards:

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

The standards apply to publicly accessible green space (see definition on page 6).

A number of factors have been taken into account in setting the Bristol standards:

- ▶ The views of Bristol residents including the importance attached to different kinds of green space.
- ▶ A comprehensive analysis of green space and testing of the potential application of the standards.
- ▶ The achievability of the standards.
- ▶ Existing national and local policy and guidance.
- ▶ The fact that these standards will not be the only planning protection for open space.

For detailed information on how we set the standards see 'standards evidence paper' at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy

Prioritising the standards

A holistic approach needs to be taken when applying the standards, however it is clear that at the current time quality is the over-riding factor which affects people's satisfaction with quality, amount and access to parks and green spaces. Therefore priority will be given to meeting the quality standard. Distance is of next greatest significance to the public so this will be taken into account in decision making.



***Priority of standards
derived from customer research***

Quality Standard

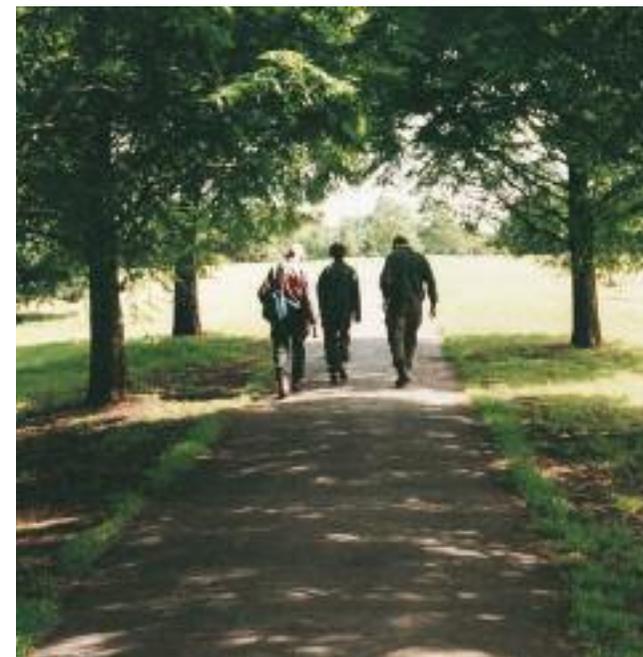
A Bristol quality standard has been devised in consultation with national advisers and local parks users, which takes into account design, condition and maintenance, and assesses a comprehensive range of features of parks and open spaces. It takes into account a number of aspects which are of particular public concern such as entrances, safety feel, and facilities. A full definition can be found in the background document 'manual for assessing quality'. (www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy).

On a 1 to 4 scale (poor, fair, good and excellent), the quality assessment process revealed an average quality level across Bristol of 2 (fair). It shows important variations. In broad terms, older (pre-1920) parks are higher quality though not necessarily in better condition, due mainly to higher design standards and density of features of interest. The historic estates have good design and condition (with significant investment in recent years). The worst quality is in the mid/late 20th century suburbs where extensive open spaces have low design quality and high levels of abuse, and in some inner city areas subjected to neglect and high levels of abuse (although the basic design quality can be good). Customer research demonstrated a desire for the quality level of our parks and green spaces to be raised. This is a huge and expensive task which could not be

accomplished overnight. Nevertheless, the council proposes to bring all parks and green spaces up to a good quality over the next twenty years – transforming neighbourhoods across Bristol. The policies set out in this strategy will largely achieve this aim.

While the standard aims to bring all the spaces up to good it is also intended that the national benchmark of quality - the Green Flag Award – will be applied to a number of our most important spaces. Green Flag includes assessment of community relations, activities and marketing which are omitted from Bristol's quality assessment which gives more weight to design and infrastructure, and to routine and preventative maintenance.

Policy number	Policy
ST1	Raise the quality of all parks and green spaces to a minimum quality level of good (3) within the next 20 years, with a particular focus on the most deprived areas of the city which often have the lowest quality green space.



Section 3 Setting The Standards

Distance

The aim of distance standards is to protect and promote an accessible network of green space. The distance standards are based on research as to how far Bristol residents feel it's reasonable to walk to get to the different types of space, and on analysis of Bristol's layout to ensure the standards are credible.

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 (see text)	

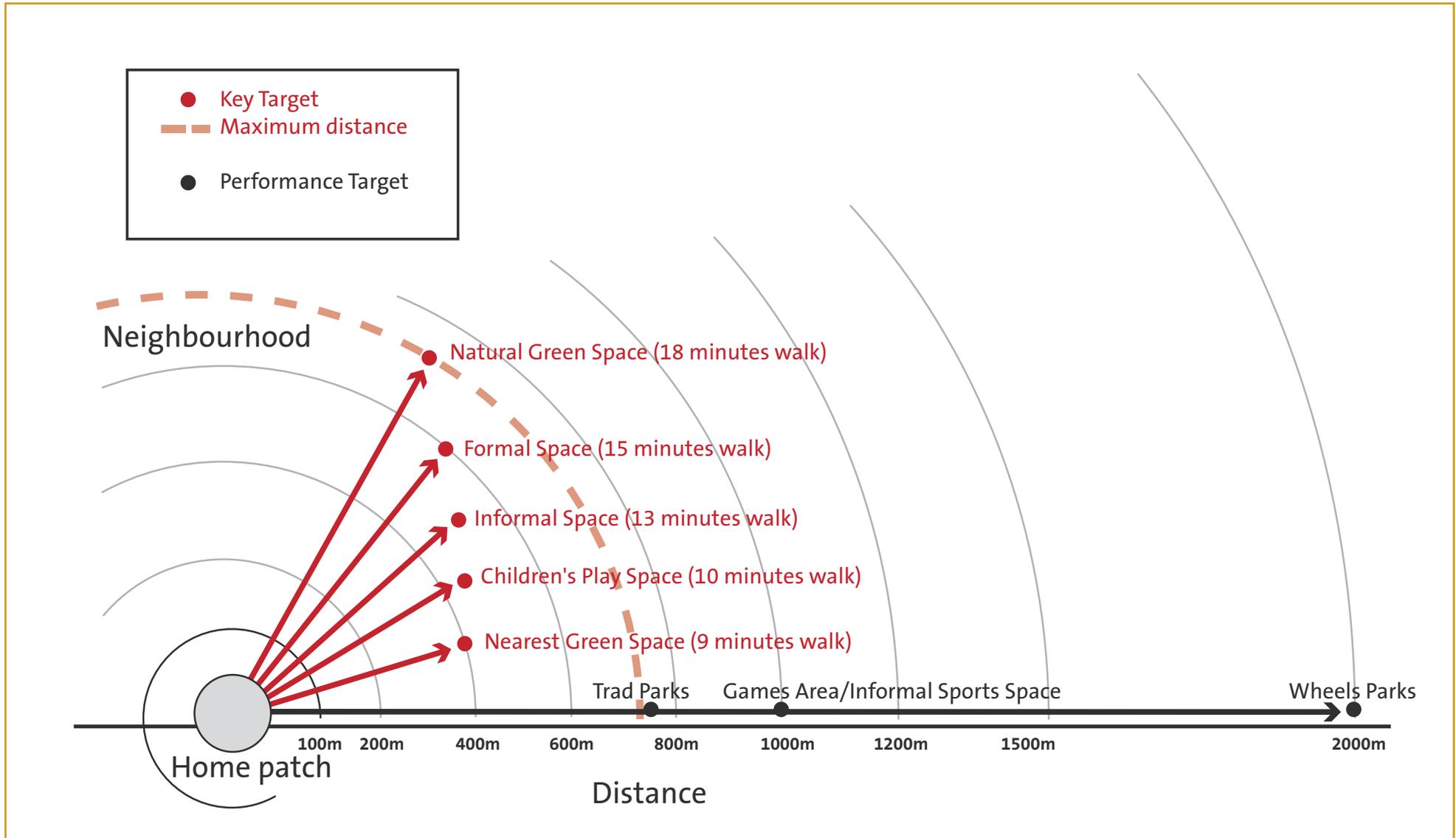
* Estimated equivalent walking time based on NPFA guidance

When applying the distance standards,

- Physical barriers such as railways, main roads and steep slopes will be taken into account, but administrative boundaries (e.g. of wards, neighbourhood partnerships or Local Need Areas) will not (unless they coincide with physical barriers).
- No single distance is given for active sports because participants in competitive sport will travel significant distances for games and location can be dependant on fixtures with teams organising transport to get there. Nevertheless the Playing Pitch Strategy indicates the intention of having an accessible network of pitches and 'hub sites', and the management proposals earlier in this strategy include development of a network of multi-use games areas for informal and organised sport at about 1km intervals as well as policies for the provision of tennis and bowls facilities.
- The play standard is for access to a dedicated quality assured play space: other types of green space, particularly informal, are also expected to contribute to the land available for children. The play standard suggests that there will be an overall increase of up to 70 new play areas across the city but better distributed.
- Distance isn't the whole story when considering accessibility – when managing provision, other aspects such as disabled access, topography, visibility, visitor welcome and navigability are also important.

- Where the distance standard to one type is not met this could be addressed by wholesale conversion of another site of another type, or by adapting it to be multifunctional. In most areas the standard will be reached or exceeded, however in a few cases the nature of the built environment will preclude the standard being met. In these cases the priority will be to increase the quality and visibility of the nearest existing spaces.
- Subject to all the above, the distance standards are intended to reflect the furthest a person would have to travel to get to a particular type of space – in most cases it is likely that spaces will be closer.
- While no minimum size of space has been suggested, except for children's play space, in applying the distance standards it will be important to ensure that the size of the space offers features and facilities that meet local community needs and that would be expected to justify the travel to the space. Planners and parks managers need to realise that small sites do not deliver a wider range of benefits.

Policy number	Policy
ST2	Ensure that in any land review adequate access is retained by applying the distance standards and associated guidance



Section 3 Setting The Standards

Quantity

The amount of open space per resident varies hugely between and within cities. In 2007 the current level for Bristol is 3.8 hectares per 1000 residents (38 square metres per capita) although with a predicted population growth of 53,800 by 2026 this figure would reduce to approximately 33 sq metres per capita. This varies greatly between central and Victorian districts (quite low) and the outer suburbs.

The resource is divided between a small number of mostly large parks like the Downs, Blaise Castle Estate and Oldbury Court, whose catchment is city wide (and beyond), and local provision. Correspondingly the total Bristol Green Space Quantity Standard has citywide and locality components. The total Bristol Green Space Quantity Standard is the figure that can be used to compare Bristol and its standards with other cities.



However, for planning and land management purposes the locality component is particularly important because it ensures adequate supply in every neighbourhood. The city component is largely fixed (the addition of a new destination park at Hengrove is the only change envisaged).

To summarise the two components are:

- ▶ Locality component – the minimum amount of green space that any area should have.
- ▶ City wide component – the total amount of space within all the city’s large destination parks (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

Types of Space

In assessing local need for green space further analysis proposes that locality quantity standards for each type of space should be set.

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	

When applying the quantity standards,

- ▶ A separate assessment has already taken place to determine playing pitch requirements, with a database of teams which is updated regularly.
- ▶ Children’s play spaces should normally be at least 600 square metres – it is difficult to provide a balanced range of facilities in a smaller size.

- ▶ The locality standards should be applied within a credible area – they were drafted on the basis of 16 Local Need Areas, and could be applied on other areas such as Neighbourhood Partnership areas (often 3 council wards). If the analysis is applied to smaller areas it will be less valid. If any of the destination parks is within the locality in question, it clearly contributes to satisfying locality needs and should be included in the analysis.
- ▶ The standard guarantees adequate provision for users. There are other reasons for protecting open space, which the planning system embodies in a range of policies – such as those for nature conservation, archaeology, flood plain protection and the like. The quantity standard supplements, and does not replace, these. As a result, in most areas more open space will be protected than the minimum standard identifies.
- ▶ The quantity standard will be applied on the best population projections available.

Policy number	Policy
ST3	Ensure that in any land review adequate access is retained by applying the quantity standards and associated guidance

General guidelines for applying the standards

- ▶ The standards should be applied as part of a holistic analysis of local resource in which quality, quantity and distance are considered together (as well as other relevant considerations such as other planning policy, particularly socially based values of the land, etc).
- ▶ Designating a particular type to each space enables a clear framework for setting standards. In applying standards, particularly when it comes to determining how much of each type of space needs to be available it needs to be understood that spaces do often have more than one role, for example:
 1. Arnos Vale cemetery is a historic graveyard, designed as an attractive landscape to attract custom, whose monuments add further to its landscape charm. It has developed significant wildlife value and is recognised as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. It is undeniably used by people interested in both aesthetic and wildlife experiences. Importantly, the presence of both interests adds value to each.
 2. A large part of the Downs is used as football pitches in a competitive league structure once or twice a week. The rest of the time, it is used as informal green space.

Therefore this will be taken into account when determining local need for different types of space. It also explains why the quantity totals for different types of space add up to more than the locality component of the quantity standard.

- ▶ Local demographics and social needs will be taken into account. For example, a higher population of children in any one area may warrant more play areas, or more green spaces may be needed where higher density housing is planned, particularly if they don't have much private garden space.
- ▶ The children's play standards are set for children's play space only and do not include spaces for young people. The strategy earlier proposes policies to address the deficiency in the provision of facilities for young people including games areas, wheels parks, shelters and equipment, but no overall standards for young people's space have been set. Whether there is a need to do so will be the subject of a future piece of work.
- ▶ The distance standards and population numbers are both based on residential accommodation. Green space is also used by workers and shoppers. While we have not developed quantified standards for green space in employment or retail areas, its importance will be taken into account in land management and planning decisions.

Section 3 Setting The Standards



Value

PPG17 recommends that 'value' is taken into account in planning and land management decisions. This does not mean the financial value of land.

'Value' is similar to 'quality' but the latter is assessed by easily identified aspects of design and condition, most of which can be improved quite straightforwardly - whereas value represents a range of cultural and usage factors which are much harder to measure or change. Some dimensions of value are captured in existing planning policy - protecting archaeology, wildlife, historic landscapes for example. Others are social and require public consultation to identify them. Assessing value is therefore difficult and time-consuming. It was decided early on in the development of this strategy that an assessment of value over the entire parks estate was unnecessary and unachievable.

The approach therefore taken is as follows:

- ▶ Recognition of the importance of 'value' as described in PPG 17 and that 'valuable' sites should be protected alongside policies for quality, distance and quantity
- ▶ Belief that it is not feasible to prepare an objective assessment of value for any site without extensive local consultation, research and observation

- ▶ Belief that a helpful and meaningful comparative scale cannot be devised and therefore a 'standard' cannot be set comparable to the quality, quantity and distance standards set out earlier
- ▶ However, 'value' must still be assessed and given full weight in management and planning decisions involving change of use of individual sites

Value will, therefore, be assessed at the stage when Area Green Space Plans are being drawn up and sites are being identified as possible candidates for change of use/type of green space or disposal.

Factors for assessing value

The following factors will be included in the assessment:

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



“We’re really lucky having two good parks in the area with lots of trees and great views -it makes a huge difference especially in the summer.

The biggest problem is vandalism and bad behaviour -someone needs to sort this out but kids need something to do.”

*Maureen, 60, Knowle
- at Victoria Park*



Delivering the Strategy

The main ways that the strategy will be delivered are detailed below. Bringing all these mechanisms together will shape the way all the policies in the strategy are implemented over the next 20 years.

This section is split into 4 parts

- ▶ About People – boosting participation and increasing use
- ▶ Key Delivery Mechanisms
- ▶ Delivery Plan
- ▶ Evaluation and Review

Section 4 Delivering The Strategy

Part 1 - About People

Boosting Participation and Increasing Use

Parks are about people. They provide a focal point for the community and many cultural activities. Involving local people in the management of their parks and encouraging them to use them more often are important objectives of this strategy. This can be achieved in many ways.

Tackling key barriers to use

The Equalities Impact Assessment (see www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy) will inform a variety of interventions to address key barriers to use for equalities groups. These interventions will work alongside policies tackling more widespread anti-social behaviour such as dog fouling and motorbikes, as well as addressing the safety concerns that many people have raised.

Consultation and involvement

Public consultation is essential in ensuring that decisions are influenced by the views of local people. Consultation is built into the development of Area Green Space Plans and forms part of the process of developing management and improvement plans for specific sites. Special efforts will be made to reach children and young people and other equalities groups.

Developing and supporting community groups

Many successful park groups exist across the city, proactively working to improve their local parks, through fundraising for equipment, holding events such as fun days and dog shows, and holding work days to make environmental improvements such as tree planting and litter picking. Many groups also belong to the Bristol Parks Forum, which acts as a support network for groups, a consultation body for the parks service and influences decision making. Community groups contribute significantly to improving parks across the city and we will continue to support and develop these groups and the Parks Forum.

Education and outreach

We believe that parks are a significant but untapped resource for schools and life-long learning. While some work with schools does happen it is largely on an ad hoc basis. A framework needs to be developed to improve facilities and establish a programme of activities with schools which meets curriculum based needs as well as creating positive use of parks and green spaces. 'Learning outside the Classroom', a project being run with Children and Young People's Services, will go some way to closing this gap.

Oke Park Wood

Case Study

One of the first community woodlands, Oke Park Wood, was created in Brentry in 2001 following public consultation. 4 acres of native woodland was planted with 4,000 trees and shrubs. Open grassland was incorporated into the design.

The involvement of the local community during the planning stages, has resulted in less vandalism to the site than anticipated and 6 years on, the woodland is doing well.

Local residents and students took part in tree planting and wetland planting days. Following comments about access, a boardwalk made from old railway sleepers was installed across a particularly wet area of the site. A competition with local schools was held to name the site and local artist, Barbara Disney, worked with the children to design interpretation boards about the woodland.

Several organisations were involved in financially supporting the woodland creation including the Forestry Commission, WWF (celebrating their 40th Birthday), the Countryside Agency, the Forest of Avon, Future Forests and Bristol City Council.



Outreach work can be a valuable way to increase involvement and use of green spaces to:

- ▶ Help alleviate problems between different park users.
- ▶ Provide a means for young people particularly to feel ownership towards a park when they feel involved in the development of facilities designed for them.
- ▶ To introduce groups with low parks use to a variety of green spaces.

Outreach work with young people at Greville Smyth Park has proved highly effective in reducing daytime anti-social behaviour with less vandalism and more care of the facilities provided (see case study).



Greville Smyth Park

Case Study

Vandalism, broken glass, misuse of the play equipment, and setting fire to bins were some of the issues attributed to young people at Greville Smyth Park. Friday night drinking also led to further problems.

When a consultation about park improvements was met with 'what's the point – it'll only get ruined', The Friends of Greville Smyth Park (FroGS) decided to focus on young people, trying to encourage more positive use by those who seemed to be causing the trouble.

FroGS successfully raised funds for some dynamic equipment specifically for teenagers, as it was felt they needed something exciting and challenging in the park.



Feedback from young people and funding from the Rotary Club led to a decision to build a shelter. Instead of buying 'off the peg' a uniquely designed shelter was created.

Arts company 'Once' were commissioned to work with young people to find out how young people felt about the park and how anti-social behaviour could be tackled. The activities opened up debates around use of the park, rights and responsibilities in public space, attitudes towards the police and the sometimes conflicting needs and wants of different park users.

With financial support from Bristol Youth & Community Action (BYCA), 'Once' helped young people further explore anti-social behaviour by making a film 'The Super Psychics save the Park' which has subsequently been shown in local schools. Here the young people portrayed themselves as heroes, working to protect the park, rather than as the villains, challenging anti-social behaviour stereotypes.

This was followed in 2006 by an open air photography exhibition 'Portrait of the Park' documenting all the various users of the park.

Positive actions such as providing specialised facilities for young people had positive effects for the whole park. The daytime problems of vandalism, broken glass and lack of care have declined, and the interaction between different park users has improved, although the Friday night drinking is still a problem.

These are effective but relatively small interventions which took a lot of FroGS time. A longer term approach is needed involving a number of partners to sustain the improvements to the park.

Section 4 Delivering The Strategy

Health and exercise

Parks and green spaces, often termed the 'green lungs of the city' have well documented health benefits both in improving physical fitness and improving mental health. Many of the policies contained in this document support increased health and exercise opportunities. In addition there are initiatives and activities such as Walking the Way to Health, providing opportunities for organised exercise in some of Bristol's parks such as Tai Chi, and providing measured miles for both organised and independent jogging and walking, which will be developed further.

Good communication and information planning

Improving the information that is provided to people about our parks and green spaces both off-site and on-site is essential. A clear framework for planning the most appropriate lines of communication and information materials will be drawn up. Off-site this includes website, leaflets and articles in magazines to allow people to make informed choices about visiting specific places. On-site information signs, interpretation and leaflets will contribute to enabling people to navigate their way around sites, particularly important for our larger parks and estates. This is also particularly significant for disabled people who need information before and during their visit in a variety of formats.



Events and Festivals

Parks and open spaces will continue to host a wealth of events, festivals and activities each year from music concerts, through theatre to playdays, guided walks and practical activities. Over 250 events take place each year in Bristol's Parks. Bristol is being increasingly recognised as a vibrant cultural city and this is attracting event organisers and promoters for large events with audiences from all over the country. The Bristol International

Balloon Fiesta and Bristol International Kite Festival are longstanding events at Ashton Court Estate, harnessing local creative talent. With such a growth the design and enhancement of spaces needs to be planned with events in mind allowing for adequate infrastructure in those sites which will attract the larger events. Small-scale community events are also important for animating parks and increasing local use of spaces. We will continue to support an annual events programme including events organised by local community groups.

Policy number	Policy
D1	Support participation and involvement in parks and green spaces through consultation, participation in active management of spaces, volunteering, education and outreach activities.

Policy number	Policy
D2	Increase use and enjoyment of spaces through a range of activities including providing health and exercise related opportunities, events, festivals and improved information provision.



Section 4 Delivering The Strategy

Part 2 - Key Delivery Mechanisms

Resources

It is estimated that achieving a 'good' standard of provision across the whole parks and green space network will cost £87million in capital funding (at 2006 prices) over the 20 year life of the strategy.

Money for this will come from a number of sources including contributions from developers in the city (est £15m), external funding sources such as the lottery (est £21m), monies raised from the sale of some green space (est £41m) and from the council's core budget for Bristol Parks services (est £10m). The council's usual policy is that all receipts from asset disposals should go into a 'single capital pot' for distribution to overall priorities but in this case 70% will be ring fenced for reinvestment back into parks and green spaces.

The achievement of the strategy will be geared to the pace at which capital can be generated; this is why disposal of some land is essential if its ambitious quality improvements are to be realised. It is important to emphasise that it is not the council's intention to keep selling land until the funding requirements of the strategy are achieved, irrespective of the importance and 'value' of the space to the community. On the contrary, should there be insufficient 'low value', marginal land available once the area planning process has been concluded, the council will review the ambitions of the strategy and consider alternative funding sources.

In addition to capital funding, there will need to be an increase and/or redirection of revenue budgets for improved standards of grounds maintenance, and for the cyclical repair of features when damaged or worn out. The council has adopted a formula which allows a proportion of capital, acquired during the life of the strategy, to be put aside to create an enduring fund for life cycle maintenance.

A five-year capital investment programme (April 2008-March 2013) can be found online at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy.

Grounds Maintenance

The council recognises that grounds maintenance is a critical issue, reinforced by the response from public consultation. Effective and efficient grounds maintenance is vital to deliver the objectives of this strategy. Routine maintenance standards, and investment in preventative maintenance for infrastructure, are currently inadequate. The council's approach to grounds maintenance has been reviewed, with the aim of significantly improving quality and responsiveness of the service. As well as conventional ways to provide the service, such as via contracts, we will be looking at the option for community management of some individual spaces.

Prioritisation

Key factors helping to prioritise investment are:

- Ensuring that each part of Bristol has some good quality space of each type as soon as reasonably possible.
- Areas of deprivation suffer from some of Bristol's lowest quality green space and will be prioritised.
- Efficient and effective spending requires coherent work programmes, most of which will deal with whole parks at a time.
- Strategic investment in basic service improvements such as improving all park seating in an area.
- Filling significant gaps in provision.
- Availability of funding which is sometimes linked to particular areas.
- Neighbourhood working initiatives will have an impact including Local Area Agreements and Neighbourhood Partnership areas.

See also strategic options and investment model opposite.

Housing Land Transfer

Some of the land covered by this strategy is still technically attached to council housing under the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This is a historical anomaly and it is planned to transfer it to general public open space.

Parks and Green Space Strategy Investment Model and Strategic Options

	Formal Green Space (small/medium)	Formal Green Space (large)	Informal Green Space	Children & Young People's Space	Natural Green Space	Active Sport Space
Approach	Please note that the approach will aim for 'whole park' improvement plans wherever possible, therefore the investment will in practice relate to a number of typologies at the same time; eg. in a larger multi functional park					
Strategic Priorities/options (Improving service quality)	Focus on improving selected small/medium sized traditional parks and spaces, eg. focus on Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and other political priorities	Focus on improving the city's most important traditional parks within the first 10 years; Quality traditional park within 20 minutes for all residents in 20 years (park keeper, café, fine horticulture, clean toilets, good play space etc) Meeting a wide range of needs, inc positive equalities impact	Priority to tackle anti social behaviour on strategic priority neighbourhood spaces Management to enhance legitimate access and informal recreation	Highest priority within the strategy, bringing all the play spaces up to 'good' within 15 years (ie quality play space within 450m); approx. 160 play spaces. Intermediate target to achieve quality standard within 800m); approx. 80 play spaces. Neighbourhood Renewal areas and /or high child population areas	Highest priority given to improvement of existing, and designation of new Local Nature Reserves (target 16 across the city) Improving access to other important wildlife sites via proactive management	Refurbish or replace parks pavilions Consolidation/rationalisation of park facilities. And development of hub sites Community use agreements with schools Improve pitch playing capacity
Indicative capital investment and financial implications	£7m Targeted investment, allows decisions on smaller formal spaces to be taken in the light of changing political priorities Upgrading existing formal space, but also formalising eg. existing informal space/sports space	£10m Aim for 'whole park' improvement plans for the most strategically placed parks Priority for investment in the first 10 years Aiming for excellence and Green Flag status	£31m Model highlights the huge weighting towards informal green space, due to scale and poor existing quality Scope to extend timeframe for investment and/or reduce quality expectations in certain areas (ie eradicate poor but accept fair) Focus for targeted land disposals	£14m One of the top political priorities, & relatively easy to plan our investment programme Sustainable revenue planning crucial to ensure city doesn't have another 20 year cycle of investment and decline Not only traditional play areas but natural play areas which are less costly to create	£8m Balance between capital and revenue needs for different types of habitat still need further modelling Investment priorities around social objectives, but to respect BCC biodiversity policies	£17m Complex funding context, potentially including schools and other non BCC hub projects

Section 4 Delivering The Strategy

Area Green Space Plans

This strategy document is not the end of the decision making process or to community involvement in what happens at a local level. We will develop “Area Green Space Plans ” in consultation with local people and ward councillors, making specific proposals to improve quality and facilities and provide the parks people need in their local area. These will be coordinated with other council initiatives which may affect localities, particularly Neighbourhood Partnership and Balanced and Sustainable Communities initiatives. The box opposite details the main aspects of an Area Green Space Plan.

Part of the analysis for producing Area Green Space Plans will be an assessment of value of those spaces identified as candidates for change of use or disposal. More information on this value assessment can be found on page 36 and in appendix 5.

Obvious and practical improvements will not be held up while Area Green Space Plans are prepared: we will make much needed improvements as resources become available from S106 Agreements, grants and (where relevant) land sales.

Design Guide

The importance of good design is promoted strongly by national organisations such as CABE Space and the Landscape Institute. There is an obvious contrast between some parts of Bristol with well-designed and well-used parks, and the poorly designed and abused sites of other areas. A design guide has been prepared to help planners, developers and parks managers. The draft can be seen at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy

Working with partners

There are many partners (voluntary, public and private sector) who already act in an advisory role, actively manage some of our spaces, provide key services or provide funding for specific projects. Our experience demonstrates the significant benefits that a partnership approach can achieve in gaining desired results which satisfy a range of needs. Similarly, integrating park improvements with wider programmes of neighbourhood working gives better outcomes. We are committed to further developing a partnership, multi-agency approach to the improvement of our parks.

Willmott Park

Case Study

Willmott Park is a linear park in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area of Hartcliffe, intersected by a number of roads which effectively create a series of four main pockets.



The park has suffered from significant anti social behaviour, fly tipping and vandalism over the years. During a one-year period over £10,000 was spent on dealing with the costs of vandalism and fly tipping in the park, which is significantly higher than for other green spaces in the city.

Recently the park has received funding as part of the £700,000 Parks Improvement Programme which aims to transform four of Bristol's most deprived parks, by combining enhanced maintenance and capital investment with community outreach, partnership working and a return to dedicated parks staff.

A partnership approach has, to date, been very successful, which includes Willmott Park Group, contractors, the city council, the police and Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership.

Willmott Park Group, formed in May 2006, has already secured £8,000 of Home Office 'Sparkplug' funding.

The two newly appointed park keepers, who have a maintenance and community role, have made a measurable difference to the quality of Willmott Park - recorded levels of fly-tipping show a decline and the park group feel problems in the park have improved dramatically.

Area Green Space Plans

The information below details the elements identified to date for developing Area Green Space Plans – they will be adapted to take into account different area needs.

Aim

To create a spatial and investment plan for each designated area to enable the people of Bristol to have easy access to a range of good quality green spaces and facilities as set out in the Parks and Green Space Strategy.

Components

1. Spatial Plan
2. Investment and Action Plan

While these look at changes over the 20 year span of the strategy, greater focus will be given to the first 5 years with the potential to revise and review after 5 years in line with the review of the whole P&GSS. Area Green Space Plans will need to be flexible particularly in areas where significant change in overall land use is proposed.

Spatial Plan

The Spatial Plan will provide a detailed model for the future land provision of green space across the city, within the goals set by the Bristol Green Space Standard. This will determine the future location, quantity and type of space as well as identifying sites of low value which could be disposed of or used for other land requirements.

Objectives

1. Review the current levels of provision
2. Ensure where practical the minimum standards are met by:

- ▶ Identifying areas that currently fall below the provision standards for total accessible space and for each type

- ▶ Predicting future provision needs based on future population growth

3. Identify the potential for conversion between types of green space in order to meet the standards
4. Identify sites / parts of sites that could be released for disposal
5. Applying the general policies to:

- ▶ Identify types of space outside the 5 typology classes – ie dog free spaces, type of play space

- ▶ Identify the current and future potential to create multi-functional spaces

- ▶ Identify opportunities for adapting the land to cope with the effects of climate change

Investment and Action Plan

The investment plan will identify where investment will take place in terms of types of space, setting a broad plan of where facilities are needed, and will set priorities for this investment.

Objectives - the plans will identify

1. Investment needs
2. Priorities for investment
3. Funding streams
4. Facilities needed including, for example, where park keepers will be based

5. A broad timescale for actions

6. Opportunities for community involvement e.g: community managed sites

7. How we intend to meet and maintain the quality standard

Factors to be taken into account as part of the process

1. Strategic overview of where we are, what impacts on parks etc
2. Where citywide spaces are and should be ie destination parks, MUGAs, wheels parks, multi-functional parks
3. The 'boundary effect' - neighbouring area and authorities
4. Barriers to access within defined areas
5. Wider urban planning across the city
6. Ward Area Reviews of BCC property
7. Other council initiatives (e.g: focus on regeneration areas)
8. Transport routes and public rights of way frameworks
9. Value assessment to be carried out on any land identified for possible disposal or change in type/use
10. Development of Area Green Space Plans in liaison with local groups
11. Demographic changes over time and the needs of different communities
12. Consider local conditions such as any private gardens
13. Consultation on each AGSP

Section 4 Delivering The Strategy



Part 3 - Delivery Plan

Actions	Timescale	Relevant to policy
Produce Area Green Space Plans for the city's 14 neighbourhood partnership areas	Year 1-2 (2008-2009)	Relevant to many policies particularly ST1, ST2 and ST3 on the standards. FG1, IG3, IG4,
Implement the outcome of grounds maintenance review	Year 1 onwards	ST1 quality standard, IG1
Package of training for gardeners and park keepers, including horticultural and customer excellence	During year 1-2 (2008-2009)	ST1, FG6
Develop park management apprenticeship scheme	Year 1 onwards	
Employ park keepers in main traditional parks & priority neighbourhood management areas	Phased over 5 years	FG2, ST1
Contribute to new Local Area Agreements and Multi-Area Agreements (from 2008), to align parks with the sustainable communities strategy for Bristol.	Year 1 onwards	ST1 particularly but impact on all policies
Produce and implement an Equalities Action Plan	Production Year 1 Ongoing implementation	Relevant to all policies
Produce and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan with partner organisations	Production Year 1 Ongoing implementation	NG3
Employ and train a dedicated specialist workforce for natural green space	Year 1-2 (2008-2009)	NG2
Set criteria and designate a further 7 LNRs and build service capacity to sustain quality of site management and interpretation	Year 1-5 (2008-2013)	NG1
Tackle dog fouling, working in partnership with the city's dog wardens to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Identify and establish dog free spaces ▶ Train on-site staff to carry out education, and enforcement of dog fouling issues - focus initially on destination parks and traditional parks 	Year 1-2 (2008-2009) Year 1 (2008)	LM5, LM6
Produce design and management standards for children's play and young people's spaces	Year 1-2 (2008-2009)	CY1, CY2, CY3

Section 4 Delivering The Strategy

Actions	Timescale	Relevant to policy
Develop standards and designs for access to and within sites, linking cycle/pedestrian routes and including physical barriers such as gates	Year 2 (2009)	LM11, LM12 and LM13, IG2
Take forward Safer Parks Improvement Programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sustaining the active partnership with Safer Bristol and Avon and Somerset Police ▶ Rolling out Project Biker across the city to include a new off-road facility 	Years 1-5 (2008-2013) Phased over next 5 years	IG2, LM13, FG2
Continue to restore, improve and safeguard the city's historic estates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Undertaking a feasibility study for the restoration of Kings Weston Estate ▶ Confirming the future ownership and management arrangements for Stoke Park and Brentry Park 	Year 2 (2009) Year 1 (2008)	FG3
Achieve and sustain a minimum of 10 Green Flag awards	By end of year 5 (2013)	ST1
Deliver significant horticultural improvements targeting 10 sites per year with enhanced planting schemes aiming for one in each area of the city	Years 1-5 (2008-2013)	FG7
Deliver the Playing Pitch strategy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ review and rationalisation bowling and tennis provision 	Year 1-2 (2008-2009)	AS3
Plan and implement improved communication and participation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ carrying out a signage audit and producing a policy for enhancing information and interpretation signs ▶ Improving targeted information provision 	Years 1-5 (2008-2013) Years 1-5 (2008-2013)	D2 Equalities Impact Assessment
Finalise The Bristol Green Space Design Guide	Years 1 (2008)	Delivery Commitment
Integrate the delivery of the strategy across Culture and Leisure Services – in particular with the priorities of the Youth and Play Service, and Arts, Festivals and Events.	Years 1-5 (2008-2013)	
Develop a number of pilot projects in relation to the development of backland sites	Years 1-3 (2008-2011)	LM7
Support development of wider city council policy in relation to adapting to climate change	Years 1-5 (2008-2013)	LM8, LM9, LM10

Section 5 Further Information

Part 4 - Monitoring and Review

This section explains how the Parks and Green Space Strategy will be monitored and reviewed. A number of mechanisms will be put in place – including our headline performance indicators and targets which will be managed via the Bristol Parks Service Delivery Plan which can be found at www.bristol.gov.uk/parks. This is reviewed annually.

Monitoring Customer Satisfaction

The annual Quality of Life Survey monitors customer satisfaction with the quality and amount of parks and green spaces, access to parks and green spaces, and number and frequency of visits. As this data can be broken down into areas the impact of improvement in certain areas and citywide can be gauged.

In addition surveys and monitoring will be carried out to gauge satisfaction and use in relation to particular changes.

Monitoring quality

Apart from monitoring ongoing customer feedback, the council will seek quality assurance via accredited national schemes such as the Green Flag Award, TAES (Towards an Excellent Service) and Chartermark – to reflect both the service being delivered to parks visitors but also the efficiency

and effectiveness of management systems and processes.

Bristol currently has two Green Flags for the Downs and Troopers Hill, with applications due for Blaise Castle, Queen Square, Ashton Court, Netham Park, St Pauls Park and Hartcliffe Millennium Green over the next three years.

In addition, quality assessments for all sites will be repeated a minimum of every three years, in order to monitor progress in park quality towards the goal of ‘good’ across the green space estate by the end of 20 years.

Monitoring visits and visitors

The aim will be to increase both the number of park visits and the number of visitors, although these are already reasonably high at 25 million visits per annum and 83% of the population currently visiting parks. Targets will be set and monitored via the Service Delivery Plan process. There will be a particular focus on increasing the use of parks by hard to reach groups, to be driven by the recommendations from the Equalities Impact Assessment and action plan

Review...

The strategy will be reviewed by the end of the first five years – with the current version applying from 1st April 2008 to end March 2013.

Further information

If you would like any more details or background information as to how and why the standards and policies have been derived the following documents are also available at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy or by calling 0117 922 3719.

- ▶ Parks and Green Space Strategy - typology
- ▶ Manual for assessing quality
- ▶ Bristol Green Space Standards - evidence report
- ▶ Parks and Green Space Strategy - research findings summary
- ▶ Parks and Green Space Strategy - research findings full version
- ▶ Young People and a bench
- ▶ Summary research from children's cd
- ▶ Equalities Impact assessment summary
- ▶ Design Guide
- ▶ Discussion Paper - the basis of Local Need Areas
- ▶ Discussion Paper - Value of spaces and constraints
- ▶ Discussion Paper - size of sites
- ▶ Discussion Paper - destination sites
- ▶ Discussion Papers - Balanced and sustainable communities
- ▶ Draft Parks Wildlife Strategy
- ▶ Set of maps for quantity, quality and distance
- ▶ Consultation findings report



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Appendix 1 Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

Did you ask people in Bristol what they wanted?

Yes. A significant level of customer research and consultation has taken place. The full research report, a summary and the consultation report on the draft strategy can be found on www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy

How are you going to stop motorbikes causing problems in parks and green spaces?

Partly by improvements to fencing and park entrances, partly by providing alternative and legitimate activity for young people, partly by intensifying our valuable collaborative work with local police, and partly by improving natural surveillance from adjacent housing and legitimate park users. It is well known that the green spaces which suffer most abuse are the ones with least surveillance and least general usage.

We acknowledge that these proposals cannot by themselves eliminate motorbike nuisance altogether.

Many motorcyclists wish to have a licenced site for motorbike use. We think this would help although it would not solve the problem. However, we have not succeeded in identifying a suitable site in Bristol, and we do not accept that this makes it “ok” to ride motorbikes in other green spaces.

Won't responsible dog owners suffer because of the plans for dog-free areas? Can't you just target the irresponsible dog owners?

Dog owners are regular and valued members of the parks community. However there is a consistent and clear message in all user research that dog mess, and dogs exercising off leads, are a very serious problem for many users and prevent many others from using parks and green spaces. Although poop scoop campaigns have improved the position, education alone has not delivered an acceptable solution. This strategy aims to retain adequate and legitimate access for dog owners, but to deal decisively with the problem. Dog free areas will be a small proportion of all park land, and we will continue with work to persuade all dog owners to follow the standard set by the responsible majority.

What facilities will be improved in my area?

The Strategy does not identify exactly what facilities will be improved in any area but sets a framework for making those decisions. Area Green Space Plans will be one of the mechanisms for planning changes in individual areas – these will be developed with local community involvement.

Will communities have a say in the way their local parks are improved and managed?

Yes, communities will be involved during the development of Area Green Space Plans (see page 44-45).

What are you going to do to improve community safety?

Safety came out clearly as a key issue during customer research. The strategy proposes a number of ways to improve people's perceptions of safety when they use parks but the main method will be to improve their quality. Research tells us conspicuous care – providing a consistent daily maintenance regime that ensures the site is tidy and kept as free of litter/graffiti etc as possible – is key to making a place feel safer for users. The main traditional parks will also have a park keeper who can respond to day-to-day needs and provide a sense of security.

Are you going to provide specific events and activities in parks to encourage use by certain communities, e.g. young people and disabled people?

An equalities action plan will be developed in the first year of the strategy which will determine how the council will meet the needs of equalities communities and meet the recommendations of the Strategy equalities impact assessment. The action plan will include work to actively improve access to green spaces by both young people and disabled people.

Are you going to protect important wildlife sites that are in private ownership?

The council has planning policies and work programmes to protect and enhance wildlife sites in all ownerships across the city, but the scope of this strategy is to improve the quality and accessibility of wildlife sites with public access.

How did you come up with the provision standards for Bristol?

We have asked Bristol people, checked against national guidelines and those of other local authorities and made a thorough assessment of the affect of the standards when applied 'on the ground'. We wanted to make sure that the standards deliver what people want as far as is possible and at the same time ensuring that they remain realistic and achievable. A detailed report on how the standards were developed can be viewed online at www.bristol.gov.uk/parkstrategy

Will the standard of 'good' prevent us from producing excellent facilities?

No. While the standard aims to bring all the spaces up to good this is a minimum standard. It is also intended that the national benchmark of quality - the Green Flag Award – will be applied to a number of our most important spaces. The aim will be to ensure that excellent parks are provided in different areas of the city to ensure everyone has reasonable access to them.

Will all areas that don't have good access to a range of facilities and different types of space benefit and be improved?

Yes, but this will take time, which is why this is a 20 year investment strategy.

Are you going to sell off any green spaces?

In order to make necessary improvements to green spaces across the city we will sell off a small amount of low value green space. In addition improvements will be made to backland sites by introducing housing fronting the site. This will only be in areas where there is more than enough space, and will be subject to local consultation.

What green spaces will be sold in my area?

The strategy does not earmark any specific local green spaces for sale but it does set out the framework for making those decisions.

If green space is sold in my area will the money raised be used to benefit my local parks?

This won't always be the case, however in general, the greatest need to improve open spaces is in areas with extensive poor quality open space, some of which is of low value and could be subject to sale, so there will be reinvestment in local green spaces.

Appendix 1 Frequently Asked Questions

Will areas with very little green space be protected from development?

Any proposals for development must go through the normal planning process with full local consultation. The Bristol Green Space Standards set out in the strategy add additional protection to existing planning policy and planning procedures, and make it more unlikely that any part of Bristol would be left short of green space.

Once improvements are made, can you ensure revenue funding is available to maintain the parks properly?

Some revenue funding is already available through s106 agreement. The council is looking at a number of alternative approaches for ensuring enough revenue funding is available.

What other factors protect green space?

Many planning policies protect open space, including those protecting wildlife, historic landscapes and archaeological sites, flood plains, sports pitches etc.

Will the standards ever be reviewed?

The Bristol Green Space Standards will act as planning policy guidance. If and when planning policy is reviewed, this will provide an opportunity to review the standards. This isn't, however, a

regular occurrence and it is important to make sure the standards are as appropriate and effective as possible now.

What if I use a park that isn't in Bristol?

The Bristol Parks and Green Space Strategy only considers publicly accessible green space that falls within the city boundary. Bristol is fortunate to be surrounded by some of England's most attractive countryside. But the aim of this strategy is to ensure that there is a good supply of high quality green space in walking distance of where people live – it does not rely on open space elsewhere.

Has the lack of private gardens in certain areas been taken into account when setting the standards?

There is only one set of minimum standards for the whole city. However when applying the standards local demographics and social needs will be taken into account. For example, a higher population of children in any one area may warrant more play areas, or more green space may be needed where higher density housing is planned, particularly if they don't have much private garden space.



Overview of customer research/participation findings

A significant level of customer research has taken place to both inform the development of standards for Bristol and its service management policies. Over 5,500 Bristol people have contributed their ideas through surveys, on-line discussion forums, and focus groups, on-site discussions with young people, a schools cd aimed at 8-12 year olds, and by conducting quality assessments on a selection of sites. Research carried out over the last 7 years has also informed the strategy including a specific piece of research around grounds maintenance, and ongoing data from the annual Quality of Life Survey.

In addition an equalities impact assessment has been carried out on the current service being offered by Bristol City Council. This has highlighted where current service provision needs to be adapted to provide an equality of opportunity to all sectors of the community.

A detailed schedule of the research that took place is shown at the end.

Summary of findings from research and consultation

The main aim of the research was to ensure that the views, ideas and concerns of people from different areas of Bristol and with different needs informed the Strategy.

- Quality is the overriding factor that affects people's use and perceptions of accessibility of green space - quality is a key factor which also affects people's satisfaction with the quantity and accessibility of green spaces.
- Satisfaction with the quality of parks and green spaces varies considerably across the city. Improving quality is essential – without it any changes to quantity and access will have limited effect.
- There is a clear indication that the public spend most time visiting a formal park / public garden. A formal park is likely to have a number of different facilities and types of space catering for different activities and will be, in most cases, within one mile of a person's home.
- Fear over being physically attacked or verbally abused is a key reason for some people choosing not to visit parks and green spaces.
- A significant concern for all groups is the level of dog mess and dogs being walked off a lead, particularly for disabled people, and children and parents/carers with young children.
- The public have expressed a strong wish to see more park keepers in the city's parks. The role of the park keeper should be clearly defined to enable them to act to encourage a culture of safety on the site - acting on incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour. The role should also contribute to a proactive site maintenance regime.
- More and better quality toilet facilities and seating are important to nearly all the different groups of respondents.
- Play areas are an important resource, especially for women, and their provision should be considered alongside other key facilities and services particularly toilets, pathways, entrances, seating, car parking and park keepers.

Appendix 2 Brief Research Summary



- ▶ Play facilities for older young people were requested in addition to, but separate from, play facilities for younger children. The provision of facilities for young people should reflect their need for challenges and to take risks. For young people between the ages of 11 and 16 years facilities in parks need to include play equipment for their age range, environments that allow the use of bikes, skateboards and scooters and social spaces to sit and talk.
- ▶ For children and young people play equipment, toilets, picnic benches and somewhere to get refreshments or an ice cream are important. Children also like spaces to kick a ball and ride a bike.
- ▶ Physical access to urban woodland areas and natural green spaces was cited as a problem. This includes entrances to these sites and pathways within them.
- ▶ The presence of gangs of teenagers or young adults in parks is a key issue for all communities including young people.
- ▶ Black and other minority ethnic communities, disabled people and disabled young people visit green spaces less frequently than other groups.
- ▶ There is a need for parks to be more connected to the environment in which they sit – whether that be physically through access infrastructure and connections with bus routes and local amenities, or through the work of other service providers.
- ▶ Far more older people use the bus to get to parks and green spaces than the average. Bristol Parks needs to be more aware of how its green spaces link with the public transport system, especially those spaces that are attractive to older people, and provide information that connects the two.



Quality

The parks strategy sets standards for quality, access and quantity for green spaces in Bristol. The quality framework which has informed the standards is primarily about design, infrastructure and long-term condition. However people are also concerned with a number of other factors affecting their perceptions of a quality space.

Research with park users tells us that quality means different things to different people. People use parks and green spaces in different ways, seek different experiences from them and look for different facilities and features. All of these factors affect whether an individual feels that he/she is visiting a good quality green space. As a result, defining and creating good quality green space is challenging. A summary analysis of the results of public consultation in Bristol informs us that a quality experience in a green space is broadly dependent on the following factors:

- ▶ There being a comprehensive maintenance regime
- ▶ The immediate repair or replacement of run down, damaged and vandalised facilities
- ▶ There being a variety of facilities
- ▶ Green spaces being and feeling safe to use
- ▶ There being no dog mess in parks and the issue of dogs exercised off a lead being addressed
- ▶ The provision of a variety of types of spaces e.g. play space or wildlife space, that may be used in different ways
- ▶ The provision of multifunctional parks that may provide a broad range of experiences in one place
- ▶ The provision of accurate and up to date information on green spaces in a range of formats.

There are some variations within the different types of space.

For more information see www.bristol.gov.uk/parks for a detailed summary of the findings, the full research report or write ups of individual elements of research.



Appendix 2 Brief Research Summary



Research carried out

Type of consultation/research	When	Target audience	Information	What it influenced	Number of participants
Past research	1999-2002 – report	General park users/non-users	Analysis of a vast array of different types of research	Service improvement and development policies	
Past research - Grounds maintenance	2002	General public (Citizen's Panel) Parks staff Contractor's staff Park community groups	Research via focus groups and surveys to inform procurement of grounds maintenance services	Service improvement and development policies	13 focus groups 930 questionnaire responses (citizen's panel)
Quality of Life survey	2002-2005	General public	Over the past 4 years monitoring satisfaction with quality, amount and distance to parks and green spaces through this postal survey	Standards. Service improvement and development policies	6,000+ in 2005
	2005	General public	Additional questions added around type of space in 2005, around other key issues in 2006	Standards. Service improvement and development policies	6,000+
Parks and Green Space Strategy general survey	2005	General public specific groups targeted - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St Pauls ■ Bristol Women's Forum ■ Bristol Race Equality Forum ■ Bristol Older People's Forum ■ Bristol Disability Equality Forum 	Conducted online, and via paper copies. Linked to workshops below. Specific questions related to distance people are willing to travel and quality. The workshop set out options for distance for different types of space	Standards Service improvement and development policies Equalities Impact Assessment	797
Design a park challenge - CD	2005	Children aged 8-12	children completed a cd survey and designed a park through work with schools	Standards – most influence on distance standard Service improvement and development policies Equalities Impact Assessment	293

Research carried out

Type of consultation/research	When	Target audience	Information	What it influenced	Number of participants
Young People and a Bench	2005	Young people aged 13-19	young people gave feedback via an arts based consultation exercise whilst they were using parks and green spaces in different parts of the city, and by attendance at local youth clubs	Service improvement and development policies Some influence on distance and quality standard Equalities Impact Assessment	176
Focus Groups	2005	15 equalities groups were visited (list is in EqIA)	an assessment of the physical and psychological barriers that prevent the use of parks and other specific issues related to use of parks	Service improvement and development policies Equalities Impact Assessment	155
AskBristol.com discussion forum	2005	General public	Internet-based discussion forum	Service improvement and development policies	14
workshops	2005	Fishponds, Southville, Horfield, Southmead, Withywood, St Pauls, Hengrove	A series of workshops with bespoke consultation tools to carry out testing of 'Bristol standards' for green space provision. Different options could be considered	standards	96
Quality assessment verification	2005	Park community groups Bristol Physical Access Chain	Testing validity of officer completed quality assessments to check for consistency and deviation.	Quality standard	8 community groups 5 members of Bristol Physical Access Chain
Testing of quantity standard	2006/07	Internal council stakeholders	An exercise focussed on a number of Local Need Areas to assess initial thinking about the quantity standard and assess other options	Quantity standard	10
	2007	CABE workshop with other authorities and BC staff	Workshop to discuss options for approaching quantity standards	Quantity standard	
Testing of distance standard	2007	Internal council stakeholders	Reality testing the aspirational standards derived from consultation	Distance standard	5



1. Introduction

1.1. Equalities Impact Assessments

The function of an equalities impact assessment is to determine whether a policy will have a differential impact on the equalities groups it identifies and whether that impact is adverse / has discriminatory outcomes.

All new policies for Bristol City Council are required to have equalities impact assessments carried out that address the equalities strands of gender, disability, race, young people, older people, lesbian gay, bisexual and transgender people – where policies mean “the full range of formal and informal decisions you make in carrying out your duties, and in all the ways which you use powers – or decide not to”.

This Impact Assessment provides for the Bristol Parks and Green Space Strategy. The Strategy both informs and contains new City Council policy and an equalities impact assessment is therefore mandatory. The scope of the Strategy requires that a full assessment be carried out.

This Assessment was carried out in 2005/6. In delivering the adopted Strategy, impacts on equalities communities will continue to be considered and monitored within processes and methods employed to apply policies and Bristol Green Space Standards.

1.2. Guidance

The Green Space Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment adheres to a format provided by the Council's Equalities and Inclusion Team and, following advice from CABE Space, also refers to the latest impact assessment guidance from the DIALOG (Diversity in Action in Local Government) team of the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DEA) for local government.

1.3. Impact Assessment aim

The aim of the Impact Assessment is to consider the existing service provided by Bristol Parks and determine if current practice is having a differential impact on equalities groups and whether that impact is adverse. The Assessment acts to inform the Strategy so that it may preclude indirect discriminatory policy and actions and introduce positive measures to address any current differential impacts.

The Assessment ensures new Strategy policy and/or subsequent service planning objectives act to:

- ▶ Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity
- ▶ Promote good relations within the community

As required the Impact Assessment will consider differential impact with regard to:

- ▶ Race;
- ▶ Gender;
- ▶ Age;
- ▶ Disability; and
- ▶ Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The Assessment also considered communities that may be disadvantaged by where they live as acknowledged through Neighbourhood Renewal designated areas. Though not a defined equalities group the assessment and reporting process provided a logical vehicle to highlight need within these communities and make recommendations.

The impact assessment will support work to move the Culture and Leisure Services Department towards achieving Level 4 of the Equality Standard.

2. Final assessment of impact

- ▶ The Assessment found that existing Bristol Parks' services did not adversely impact on any equalities group through discriminatory practices. However the Assessment clearly identified that some vulnerable groups and individuals expect and need more from Parks services than currently delivered in order for them to more easily use them.
- ▶ The Assessment found that individuals and communities identified by race, gender, disability and age have needs that are not being met by existing Bristol Parks' services.
- ▶ The Assessment found that for older people and women many particular needs can be met through the adoption of general policies and measures to improve the perception of safety in parks, by raising their quality and by raising the quality of their management and maintenance.
- ▶ The Assessment found that positive measures additional to adopting general policies to improve safety, quality and maintenance are needed to meet the needs of Black and other minority ethnic communities and people that describe themselves as having a long-term limiting illness, health problem or disability and that these should be supported by an appropriate

action plan and performance measurement. Positive measures would act to improve the promotion of good relations with these communities. This work will add benefit to Bristol City Council's compliance with the Race Relations (amendment) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination Act (1995).

- ▶ The Assessment found that there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether pre-Strategy services were likely to be having a differential impact on lesbian, gay or bisexual people but differential impact is unlikely.
- ▶ The Assessment found that specific, positive actions and measures are needed to meet the needs of young people. The Assessment found that there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether pre-Strategy services were having a differential impact on young people.
- ▶ The Assessment found that there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether pre-Strategy services were likely to be having a differential impact on communities that may be disadvantaged by where they live as acknowledged through Neighbourhood Renewal designated areas.

This report has already highlighted the influence of Quality of Life data in determining this and the fact that small sample sizes indicate a need for caution. However the substantial new research carried out has helped generate the overall impact finding.

3. Key Recommendations

The breadth of assessment research has enabled specific recommendations for the Parks and Green Space Strategy and Bristol Parks' service plans to address over time.

Listed here are strategic recommendations that will act to ensure Bristol Parks' services are meeting the widest need and strengthen compliance with key equalities legislation:

Recommendations	Target Equalities Strand
1. Take steps to improve safety in parks – improving the perception of safety and security in all different types of green spaces will have a greater positive impact on disabled people, ethnic groups, women, young people and older people. Raising the quality of park and green spaces in Bristol, through improved park facilities and park maintenance, is fundamental in improving real and perceptions of safety;	All
2. Increase the number of on-site staff – the role(s) should be clearly defined and incorporate responsibilities to introduce visitors to sites and develop a culture of safety. On-site staff should be purposefully aware of the presence of vulnerable groups and take action to welcome and reassure them;	All
3. Carry out a programme of work with ethnic groups and disabled groups to enhance these communities' use of parks;	Race; Disability
4. Provide education and training for staff – to develop a greater awareness of the different experiences and needs of disabled people and ethnic groups with regard to parks and green spaces and Parks' direct services and to encourage the promotion of equality of opportunity;	Race; Disability
5. Green space provision standards should consider the distribution and access requirements of equalities communities in their application and interpretation.	Race; Age; Disability
6. Incorporate compulsory, and more comprehensive, access audits into capital projects, site improvement plans and management plans that relate to the scale of changes proposed;	Disability
7. Improve the provision of information in terms of content, format and distribution. Improving both the accessibility and targeting of information regarding existing and future park facilities will be beneficial for disabled people and ethnic groups;	Race; Disability
8. Develop a network of contacts with groups within the equalities strands of race, disability and age (young people) to enhance consultation support strategic equalities objectives and equalities actions;	Race; Age; Disability
9. Make better use of detached youth work teams either through existing providers or by developing new provision. Their aim should be to identify the local needs of young people and facilitate more responsible use of parks by them;	Age
10. Ensure that the delivery of actions to address adverse impact is the responsibility of an identified person(s) that has the authority to monitor progress and compliance and act when targets are not being met;	All
11. Agreeing an improved performance framework, and performance indicators, that will be monitored departmentally and at service level should be an early objective for strategy delivery.	Race; Age; Disability

Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment - Abstract

4. Equalities action plan and service planning response

Bristol Parks will adopt a 3-year Equalities Action Plan alongside its Service Plan which will incorporate both its priority equalities actions and

those of the council's Culture and Leisure Services department. The action plan will be developed by a Service Equalities Working Group that is supported by external equalities groups and experts – some of which have made a significant contribution to the research data in this report.

The Working Group will develop priorities for the Action Plan and set objectives. The objectives suggested below are those that would begin to best meet the strategic recommendations given in this assessment.

Recommendation	Response	Objectives	Impact	Outcome
		Process		
Take steps to improve safety in parks – Improving the perception of safety and security in all different types of green spaces will have a greater positive impact on disabled people, ethnic groups, women, young people and older people. Raising the quality of parks and green spaces in Bristol, through improved park facilities & park maintenance, is fundamental in improving real and perceptions of safety.	P&GSS policy. Equalities Action Planning.	Implementation of the draft Bristol quality standard across all green spaces (good). Develop 'public safety' audit process considering site maintenance, design, lighting, staffing and audience development. Incorporate into improvement and management plans.	Increased confidence by all communities about using parks and green spaces.	Increased frequency of use of all spaces. Increased frequency of use of spaces by Bme communities and disabled people. Decrease in levels of recorded crime & ASB.
Increase the number of on-site staff – the role(s) should be clearly defined and incorporate responsibilities to introduce visitors to sites and develop a culture of safety. On-site staff should be purposefully aware of the presence of vulnerable groups and take action to welcome and reassure them.	Bristol Parks service delivery	Develop new park keeper role with enhanced JD. Introduce programme of increasing on-site staff in green spaces in a way that affords good access.	Increased confidence by all communities about using parks and green spaces. Improved relationships with park users. New and improved park activities and events.	Increased frequency of use of all spaces. Increased frequency of use of spaces by Bme communities and disabled people. Decrease in levels of recorded crime & ASB.
Carry out a programme of work with ethnic groups and disabled groups to enhance these communities' use of parks.	Equalities Action Planning.	Develop new participation officer role in partnership with Bme and disabled groups. Develop and introduce participation programme.	Increased knowledge of parks and park facilities among Bme groups and disabled people. Increased confidence by Bme groups and disabled people about using parks and green spaces.	Increased frequency of independent use of spaces by Bme communities and disabled people. On-site facilities and communication improved for Bme communities and disabled people.

Recommendation	Response	Objectives	Impact	Outcome
		Process		
Provide education and training for staff – to develop a greater awareness of the different experiences and needs of disabled people and ethnic groups with regard to parks and green spaces and Parks' direct services.	Equalities Action Planning.	Develop and introduce comprehensive equalities training and support programme for frontline officers.	Increased confidence amongst park staff in identifying and responding to the specific needs of Bme groups and disabled people.	Increased frequency of independent use of spaces by Bme communities and disabled people. Projects involving Bme communities and with disabled people developed by Frontline officers.
Green space provision standards should consider the distribution and access requirements of equalities communities in their application and interpretation.	Bristol Parks service delivery	<p>Overlay distribution of Bme groups, disabled people and young people with P&GSS spatial and typology data.</p> <p>Identify areas of strategic need.</p> <p>Incorporate the needs of equalities groups in Area Green Space Plans where decisions on proposed land-use change where that results in a loss of green space or a change in type/function.</p>	<p>Increased knowledge and understanding of impact of standards on Bme communities, disabled people and young people</p> <p>Officers providing accurate advice on likely equalities impact of land-use or typology change proposals.</p>	No equalities community experiencing a discriminatory outcome from land-use or typology change.
Incorporate more compulsory, comprehensive access audits into capital projects, site improvement plans and management plans that relate to the scale of changes proposed.	Equalities Action Planning.	<p>Develop and introduce compulsory access element into Project Briefs and Project Initiation Documents.</p> <p>Increase number of officers, through training, competent in carrying out access audits for disabled people with physical, sensory and mental impairments and people with learning difficulties.</p>	Progressively improved access (to include physical, communication and interpretation) to parks and green spaces for disabled people with physical, sensory and mental impairments and people with learning difficulties.	Increased frequency of use of spaces by all disabled people and people with learning difficulties.

Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment - Abstract

Recommendation	Response	Objectives	Impact	Outcome
		Process		
<p>Improve the provision of information in content, formats and distribution. Improving both the accessibility and targeting of information regarding existing and future park facilities will be beneficial for disabled people and ethnic groups.</p>	<p>Equalities Action Planning.</p>	<p>Develop online access information and programme to 'least restrictive access' principle for all significant parks and green spaces.</p> <p>Develop new basic information on parks and green spaces to be incorporated in hard copy leaflets for targeted distribution.</p> <p>Develop new on-site information standard and implementation policy so that the needs of Bme communities and disabled people are better catered for.</p>	<p>Increased knowledge and understanding of parks and green spaces amongst Bme communities and disabled people with physical, sensory and mental impairments and people with learning difficulties.</p>	<p>Increased frequency of independent use of spaces by Bme communities, disabled people and older people.</p>
<p>Develop a network of contacts with groups within the equalities strands of race, disability and age (young people) to enhance consultation, support strategic equalities objectives and equalities actions;</p>	<p>Equalities Action Planning.</p>	<p>Involve target Bme communities, disabled people, older people and young people in P&GSS public consultation workshops/seminars.</p> <p>Build working relationships with these groups in a sustainable manner i.e. in a format that is best able to accommodate their needs re time and resources.</p>	<p>More Bme groups, disabled people, older people and young people participating in ensuring parks and greens paces are improved in a way that meets their needs.</p>	<p>Increased frequency of independent use of spaces by Bme communities, disabled people, older people and young people.</p> <p>Increased legitimate use of spaces by young people.</p>

Recommendation	Response	Objectives	Impact	Outcome
		Process		
<p>Ensure that the delivery of actions to address adverse impact is the responsibility of an identified person(s) that has the authority to monitor progress and compliance and act when targets are not being met;</p>	<p>P&GSS policy.</p>	<p>Identify role and incorporate in JD of new or existing post.</p> <p>Provide for more regular Management Team discussions on equalities actions and targets.</p>	<p>More accountability within Parks for achievement of equalities objectives and progression of action plans.</p>	<p>Successful completion of equalities objectives and achievement of PI's.</p>
<p>Make better use of detached youth work teams either through existing providers or by developing new provision. Their aim should be to engage with and identify the local needs of young people and facilitate more responsible use of parks by them</p>	<p>P&GSS policy. Equalities Action Planning</p>	<p>Monitor face-to-face time spent by detached youth workers with young people, either from Youth and Play Services or voluntary sector providers, in parks and green spaces.</p> <p>Work more closely with Youth and Play Services and voluntary sector youth services providers to enable effective on-site consultation with young people.</p>	<p>More consistent, appropriate and effective consultation with young people using green spaces.</p>	<p>Better targeted provision for young people in parks and green spaces.</p> <p>Increased legitimate use of spaces by young people.</p>



Public research recommendations and the Parks and Green Space Strategy policy response

Below is a summary of the key public research findings and a brief summary of how these have been addressed in the Parks and Green Space Strategy. Where the issue impacts mostly on delivery of the strategy this has been noted and will be taken into account when more detailed delivery plans are drawn up.

Recommendation

The Strategy standard for the provision of different types of space should consider the research findings that indicate a support for:

- A decrease in the amount of Formal Green Space (not formal parks);
- A significant increase in the amount of children and young people's space.

A draft recommendation for distance thresholds to different types of space are:

- 15 mins for formal space;
- 13 mins for informal space;
- 16 mins for sports spaces (see note re target group 'gender' below);
- 12 mins for children's and young people's space; and
- 18 mins for natural green space

The favourite type of space for respondents is a formal park/public garden. This is a space that has a greater degree of obvious design and that is multifunctional or has a variety of types of space within it. It is most likely to resemble one of Bristol's existing Victorian parks and incorporate a play facility.

Strategy policy needs to include a programme for the provision of more and better toilet facilities. Toilets should be fully accessible, incorporate children's toilets and policy should consider how they would be maintained at a high level of quality.

What we've done

A Quantity Standard for Children and Young People's space has been introduced which will deliver an increased number of, and area dedicated to, children's playgrounds. In addition policies have been introduced to increase provision for young people.

The Distance Standards have been set according to these recommendations. The Distance Standard for children's play space was reduced to 10 minutes to reflect the needs of parents with young children.

A key policy (FG1) is to provide this type of space in easy reach of home

Policy LM4 refers to the provision of accessible toilet facilities at the main traditional parks and sports grounds

Recommendation

The data suggests that Eastville Park or, more likely, the Frome Valley should be considered as a destination park. In addition, for young people, parks that have wheels areas act as destination sites in the same way as Hengrove Play Park.

There needs to be a coherent plan for tackling dog mess and dogs being walked off lead – a particular barrier for many groups including disabled people and parents/carers with young children. Within any dog-free area should be a site's main attractions e.g. play area, sports space, boating lake etc.

There should be more visible on-site staff in the city's parks. The role of the park keeper should act to encourage a culture of safety on the site - acting on incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour, tackle the problem of dog mess as well as provide highly reactive site maintenance.

The management of Blaise Estate should reflect the fact that it acts as a significant local resource and needs especially to consider provision for young people.

Better quality seating in the right areas needs to be provided. Seating, and in particular 'sociable' seating e.g. picnic tables, needs to be provided at children's play areas, young people's facilities, sports facilities and destination parks

The maintenance regime of play areas should reflect the potential conflict between daytime and evening user groups

In spaces that are large enough, play facilities for older young people should be provided in addition to but separate from play facilities for young children

What we've done

The Frome Valley from Oldbury to Snuff Mills is considered a destination site with Oldbury included because it is a large historic estate. Eastville Park, while attracting lots of visitors is considered a large traditional park

There is a clear policy on dog free spaces – policy numbers LM4, LM5, IG4. The plans will focus on all types of space with attention being given to formal spaces and smaller informal spaces (IG4)

Policy FG2 responds to this with the introduction of park keepers into more green spaces and policy LM6 states that the council will develop the role of on-site parks staff and dog wardens to tackle problems of dog's mess and uncontrolled dogs through education, encouragement and enforcement.

A programme of outreach work and activities for young people alongside improved facilities will be implemented

Seating requirements will be taken on board when designing spaces and when consultation with communities identifies a need.

This will be considered as part of the council's review of grounds maintenance. The Strategy adopts Policy CY2 to support more facilities for young people and for more young people's facilities to be provided separate from those for children.

Policy CY2 provides for the provision of improved facilities for young people and the aim will be to provide these facilities separately from younger children's facilities

Appendix 4 You said, we did



Recommendation

Improvements in response to vandalism in parks with a priority on repairing facilities that are well used and park/green space entrances (if applicable) – to prevent parks appearing unsafe and unwelcoming.

It is requested that more lighting should be provided in multifunctional formal parks/public gardens and children and young people's facilities as a measure to improve perceptions of safety.

Access to urban woodland areas and natural green spaces needs to be improved. This includes entrances to these sites and pathways within them

Bristol Parks should ensure that any park regulations and by-laws are made clearly visible within parks where appropriate.

The application and interpretation of the new Bristol distance standard should consider the particular distribution and access requirements of equalities groups particularly disabled and BME communities.

Bristol Parks should develop new contacts and networks with different Black and minority ethnic communities across the city in order to improve public consultation practice and develop working partnerships.

Greater consideration to the different needs of BME communities with regard to urban woodland areas, Local Nature Reserves/wildlife areas and sports spaces may act to increase use of these spaces by these communities. A policy and practice of introducing BME communities to these spaces should be part of this.

What we've done

The Strategy adopts a minimum Green Space Quality Standard which will act to maintain all green spaces to a 'good' standard – dealing with vandalism will be important to achieve this. The procurement review for grounds maintenance is looking at how our service can be more responsive. Park Keepers and on-site staff can help with this so policy FG2, and IG1 both deal with this issue

There is no policy on this and each site will be considered on its individual merits. There are good safety reasons against providing lighting as well.

Policy NG2 responds directly to this.

Information provision is addressed in the section on delivery in the strategy document (policy D2)– this is one element which will be considered

The demographics of local areas will be considered as part of Area Green Space Plans which will act to apply and interpret the Bristol Green Space Provision Standards locally.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan from the Strategy equalities impact assessment.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan from the Strategy equalities impact assessment.

Recommendation

A review of the suitability, accessibility and quality of sports facilities with regard to the needs of ethnic minorities is advised. Targeting of ethnic communities, particularly Black African communities is required. The evidence suggests that many BME teams are happy to pay 'expensive' costs for facilities that can be regarded as safe, secure, easily recognisable and of high quality.

A review of the objectives of parks events funding should take place and consider the user needs of younger people and minority ethnic communities. More opportunities to hold events for these groups should be created.

A review of the support offered for communities and community groups to hold events in parks is advised. A review should consider more 'hands-on' support to help put on events/festivals.

Provide better information on Bristol Park's services including the location and a description of parks and green spaces, particularly targeted at equalities groups.

Adopt a programme of introductions to members of different equalities groups such as BME, disabled people to parks and green spaces in the city.

Introduce awareness training for staff on the different needs and experiences of ethnic groups with regard to parks and green spaces and Bristol parks' services.

If the distance threshold for play areas for young children is further than 10 minutes it will begin to have a deleterious effect on men taking their children (of an age that need accompanying) to play.

What we've done

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan. In addition, the needs of BME communities were considered when developing the council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy.

The Strategy supports public events in parks and will consider this recommendation in reviewing each year's programme.

The Strategy does not directly respond to this. Bristol Parks will be employing a part-time officer who will consider this recommendation.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan. Supported by policy D2

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

This has been considered when setting the Bristol Green Space Distance Standard for children's playgrounds. The standard has been set at 10 minutes.

Appendix 4 You said, we did

Recommendation

Play areas are an important resource, especially for women, and their provision should be considered alongside other site facilities and services particularly toilets, pathways, entrances, seating, car parking and park keepers: The following considerations need to be taken into account:

- ▶ Play areas should be provided in formal settings with high maintenance.
- ▶ Good links between play areas, path and car parking.

The provision of sports facilities is important for male users of green spaces and use of these is a key reason for men visiting parks.

Within the new Bristol provision standards the provision of play facilities for children and young people should reflect the population of that community in an area.

The social role of all local parks and green spaces for young people together with the fact that they are more frequent users of them generally means that the importance of involving young people in proposed changes to green spaces regardless of size and quality cannot be overstated. It is recommended that Bristol Parks investigates how it may work better with young people.

The stand-out outdoor priority activity for young people aged 8-12 years is 'having a kick-a-bout'. It is a clear 1st and 2nd priority and 'ball games' and 'running around games' are the most common type of game played. Their priorities are:

1. Kick-a-bout areas and places for sport;
2. Places to ride a bike;
3. Equipped children's play areas;
4. Skateboarding areas;
5. 'Natural facilities' e.g. water, trees and shrubs.

When asked explicitly to put facilities in their ideal park they chose:

1. Play area;
2. Toilets;
3. Picnic benches;
4. Refreshments/ice cream van;
5. Football pitch;

What we've done

This will be considered when drawing up Area Green Space Plans and Site Improvement Plans

Noted. Policies associated with sports provision are included for formal and informal sports provision.

The Strategy recognises this. The Bristol Green Space Provision Standards will be applied while considering the population and demographics of an area.

The Strategy undertakes to fully involve young people in decisions to provide facilities in parks, including facilities for young people themselves. Young people will be invited to actively participate in the development of Area Green Space Plans.

A number of policies address the needs of children of this age. CY1, CY3, CY4 but also in looking at dog free space for informal kickabout in policy IG3. Traditional parks will provide the range of facilities required (FG1) and policy LM4 addresses the issue of toilets.

Recommendation

Facilities that need to be provided for young people aged between 11-16 years include:

- ▶ Play equipment targeting older young people. The equipment should include swings that are designed for older children to use;
- ▶ Environments that allow the use of bikes, skateboards and scooters;
- ▶ Social spaces to sit and talk. This is especially important to meet the needs of young women. Some social spaces should provide some protection from poor weather.

It is recommended that the provision of facilities for young people reflect their need for challenges and to take risks. This should be both in the design and provision of equipment and in the design of the surrounding area.

It is recommended that there is regular use of detached workers (not necessarily youth workers) in parks when new facilities for young people are being considered in order to support the 'ownership' process.

Local spaces are of greater importance to young people than many other park users. The provision of facilities that suit their needs should reflect this. However young people are willing to travel further to reach specialist facilities e.g. a wheels park.

For older young people (approx. 16+ years) there is a strong wish to use motorbikes and scooters in green spaces:

- ▶ It would be beneficial to begin an awareness-raising campaign for young people on the incompatibility of motorised scooters in parks.
- ▶ Bristol Parks should consider a citywide (and wider with neighbouring authorities) strategy for managing the growth in the use of motorbikes in parks.

What we've done

Policy CY2 addresses providing more and varied facilities for young people

Will be considered as part of implementation – acknowledged in strategy

Yes, this is supported by the accompanying text in the strategy and by policy D1

The distance standards and performance standards for young people's spaces support this

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan. LM13 supports actions to reduce motorbike access

Appendix 4 You said, we did

Recommendation

Work to tackle the preconceived notion among some young people that vandalism of new facilities in parks and green spaces is a 'fait accompli' is important.

Older people use and value urban woodland areas and wildlife areas more than others. Their greater reliance on public transport and willingness to walk only shorter distances to these spaces means that the application and interpretation of the new Bristol distance standard should consider the distribution and access requirements of older people.

The provision of seating in parks along inclines that allows people to take a rest is important as is the provision of picnic benches in quiet, scenic areas away from environments dominated by young people.

A place for events and, correspondingly, a bandstand is more important to older people than the wider population.

Older people would benefit more from local events as they are more likely to use public transport to travel.

Ensure priority facilities for older people are provided in Destination sites.

Far more older people use the bus to get to parks and green spaces than the average. Bristol Parks needs to be more aware of how its green spaces link with the public transport system, especially those spaces that are attractive to older people, and provide information that connects the two.

What we've done

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan. Policy D1 supports outreach work

The distance standards have been set in accordance with user research which incorporated the views of older people. A higher percentage of older people than other groups consider themselves as disabled. The needs of disabled people and other equalities communities will be considered as part of Area Green Space Plans which will act to apply and interpret the Bristol Green Space Provision Standards locally.

Important consideration for improvement plans.

Facilities such as a bandstand can be considered as part of park improvement plans if local consultation elicits it as a need.

The Strategy supports public events in parks and will consider this recommendation in reviewing each year's programme. Bristol Parks will be employing a part-time officer who will consider this recommendation.

Destination sites are known to attract people of all ages from across the city and future management and improvements will act to ensure that this continues. The most important facilities for older people, as revealed by research, are very likely to be provided at a Destination Site.

Policy LM11 supports improved transport planning

Recommendation

Recognising that many park improvements are community-led and community-funded Bristol Parks should assess requests from the community for their impact on and the involvement of disabled groups. Bristol Parks should facilitate the participation of locally based disabled people.

Bristol Parks should consider introducing play rangers to play areas other than Blaise and Hengrove so that they can prevent intimidating behaviour by young people and work with parents and disabled children to create a safe and non-threatening environment.

For some disabled children introductory play sessions should be arranged by play rangers for Hengrove Play Park and potentially other play areas to introduce the facilities. There would be value in both a mixture of segregated and integrated activities being provided for disabled children.

An ideal site for most disabled people will be an ideal site for all park users. In general, disabled people may benefit more from clean, fully accessible toilets, open/accessible entrances, even and unobstructed paths, a 'quiet' area, accessible information and interpretation (inc. an information board), an area for events, a pond or stream, a park keeper on-site, picnic benches, and a refreshments van/café. Sites would also benefit from having tactile paving indicating the location of seating, well defined areas and routes within a park to stop people getting disoriented, incorporating sensory improvements to all areas within the park, not just one segregated area.

What we've done

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan. Policy D1 supports consultation with all communities.

The Strategy has not recommended that play rangers or other on-site staff be generally provided to supervise children's play because of the considerable cost of doing so. However, from Policy FG2 more traditional parks that have a children's play area will have a park keeper that can act to provide a level of site supervision.

Teams of play rangers are working with children in Knowle West, Hartcliffe/Withywood, Lawrence Weston and Barton Hill – funded by the Big Lottery Children's Play programme for three years up to 2010.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan. Subsequent recommendations are likely to be made for park improvement plans and site management plans to demonstrate how the needs of disabled people are being met.

Appendix 4 You said, we did



Recommendation

A formal space with its characteristic of good, well-planned design is generally a space well used by disabled people. However this may be a result of other types of space not being as accessible within Bristol. Access audits of a number of different types of site would ascertain this.

Ensure at least one park in each local need area should be made more appropriate for people with a range of impairments - accessible footpaths and toilets, signage and interpretation.

The use of motorbikes (and bikes also) in parks is a severe barrier for disabled people and its prevention should be tackled urgently.

Bristol Parks should provide a guide to disability issues in green spaces and the contact details of support groups and relevant care homes for use by park groups.

There is a need to ensure that the increased use of 'conservation cuts' don't act to restrict access to entrances, features or facilities. Long grass is a particular barrier to people with physical impairments.

It would be useful to review the provision of parking facilities and disabled parking bays at key parks and green spaces across the city. An assessment should be made as to whether new provision is required and how existing street provision links with site entrances.

What we've done

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

This is recognised within the Strategy. The council already works closely with the police on this issue with Project Biker. There are plans to extend Project Biker across the city.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan, but policy NG2 supports improved maintenance and management of natural green spaces to improve access and entrances.

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

A new Policy LM11 has been incorporated in the Strategy which will act to support this.

Recommendation

Bristol Parks should improve services for disabled people by working in four key areas:

1. Education and training of staff
 2. Improving safety in parks – improving the perception of safety and security in all different types of green spaces
 3. Provision of information – improving both the accessibility and targeting of information
 4. Working more closely with disabled people
-

What we've done

This recommendation will be considered when developing an equalities action plan.

With regard to safety, the Strategy acts in a host of ways to address safety concerns. For example by raising quality, the provision of park keepers, partnership working and improving access to natural green spaces.

Appendix 5 Factors for Assessing Value

How will the value of spaces be assessed?

The assessment of a site's value is not based on its financial value, it is an assessment of its value as land which contributes to the local community or has wider benefits - such as ecological value.

The assessment of value will be based on looking at both the positive value it has but also the negative effects the space might have on the locality it is in.

It will also assess current value and a site's potential to increase or retain value.

What spaces will be assessed?

We will only assess the value of spaces which are candidates for disposal or for change of use to a different type of space. This may be whole sites, but more often part of sites.

The following factors will be assessed:

Community value

This is an assessment of a site's value to the local community based on both feedback from local people and knowledge of changes taking place in the area.

Factor	Example of type of considerations
Level of use	Current use and potential for improved use
Community views of the space	Does the community think it's important and why? Views of different groups will be considered. Is there a sense of community ownership of the space?
Community involvement	Is there a group or potential group who are involved in the care of the site?
Equalities considerations	Does it have any features that are particularly important to specific equalities groups?
Educational significance	Is it currently used by schools? Is there the potential for it to act as an 'outdoor classroom'?
Demographic change	Could it meet the needs of any changes to the local population?
Level of anti-social behaviour	Does the space contribute to an ASB issue? How much does it affect the local community? Is it possible to reduce it?
Events	Does it hold events or could it?

Custodial value These are values which are largely fixed and will only be affected by external influences such as new housing being built alongside. They are intrinsic values of the site

Factor	Example of type of considerations
Local context and significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What other spaces there are nearby and how close? Would a community be disadvantaged if this space wasn't here? Is it a focus for the community? Is it a backland site?
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How accessible is the site in terms of getting to it or around it? Is it part of a greenway/cycle route/PROW? Does the space offer opportunities for those with poor mobility which other spaces nearby don't, therefore disadvantaging them by its removal – particularly in terms of assessing its topography?
Landscape significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what degree does it contribute to urban landscape character? Does it contribute to important views and vistas both to and from it? Does it include water as a feature?
Nature conservation significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it an important habitat? Is it protected or does it have protected species? Does it have veteran trees? Is it a wildlife corridor? Does it have a watercourse? Does it have geological interest?
Archaeological/Historical interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it have any features of significance to the locality/city? Significant social link with the past? Is it protected or registered?
Legal status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it common land, village green or under an Act of Parliament?
Economic value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it contribute to or reduce property values? Does it add to economic regeneration?
Sustainability significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to adaptation for climate change? Trees providing shade and temperature reduction? Good location to help control/ameliorate potential flooding?

Appendix 6 Section 106 contributions

S106 Achieving Positive Planning through Use of Planning Obligations

Recreational Facilities

The justification for requiring obligations in respect of Recreational Facilities is set out in Circular 05/2005 (Para B15), PPG17 and Policies L2 and NE12 of the Adopted Local Plan.

With effect from midnight on the date that the Council adopts the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy all planning applications eligible to make a contribution for the Recreational Facilities Planning Obligations will be subject to the revised contributions rates.

The level of recreational facilities contribution, total 50% per person contribution rate, has been revised in line with the Parks and Green Space Strategy Standards.

The Bristol Green Space Standard comprises of:

- a) Quantity and Distance - a combination of these standards is used to determine the spatial provision (formally the National Playing Fields Association Standards were used).
- b) Quality - improving the standard to Good.

The contribution rates have also been updated to reflect the Retail Price Index (RPI) cost increase from October 2005 to October 2007.

Typology	Locality Component Sq m / capita	Citywide Component Sq m / capita	Typology Totals Sq m / capita	Bristol Revised Rate Per Sq m	Bristol Cost Per Person	Bristol Cost 50% Per person
Childrens Play and Youth Space	0.4	0.1	0.5	£592.77	£296.39	£148.19
Formal Green Space	2	0.1	2.1	£202.13	£424.47	£212.23
Informal Green Space	8	3.9	11.9	£37.14	£441.92	£220.96
Natural Green Space	9	5.8	14.8	£26.97	£399.16	£199.58
Active Sports - Fixed *	0	0.07	0.07	£412.71	£28.89	£14.44
Active Sports - Seasonal *	0	3.54	3.54	£75.38	£266.84	£133.42

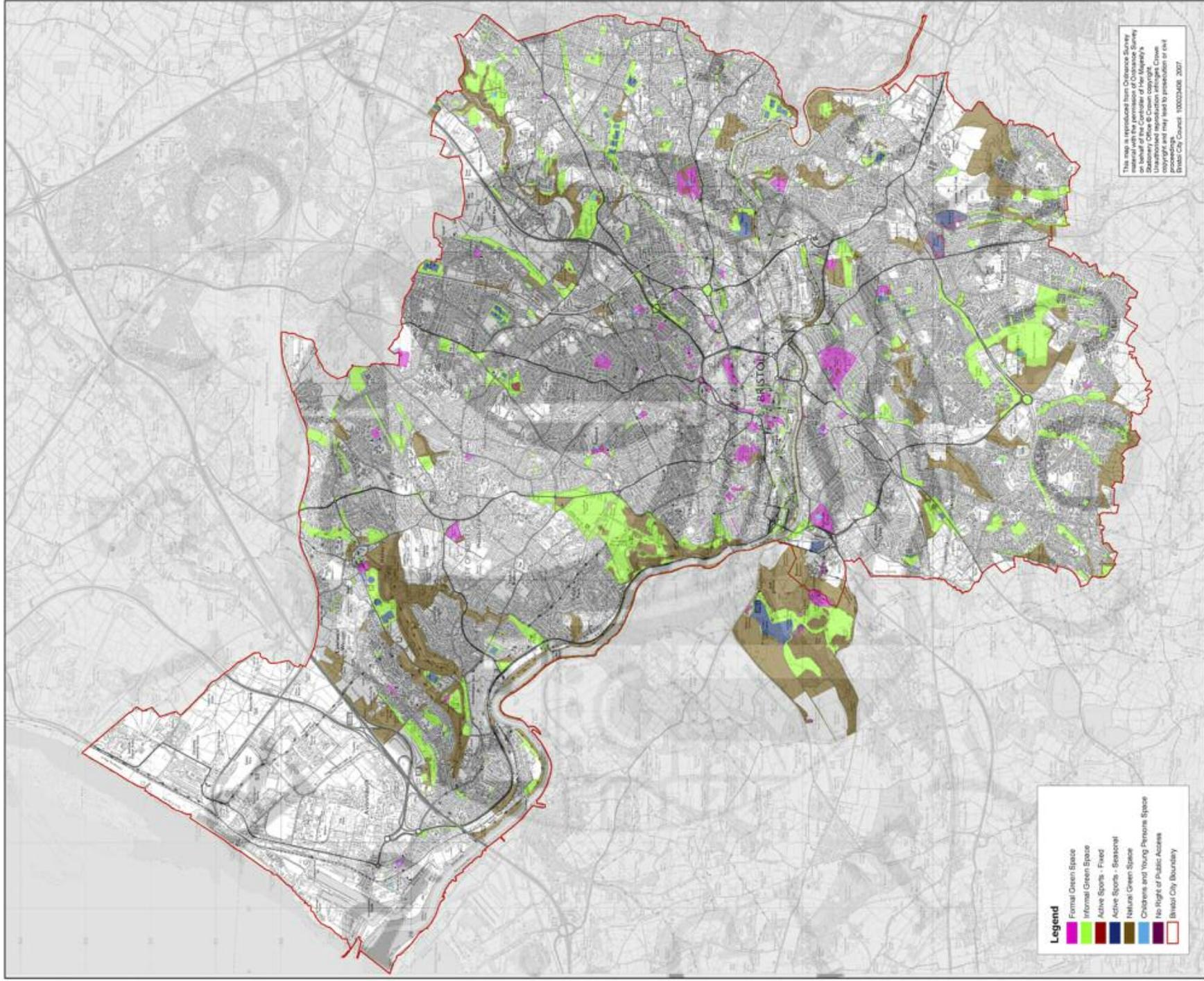
* *Playing Pitch Strategy*

Total 50% per person contribution rate £928.83

Maps:

The following maps appear in this appendix:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| <p>1. Typology Map of Parks and Green Space Strategy Sites -
shows where all the types of green space are across the city.</p> | 80 | <p>5. Distance to Children's Play Space -
shows the areas of Bristol that have access to Children's Play Space within the Bristol Distance Standard.</p> | 84 |
| <p>2. Average Quality Map by Area -
provides an overview of quality in each area of the city. The Bristol Quality Standard is 'Good'.</p> | 81 | <p>6. Distance to Informal Green Space -
shows the areas of Bristol that have access to Informal Green Space within the Bristol Distance Standard.</p> | 85 |
| <p>3. Quantity of Green Space by Area -
shows the overall amount of green space in each area of the city. This is expressed as the amount available per person in each area.</p> | 82 | <p>7. Distance to Formal Green Space -
shows the areas of Bristol that have access to Formal Green Space within the Bristol Distance Standard.</p> | 86 |
| <p>4. Distance to the Nearest Green Space -
shows the areas of Bristol that have access to green space within the Bristol Distance Standard.</p> | 83 | <p>8. Distance to Natural Green Space -
shows the areas of Bristol that have access to Natural Green Space within the Bristol Distance Standard.</p> | 87 |



Legend

- Formal Green Space
- Informal Green Space
- Active Sports - Fixed
- Active Sports - Seasonal
- Natural Green Space
- Children and Young Persons Space
- No Right of Public Access
- Bristol City Boundary

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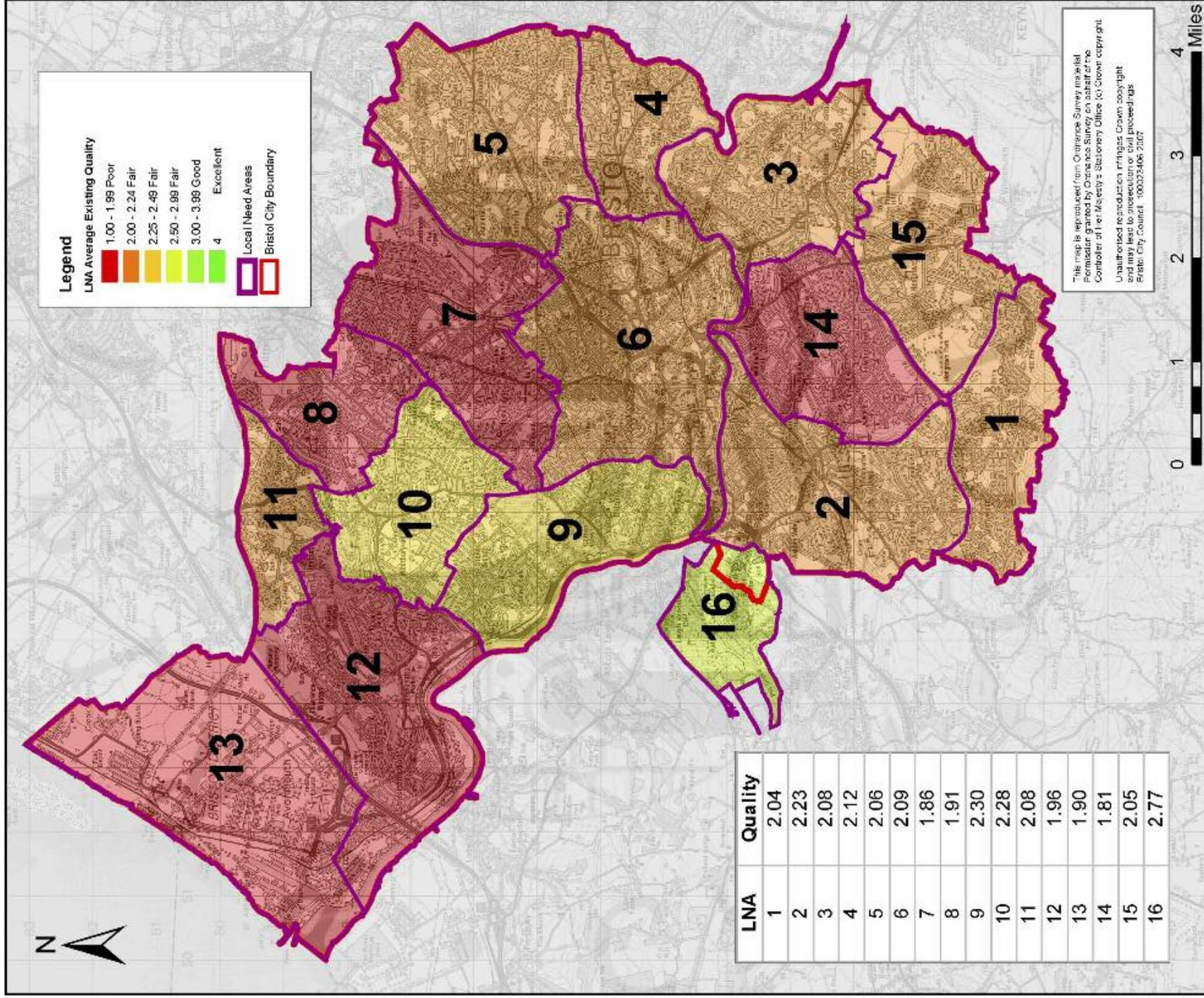
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Parks and Green Space Strategy

TYPOLGY MAPPING

Bristol City Wide
 Typology Mapping of P&GS Sites
 November 2007



Parks and Green Space Strategy

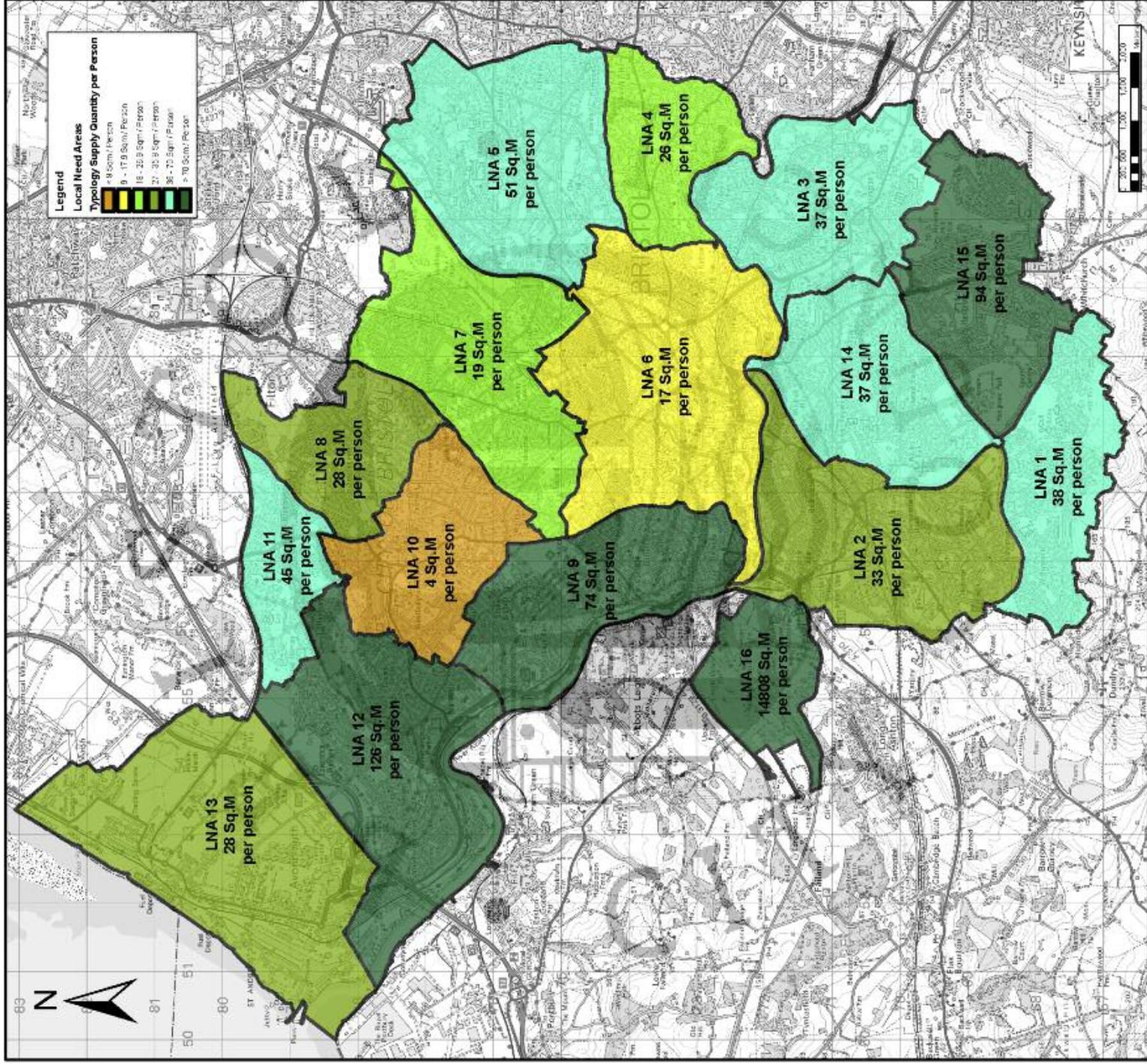
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Bristol Parks, Culture and Leisure

**Local Need Area
Average Existing Quality**





Parks and Green Space Strategy

Subject: Typology Supply Quantity per Person by
Local Need Area (LNA)
Compared to the 18 Sq. Metre / Person Standard.
Date: 21/01/2008

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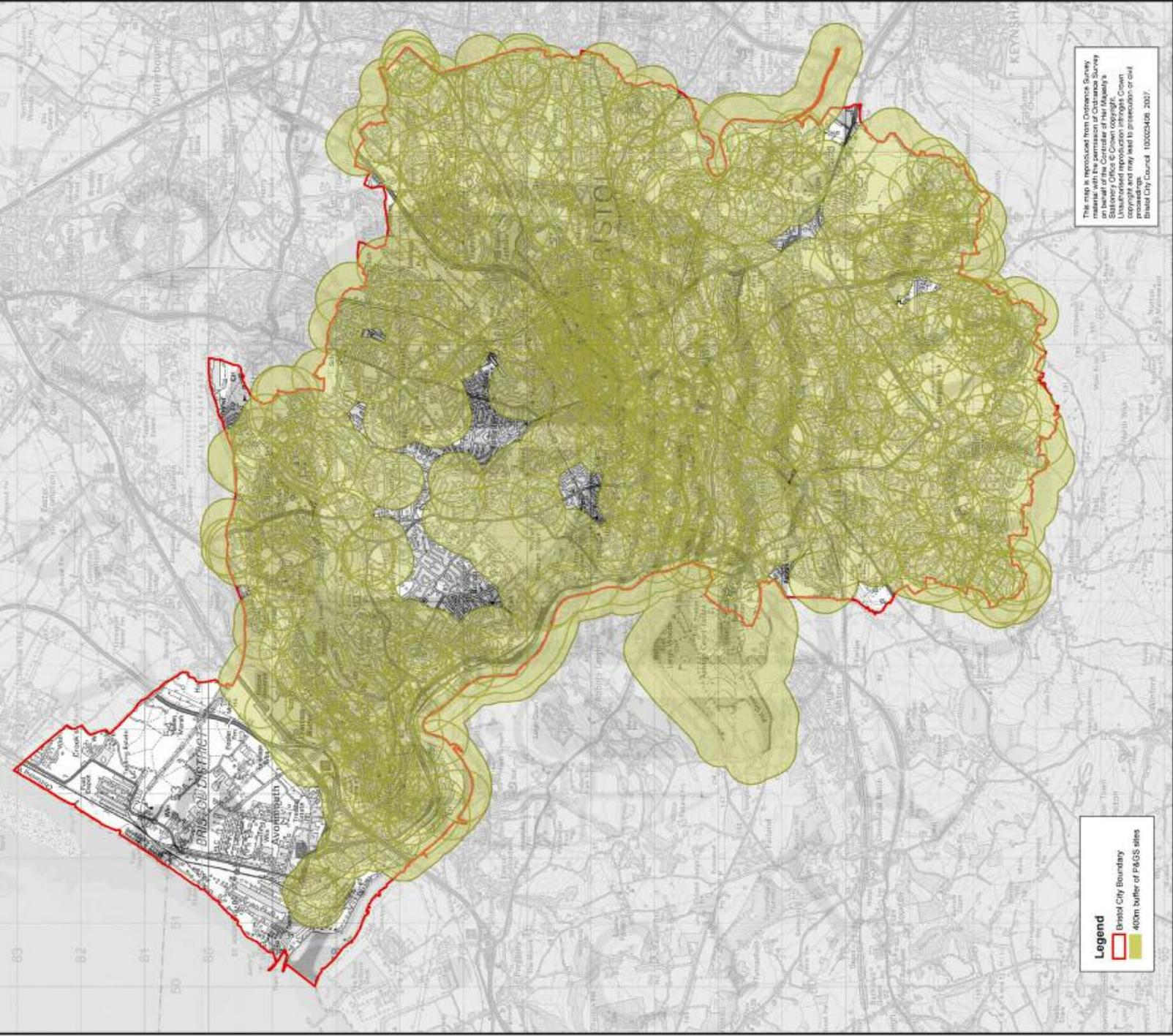
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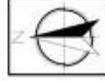
Parks and Green Space Strategy

TYPOLGY : ALL P&GS SITES

FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY

Distance Buffer 400 Metre Radius
Within 9 Minutes Radius

May 2007

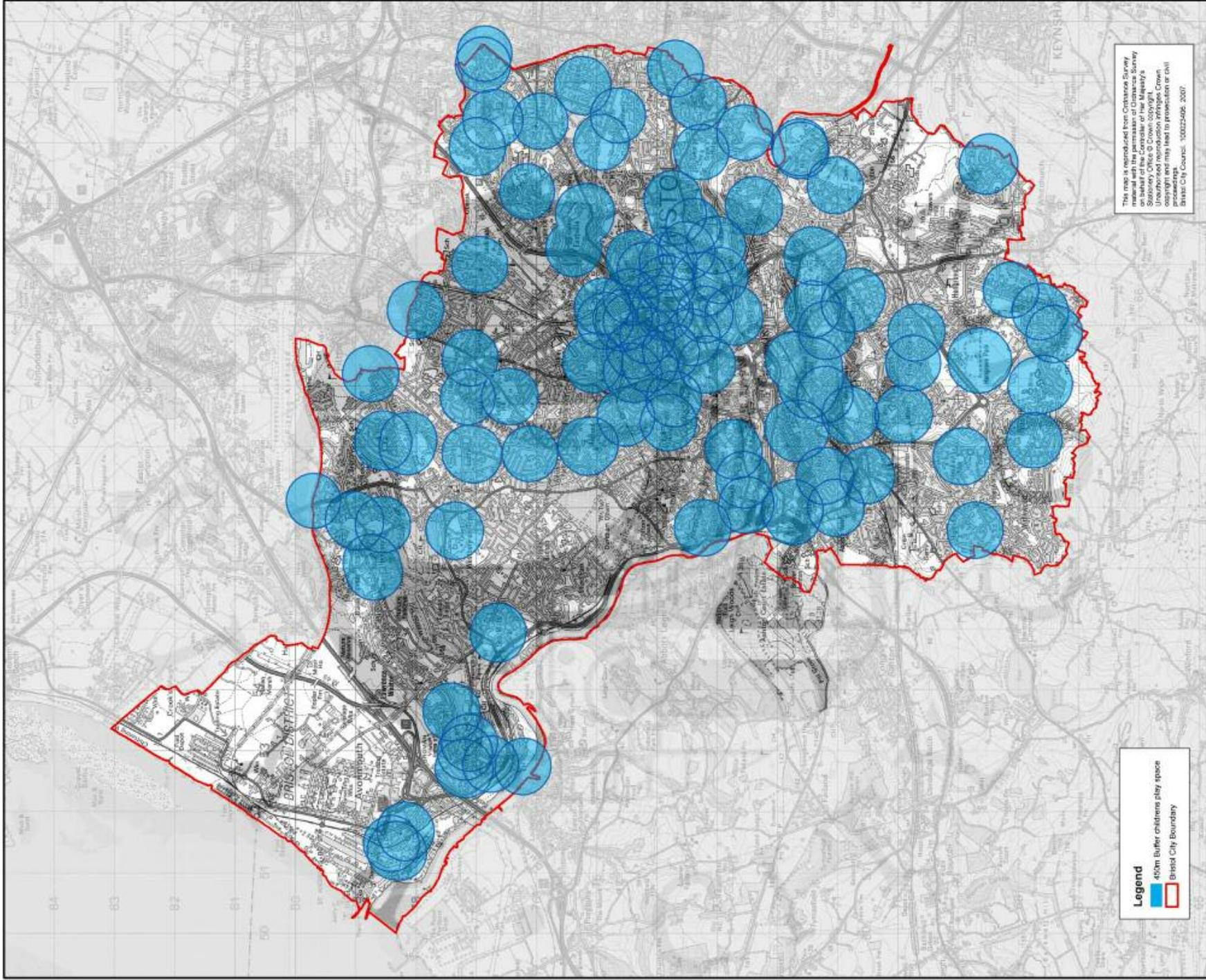


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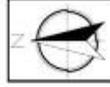
Parks and Green Space Strategy

TYPOLGY : CHILDRENS PLAY SPACE

FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY

Distance Buffer 450 Metre Radius
Within 10 Minutes Radius

May 2007



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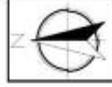
Parks and Green Space Strategy

TYPOLGY : INFORMAL GREEN SPACE

FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY

Distance Buffer 550 Metre Radius
Within 13 Minutes Radius

May 2007

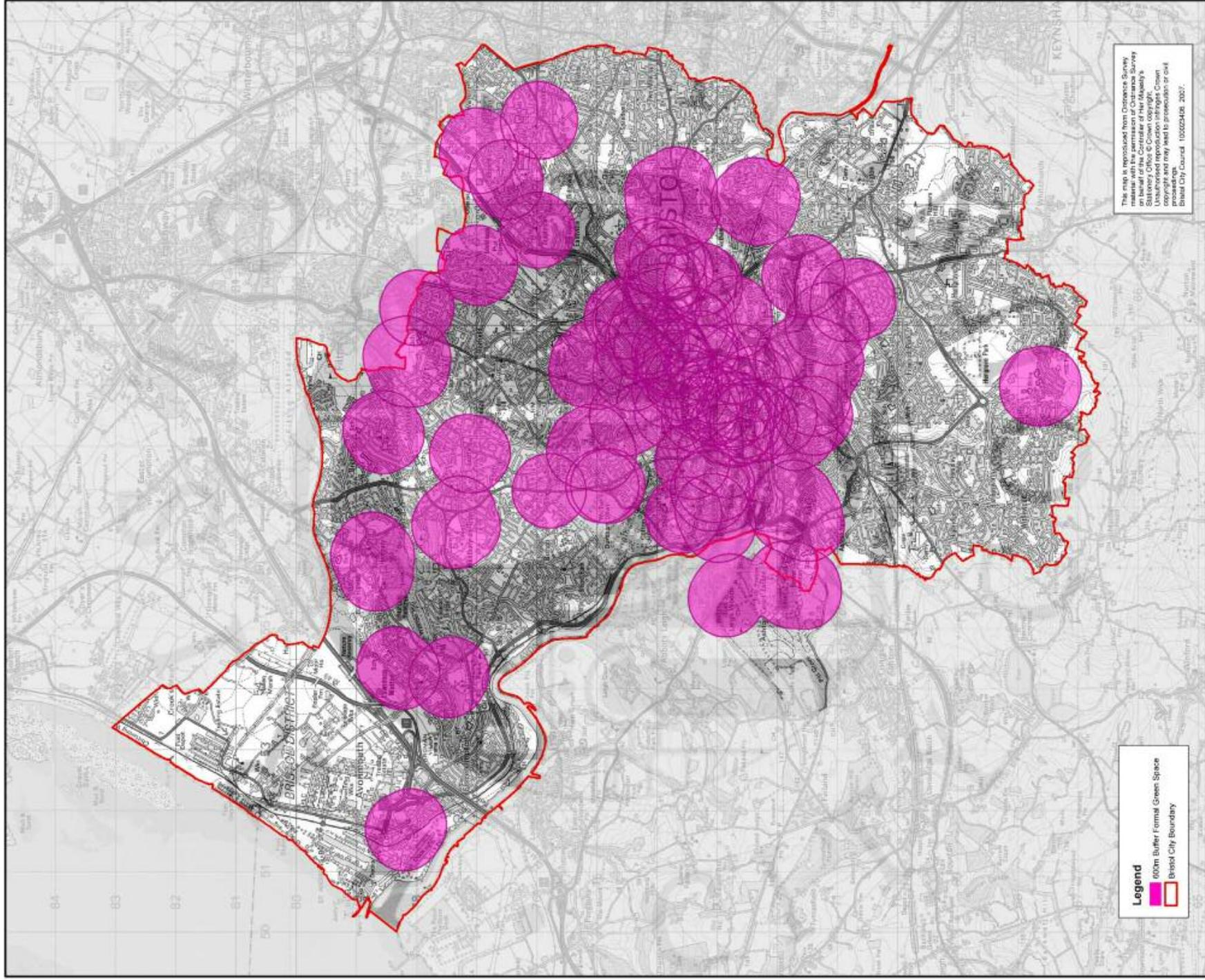


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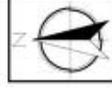
Parks and Green Space Strategy

TYOLOGY : FORMAL GREEN SPACE

FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY

Distance Buffer 600 Metre Radius
Within 15 Minutes Radius

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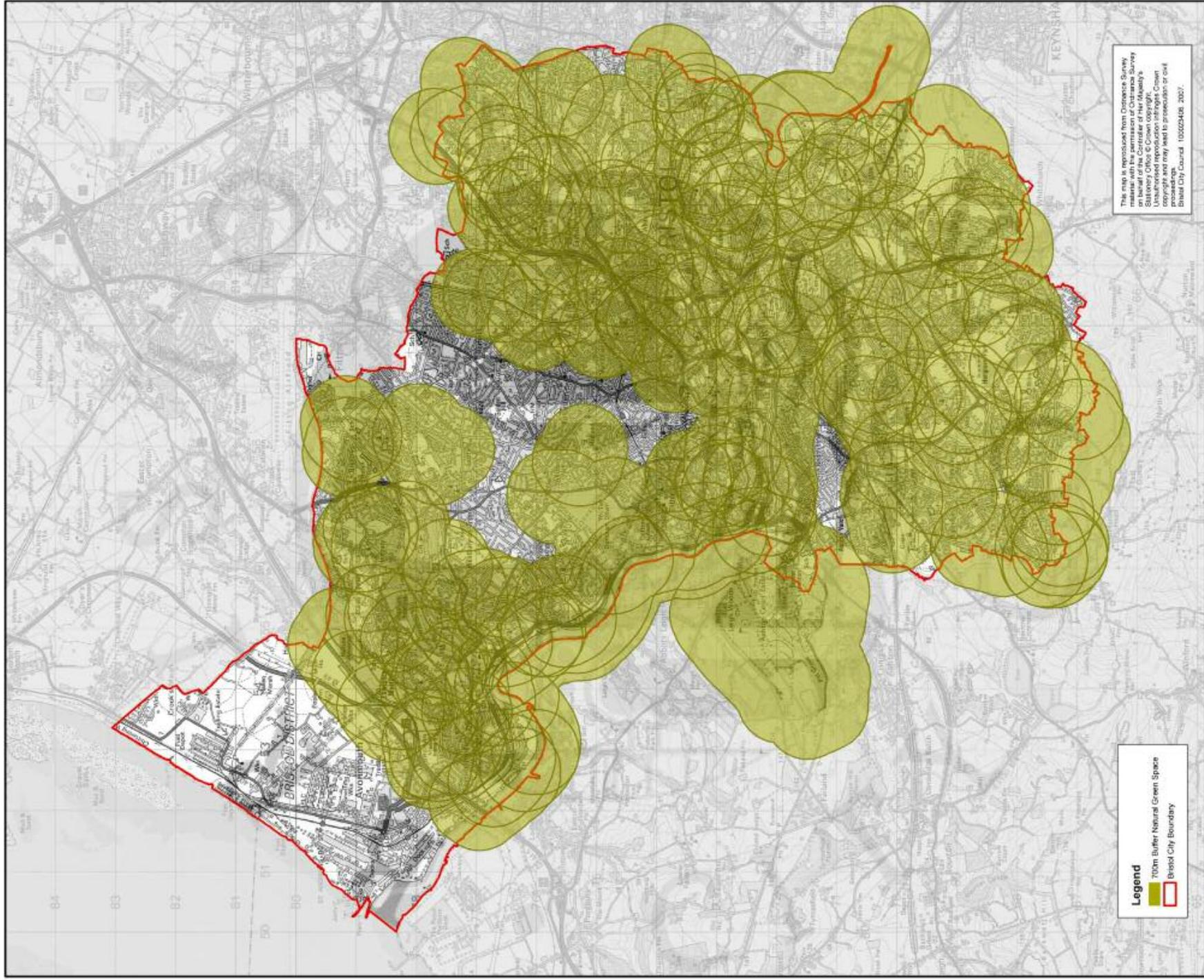
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Legend
 600m Buffer Formal Green Space
 Bristol City Boundary

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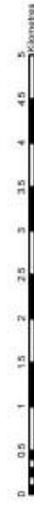
Parks and Green Space Strategy

TYOLOGY : NATURAL GREEN SPACE

FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY

Distance Buffer 700 Metre Radius
Within 18 Minutes Radius

May 2007



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