

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL  
CABINET**

**21 February 2008**

**Report of: Director of Culture & Leisure Services**

**Title: Strategy for Improving Bristol's Parks and Green Spaces**

**Ward: Citywide**

**Contact Officer:** Peter Wilkinson  
Department of Culture & Leisure Services

**Contact telephone number:** (0117) 9223535

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. To adopt the Parks and Green Space Strategy;
2. To agree the capital ring fencing arrangements and the proposals to create sustained revenue funding increases as set out in the report.

**Summary**

The Parks and Green Space Strategy (P&GSS) provides additional planning protection for valuable green spaces, and enables the council to meet its requirement to adopt an 'open space strategy' in line with Planning Policy Guidance 17, and is consistent with the emerging Bristol Development Framework.

The strategy also proposes significant and sustained investment in the city's green spaces over the next 20 years, producing positive outcomes for all communities and helping to deliver policies for Balanced and Sustainable Communities, public health, community safety, young people and tackling the impact of climate change. In the next five years the council, with its partners, will prioritise investment on a range of popular park improvements - such as new play spaces, sports facilities, toilets and cafes, access improvements, wildlife areas and park keepers.

The main P&GSS consultation was well received and has provided

significant support for the proposed new policy framework for the city's parks and green spaces - and has achieved a broad consensus in relation to where the benefits of investment should be targeted and the standards towards which the Council should aim. Subsequently, concerns were generated by the financing proposals in a report published for January 10<sup>th</sup> Cabinet (withdrawn at the meeting), and these have been addressed in this report.

Alternative use of some areas of current open space, enabling neighbourhood regeneration and supporting growth targets for housing and economic development, has also been accepted in principle as long as valuable green space is not lost, the strategy leads to capital investment in service improvement and is backed up by sustained improvements in park maintenance and management.

### **The significant issues in the report are:**

- Key issues arising from the public consultation and how these have been addressed in the final version of the strategy (paras 8 – 10) – including modifications to the initial proposals for capital ring fencing
- Links between the strategy and the emerging Bristol Development Framework, including identifying areas of 'low value' green space for development to support city growth aspirations (paras 11 – 13)
- Funding for implementation of the strategy, including the disposal of land to attract capital for reinvestment, arrangements for capital ring fencing, and funding for increased annual revenue funding for park maintenance and management (para 14 and Financial Implications)
- The need to accelerate the initial stages of implementation and deliver Area Green Space Plans along Neighbourhood Partnership boundaries - by the appointment of a strategy implementation team with representation of key departments (paras 15 – 18)
- The strategy has been subject to a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment to enable the barriers to green space use faced by equalities groups to be addressed (para 23)

### **Policy**

1. The Parks and Green Space Strategy will help deliver City Council policy in relation to the new Corporate Plan, as follows:-
  - **Ambitious Together** – the strategy is closely tied to the emerging policies for housing and economic growth in the Bristol Development Framework. It supports neighbourhood regeneration, including at Hengrove Park and in South Bristol generally. It will also help to diversify the council's workforce, taking positive action in recruitment of new staff.

- **Making a difference** – supporting the educational achievement and wider development of young people, including providing better outdoor play facilities and development of a parks apprenticeship programme. Improving access to parks and green spaces via cycle and on foot, and for disabled people.
- **Safer and Healthier** – providing higher quality and more accessible outdoor sports and play facilities to help combat poor health and particularly obesity, and working with partners to reduce the level of crime and anti social behaviour in neighbourhoods.
- **Better Neighbourhoods** – improving the environmental quality of the public realm by increased funding for green space management, plus supporting wider council policy to protect biodiversity and tackle the impact of climate change on the city.

The proposal to ring fence capital receipts to reinvest directly in the parks service is a departure from the current Corporate Land Policy, which is based on a ‘single capital pot’.

## Consultation

### Internal

2. All city council departments have been consulted on the draft P&GSS

A Joint meeting of the Quality of Life and Physical Environment Scrutiny Commissions met on 18<sup>th</sup> October, and resolved “*that the Commissions endorse the general strategy but ask that the mechanism by which Parks receive S106 monies be addressed to enable schemes to be designed in advance of the funding being handed over by the developer.*”

### External

3. The development of the draft strategy, followed by the 10 week public consultation enabled the council to engage with a wide range of individuals and external organisations. Appendix A provides a full report including a list of those involved.

Concerns were expressed by stakeholders (particularly members of the Parks Forum) and in media correspondence about the land disposal implications of the funding proposals in the report submitted to Cabinet on 10 January (which was withdrawn at the meeting). The proposals have been clarified and modified in the light of further consultation on this.

## Context

4. The need for the council to produce a strategy originated from two areas. First, the findings from public satisfaction surveys, other research and customer feedback that the quality of parks and green spaces was low in most parts of the city. Second, the requirement of Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) that local authorities should prepare open space strategies based on setting local provision standards to meet the needs of the population, now and in the future.
5. PPG17 sets out a framework for setting standards which cover the quality, accessibility and quantity of green space which has a recreational function for the general public, and as such provides the driver for service improvement for the parks service. Importantly, the strategy has been managed as a corporate initiative embracing open space managed by a range of city council departments. It recognises the need to rationalise artificial boundaries between departments to lead a whole council approach; for example in the management of housing open space.
6. The draft strategy was produced following exhaustive background primary research over two years which involved input from nearly 6000 people plus the delivery of a thorough open space audit of over 400 green spaces with 'legitimate public access' - which is the cornerstone of any PPG17 compliant strategy.
7. The City Council has benefited from ongoing 'enabling' support from the Government's lead authority on public space, CABE Space, who have provided advice to the project team and have consistently recognised the project in Bristol as national best practice.

### **Key Issues arising from the consultation**

8. The public consultation on the draft strategy lasted for 10 weeks between June and September, and proved to be an effective way to engage with a wide range of individuals and organisations. The full consultation report is set out in Appendix A.
9. The consultation identified eight headline issues, which needed to be given further consideration in finalising the strategy. These are highlighted in the table below, with the proposed amendments to the draft strategy highlighted:-

<b>Headline issues</b>	<b>Proposed approach in final version of strategy</b>
1. Investment to raise quality through capital spending will be wasted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set aside a proportion of capital receipts to fund life cycle maintenance and explain the mechanism for this.</li> </ul>

<p>if there isn't a parallel and explicit commitment to increase revenue spending.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the distinction between annual revenue costs such as for grounds maintenance (dealt with via the Medium Term Financial Plan and the grounds maintenance procurement review) and life cycle costs for repairing and replacing damaged or worn out assets (dealt with in this report).</li> </ul>
<p>2. Prioritisation of strategy delivery with regard to reaching the Bristol Quality Standard; how priorities are decided and which areas are to be improved first</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more information on Area Green Space Plans (AGSPs) as the means to establish local investment priorities – based on Neighbourhood Partnership areas. Include brief for AGSPs in strategy appendix.</li> <li>• Include Delivery plan for first 5 years to explain timetable for area planning (alongside other strategic work areas), which needs to support the site allocations process of the BDF Core Strategy.</li> </ul>
<p>3. The criteria and process behind the identification of 'low value green space' to determine whether to propose it for disposal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include new text in the standards chapter to explain what is meant by 'low value green space', supplemented by further explanation in the strategy appendix.</li> <li>• Explain that the identification of low value space will be part of the area planning process.</li> </ul>
<p>4. The location of land proposed for disposal and the potential disproportional effect of the disposal policy i.e. a majority of loss being in a few communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See commentary in 2 and 3 above.</li> </ul>
<p>5. The achievability of raising quality without staff who can act to develop community ownership, prevent vandalism, animate parks and act to improve safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor improvements to text as appropriate, including reference to 'neighbourhood park keepers' as well as there being focus on traditional parks for site based staffing.</li> <li>• Include definition of Anti Social Behaviour in text box within Informal Green Space chapter to confirm the strategy does not intend to have a negative focus on young people.</li> <li>• Wider C&amp;LS service areas covering young people, play, arts, events and festivals to undertake further work to support this vital area of service delivery.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Concern that the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See commentary in 2, 3 and 4 above.</li> </ul>

<p>quantity standard will be applied crudely and that, eventually, all of the city will have green space at the minimum standard of 18/27.8m<sup>2</sup> / capita. Concern that the quantity standard will weaken the council's position in terms of defending higher value and important green space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing explanation of how the standards will be applied is probably sufficient, but will be subject to minor redrafting with additional explanatory text added in the introductory sections of the final document – use helpful comparison with the minimum wage.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Community participation in the delivery of the strategy, from deciding priorities through to implementation is key to its success.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve drafting including additional policies for participation and events/animation, in line with 5 above.</li> </ul>
<p>8. There is support, particularly from certain organisations, for greater consideration to be given to the provision of trees and street trees in the Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include new policy covering trees within a longer section on Sustainable Management of Green Space and Climate Change.</li> <li>Clarify the connections between the P&amp;GSS and the proposal to produce a separate Street Tree Strategy for trees on highways.</li> </ul>

10. The above amendments to the draft strategy have been made, and are included in the recommended final version of the P&GSS, which is attached as Appendix B. A number of other improvements to the draft have also been made, the most significant being:-

- New text and a diagram to explain what is included and excluded from the scope of the strategy.
- New text to explain the status of the city docks and 'hard' city centre spaces as an exception to the rule that the strategy covers recreational green space. This is because city centre visitors and residents make use of this space which supplements the general lack of green space in the central area.
  - Summary of research findings, to demonstrate the connection between need and proposed policy. This was advised by CABE Space to improve alignment with PPG17.
  - New policy covering public toilets in parks, which was a particular concern of equalities groups and one of the key findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment.

- Additional text to establish stronger links between the strategy and the city's need to mitigate and adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.
- Additional appendices, including maps and summary papers, to ensure presentation of the strategy conforms with PPG17 requirements.

It is proposed that this final version of the strategy will be published early in March and publicised via news release and photocall, plus the web.

### **Bristol Development Framework (BDF)**

11. The P&GSS has a vital role in supporting the development of land use and environmental policy in the Core Strategy to ensure protection of the most needed and high value green space, at a time of immense pressure for land to be used to meet growth targets for housing and economic development. At the same time, the intelligent application of the green space standards can enable the release of some areas of low value green space to support growth targets, as long as a climate of consent can be established within the Bristol population that the benefits of investment in improving park quality are fairly balanced with delivery of these wider land use planning imperatives within neighbourhoods.
12. Officers within Planning, Transport & Sustainable Development (PTSD) and Culture & Leisure Services (CLS) continue to work closely together to ensure the BDF timetable and the initial delivery programme for the P&GSS are closely aligned. In addition to policy in the Core Strategy which will identify the importance of green space in taking forward the city's growth agenda and creating more balanced and sustainable neighbourhoods, it is likely that the green space standards from the P&GSS will be included as new planning policy in the Development Control Development Plan Document. This is needed to meet the requirements of PPG17 and strongly advocated by CABE Space to ensure the standards 'have teeth'.
13. The other key imperative will be to align the Area Green Space Planning process with the timetable to produce the Site Allocations Development Plan Document, which is the essential means whereby low value space can be identified to contribute to the city's targets for new housing in particular; especially in South Bristol. Additional staff resources to support this work over the next 2 years are crucial if these processes are going to work together.

### **Funding and implementation**

14. The P&GSS is essentially an ambitious asset management plan for the city's parks and green spaces, to invest in improvements in quality to deliver recreational benefits and meet the health and environmental needs of current and future populations, and to sustain this higher quality with assured increases in on-going maintenance. It is not credible that the significant investment necessary would be found from normal council financial revenue and capital programmes; moreover the strategy identifies that there are areas of open space with low recreational value which are (and would remain) surplus to parks requirements. Part of the solution to providing immediate capital funding needs and long term revenue sustainability is therefore present as an under-used land resource. Capital and revenue funding proposals, and land implications, are set out in detail towards the end of this report under "Resource Implications".
15. There is a certain level of urgency required in relation to delivering the first phase of strategy implementation, which is to finalise the Area Green Space Plans as explained in paragraph 13 above. Once this phase has been completed, to support the wider growth ambitions of the BDF and identify the spatial impact of applying the green space standards and other policies for service improvement, the speed of delivery will be commensurate with ongoing S106 contributions, the allocation of capital receipts from disposals and the council (and its partners') success in attracting new grant aid.
16. Alongside the preparation of Area Green Space Plans, there is a need to progress individual improvement projects where there is a clear rationale which would not conflict with the wider Area Plan. There is a high level of public interest and expectation, and tangible improvements are needed alongside preparation of plans.
17. Both area plans and individual projects must build on the good consultative and participative approach which the strategy has already demonstrated. There is also an excellent opportunity to work closely with the new Neighbourhood Partnerships: they will provide a welcome focus for local engagement and leadership on this agenda.
18. It is therefore proposed that a strategy Delivery Team is appointed comprising officers from CLS, Central Support Services, Neighbourhood & Housing Services and PTSD who will drive the initial area green space planning process, raise resources and direct investment, and ensure the 14 area plans based on Neighbourhood Partnership boundaries are both corporately owned and delivered in the first 2 years. The delivery team will include a new Strategy Coordinator within CLS, with additional capacity for programme management and public participation support in the first two years, plus a post to deliver the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Additional staff resources from CSS and PT&SD will also be allocated

to support the team and ensure the BDF and Corporate Asset Management Plan processes are fully aligned with the P&GSS. To this end, it is proposed that the additional costs of the Delivery Team in the first two years will be funded from future capital receipts, after which a review of the need and function of the team will be undertaken.

Joint Scrutiny have recommended that the mechanism by which Bristol Parks receive S106 monies be addressed to enable schemes to be designed in advance of the funding being handed over by the developer. This would significantly help speed up delivery arrangements, and therefore officers are investigating whether this is feasible. If so, the intention is that this approach will be adopted in the management of the park investment programme.

### **Other Options Considered**

19. A wide range of policy and funding options have been considered in the drafting of the P&GSS. These have all been reconsidered in the light of the public consultation, informing any policy changes and funding strategy now recommended to Cabinet. Appendix A presents detailed responses to these.

### **Risk Assessment**

20. The main risks of not agreeing to this course of action are as follows: -
  - Bristol residents and visitors continue to experience a level of public service across the city's parks and green spaces which do not meet their wider social, economic and environmental needs;
  - That the council's approach to green space asset management and strategic land use planning contradict each other;
- 21 The main risks of agreeing to this course of action are as follows:-
  - That funding for the implementation of the strategy is not forthcoming to deliver the scale of quality improvement, which will impact on achievement of the wider vision for the city's parks and green spaces;
  - That public support for the strategy is not sustained, due to delays in implementation and poor management of expectations;
  - That support for the strategy is not sustained due to the potential negative perception of small scale land disposals in neighbourhoods, in relation to the levels of reinvestment in park improvements.
  - That applications are made to have sites registered as Town Greens which have been, or should be, identified for disposal. Even if unsuccessful, this could delay disposal and therefore the ability to

progress the strategy. It is emphasised that the underpinning principles of the strategy protect valuable green space, and therefore this is relevant as a risk only in cases where applications are made regarding sites that should be disposed of.

22. The action taken to mitigate these risks is:-

- Secure funding mechanisms for capital and revenue funding as part of the delivery programme, in addition to the positive policies already agreed within Supplementary Planning Document 4 for developer contributions – the latter could finance 20% of the investment needs;
- Complete the programme of Area Green Space Plans within a maximum of 2 years, in order to inform the next stage of the BDF, confirm investment priorities for the first 5 years and enable local communities and other stakeholders to be clear about what can be achieved.
- Ensure that the BDF adopts the Bristol Green Space Standards (and outcomes from Area Green Space Plans) in a way that clarifies the scale of open space required for residential and economic development objectives, alongside strong environmental policy to protect high value and much needed green space.
- Ensure appropriate legal advice is taken to minimise the risk of town green applications frustrating the strategy. Build community consensus on proposals.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

23. A full equalities impact assessment has been undertaken for the strategy, which is summarised in the appendix of the adopted strategy, which was also part of the public consultation. A key process following the assessment is to deliver the Equalities Action Plan for the P&GSS in partnership with the equalities forums and other key stakeholders.

### **Legal and Resource Implications:**

**Legal:** There are no legal implications that are immediately apparent from this report. However, once the strategy is adopted, any contracts or funding arrangements will require legal scrutiny. Any applications for registration of land as Town or Village Greens will immediately be notified to the appropriate Council staff.

***Legal advice given by: Frances Horner, Senior Solicitor  
(Legal)***

**Financial:**

## Capital:

The financial model for the strategy has identified that the capital costs of bringing the city's parks and green spaces from an average current quality of 'fair' to 'good' over 20 years is in the order of £87m at 2006 prices.

This capital could be raised through a combination of developer contributions (Section 106), grant and existing resources, and capital receipts. The mix of these in the funding model has changed since the initial consultation in three respects

- a. The anticipated level of developer contributions (Section 106) has reduced from £30m to £15m over the life of the strategy. The reasons for this are technical, and relate to the locally derived standards which form the basis of the strategy, and taking a more conservative forecast of developer contributions.
- b. The anticipated level of grant income (from lottery, etc) has increased from £11m to £21m over the life of the strategy. Grants have averaged approximately £3m per annum over the last decade and the original figure assumed a sharp reduction. This was a response to uncertainty over the future of the lottery and anticipated pressures on funding for regeneration etc, noting that performance over the recent period has been exceptionally good. However the conclusion of a review of the figures was that the downgrading by over 80% was too pessimistic, particularly as the current strategy has been well received by relevant agencies which positions the service well for future applications. The revised projection is still a reduction by over 60% from previous performance.
- c. The contribution to direct capital investment from land disposal has increased from £36m to £41m. The current Corporate Land Policy allocates all receipts from land disposals to the council's overall investment priorities. However, it is proposed to make an exception to this, by which a minimum of 70% of receipts from all open space disposals will be allocated to parks and green space reinvestment. The current figures are a modification of the proposal in the (withdrawn) report to Cabinet on 10 January in which the land contribution under this heading was £51m.

In summary capital funding of £87m is projected to be through a combination of:-

- Developer contributions (Section 106) = £15m
- Grant resources = £21m

- Capital receipts from land sales = £41m
- Existing resources = £10m

A shortfall in any of the funding streams including land receipts would delay the full implementation of the Strategy.

It is proposed that the additional costs of the Delivery Team (estimated at £100k p.a.) will in effect be funded in the first two years from future capital receipts, after which a review of the need and function of the team will be reviewed. Future capital receipts will also contribute to the creation of an ongoing revenue stream for replacement and renewal (see below).

### **Revenue:**

Bristol has had a comparatively low level of revenue funding for parks and open space maintenance over many years. The consequences of this are visible in poor quality facilities at – or even beyond – the end of their useful life. This is the background which has made this strategy necessary and it is therefore necessary to ensure that improvements are sustainable, not just a temporary delay of long term decline. Well informed stakeholders emphasised the central importance of this in their response to the consultation on the strategy.

Revenue funding is needed for two kinds of work – routine maintenance (e.g. grass cutting, cleansing and running repairs) and “life cycle maintenance” (major repairs and replacement of worn out features). Routine maintenance funding was considered in the context of the Grounds Maintenance Procurement Review (report to Cabinet on 4 February) and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) where significant increases are planned, including uplift of £402k in 2008/09.

This leaves life cycle maintenance to be addressed by the funding arrangements for this strategy. It is proposed that recurring finance for ‘life cycle maintenance’ will be secured by using capital contributions to repay debt. The repayment of debt will reduce future costs in relation to interest payments and to the repayment of outstanding debt, and it will therefore be possible to transfer budgetary provision from ‘capital financing’ to a recurring ‘life cycle maintenance’ budget for the parks service. This will ensure transparency, and will mean that the level and use of the budget can be monitored. The use of a proportion of capital receipts for this purpose does mean that the pace of investment in capital improvements will be somewhat reduced, but it is considered that this is justified by the need for a clear mechanism to fund this work

in the long term. The estimated level of ongoing funding for lifecycle maintenance required by the completion of the 20 year implementation period is £4.2m per annum at current prices.

Continuing flows of grant income and core parks renewals budgets will contribute approximately £1m per annum worth of replacements and renewals towards this, leaving £3.2m to find. It is therefore proposed to build up an ongoing revenue stream of £3.2m per annum by investment of £32m over the life of the strategy, derived from:-

- £10m developer contribution (S106)
- £22m capital receipts from land sales

Appendix C presents a summary schedule of resource implications.

***Financial advice given by: Mike Harding, Head of Finance - CLS and Chris Williams***

#### **Land:**

Most of the land covered by the strategy is held by the city council.

There has been strong public concern over a perceived risk that the funding requirements of the strategy would lead to excessive levels of land disposal. It is important to confirm that this strategy (including the provision standards) provides strong new policy protections for valuable open space, and land disposals will have to be justified on a case by case basis following detailed and public scrutiny. The reason the strategy does not contain specific proposals for land disposal is that they have yet not been made, as this careful process has not yet taken place. Indeed the underpinning principles of the strategy and the ring fencing proposals identified in this report are needed to provide a robust platform for public engagement in detailed planning.

Moreover the strategy comes forward at a time of significant change in the city's land use policy and strategy under the BDF. Proposed changes need to be considered not only in terms of whether they are justified by parks provision but also whether the alternative uses are suitable for the wider urban fabric. Therefore it is not appropriate to set a target for the percentage of open space that is to be used for alternative purposes over the next two decades. The figures used in resource implications – financial (above), demonstrate that there is a credible funding model but

they do not over-ride the fundamental principle of protecting valuable open space.

The scale and pace of reinvestment will if necessary be constrained by the ability to raise capital investment funding. 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 at this point.

**Personnel:**

An implementation team will be created to ensure progress with delivering the strategy, from a combination of re-allocation of existing work programmes in relevant departments and short term appointments.

**Advice given by:** Mark Williams, HR Manager

**Appendices:**

- A: Draft strategy public consultation report
- B: Proposed final version of the strategy
- C: Resource Implications

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION  
Background Papers**

# **Bristol City Council Cabinet report – Parks and Green Space Strategy**

**Cabinet date:** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008

## **APPENDIX A**

Draft full report on the response to the public consultation process for Bristol's Parks and Green Space Strategy including summary of submissions and officer response.

# **Draft full report on the response to the public consultation process for Bristol's Parks and Green Space Strategy including summary of submissions and officer response.**

**By:** Richard Fletcher, Bristol Parks, Culture and Leisure Services.

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

Between July and September 2007 Bristol City Council invited public comment on its draft Parks and Green Space Strategy. The Strategy was drafted after an earlier, extensive market and public research process. 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.

## **Representations:**

Support for the Parks and Green Space Strategy has been high with strong support for the council's vision for raising quality. The response to the consultation survey reveals strong support for the policy framework, notwithstanding some concerns, and throughout the research and consultation phases interest in the city's green spaces has been very high.

*CABE Space:*                    “...the depth of work carried out to provide a detailed evidence base and the bold approach taken in the strategy to improving Bristol's green spaces is to be commended”.

*Public comment:*            “This is an excellent document and gives heart to those of us who enjoy our local parks....”

**Consultation dates:** 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> September

## **Consultation objectives:**

- To generate public comment that would improve the final draft of the Strategy;
- To ensure people are aware of the strategy and how to respond;
- To generate support for the strategy and its aims from the public, known stakeholders and members;
- To continue good practice and re-engage with individuals, groups and organisations involved in the earlier research process;
- To encourage representations from communities across the city;
- To engage with specific interest groups in order to support interpretation of the strategy.

**Promotion:**

Promotion of the consultation period included:

- Planned and staggered media campaign incorporating releases to BBC Radio Bristol, Evening Post and Folio magazine;
- Poster campaign – all community and public buildings and central adshel boards;
- Galleries animation – through September 2007;
- Temporary exhibitions – Bristol Museum, Council House, Central Library, Brunel House;
- Public and stakeholder events – 24 sessions reaching 307 people including stakeholder conference, Bristol Parks Forum conference;
- Releases to local websites and newsletters;
- Targeted postal promotion to 1900 individuals/groups/organisations;
- Bespoke online website.

**Response:**

The consultation attracted comments from:

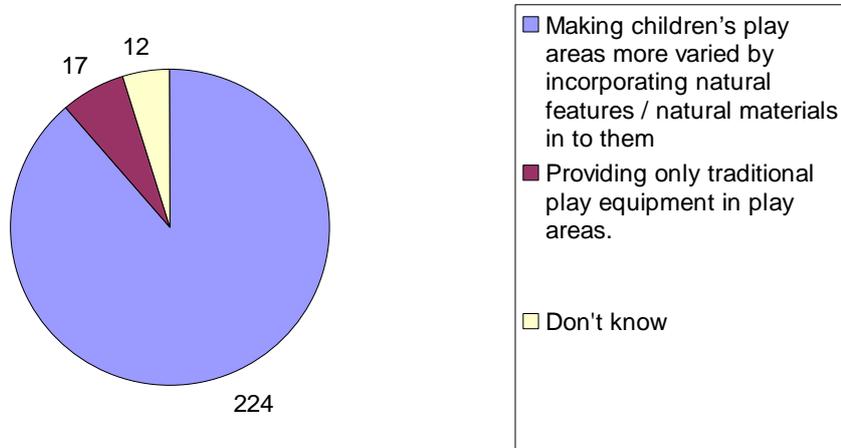
- 281 individuals via an online and paper survey or email;
- 26 local bodies / groups and organisations;
- 8 national bodies.

Over 1100 hard copies of the Strategy summary document were distributed. The same document was downloaded over 1280 times from the online consultation pages.

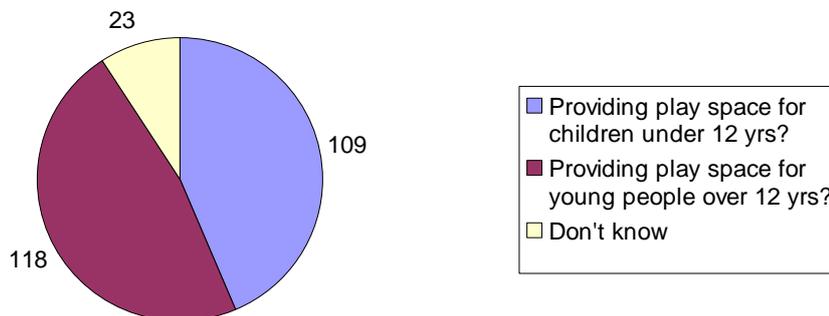
# Report on quantitative element of consultation survey

## Children and Young People's Space

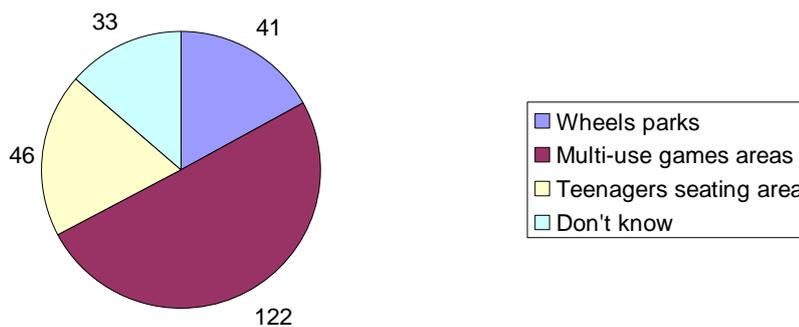
Q1: Please say which of the following you prefer



Q2: What should the priority be for children and young people's space in your area?

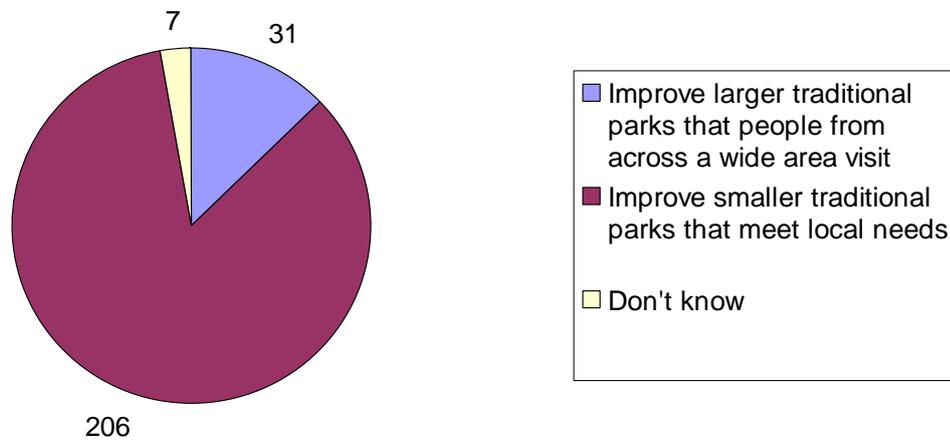


Q3: What should be the first priority for improving facilities for young people over 12 yrs in your area?



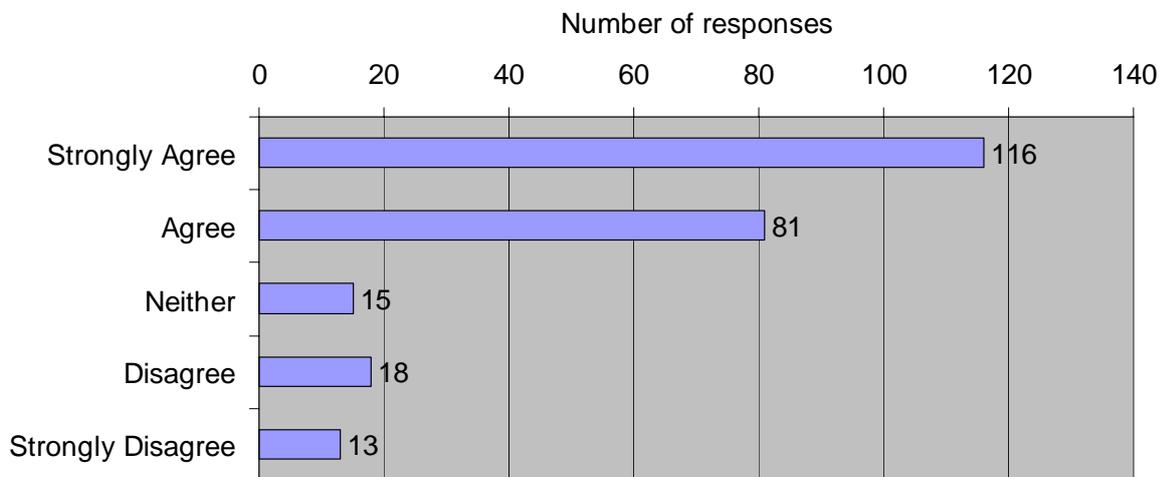
### Formal Green Space

Q5: Which one of the following should we start with?



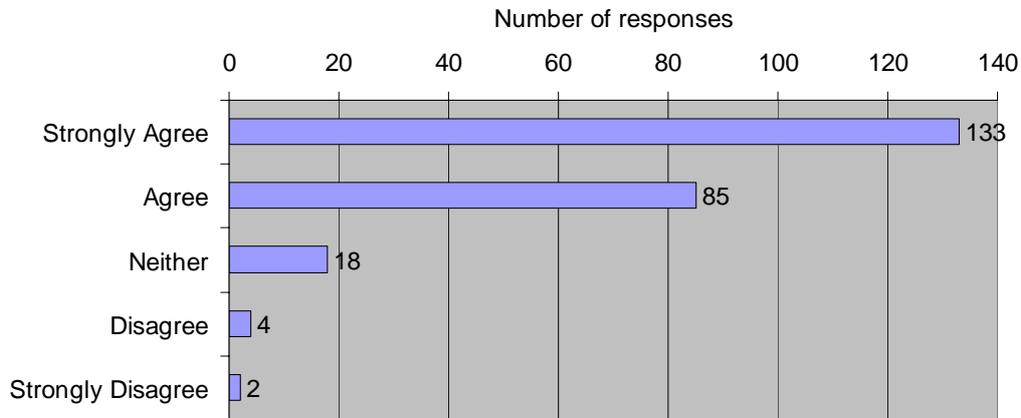
### Informal Green Space

Q7: Do you agree or disagree that green space used by children for informal play and sport would benefit from the introduction of railings, dog-free areas and simple equipment such as goalposts?

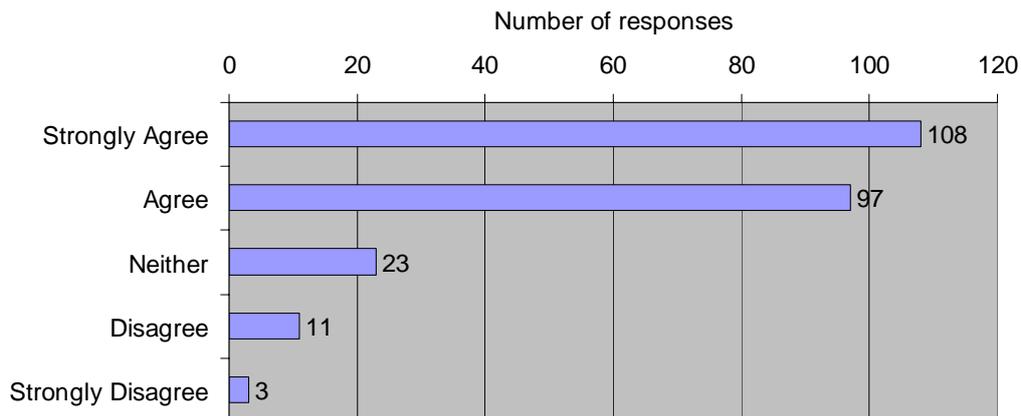


## Natural Green Space

Q9: Do you agree or disagree that over the next 5 years we should prioritise the designation of a further 9 Local Nature Reserves to create a network of 16 across the city?

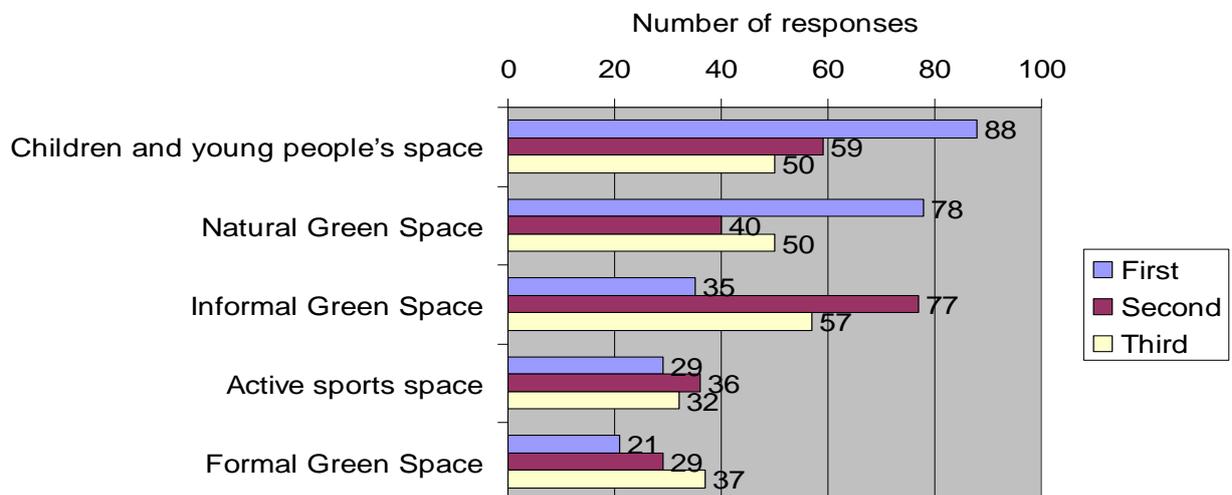


Q10: Do you agree or disagree that we should place emphasis on the management of Natural Green Space to encourage more people to visit and enjoy wildlife?

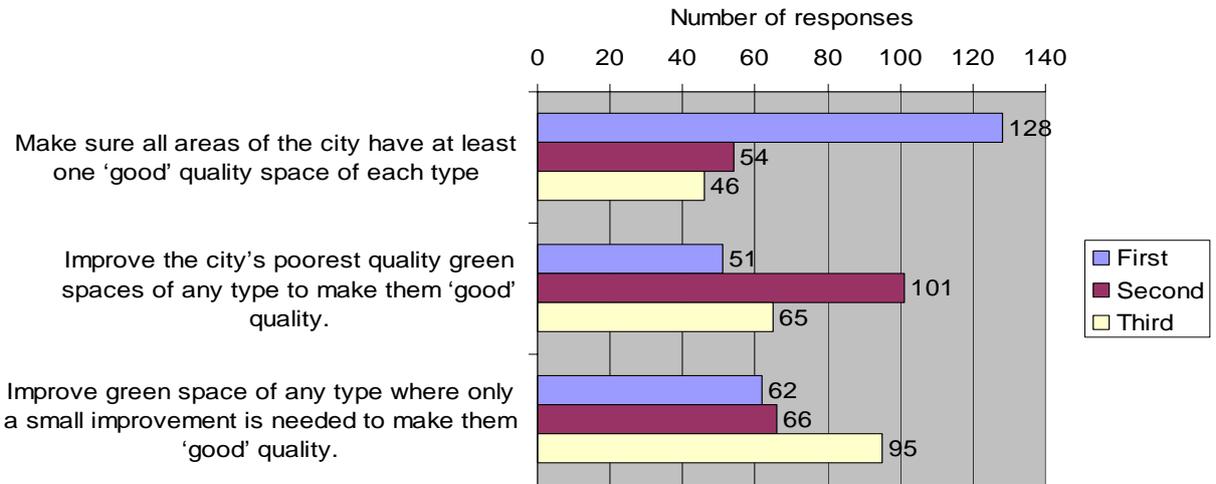


## All types of space

Q13: How would you prioritise investment in the following types of space?

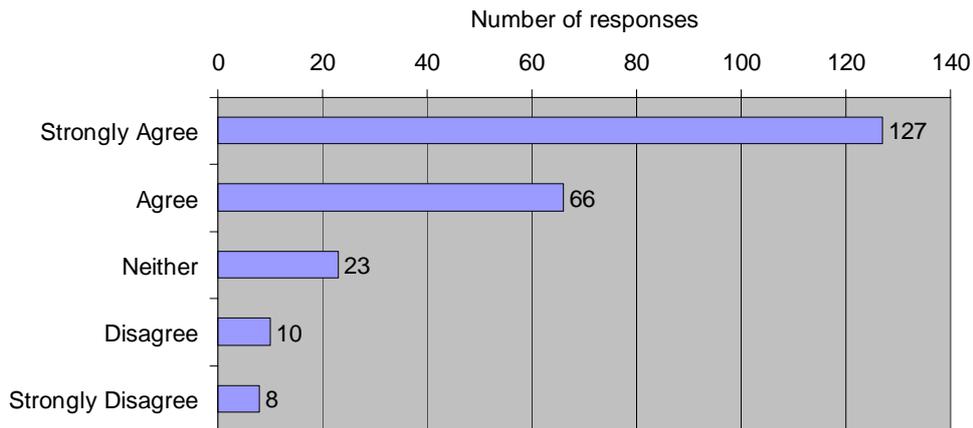


Q14: We need to make decisions on green spaces. How do you think we should prioritise the following options?



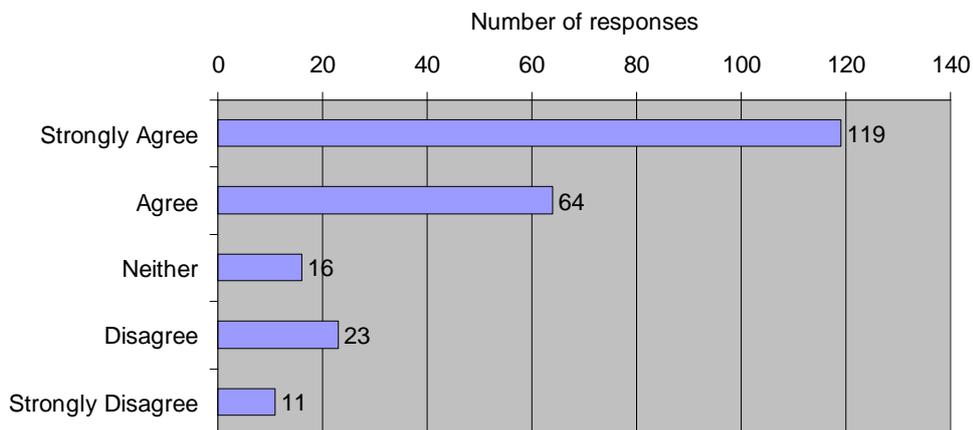
### Other land management policies

Q15: Do you agree or disagree that parks have a vital role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change?

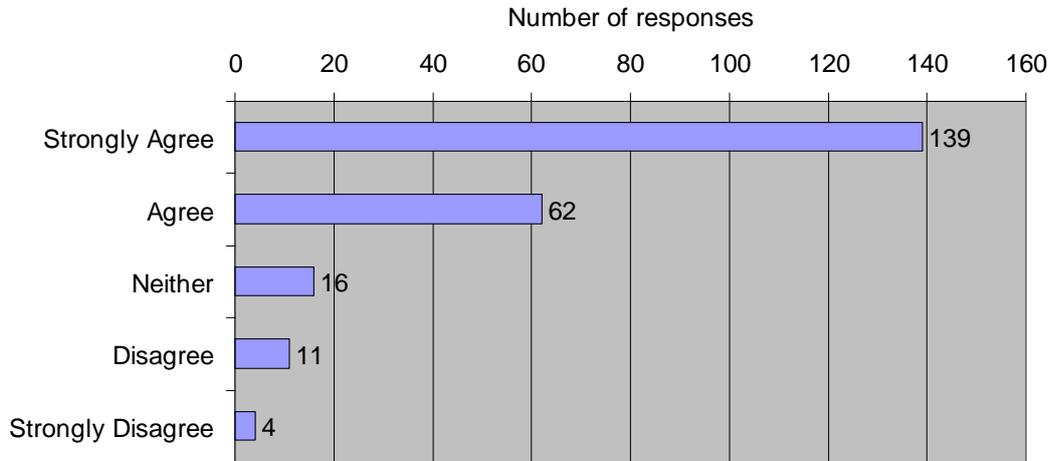


Q16: Customers tell us that limiting the occurrence of dog mess and dogs being exercised off leads is important. Do you agree or disagree with the following proposals?

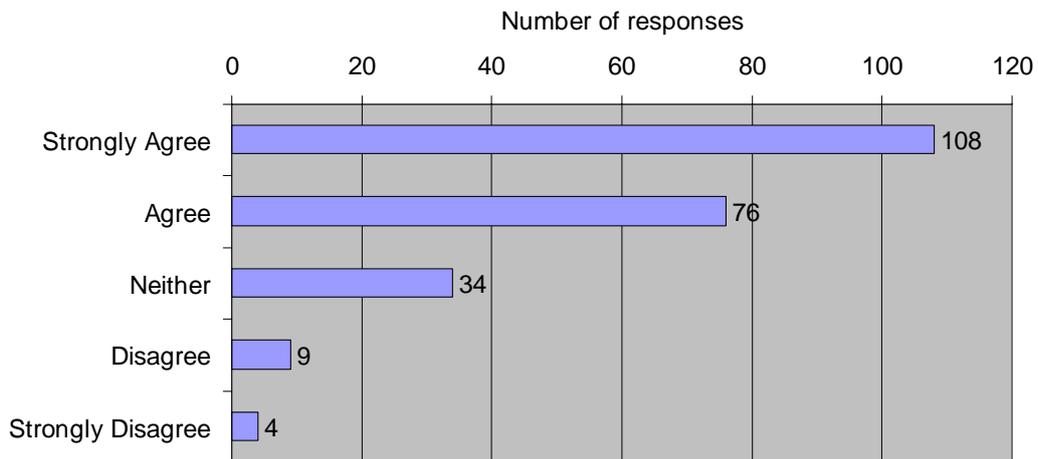
Q16a: Creating more dog-free areas while ensuring local space is available to dog walkers



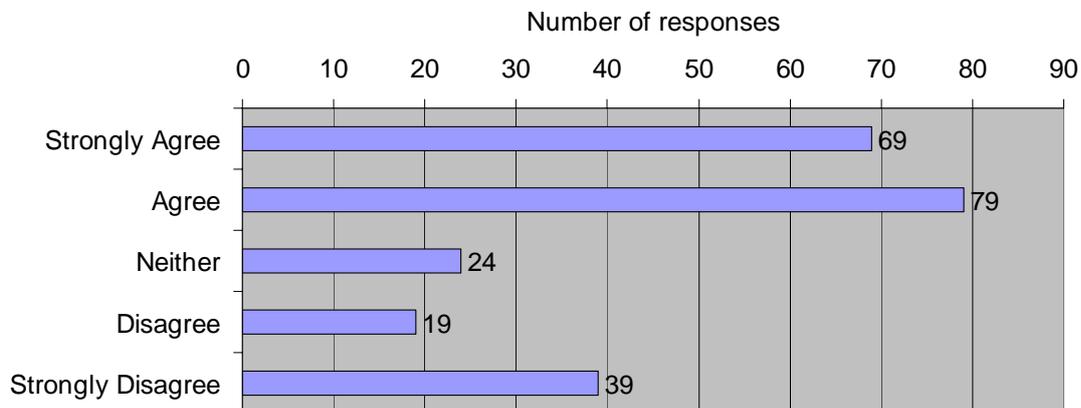
Q16b: Improving methods of enforcement such as on-the-spot fines and dog wardens



Q16c: Raising awareness through media and poster campaigns, events and activities

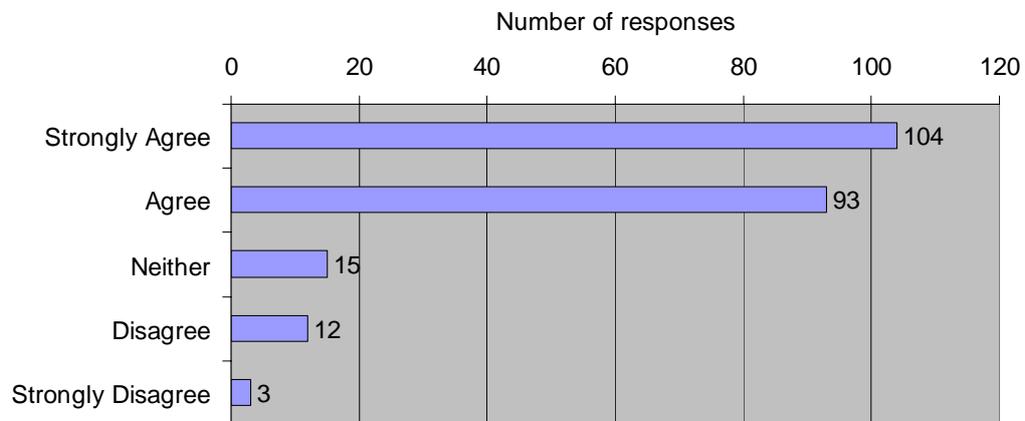


Q17: Some backland spaces which are poorly used due to ASB and vandalism would benefit from part of the site being developed for housing that faces on to it. This, with investment in the remainder of the site, would create a more welcoming and safer space

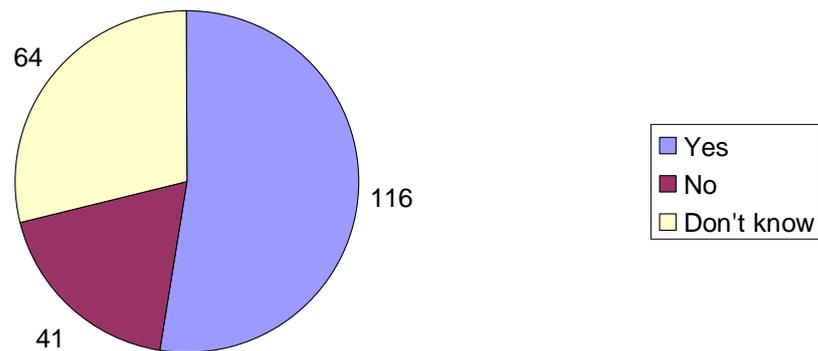


## Standards

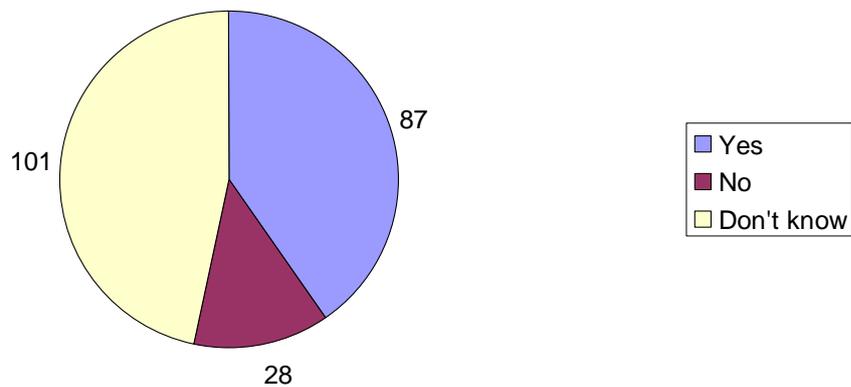
Q19: The Strategy says that poor quality is the biggest problem in Bristol's parks and green spaces at the moment and makes improving them a top priority. Do you agree or disagree with this?



Q20: Do you think the Bristol Distance Standard being proposed is right?



Q21: Do you think the Bristol Quantity Standard being proposed is right?



## **Summary of comments to draft Parks and Green Space Strategy and officer response.**

This schedule provides a summary of comments made with an officer response. The schedule does not attempt to respond to all comments made although all comments have been considered by the council. The schedule responds to comments that have been deemed to be Strategy related. Similar comments made in separate submissions have been grouped in themes with the original comments paraphrased.

A record of all comments made during the consultation period is available as a separate schedule without officer response.

The contents of this report have been grouped into headings that broadly reflect those in the draft Parks and Green Space Strategy:

- 1. Bristol Quality Standard**
- 2. Bristol Distance Standards**
- 3. Bristol Quantity Standards**
- 4. Children and Young People's Space**
- 5. Formal Green Space**
- 6. Informal Green Space**
- 7. Natural Green Space and Parks Wildlife Strategy**
- 8. Active Sports Space**
- 9. Destination parks and city centre spaces**
- 10. Use of Park Buildings**
- 11. Dog Free Spaces**
- 12. Mitigating Climate Change**
- 13. Backland Sites**
- 14. Transport Planning**
- 15. Resources**
- 16. Grounds Maintenance**
- 17. Prioritisation**
- 18. Housing Land Transfer**
- 19. Area Green Space Plans**
- 20. Design Guide**
- 21. Working with Partners**
- 22. Boosting Participation and Increasing Use**
- 23. Links to Urban Planning**
- 24. Scope of Strategy**
- 25. Public Research Process**
- 26. Consultation Process**

Comment reference number	Summary of Submission	Officer response
1.0	<b>The proposed Bristol Quality Standard</b>	
1.01	<p>Concern that the Quality Standard is based on an assessment of criteria that are too narrow:</p> <p>the Quality Standard could incorporate a greater recognition of biodiversity &amp; urban drainage; <i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p> <p>the Standard could make use of Natural England's landscape/townscape characterisation; <i>Natural England</i></p> <p>the Standard could recognise how street space and shared space enhance green spaces. <i>RPS Planning and Development</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. Biodiversity recognised to be a significant contributor to the quality of green spaces. The current guidance and checklist for assessing the quality of sites does incorporate nature conservation criteria. Urban drainage is a matter that will be handled holistically within the Local Development Framework process, but the general contribution of green space is recognised. The topic was explored in one of the downloadable strategy discussion papers on Landscape Infrastructure in Balanced &amp; Sustainable Communities entitled 'Water Environment', and its content is will contribute to the Bristol Green Space Design Guide.</p> <p>Comment noted. To inform the Local Development Framework's Core Strategy, the council is currently developing the brief for a Characterisation Study. This study is likely to assess aspects of the city's built and natural environment, including a qualitative assessment of landscape and townscape. It will be used to shape the Core Strategy's spatial strategy which will identify the broad locations for significant new housing, employment and retail development over the next 20 years.</p> <p>Comment noted. Where publicly accessible green space is associated with public realm street space the latter is acknowledged to extend people's experience of the shared environment as a whole. This element of quality was incorporated in the Quality Assessment so that it could be applied when relevant to a site.</p>

1.02	<p>The Quality Standard is unlikely to be achieved without staff that can act to develop community ownership of green spaces, prevent vandalism and act to improve safety.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. The Strategy recognises that additional staff time, either directly through the Parks service or through partnership working, is needed in the city's green spaces to successfully deliver the quality standard.</p> <p>Central to this need is to have a site presence in more of the city's parks in the form of a park keeper; the Strategy adopts Policy FG2 to this effect.</p>
1.03	<p>Current poor quality is a result of not enforcing good public behaviour in parks because of a lack of 'wardens'.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. There are a range of factors that are likely to be responsible for poor or fair quality in parks including a long-term lack of investment, ageing infrastructure, inadequate maintenance and misuse.</p> <p>Policy FG2 supports employing more park keepers, mainly in the city's traditional parks but also in target neighbourhoods.</p>
1.04	<p>The quality of parks in the city is currently too low and some parts of the city are worse than others.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response HWCP Pride of Place Group Bedminster Area Housing Committee</i></p>	<p>Agreed. Addressing this is at the heart of the Strategy. The proposed target Quality Standard of 'good' will apply to all recreational green spaces so that quality spaces will be available to all communities.</p>
1.05	<p>Simple measures like improving maintenance and clearing litter would go a long way to encouraging greater use.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Agreed and comment already addressed by the Strategy.</p> <p>Improving grounds maintenance and litter clearance will be part of the council's drive to raise quality and reach the proposed standard. The Strategy identifies that these measures are particularly important to raise the standard of Informal Green Spaces, though of course they relate to all sites.</p>
1.06	<p>More explanation of green flag status is needed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The Strategy provides a brief explanation of what Green Flag is – a national quality standard for parks and green spaces administered by the Civic Trust. Detailed information on Green Flag can be found at <a href="http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/">www.greenflagaward.org.uk/</a>.</p>

1.07	<p>The poor quality of many of the council's spaces is not overtly apparent and a map showing quality and its distribution would be useful.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>The Bristol quality map was originally included as a background document to the draft Strategy and available online.</p> <p><b><i>A summary map will now be incorporated in to the main Strategy document. Quality maps for local areas will be available as background documents online.</i></b></p>
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Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>2.0</b>	<b>The proposed Bristol Distance Standards</b>	
2.01	<p>The distance standards should be reduced overall, particularly with regard to that for Natural Green Space.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The distance standards were proposed after a research process in which residents were asked how far they would be willing to travel to different types of space. They were also tested to ensure they were achievable – an important part of ensuring the council complies with relevant Planning Policy Guidance.</p> <p>Refer to background papers:  <i>“Bristol Green Space Standards – evidence report”</i> and;  <i>“Parks and Green Space Strategy – research findings summary”</i>.</p>
2.02	<p>Combine children's play areas (450m) and local green space (400m) to one category – even if the play space is informal and unequipped.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The council recognises that nearly all green spaces have the potential to offer an opportunity for informal play. However we believe that the majority of residents would prefer to know the council's intentions regarding designated children's play areas. Through testing we know that providing a designated children's play area at less than a 10 minute walk from people's homes is not achievable.</p>
2.03	<p>It should be clear whether the Distance Standards proposed are a result of customer research or practical/ spatial considerations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>The Strategy states that the Distance Standards are a result of both. See officers Comment Ref n° 2.01</p>

2.04	<p>The standards conflict with recommendations of national bodies, particularly with regard to wildlife areas and children's play areas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p>	<p>The council is required to comply with Planning Policy Guidance 17 which states that achievable green space provision standards must be set locally, for Bristol. This requirement prevails over the guidelines of national bodies and previous planning guidance based on these guidelines e.g. NPFA play standards.</p>
2.05	<p>The Strategy should make reference to the Woodland Trust Access Standard</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Woodland Trust</i></p>	<p>We note the aspirational targets proposed by the Woodland Trust for access to woodland in urban areas. Our proposed distance standard for Natural Green Spaces includes woodland and a range of other habitat types. It is a local standard derived from local public research.</p> <p><b><i>A reference to the Woodland Trust Access Standard has been made to the background paper 'Bristol Green Space Standards – Development Guide'.</i></b></p>
2.06	<p>Concern that the standards are set at too long a distance for people with poor mobility and people with children.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response Young People's Disability Forum Bristol Young People's Forum</i></p>	<p>The distance standards were proposed after a research process in which residents were asked how far they would be willing to travel to different types of space. Both disabled green space users and parents with children were part of the process.</p> <p>In addition the ratio of time to distance within the standard refers to the Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) Six Acre Standard calculation. This was based on a study of how far children were able to walk over different time periods.</p> <p><b><i>The Strategy has been amended to place greater emphasis on the distance of the standard rather than the time taken to walk it – which is variable depending on the user.</i></b></p>

2.07	<p>In terms of children’s play areas, the distance must take the route into account i.e. 10 minutes is no good if this involves crossing a busy road without good crossing points.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comment already addressed by the Strategy.</p> <p>The distance standard is expressed in metres ‘as the crow flies’. The time interval given alongside this is the time taken to walk this distance using a normal, round-a-bout, route. This implicitly recognises that the actual walking distance is likely to be further than the standard is set.</p> <p>When applied, distance standards will recognise barriers to access such as particularly busy roads. This may mean more spaces are needed in an area than the distance standards initially suggest. This will be determined in the Area Green Space Plans proposed by the Strategy.</p>
2.08	<p>The distances are about right if they are taken as being to sites of a reasonable size and not just to any space. The Strategy gives a minimum size for a play area. Minimum sizes should also be considered for other typologies that relate to the distance standard.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i> <i>Online discussion forum response</i></p>	<p>It is not deemed feasible, or in many cases desirable, to attach a minimum size to other types of space.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b><i>This has been added to the guidelines in the Strategy that demonstrate how the standards should be applied. In particular, this will be considered in Area Green Space Plans.</i></b></p>
2.09	<p>For disabled people and people with young children, improving the access route to the site is an important part of enabling the distance standards to be met.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i> <i>HWCP Pride of Place Group</i></p>	<p><b><i>Bristol Parks will work with other council services to try and ensure the street infrastructure around parks supports access wherever possible and as priorities allow.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>A new Policy LM11 has been incorporated in the Strategy (derived from draft policy LM8) to support this.</i></b></p>

2.10	<p>The distances refer to residents but there has been no consideration of provision for people while at work.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The green space standards are based on numbers of residents and government Census data is used to determine this. It is agreed that green space can be beneficial for users before and after work and during work breaks. However this cannot provide a quantifiable basis to set a standard.</p> <p><b><i>The consideration of working populations has been added to the guidelines in the Strategy that demonstrate how the standards should be applied.</i></b></p>
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Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>3.0</b>	<b>The proposed Bristol Quantity Standards</b>	
3.01	<p>The proposed sale of green space conflicts with the council's commitment to its own Balanced and Sustainable Communities agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p>	<p>Disagree. Green space that is considered for alternative uses can make a valuable contribution to Balanced and Sustainable Communities by allowing for appropriate local employment, affordable housing and allowing investment in better quality green spaces - which the council agrees is essential to the wellbeing of communities.</p>

<p>3.02</p>	<p>There is concern that the Bristol Quantity Standard will act in real terms to drive down the amount of green space available in the city, through its loss to development, from the current 38m<sup>2</sup>/capita to 27.8m<sup>2</sup>/capita.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response Bristol Friends of the Earth Bedminster Area Housing Committee</i></p> <p>By advocating a Quantity Standard below that which is currently available in the city, the council must avoid the impression that it is disinvesting in open space, not least because of the potential impact that this may have in defending future requirements for developer contributions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>The Quantity Standard is a minimum provision standard. It is not set as a target for the council to reach. Its aim is to ensure that all communities have good access to parks and green spaces locally wherever possible.</p> <p>The Quantity Standard will act alongside Distance Standards to establish a need for green spaces. The effect of these acting together is likely to be that more green space than the minimum amount indicated by the quantity standard will be required locally.</p> <p>The figure of 38m<sup>2</sup>/capita is the amount of green space available to Bristol's current population. This ratio will change as the population changes. With a projected increase of 53,800 expected in Bristol's population by 2026 (prediction at October 2007) this would bring this figure down to 33m<sup>2</sup> with no change in the actual amount of space available in the city.</p> <p>The Quantity and Distance Standards do not act in isolation. Whilst these standards will act to protect green space that can be demonstrated is needed for use by local communities, further protection will be afforded by existing planning policies that cover sites' wildlife, historic, landscape or other significance.</p>
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3.03	<p>There is concern that the council hasn't allowed for the projected growth in Bristol's population. This will inject a need for more green space.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response Bristol Friends of the Earth CABE Space</i></p>	<p>The principal reason for basing the strategy upon standards that relate to population data is to ensure that at any point in time, it will be possible to relate need to whatever the population is, and for it to be locally applicable within the city. The standard will be applied on the best population projections available.</p> <p>The Bristol Green Space Standards will be reinforced through the Bristol Development Framework to help ensure that new development in the city protects and delivers adequate open space provision. For example, the BDF's Core Strategy will contain a Core Policy setting out the council's strategic Open/Green Space aspirations, including reference to the Bristol Green Space Standards which will support the BDF's Development Control procedures.</p> <p>In addition, the approach advocated by the Strategy will be used by the BDF's Site Allocations Document to help designate valuable open spaces, protecting them from other types of development.</p>
3.04	<p>Will the provision of play areas take into account numbers of children in an area and how will the council find that out?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol East Side Traders</i></p>	<p>Yes the standards will account for child population. The section on 'general guidelines or applying the standards' confirms this. The council will use the latest demographic figures available to it from Census data and Census data updates.</p>
3.05	<p>The majority of new homes are likely to be built with no or little private garden space. This makes the provision of public green space have a greater significance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p>	<p>This has been a consideration and will continue be so when implementing the Strategy. When developing Area Green Space Plans the type of housing in an area, and proposed housing where this is known, will be taken into consideration when applying the Bristol Quantity Standard.</p>
3.06	<p>The present amount of green space available - 38m<sup>2</sup> per person should be maintained. This would mean increasing the amount of space available bearing in mind the predicted population increase in Bristol.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i></p>	<p>The council has taken the view while developing the Quantity Standard that providing green space at current 'per person' levels for an increased Bristol population is not feasible, or desirable – requiring a significant conversion of existing business or residential land to green space; space that is also needed by Bristol's current and future populations.</p>

3.07	<p>The criteria are based entirely on residents; in central areas this could leave workers with a very limited amount of green space.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 2.1
3.08	<p>The quantity standard (<i>presumed Locality Standard – Bristol Parks</i>) should be raised to 24m<sup>2</sup> recognising that this can't be met in some areas but will act to protect green space in areas where it can be met.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	The Locality Standard has been set at a level that the council is confident represents 'enough' to meet local, recreational needs. The total Bristol Green Space Standard which includes the Locality Standard and the provision from the city's Destination Sites is 27.8m <sup>2</sup> per person. It is important that the council can defend its green space provision standards against challenge and the council believes the methodology to derive the standards is sufficiently robust.
3.09	<p>There is no information on the effects of the housing strategy - the need for 28,000 new homes in Bristol - on the provision of green spaces.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i> <i>CABE Space</i></p>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 3.03
3.10	<p>A standard for Active Sports Space of 1.6ha per 1000 population, city wide, should be applied in line with the National Playing Fields Association's (now Fields in Trust) revised Six Acre Standard recommendations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Sports Council</i></p>	The council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy has been produced following Sport England's methodology of a careful evaluation of demand and supply rather than a per person standard. This ensures adequate supply with projections. The Playing Pitch Strategy provides a Strategic Framework that ensures that statistical analysis of supply and demand is revised annually and continually accurate. The NPFA / Fields in Trust supports PPG17 in calling for local standards to be used.

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Children and young people's space</b>	
4.01	All children and young people's spaces should be smoke-free. <i>Public response Bristol Primary Care Trust</i>	<b>Agreed in principle. The council will act to promote children's playgrounds as smoke free environments through education and information, focussing on Major Play Spaces (refer to Policy CY1).</b>
4.02	There is a need for lighting in parks for evening use. <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership HWCP Pride of Place group</i>	As a general rule the council does not provide lighting in parks. There is evidence that safety is not improved by adding lighting and that it can encourage mis-use. Adding to light pollution in cities is also a growing concern.  However lighting will be a consideration on a site-by-site basis when providing some facilities e.g. for young people and lighting well-used routes through green space between other facilities.  <b>Lighting to be considered as part of Strategy delivery e.g. Park Improvement Plans.</b>
4.03	There is a need for partnership work with Youth and Play Services, schools, Extended Schools Partnership the voluntary sector and young people. <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>	Agreed. <b>The council is committed to partnership, education and outreach work and has incorporated new Policies D1 and D2 in the Strategy to recognise this.</b>
4.04	The provision of open space for both children and young people must take into account the proximity of local residents to such spaces. <i>Public response Sea Mills and Combe Dingle Community Project</i>	This is already common practice for Bristol Parks when providing new play facilities. Playgrounds and facilities for young people should ideally be a minimum of 30 metres from the nearest dwelling.
4.05	A mobile play equipment van should be available to visit	This service is already being provided through the Bristol Playbus Project

	<p>parks and provide play equipment/toys.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>which is supported by the council. The service has no intrinsic link to green spaces and opportunities to expand green space visits will be explored.</p> <p>No actions or amendments</p>
4.06	<p>There may be a need for a Major Play Space in the centre of the city.</p> <p><i>Voluntary sector youth work providers</i></p>	<p>This was considered but it is not thought to be a priority compared to providing a good network of more local plays spaces.</p>
4.07	<p>Good transport links to key facilities like Major Play Spaces are important to provide for young people.</p> <p><i>Voluntary sector youth work providers</i></p>	<p>Noted and supported.</p> <p><b>A new Policy LM11 has been incorporated in the Strategy (derived from draft policy LM8) to support this.</b></p>
<u>Children's play space</u>		
4.08	<p>More play areas need to be supervised primarily to ensure they are safe to use.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>It is not envisaged that on-site staff will generally be provided to supervise children's play because of the considerable cost of doing so. However 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. In addition, all play areas provided and managed by the council have regular safety inspections.</p>
4.09	<p>More dog-free space is required for children's play.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Agreed and supported by policy IG3. More dog-free space will be provided in the form of a predicted increase in the number and scale of children's play areas. More dog-free space will also be created for all park users, including children.</p>
4.10	<p>The role of outreach work to provide stimulating, imaginative play within woodland and natural green space setting should be acknowledged in terms of children's play.</p> <p><i>Forest of Avon</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. Different children are stimulated by different types of play. Bristol Parks may deliver play outreach work in partnership with others where opportunities allow.</p> <p>Also refer to comment ref number 4.16</p> <p>Policies D1 and D2 support outreach work.</p>
4.11	<p>More play areas are not necessary but making the streets safer to play in is.</p>	<p>Disagree, more play areas are required and although making streets safer is an attractive aim, they are outside the scope of the Strategy.</p>

	<i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group</i>	
4.12	Basic maintenance needs to be significantly improved in children's play areas. <i>Public response</i>	Raising quality is the heart of the Strategy and improving maintenance is central to this. The proposed minimum quality standard of 'good' will apply to all recreational green spaces so that quality spaces will be available to all communities.
4.13	The introduction of natural play materials requires a higher standard of maintenance to ensure it is safe and useable. <i>Young People's Disability Forum Bristol Young People's Forum</i>	Agreed: the definition given in the Strategy includes 'will have a high level maintenance regime'.
4.14	Children's play space should be provided in close proximity to each primary school wherever possible. <i>Public response</i>	The location of primary schools is generally not a consideration for the provision of children's play areas as adequate supply will be delivered by application of the distance standards. In addition many schools have their own play facilities.  However, Bristol Parks is currently considering dual-use play facilities within schools where there might be no alternatives for new provision on green space.
4.15	Equipment provided in play areas needs to encourage <i>active</i> play. <i>Public response</i>	Agreed. The majority of play equipment the council procures encourages active play.
4.16	There is a need for more play rangers and for them to be available more frequently. <i>Public response</i>	Comment noted. Teams of play rangers are already to be provided to work with children in Knowle West, Hartcliffe/Withywood, Lawrence Weston and Barton Hill - four areas of the city with the highest 'play deprivation'. The rangers will provide inspirational play activities in parks and open spaces, after school and during holidays. The rangers are being funded by the Big Lottery Children's Play programme which will run for three years up to 2010.
	<u>Spaces for teenagers</u>	

4.17	More facilities for young people are required. <i>Public response</i>	This is already addressed by the Strategy and supported by Policy CY2.
4.18	There is strong support for separate spaces for young people away from younger children's facilities. <i>Public response</i>	Agreed. <b>Policy CY2 is now amended in the Strategy to provide clarification of support for young people's facilities separate from those for children.</b>
4.19	An additional policy is needed to promote young people's facilities for informal meeting and play close to where they live. <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>	We believe that policies CY2 and CY4 will act to achieve this as far as is practicable. The Strategy already states that the council will review providing a standard for young people's spaces at a later date.
4.20	Young people need to be consulted and more involved in decision-making when making plans or proposing change. <i>Public response</i>	The Strategy already recognises this.  The council carried out consultation with young people as part of the research for the strategy and during the consultation. Young people will continue to be engaged in the delivery of the Strategy when the council develops Area Green Space Plans and when carrying out significant park improvements.
4.21	Provision for young people needs to include on-site youth work as much as providing facilities (daytime park keepers/wardens are of little use in supporting the safety of green spaces for young people). <i>Bristol Young People's Forum Bristol Young People's Disability Forum VOSCUR member</i>	Agreed that this is desirable. Further discussions are already underway with the council's Youth and Play Services around delivering the Strategy. However, the costs of outreach work in parks where there is a need have to date been prohibitive, so new resources will be needed. Existing youth work provision is prioritised wherever it is most beneficial and youth facilities in parks will unavoidably remain unstaffed the majority of the time.  The council does not feel that on-site youth workers are needed for facilities to be worthwhile.
4.22	When providing seating areas for young people it is important to provide more than one on a site as not all young people hang out together.	Comment noted and supported.  <b>To be considered as part of Strategy delivery</b>

	<i>Bristol Young People's Forum</i>	
4.23	Bristol Parks should be the service that offers young people an exciting and varied programme of outdoor activities. <i>Public response</i>	There are a number of council services that deliver outdoor activities for young people or work closely with external partners to do. Bristol Parks is one of these and is currently exploring new ideas – such as a high ropes adventure facility together with Youth and Play Services.
4.24	Providing a wheels park every 2km would mean young people would have to walk too far. <i>Voluntary sector youth work providers</i>	Disagree. This is not supported by comments received from young people themselves. Research found that young people frequently travelled very long distances to visit significant 'play' sites.  The policy referred to relates to larger 'district' scale facilities. Smaller scale wheels provision will be considered in addition; closer to where people live.  Achieving the policy will reduce current journey times for 'district' facilities considerably.

<b>Comment Ref n°</b>	<b>Summary of Submission</b>	<b>Officer response</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Formal Green Space</b>	
5.01	Addressing concerns of litter, graffiti and vandalism is key in formal spaces. <i>Public response</i>	Raising quality is the heart of the Strategy and improving maintenance is central to this. The council aims to act on these concerns in all spaces through the Strategy and the council's grounds maintenance procurement review.  Policy IG1 supports this concern and is given in relation to Informal Green Space, as it is a priority for this type of space. However the aim to raise quality involves tackling this issue across all types of space.
5.02	The presence of park keepers should be extended to cover other sites other than the main traditional parks	Comment noted and supported. Policy FG2 allows for the introduction of park keepers in the city's main traditional parks as a priority but park

	<p>across the city.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i> <i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i> <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>keepers will also be considered for other sites, including neighbourhood park keepers in more deprived areas, where need and resources allow.</p> <p><b><i>The Strategy has been amended to clarify its support for a neighbourhood park keeper presence outside of traditional parks where resources allow.</i></b></p>
5.03	<p>Providing a site presence in parks could be enhanced by the use of volunteers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. Bristol Parks is considering how to develop the role of volunteering in parks.</p>
5.04	<p>There is a need to develop a wider park keeper role with new skills, to include community outreach working, and flexible working hours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i> <i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group</i> <i>NET-WORK South Bristol</i></p>	<p>Bristol Parks recognises this and it is implicit in Strategy policy FG2. The intention is that all park keepers will be managed to a more consistent standard and shared outcomes no matter if they work for the council or an external contractor. This, in addition to a flexible approach to the park keeper job description, will aim to give park keepers a proactive role in improving perceptions of safety in parks and liaising with the community.</p>
5.05	<p>Re: Park Keepers - Consideration should be given to the contribution of other agencies and individuals to an on-site presence in the city's parks e.g. youth workers and police officers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NET-WORK South Bristol</i> <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>Agreed. The council accepts this as implicit to some partnership working and support to community groups and volunteers.</p>
5.06	<p>Including areas of hard standing 'civic space' e.g. Lloyds Arena, as a sub category of formal green space is misleading as the benefits associated with green space are diminished where hard standing and paving dominates. These areas should be considered as a separate category.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p> <p>Millennium Square, Anchor Square, Lloyds</p>	<p>Comment noted. When referring to the different green space types the emphasis is on function. This means that where an area of hard standing that is a legitimately, publicly accessible space is deemed to fit the criteria for a Formal Green Space it has been included within that category and likewise for other green space types.</p> <p>Additional reference to the inclusion of city centre 'hard' spaces and the docks has been added to the revised Strategy. The council does not agree that there is an issue regarding transparency of the Planning system.</p>

	<p>Amphitheatre and parts of the dockside are not 'Parks and Green Spaces' and must be discounted in any assessment. To not do so would be misleading and would reduce the public's confidence in the transparency of the Planning system. Including hard standing could offer an opportunity for a developer to interpret paved areas as legitimate and proper provision of green space.</p> <p><i>Online discussion forum response</i></p>	
5.07	<p>Clarity is needed between the relationship of the aspiration to provide a quality traditional park within 20 mins for all residents and providing formal green space within 600m (a 15 min walk).</p> <p><i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>Traditional parks such as Victoria Park, Canford Park and St George Park are commonly multifunctional and will contain a number of different types of space that the strategy refers to. Formal Green Space may well be one of those types.</p> <p>The Strategy has set standards for Formal Green Space that will be applied by the Planning system. The provision of a traditional park within a 20-minute walk from residents' homes is a Bristol Parks service delivery aspiration, not a standard.</p>
5.08	<p>Formal green space needs to be managed so that there are areas that can support local wildlife.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Agreed. All of Bristol's green spaces will be managed to benefit local wildlife but where appropriate to the design and management of the site and conflicts with other use can be avoided.</p>
5.09	<p>More toilets and cafes need to be provided in formal spaces.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comment already addressed in the Strategy.</p> <p>The implementation of the strategy will result in more and better quality toilets and cafés. The likely, but not exclusive, location of these will be in our multifunctional, traditional parks.</p>
5.10	<p>Improving and providing Formal Green Space should not have priority over improving and providing more natural looking areas.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>From consultation, the improvement of Natural Green Space is a higher priority than formal green space. However both the quality and amount of different types of space varies across the city – meaning priorities change according to area. It is likely that in some areas Formal Green Space will be improved as a priority.</p>

5.11	There is no mention of providing more water features in parks – paddling pools, lakes with rowing boats, fountains etc. <i>Public response</i>	Water features are often popular and desirable and would be considered as part of Improvement Plans that refer to individual sites. Local consultation will help decide what may be delivered as part of each plan and support for water features may result in their inclusion.
5.12	Will features be restored in historic parks like Eastville? <i>Public response</i>	Improvement Plans that refer to known sites of historical interest will incorporate a ‘conservation management plan’ so that the historical integrity of the site is not eroded and where possible improved. This is supported by the Bristol Green Space Design Guide.
5.13	Policy FG8 should begin “restore, enhance and create formal squares...” <i>BCS and LA21 Land Use Group</i>	The priority for the Strategy is to restore and enhance existing formal squares. The creation of new squares will be considered if the right opportunity allows.

<b>Comment Ref n°</b>	<b>Summary of Submission</b>	<b>Officer response</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Informal Green Space</b>	
6.01	There should be a limit to the ‘formalisation’ of informal green spaces through the addition of facilities as proposed. <i>Public response</i>	There will be no limit set as such although the Strategy aims to create a diversity of spaces including Informal Green Space in all parts of the city. Each case will be considered on a site-by-site basis. Local consultation will be carried out as part of this process.
6.02	Local consultation is necessary before changing Informal Green Space into another type or putting in railings/dog-free areas etc. <i>Public response</i>	Local consultation will be carried out as part of this process.
6.03	Putting up railings does not create dog-free areas but does give dog-owners a licence to exercise their dogs off leads. <i>Public response</i>	Railings are commonly and frequently used to provide dog-free areas where green space users can be confident that the area will be free of dogs and dog mess. Railings will not exclusively be used for this purpose and may, for example, surround a site to prevent children running into the

		road or define it better.
6.04	<p>Providing facilities in informal green space should not take priority over improving basic maintenance and cleanliness.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Improving grounds maintenance and litter clearance will be part of the council's drive to raise quality and reach the proposed quality standard. These measures are particularly important to raise the standard of Informal Green Spaces.</p> <p>Implicit within the Strategy is the recognition that providing new facilities that cannot be maintained is not good practice. However each site is unique and circumstances often quickly change the use and cleanliness of a site.</p>
6.05	<p>No Informal Green Space should be sold for development.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The Strategy estimates that £87m of capital investment is needed over the next 20 years to raise the quality of the city's parks and open spaces to a good standard. Given the limited sources of funding available to the council, it is proposed that some 'low value' open space be identified for alternative uses as an important contribution to this amount. Value will be determined by a number of cultural and usage factors, not financial value. It is likely that much 'low value' green space is informal in type. Value will be determined as part of "Area Green Space Plans" that will be developed with the participation of local residents and others.</p>
6.06	<p>There is scope to work with local residents to deliver improvements to informal spaces through selective tree planting.</p> <p><i>Forest of Avon</i></p>	<p>Agreed where appropriate.</p>
6.07	<p>There may be opportunities to establish new Community Woodlands in informal space.</p> <p><i>Forest of Avon</i></p>	<p>Where the application of the green space provision standards suggest a change of use of Informal Green Space to Natural Green Space, a community woodland can be considered within the Area Green Space Plan process.</p> <p><b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation. Reference to Community Woodlands has been added to the revised Strategy.</i></b></p>
6.08	<p>There ought to be a clear relationship between allotment land and informal green space.</p>	<p>The council recognises that allotments should be considered where they make a contribution to a wildlife or green corridor and where a change of</p>

	<i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i>	use may be considered - from allotment use to use as a green space or vice versa.
6.09	Clarity is needed on what is considered anti-social behaviour. <i>Bristol Young People's Forum</i>	Agreed. <b><i>The Strategy document has been amended to refer to the definition of anti-social behaviour recognised by the council.</i></b>
6.10	Concern that the introduction of fixed park furniture, equipment and railings will act to change the designation from informal space and act to exclude people from that space. <i>Public response</i>	Comment noted. Consultation will take place locally before changes are made. The aim of these features is to attract additional use of the space.
6.11	The introduction of goalposts will result in areas of permanently worn grass on previously good areas. <i>Public response</i>	Comment noted and supported. Where possible, goalposts will be moved to different locations on the same site to allow the ground to recover.

<b>Comment Ref n°</b>	<b>Summary of Submission</b>	<b>Officer response</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Natural Green Space and Parks Wildlife Strategy</b>	
7.01	Improved access in Natural Green Spaces should benefit disabled people, the elderly and carers of children using pushchairs. <i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i>	Comment already supported by the council and covered within the Strategy.
7.02	Deciding on access improvements to Natural Green Space should be done on a site by site basis to ensure that they are appropriate to that space. <i>Public response</i>	Comment already supported by the council and to be considered as part of Strategy implementation.

7.03	<p>Natural Green Space should not be over-sanitised and wildlife disrupted when attempting to make sites more accessible to users. A balance needs to be struck. Users would not like to see the essence of Natural Green Space changed in order to make them more open to the public.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response Bristol Friends of the Earth Campaign to Protect Rural England</i></p>	<p>Agree that the right balance needs to be struck.</p>
7.04	<p>We should not place greater emphasis on improving access to Natural Green Space – wildlife is often driven away by people.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group</i></p>	<p>Disagree. Both research and consultation processes highlight a clear need and mandate to improve access to Natural Green Space to encourage more people to use them and enjoy wildlife. Managed access should not be detrimental to wildlife.</p>
7.05	<p>Natural Green Space or space that is good for wildlife should be provided in most parks not just in dedicated sites.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response Avon Wildlife Trust</i></p>	<p>Significant opportunities exist to introduce natural green spaces or space for wildlife in more of our parks and green spaces. Existing patterns of use and established site character will inevitably constrain opportunities. However, wildlife enhancement measures will be considered on a site-by-site basis (e.g. bird boxes just erected in Queen Square).</p>
7.06	<p>It is not clear whether the location of the additional Local Nature Reserves has been determined.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Campaign to Protect Rural England</i></p>	<p>Narrowways, The Northern Slopes and Callington Road are programmed for designation (in addition to Manor Woods Valley, Eastwood Farm and Badock's Wood which are subject to the designation process at the time of writing). The remaining 6 sites (to take the network to 16 Local Nature Reserves) have not yet been chosen, nor has the selection criteria. The selection criteria will consider community and wildlife interest, and geographic spread.</p>
7.07	<p>The network of Local Nature Reserves could be expanded (HWCP - could include The Mounds at Hengrove, Hawkfield Meadows and Dundry Slopes).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership (HWCP)</i></p>	<p>Suggestions noted. Six sites are yet to be chosen to make up the network of 16 Local Nature Reserves. The selection criteria (to be determined) will consider community and wildlife interest and geographic spread.</p>

7.08	<p>The plan to develop 16 Local Nature Reserves must be based on a sound assessment of the wildlife value of all the informal space in the city.</p> <p><i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i></p>	<p>Local Nature Reserves will be selected from the 'long list' of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest currently designated within the city. The selection criteria (to be determined) will consider community and wildlife interest and geographic spread.</p>
7.09	<p>As well as support for biodiversity and Local Nature Reserves it is also appropriate to mention additional Community Woodland sites in delivering multi-purpose objectives.</p> <p><i>Forest of Avon</i></p>	<p>Expanding the area of woodland in the city will be considered as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Bristol (Habitat action plan for woodland).</p> <p><b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation. Reference to Community Woodlands has been added to the revised Strategy.</i></b></p>
7.10	<p>Watercourses should be protected from development in part because of their wildlife value.</p> <p><i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i></p>	<p>Watercourses are currently protected where they are a Site of Nature Conservation Interest or Wildlife Network Site. Partnership work to improve the Living Rivers Project to improve the city's watercourses is ongoing.</p>
7.11	<p>Designated wildlife sites should not be considered as potential sites for disposal to raise investment money.</p> <p><i>Avon Wildlife Trust</i></p>	<p>Land disposal will relate to low value green space (Policy IG 4) and where the priority is to redesign some backland sites to provide frontage of houses looking onto the site (Policy LM7).</p> <p>The current designation of wildlife sites (<i>see also next officer response</i>) will be an important consideration in progressing policy IG4 and LM7 and when assessing the value of sites.</p>
7.12	<p>Bristol City Council has potentially developable land that has outdated protective policy designations including Open Space and Wildlife Network sites. These designations need to be reviewed and lifted where appropriate to release land for development.</p> <p><i>Pegasus Planning Group</i></p>	<p>A review of acceptance criteria for Wildlife Network Sites is being progressed as part of the emerging Bristol Development Framework.</p> <p><b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation.</i></b></p>
7.13	<p>The council needs to involve the Avon Wildlife Trust to support good management of natural green spaces for the benefit of wildlife.</p>	<p>The council already works with the Avon Wildlife Trust to support good management of natural green space for the benefit of wildlife. Opportunities exist to develop this partnership further.</p>

	<i>Public response</i>	
7.14	Providing on-site information and education opportunities is important to emphasise. <i>Public response</i>	Agreed where it is appropriate on site and resources for education are available.  <b><i>New policies D1 and D2 have been added to the document and will act to meet this need.</i></b>
7.15	Access for dogs should be restricted on Natural Green Space. <i>Public response</i>	Disagree as a general restriction. Policy LM5 will result in improved access to green space for a wide 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.
7.16	The council should become Forestry Stewardship Council registered for all forested areas. <i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i>	Agreed. This remains an aspiration of the council as the major woodland owner in Bristol and would enable tangible connections to be made between the management of our natural green spaces and wider sustainability objectives.  <b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation.</i></b>
7.17	The timetable to achieve Favourable Conservation Status for all SNCI's is too long at 20 years and may result in some sites deteriorating. <i>Avon Wildlife Trust</i>	Taking twenty years to achieve Favourable Conservation Status of all SNCIs does not mean that some sites will be left to deteriorate before action is taken (and if resources allow the aim will be to achieve the target in less than 20 years). An audit of all SNCI has been undertaken (just a few sites to complete) reflecting a range of semi-natural habitat types. Site by site actions plans are being prepared which will be prioritised. Approaches such as appointing an in-house Woodland and Wildlife team (see Policy NG2 in revised Strategy) will be an important means to achieving favourable conditions. Because some habitats - including woodland will respond more slowly to interventions the up to 20-year timetable reflects this.
7.18	Why is there a difference in timescale between the Parks Wildlife Strategy and Parks and Green Space Strategy (5 years and 20 years)? <i>Public response Northern Slopes Initiative</i>	The Parks Wildlife Strategy is largely an operational guidance document. The headline actions in the Parks Wildlife Strategy and the Parks and Green Space Strategy are repeated. The Parks Wildlife Strategy will be reviewed in 5-years time along with the Parks and Green Space Strategy.

7.19	<p>The NERC Act 2006 places a duty on Local Authorities to have due regard to wildlife across all its functions. Does the PGSS offer an opportunity to include enhancement of biodiversity across all the council's functions?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Avon Wildlife Trust</i></p>	<p>The Strategy is concerned only with publicly accessible green space.</p> <p>NERC Act - Policy NG3 in the strategy provides for a Biodiversity Action Plan for Bristol. This will relate to land that is within and outside council ownership and will be an important contribution to compliance with the principles laid down in the NERC Act.</p> <p><b><i>A compliance audit of all council functions reflecting the NERC Act is being progressed with recommendations due.</i></b></p>
7.20	<p>Recommend that the Strategy has a separate objective for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Avon Wildlife Trust</i></p>	<p>Not considered necessary. Wildlife is incorporated in to the vision for green space in Bristol and key policies have been proposed for Natural Green Space.</p>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Active Sports Space</b>	
8.01	<p>Support community ownership of green space and developments that will encourage people to try activities or use green space available to them e.g. measured mile.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Primary Care Trust</i></p>	<p>Strongly agree that green space provides an opportunity to develop facilities and programmes to encourage greater levels of physical activity and help achieve public health targets e.g. relating to childhood obesity.</p>
8.02	<p>Unsure of implication of encouraging informal sport in parks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>The idea is to further enable people to enjoy sports related activities outside of organised teams and games. This could include providing rebound walls, goalposts, new drainage, measured miles posts and jogging miles posts.</p>
8.03	<p>School sports facilities need to be brought into consideration for the provision of sports space. 'Dual use' provides important opportunities.</p>	<p>Agreed. Dual-use agreements are very important and some are already in place. They are covered by policy in the council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy.</p>

	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i> <i>BCS and LA21 Land Use Group</i></p> <p>Need an additional policy actively promoting the use of school sports facilities for community use. <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i> <i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group</i></p>	<p>The Playing Pitch Strategy can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Leisure-Culture/Sports-Clubs-and-Centres/sports-strategies.en">www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Leisure-Culture/Sports-Clubs-and-Centres/sports-strategies.en</a></p>
8.04	<p>The provision of free, local sports facilities is important for young people particularly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i> <i>Bristol Young People's Forum</i> <i>Voluntary sector youth work providers</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. The council will consider the needs of young people when providing or changing sports facilities. This will be incorporated in the Area Green Space Planning process.</p> <p>The provision of Multi-Use Games Areas and rebound walls will support local informal sports. Policy AS5 supports this.</p> <p><b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation.</i></b></p>
8.05	<p>An improvement is required in the quality of sports provision generally.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>This is a key theme of the council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy and is summarised in its Strategic Framework. Key to raising and maintaining quality is the move towards establishing 'hub sites' which provide multi-sport and multi-activity opportunities.</p> <p>The Playing Pitch Strategy can be viewed at <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Leisure-Culture/Sports-Clubs-and-Centres/sports-strategies.en">www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Leisure-Culture/Sports-Clubs-and-Centres/sports-strategies.en</a></p>
8.06	<p>The provision of sports facilities should be more diverse and cater for the needs of young women and girls.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Agreed. The council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to address this for organised sport.</p> <p>Multi Use Games Areas have a positive role to play in this regard. The Parks and Green Space Strategy aims to increase access to this facility by setting a 1km distance target for MUGAs.</p>
8.07	<p>More tennis courts should be provided locally and they should be free to access.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>A smaller number of locations will provide tennis courts. The council will focus on providing better quality and better managed facilities that will be more attractive to users.</p>

8.08	<p>When promoting informal sport then activities provided outside of the council's provision should be included.  <i>BCS and LA21 Land Use Group</i></p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
8.09	<p>It is imperative that Active Sports Space within the city is increased in line with population projections.  <i>Bristol Sports Council</i></p>	<p>The council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy assesses supply and demand in implementing policy for outdoor sport, and provides the mechanism for recalculating requirement as population and demand changes, but the development of formal community use agreements will greatly enhance the supply of pitches.</p> <p>Please also refer to Comment Ref N° 3.09.</p>
8.10	<p>Playing fields are too bleak and would benefit from perimeter planting, seating, shelters and play equipment.  <i>BCS and LA21 Land Use Group</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. Suggested facilities may be able to be provided if appropriate to the type of space the playing pitch functions as when not in use (Informal or Formal) and/or the host site.</p> <p><b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation.</i></b></p>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Destination parks and city centre spaces</b>	
9.01	<p>Castle Park should be considered as a Destination Site. <i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group.</i></p>	<p>Disagree. A destination site is a green space that serves a citywide catchment area in that people will travel from across the city to visit the space because of its particular attributes. The importance of Castle Park within the city centre is recognised, however it is not felt that it functions this way. Although people that live across the city use the park, this is more because of its central location and proximity to shops and businesses than a conscious decision by visitors to travel there. The attributes of the site, with the exception of its unique historical interest, are shared by many traditional parks across the city.</p>
9.02	<p>There is strong support for a new Destination Site at Hengrove Park but there is currently inadequate public transport links to the site. <i>Public response VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. The plans for Hengrove Park Phase 1 include radically improved public transport.</p>
9.03	<p>Investing in destination sites should not be to the detriment of local spaces. <i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The Strategy proposes that both Destination Sites and local sites will receive investment.</p>
9.04	<p>Public transport links to all destination sites need to be considered. <i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
9.05	<p>The council needs to accept its responsibility to urgently restore Ashton Court and elements of Blaise Estate. <i>Conservation Advisory Panel</i></p> <p>Kingsweston Estate has been allowed to deteriorate to</p>	<p>This comment is not understood given the public investment that has gone in to both estates in recent years demonstrating very strong council commitment. Further works on both estates will be taken forward as part of the HLF requirement for 10-year management plans.</p>

	<p>such a degree that it is now difficult to define its historical landscape and the extent and use of its buildings.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Conservation Advisory Panel</i></p>	<p>The deterioration in Kingsweston occurred prior to its acquisition by the council in 1995. The council recognises that there is an exciting opportunity to restore it and provide a landscape different in character from others in Bristol. Policy LM1 recognises the importance of these sites.</p>
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Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Use of park buildings</b>	
10.01	<p>Park buildings should primarily be used to provide toilet and refreshment facilities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. A number of uses including providing toilets will be considered.</p> <p><b><i>A new policy LM4 on providing new toilet facilities has been added to the Strategy.</i></b></p>
10.02	<p>There is a need to repair buildings on historic parks and estates.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group</i></p>	<p>Agreed. The council has a good recent track record of raising heritage funding for the refurbishment of historic green spaces e.g. Ashton Court and Blaise Estate. Further opportunities will be explored. Policy LM3 supports this.</p>
10.03	<p>There is support for buildings to provide for after school and pre-school groups, toddler groups and for young people.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. This is one of the positive uses of park buildings identified in the Strategy.</p>
10.04	<p>Ensuring buildings are safe and secure is important and attendants/caretakers have a role in this.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. More traditional parks that have on-site buildings will have a park keeper who can act to provide a level of site security and supervision.</p>
10.05	<p>Despite public toilets being the priority facility required by the public according to earlier research there is little mention of them in the strategy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>A new policy LM4 has been drawn up <i>“To provide good quality accessible toilets at main traditional parks and sports grounds, meeting the British</i></p>

		<i>Toilet Association Standard and complying with the Disability Discrimination Act” and incorporated in the Strategy.</i>
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<b>Comment Ref n°</b>	<b>Summary of Submission</b>	<b>Officer response</b>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Dog free spaces</b>	
11.01	Dogs should not be allowed access to sports areas and areas where children play. <i>Public response</i>	All designated children’s play areas are dog-free under the newly introduced dog control orders. Some sports facilities e.g. tennis courts will also be dog-free. However not all playing pitches can be designated dog-free as they commonly function as a different type of green space when not in formal sports use. Where practicable, playing pitches will be protected from dog fouling, especially where quality improvements have been made.  The implementation of policies LM5 and LM6 aim to significantly reduce the instances of dog mess in parks.
11.02	For larger parts of the year and in some green spaces dog walkers are the main users and help to keep parks safe – reporting vandalism etc. <i>Public response</i>	Comment noted. The contribution of responsible dog walkers is gratefully acknowledged.
11.03	More dog bins need to be provided. <i>Public response</i>	The need for dog bins will be identified on a site by site basis. Dual-use litter and dog bins are now being used to reduce the amount of ‘clutter’ and costs of maintenance.
11.04	Guide dogs need to be allowed in dog-free areas. <i>Young People’s Disability Forum</i>	Agreed. There are no restrictions on using guide dogs in any green space.
11.05	Bristol needs to have enclosed areas where dogs can be exercised off leads away from other users and safe from roads. <i>Public response</i> <i>South Street Park Watch</i>	Comment noted.  <b><i>The Strategy document has been amended so recognise that in a small number of cases it may be appropriate to provide dog exercise areas.</i></b>

11.06	There should be more dog-free spaces. <i>Public response</i>	This already addressed by the Strategy. New policy LM5 is adopted to increase the number of dog-free areas across the city in line with strong public support.
11.07	Dogs should always be kept on a lead. <i>Public response</i>	In some green spaces owners will be asked to keep their dog on a lead and this will be enforced. In other spaces dog walkers will be welcome to exercise pets off lead. The newly introduced Dog Control Orders provide the legal framework for this aspect of managing dogs in parks.

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Mitigating climate change</b>	
12.01	This policy needs to be expanded to highlight the role of existing parks and green spaces in creating a network of strategic green infrastructure, able to deliver a range of benefits to the residents of the city. <i>Forest of Avon</i>	<b><i>The section of the Strategy in which this policy sits has been expanded to make a stronger reference to the importance of sustainability in green space management. Green Infrastructure is now addressed within the revised policy in the Strategy document.</i></b>
12.02	This section could be expanded to include reference to the Forest of Avon Partnership Climate Active Scheme. <i>Forest of Avon</i>	Comment noted. The application of Policies LM8 and LM10 will support the twin aims of Climate <i>Active!</i> and projects to raise awareness of climate change, plant trees and improve the environment and quality of life for all.
12.03	The policy needs clarification, including outcomes and actions. <i>NET-WORK South Bristol Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>	Specific actions will be agreed in an action plan developed as part of delivery of the Strategy and to support the council's wider policies on climate change.  Also refer to Comment Ref n° 12.01
12.04	Policies for mitigating climate change need to include enabling walking and cycling access, cycle security and access by public transport. Lighting and heating should	<b><i>The policy section has been expanded with an additional policy provided on sustainable management practices.</i></b>

	be derived from renewable sources. <i>Sustainable Bishopston</i>	Policy LM11 refers to better transport links.
12.05	A formalised process of long-term monitoring [of] the wildlife of all green space within the city should be begun [in monitoring the impact of climate change] <i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i>	At present there is no specific monitoring to evaluate any impacts of potential climate change. Sites of Nature Conservation Interest are subject to periodic floral re-surveys to monitor condition and change. This work is now tied into the favourable conservation status audit.  <b><i>This proposal will be given further consideration as part of the city's biodiversity action planning processes.</i></b>
12.06	Providing local parks is important so that park users do not have to drive. <i>Public response</i>	Comment already addressed within the Strategy; and is inherent within the green space standards.

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>13.0</b>	<b>Backland sites</b>	
13.01	Have there been successful examples where the partial development of a backland site has worked in this way? <i>Campaign to Protect Rural England</i>	The design concept behind the partial development of backland sites is well established – that natural surveillance of a space is improved by having housing that faces on to it. This in turn improves perceptions of safety among users of the space.  Monks Park in Bristol demonstrates where new properties have been arranged to overlook the park, creating a more positive relationship between green space and development. Further pilot projects are proposed as part of the Strategy delivery programme.
13.02	The fact that some sites are physically backland sites should not automatically mean they are considered for partial disposal through this policy. In Sea Mills,	Agreed. The council already accepts this within the Strategy and the related Policy. Information on the criteria for assessing low value green space, which may be considered for disposal, is provided in the revised

	backland sites form part of a specifically designed urban housing plan. <i>Sea Mills and Combe Dingle Community Project</i>	strategy. Value will determined by a number of cultural and usage factors, not financial value.
13.03	Object to any green space being lost to development. <i>Public response</i>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 6.05.
13.04	Concern that the policy will be used as a general excuse to sell land for development – with sites being identified as poor quality or unsafe without justification. <i>Public response</i> <i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 6.05.
13.05	Any disposal of green space should be accompanied by the provision of an equal amount of space elsewhere i.e. no net loss. <i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 3.01.
13.06	There is some concern that success of the policy would depend entirely on the tenants of the new housing development. <i>Public response</i>	Comment noted.
13.07	Each site and local circumstances should be individually assessed and levels of anti-social behaviour known and proven before considering for partial development. <i>Public response</i>	Agreed. Refer to Comment Ref n° 13.02
13.08	Addressing antisocial behaviour is complex and cannot be tackled by this policy in isolation – it also requires enforcement, education and prosecution. This policy would simply move the problem elsewhere. <i>Public response</i>	Agreed. The council recognises that policy LM7 is only part of the solution to tackling anti-social behaviour.

13.09	<p>Local communities should be involved in the process of identifying backland sites through Area Green Space Plans.</p> <p><i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>Comment already addressed with the Strategy. This will be a part of the Area Green Space Plan process.</p> <p><b>More information on the Area Green Space Plan process has been included in the amended Strategy.</b></p>
13.10	<p>Better lighting (for all spaces - HWCP Pride of Place and Bristol Youth Forum) and providing more facilities may also act to make these spaces safer and more welcoming.</p> <p><i>Public response HWCP Pride of Place Bristol Youth Forum</i></p>	<p>Refer to Comment Ref n° 4.02 for officer response on lighting.</p> <p>The policy is designed to act on sites where installing new facilities is prohibited because of high levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism i.e. where this in itself is unlikely to support legitimate and sustainable use. The council recognises that policy LM7 is only part of the solution to tackling anti-social behaviour.</p>
13.11	<p>Development should only occur when required to significantly enhance the remaining space and new development should be constructed using the highest principles of sustainability.</p> <p><i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 5 – Sustainable Building Design and Construction has been developed in accordance with local, regional and national planning policy, and its adoption means that sustainable design and construction are material considerations to be given weight in considering development proposals, and can be the subject of planning conditions and/or obligations in respect of appropriate development.</p>
13.12	<p>Any built development being considered through the Backland Spaces site policy must be of the highest quality. Too often new development is forced to be of poor quality as the council tries to get the highest possible value from its land assets.</p> <p><i>Conservation Advisory Panel</i></p>	<p>Agreed. The application of this policy will require high standards of new development, in line with Council Planning Policy.</p>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>14.0</b>	<b>Transport planning</b>	
14.01	Support for transport planning that will ensure accessibility to green spaces by public transport, walking or cycling. <i>Bristol Primary Care Trust</i>	Agreed. Planning sustainable transport in to the delivery of the Strategy is very important. Policies LM11 and LM12 refer to this.
14.02	Good public transport links to green spaces are essential. <i>Public response</i>	Comment noted. Generally, this is beyond the scope and influence of the Strategy but policy LM11 will seek to enable closer working with Transport Planning to deliver better public transport links to key parks.
14.03	Combining the use of waterways with green spaces seems to have been overlooked. <i>Public response</i>	The use and management of waterways for recreation is subject to a number of policies and strategies, namely from the Environment Agency and Bristol City Council, Waterways and Marine Services. The publicly accessible green space running alongside the River Avon and Bristol Harbour, together with watercourses within other parks has been included within the P&GSS Typology.
<u>Cycleways / Greenways / pathways</u>		
14.04	Strategy authors should be aware of the Brislington study which develops some ideas of safe and confident access to open space with particular reference to routes and rights of way. <i>Joint Local Access Forum</i>	There is a great deal of scope to connect the aims of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan with the delivery of the Strategy. It is proposed that Brislington is an initial priority area for showing how the two pieces of work can be delivered together.
14.05	There should be a clear policy to support bicycle access. <i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i>	Policy LM12 acts to support bicycle access. The council wants to encourage bicycle access to parks but have a responsibility to safeguard other users from illegal users of motorbikes.

14.06	There need to be more cycleways and walkways provided that are safe and away from traffic. <i>Public response</i> <i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i>	Policy LM11 is about creating better relationships with Transport Planning – which includes looking at cycleways and walkways.
14.07	There are opportunities for new cycle routes and to make new linkages between cycle routes. <i>Public response</i>	Comment noted. Refer to Comment Ref n° 14.06.
14.08	Not all walkways and cycleways in the city have been included in the strategy when others have. <i>VOSCUR member</i>	The inclusion or exclusion of walkways and cycleways is dependant upon them running through a park or green space.  <b><i>However, all strategic routes will be mapped where they connect green spaces as part of Area Green Space Plans.</i></b>
14.09	A partnership with the police is key to preventing illegal motorbike use.  <i>VOSCUR member</i>	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.
14.10	Consider also cycle security.  <i>Sustainable Transport</i>	<b><i>Reference to the need to provide better cycle parking facilities in parks has been included in the revised document.</i></b>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>15.0</b>	<b>Resources</b>	
15.01	Green space should not be sold off to invest in raising quality. This is only a short-term solution. <i>Public response</i>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 6.05.
15.02	The amount of funding to be generated by the disposal	Comment noted.

	<p>of land is of concern. Whether the Panel would support the sale of a green space would depend on where it is and on where the resulting investment is going. It would also depend on the quality of the built development if that were to be the alternative use.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Conservation Advisory Panel</i></p>	<p>Refer to Comment Ref n° 15.03.</p> <p>Refer to Comment Ref n° 17.02.</p> <p>Refer to Comment Ref n° 13.12.</p>
15.03	<p>All or the majority of funding (<i>BPF/CABE Space – 80%</i>) raised from the sale of green space should be re-invested in raising the quality of other green spaces in the city.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Kerry MaCarthy MP Bristol Parks Forum (BPF) CABE Space Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>The proportion of funding provided for investment in green spaces will be agreed by Cabinet as part of the adoption.</p>
15.04	<p>The document does not provide the criteria for assessing 'low value' green space with regard to the sale of green space for investment. Clarity of the relationship between low quality and low value green space is needed</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Campaign to Protect Rural England Natural England St Paul's Unlimited CABE Space</i></p>	<p>Agreed. <b><i>More information has been provided on the criteria for assessing low value in the revised strategy.</i></b></p> <p>Value will determined by a number of cultural and usage factors, not financial value. Although low value open space will likely be of low quality, this isn't a direct relationship between the two. Quality is raised more easily than value; this is why it is low value, not low quality, sites that are to be reviewed.</p>

15.05	<p>Concern that the document does not state which sites have been identified as 'low value' and hence will be considered for disposal.</p> <p><i>Campaign to Protect Rural England Pegasus Planning Group Bedminster Area Housing Committee St Paul's Unlimited Goodpenny Island Partnership CABE Space</i></p>	<p>The identification of 'low value' sites that may be considered for disposal will take place as part of the development of Area Green Space Plans. These will be completed within two years of the adoption of the strategy.</p>
15.06	<p>Concern about how much low value green space will be sold for development.</p> <p><i>Campaign to Protect Rural England</i></p>	
15.07	<p>Local communities should be involved in the process of identifying green space for alternative use (including disposal).</p> <p><i>Public response Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership St Paul's Unlimited</i></p>	<p>The identification of 'low value' green space will take place as part of the development of Area Green Space Plans and local communities will be asked to participate in these. An assessment of the value of some spaces will take place as part of Area Green Space Plans.</p>
15.08	<p>The Strategy lacks a clear funding strategy.</p> <p><i>RPS Planning and Development Ltd.</i></p>	<p>The strategy provided summary information on the capital needed to fund its delivery.</p> <p><b><i>A clear funding strategy will be agreed with the adoption of the Strategy.</i></b></p>
15.09	<p>The Strategy needs to state that additional funding for grounds maintenance / repair and staff (revenue) will be available. Investing in capital will be a waste of money, as new facilities will deteriorate unless they are better maintained.</p> <p><i>Public response Bristol Parks Forum Bristol Disability Forum</i></p>	<p>The resources available for revenue funding will increase during the lifetime of the strategy. The strategy proposes to raise funds for capital improvements from S106 planning gain agreements. Each agreement will also provide revenue funding for improving both the long-term and annual maintenance of those spaces and facilities that are the subject of the agreement.</p> <p>As a result of this being a key point raised in consultation on the draft</p>

	<p><i>Bristol Physical Access Chain</i>  <i>Bristol Civic Society</i>  <i>Joint Local Access Forum</i></p>	<p>Strategy, proposals have been added to balance capital investment and increased revenue funding in order to give assurance that improvements will be sustained. A percentage of capital receipts will be set aside for the repair and replacement of damaged and worn out facilities.</p> <p>In terms of annual maintenance costs, the council has undertaken a grounds maintenance review. The recommendations of the review should be considered at the same time as the Parks and Green Space Strategy and will inform the council's intentions for improving grounds maintenance in to the future.</p>
15.10	<p>Concern that the Strategy will not be adequately resourced in terms of capital funding.  <i>Bristol Civic Society</i></p>	<p>The council has developed a comprehensive financial model which has been used to forecast capital costs. It is inevitable that the costs will vary once more detailed design work is started but the figure of £87 million is a reasonable estimate on which to develop our programme of improvements.</p> <p>It is true that the pace of implementation will be limited to the pace at which resources are generated from planning gain, grants or land disposals.</p>
15.11	<p>The strategy intends to raise <i>too much</i> of the investment money needed from development (both land sale and S106). Other sources should contribute more, particularly core funding from the authority.  <i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The capital investment strategy is believed to be realistic in the way it sources and balances funding bearing in mind the council has a wide range of other requirements for capital funds.</p>
15.12	<p>The use of S106 planning gain money and money from land disposal should not excuse the council from supplying necessary funds for parks and green spaces.  <i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i>  <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>Bristol City Council will continue to fund parks services during the lifetime of the Strategy at least to the equivalent of current levels.</p> <p>Spending commitments for all public services are given in the council's 3-year <i>Medium Term Financial Plan</i>. The current MTFP proposes an increase in funding for Parks. The update of the Financial Plan is always published for public comment every autumn and winter.</p>
15.13	<p>Capital receipt should be recycled to improve green spaces or community facilities <i>locally</i>.</p>	<p>A direct link cannot be made between money raised from the sale of green space and an investment in quality in the local area. The strategy</p>

	<p><i>Public response</i>  <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>  <i>Bristol Disability Forum</i></p>	<p>aims to raise the quality of green spaces to benefit communities across the city, including areas where land may not be sold. Also, land values are not equal across the city so it is important that investment plans are not restricted by the value of land that may be disposed of in any area.</p> <p>It is likely in practice however that the council will be sensitive to local needs when an area of green space is sold for alternative use.</p> <p>An exception to the disconnection of the area of sale to investment will be with regard to policy LM7 – Backland Spaces.</p>
15.14	<p>There should be a cap on the amount of land sold off in any one area.  <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>The disposal of land for alternative use will be determined by an assessment of low value as part of the Area Green Space Plan process.</p> <p>The amount of low value land identified in any one area is likely to be a consideration in the Area Green Space Plan process alongside all the other policy imperatives, but not a determining factor in creating a ‘cap’ on the amount of land proposed for alternative uses.</p>
15.15	<p>If green space currently owned by Neighbourhood and Housing Services is sold, does the income go to improving green spaces or to support other Housing needs?  <i>Bedminster Area Housing Committee</i>  <i>VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>Initially, up to 78 hectares of recreational green space owned by the council’s Neighbourhood and Housing Services Department is being transferred to Culture and Leisure Services. However if any of this land is identified as being of low value and considered for alternative use, the money raised will go into improving Housing services, not necessarily green spaces. This is a legal requirement under the rules governing use of capital receipts from land in the Housing Revenue Account.</p>
15.16	<p>The level of vandalism in my area is very high and needs to be accounted for in funding projections to get to a ‘good’ quality and in subsequent maintenance.  <i>VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>The cost model in the strategy uses an average of repair and maintenance costs across the city and across facilities and hence takes into account areas where costs are likely to be higher.</p> <p>The council is aware that there are higher maintenance and repair issues in some areas and spaces due to vandalism and criminal damage and will work with communities to address this in aspiring to reach the quality standard of ‘good’.</p> <p><b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation.</i></b></p>

15.17	<p>More information should be provided on how Bristol's park budgets compare with those of other cities of comparative size.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comparisons have been made between Bristol and other 'Core Cities' that appear to show Bristol's level of expenditure is lower than some of the other large cities. However it is not proposed to include information within the revised Strategy as reliable evidence-based comparisons are very difficult to produce, as councils tend to manage their budgets and classify their green spaces in different ways.</p>
15.18	<p>As S106 funding is a core part of funding the strategy, local communities need to be included in the debate about how it is spent.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol East Side Traders</i></p>	<p>Agreed within the constraints of the planning system and by individual agreements. S106 provides a substantive part of the investment needed to raise the quality of spaces across. Communities will be involved in the debate about how it is spent through the Area Green Space Plan process.</p> <p>The process behind agreeing and allocating S106 money is inherently complex and more information will be provided on how this works – accessible online on the Bristol Parks web pages.</p> <p><b><i>A public guide to the open space S106 agreements and allocation process will be produced by Bristol Parks and will be available at Strategy adoption.</i></b></p>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>16.0</b>	<b>Grounds maintenance</b>	
16.01	<p>There is no reference to the role that private estate management can play in the quality of care and health of green spaces.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>RPS Planning and Development Ltd.</i></p>	<p>This is because the Strategy is concerned with legitimately, publicly accessible, recreational open space and does not include private estate. However the council does recognise that 'private estate' green spaces can make an important contribution to the needs of residents in regenerated communities.</p>
16.02	<p>When investing in horticulture to raise quality standards an inclusive approach (nursery, green keeper, arboriculture, ecology skills) rather than specialist approach should be pursued.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Horticultural Partnership</i></p>	<p>Agreed. It is important to aim for a flexible workforce of multi-skilled Parks professionals - in horticulture and other core disciplines.</p>

16.03	Options such as smaller, local contracts and use of social enterprises should be considered. <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>	Agreed. The Grounds Maintenance Review aims to keep open the opportunity for local contracts as part of a 'mixed economy' of park management services.
16.04	The management of green space should be carried out in a sustainable and organic manner, minimising waste and carbon emissions. <i>Public response Green Capital Momentum Group</i>	Agreed. <b><i>The Strategy has been amended to incorporate new Policy LM9 which commits Bristol Parks to this.</i></b>
16.05	Every park should have a native plant species policy. <i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i>	Disagree. When introducing new species into existing semi-natural habitats or when attempting to create new semi-natural habitats then we would tend to select native and preferably local provenance stock where available. However, many parks and green spaces are considerably improved by the wide variety of introduced, non-native trees, shrubs and flowers.  <b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation.</i></b>
16.06	Most parks have low-maintenance and boring shrubs and trees. More imaginative planting should be considered. <i>Public response</i>	Agreed. Comment already addressed within the Strategy and Policy FG7 addresses this.

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
17.0	<b>Prioritisation</b>	
17.01	Not enough information is provided on priorities / milestones - which areas of the city or individual green spaces will benefit from investment first in order for them	Comment noted.  <b><i>More details have been provided in the amended Strategy, including</i></b>

	<p>to meet the Quality Standard.</p> <p><i>Public response</i>  <i>RPS Planning and Development Ltd.</i>  <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>  <i>Bristol Disability Forum/Bristol Physical Access Chain</i>  <i>St Paul's Unlimited</i></p>	<p><b>information on Area Green Space Plans which will establish the site-by-site priorities. There is also a delivery plan in the Strategy document that provides an indication of priorities for action, for example in establishing sites to benefit from Park Keepers.</b></p>
17.02	<p>Greater clarity is required on what the priorities for improvement are and the methodology behind this.</p> <p><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>Refer to Comment Ref n° 17.01</p>
17.03	<p>Smaller, more local parks should be improved as a priority in order that local needs be met first. This will reduce the need for unsustainable travel and bring community benefits.</p> <p><i>Public response</i>  <i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i>  <i>Campaign to Protect Rural England</i>  <i>South Street Park Watch</i>  <i>Sustainable Bishopston</i></p>	<p>This is a clear finding of the consultation process and will be a key consideration when deciding priorities for investment. However it should be noted that larger parks are also 'local' to a significant part of the population.</p>
17.04	<p>Support the initial intention to raise quality in the more deprived areas of Bristol.</p> <p><i>Bristol Primary Care Trust</i></p>	<p>There is a strong correlation between areas of poor quality parks and the most deprived areas of the city and these will be a particular focus for the Strategy. However it is agreed that there are other factors that will help decide priorities.</p>
17.05	<p>It is not only deprived areas that require investment. Wherever parks are of the lowest quality should be the priority for investment.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Refer to Comment Ref n° 17.04</p>
17.06	<p>Improving whole parks at a time will mean that some parks won't see any improvements for ages.</p> <p><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Comment noted. Improvements to green spaces will take many forms, not just whole site improvements. However whole site improvements are often cost-effective and their greater impact can have other positive</p>

		benefits e.g. increasing use.
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<b>Comment Ref n°</b>	<b>Summary of Submission</b>	<b>Officer response</b>
<b>18.0</b>	<b>Housing land transfer</b>	
18.01	More information is needed on what current Neighbourhood and Housing services land is considered by the Strategy. <i>Bedminster Area Housing Committee</i>	All substantial open space with unrestricted public access is included.  Also refer to Comment Ref n° 15.15.
18.02	Suggestion that the transfer of land from other council departments and public bodies to Bristol Parks be considered. <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>	Rationalising the management responsibilities of land functioning as parks and green space held by other council departments to Culture and Leisure Services is a corporate aspiration. We are currently working on the transfer of Neighbourhood and Housing Services (HRA) land used as parks and green spaces – which is the majority of open space held by other departments.

<b>Comment Ref n°</b>	<b>Summary of Submission</b>	<b>Officer response</b>
<b>19.0</b>	<b>Area green space plans</b>	
19.01	Disposal of open space sites should not take place until an Area Green Space Plan is agreed and in place. <i>Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i>	Area Green Space Plans are not likely to be in place until two years after the adoption of the Strategy. The council cannot guarantee that green space will not be offered for alternative uses during this period.
19.02	Provision of allotments should be considered for green spaces that are no longer needed as public open space. <i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i>	The council already recognises this should be a consideration in parts of the city where there is a shortage of allotments.

19.03	<p>What are the areas for which Area Green Space Plans will be written?</p> <p><i>Voluntary sector youth work providers</i></p>	<p>The Plans will follow the Neighbourhood Partnership areas that the council has recently confirmed.</p> <p><b><i>A plan of Neighbourhood Partnership areas has been included in the final Strategy document.</i></b></p>
19.04	<p>Area Green Space Plans should consider safe walking zones to parks and green spaces.</p> <p><i>Buried Treasure</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p><b><i>To be considered as part of Strategy implementation.</i></b></p>
19.05	<p>Local Need Area boundaries do not represent people's actual use of different spaces.</p> <p><i>Windmill Hill City Farm/NET-WORK South Bristol</i></p>	<p>Agreed. Local Need Area boundaries generally reflect the more significant physical barriers to accessing green spaces, in line with Planning Policy Guidance applying to green space strategies, but they also follow administrative boundaries. A more detailed assessment of barriers to use will form part of the development of Area Green Space Plans.</p>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
20.0	<b>Design guide</b>	
	No comments made to respond to	

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
21.0	<b>Working with partners</b>	
21.01	<p>Bristol Parks should maintain close links with the police in order to tackle crime and safety in parks.</p> <p><i>Kerry MaCarthy MP</i></p>	<p>The council has forged closer working links with the police regarding park and green spaces through the Safer Parks Project, works closer with Safer Bristol, and will continue to build positively on this work.</p>

21.02	<p>More could be made of the role of neighbourhood management in setting local standards, monitoring delivery and becoming engaged with delivering on local areas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>This depends on the development of neighbourhood management arrangements in Bristol but we agree that parks fit readily into this concept and have registered this view.</p> <p>Neighbourhood management has been addressed in the Grounds Maintenance Review which provides for neighbourhood-based approaches to service delivery where they are appropriate to meeting local needs.</p>
21.03	<p>It would be helpful to acknowledge the partners that work with Bristol Parks to deliver services and those that it is anticipated will do so in the future.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Forest of Avon Avon Wildlife Trust</i></p>	<p>Bristol parks works successfully with a large number of partners that often change. As a result, because of the 20-year lifetime of the Strategy, their inclusion in the document has been under a generic heading. However the council does recognise the immense value of the partnership it currently has with both the Forest of Avon and the Avon Wildlife Trust.</p>
21.04	<p>The role of the Avon Wildlife Trust is not recognised in the document.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i></p>	<p>The council works with the Avon Wildlife Trust as a partner to support good management of natural green space for the benefit of wildlife. The council also works with other partners to deliver parks services. As partners will change over the 20-year lifetime of the Strategy their inclusion in the document has been under a generic heading.</p>
21.05	<p>Other people's strategies – concern that the strategies we have don't always fit together and that some of the Parks and Green Space Strategy might be modified to fit in with other strategies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NET-WORK South Bristol Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>Important point. Consideration of other strategies has taken place in drafting the Strategy but a detailed assessment has not – but needs to be undertaken as part of delivery of the Strategy. The Parks and Green Space Strategy is in line with and supports the Community Strategy and fits in with the Bristol Development Framework process. Internal consultation with council Departments has taken place and joint work will continue.</p>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>22.0</b>	<b>Boosting participation and increasing use</b>	
22.01	Is there a good idea of what success look like in terms	Three important objectives of the Strategy are to increase the quality of

	<p>of increasing use?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>parks and green spaces, satisfaction with them and increase use of them. For increased use, this is not yet quantified as a target in the Strategy but will be shortly after its adoption. However it would mean increasing the number of visits (already over 25 million) and the percentage of the Bristol population (currently 83%) visiting parks.</p> <p>Year on year, targets for satisfaction levels and levels of use of green spaces are set within Bristol Parks' Service Delivery Plan.</p> <p><b><i>Addition text has been added to the revised Strategy on Monitoring and Evaluation.</i></b></p>
<u>Tackling key barriers to use</u>		
22.02	<p>There should be a more definite link to the Safer Stronger (Greener) element of the overall local and government strategy – improving safety through design.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Avon and Somerset Police</i></p>	<p>Improving safety through design is already a strong element of the Bristol Green Space Design Guide which supports the Strategy. Ongoing work with the police and the Safer Bristol Partnership will enable stronger connections to be made between respective strategies.</p>
22.03	<p>Disabled people need to be able to visit parks and green spaces independently. This means providing toilet facilities with some available to use with a RADAR key.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Young People's Disability Forum</i></p>	<p>Agreed. <b><i>A new Policy LM4 has been added to the Strategy "To provide good quality accessible toilets at main traditional parks and sports grounds, meeting the British Toilet Association Standard and complying with the Disability Discrimination Act."</i></b></p>
22.04	<p>Improving access for disabled people is not a strong enough feature of the Strategy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>A full equalities impact assessment has been written for the Strategy. The Assessment makes key recommendations and proposes actions for improving access to parks for disabled people and others. A more detailed equalities action plan and programme will be developed after the Strategy is adopted.</p> <p>The equalities impact assessment can be viewed online at <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks">www.bristol.gov.uk/parks</a></p>
22.05	<p>Physical barriers to accessing green spaces need to be accounted for in <i>local</i> areas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>The Strategy already considers this by proposing Area Green Space Plans which will identify local barriers to access and identify solutions.</p>

<u>Consultation and involvement</u>		
22.06	Community involvement in delivering better quality green spaces should be a key element of the Strategy. <i>Campaign to Protect Rural England Bristol Women's Forum</i>	Agreed. The council is committed to continuing to engage with and involve local residents as part of Area Green Space Plans, park improvements and site management plans.  <b><i>An additional policy on supporting participation and involvement has been incorporated within the Strategy.</i></b>
22.07	Consulting and involving local residents and community groups is important to ensure success. <i>Public response</i>	Agreed. The council is committed to continuing to engage with and involve local residents as part of Area Green Space Plans, park improvements and site management plans.
22.08	The council should encourage volunteers and older people that can volunteer professional expertise. <i>Bristol Visual and Environmental Group BCS and LA21 Land Use Group</i>	Agreed. Recognising and developing the role of volunteers in parks is an area the council would like to focus on.  <b><i>Bristol Parks will write and adopt a Volunteer Policy.</i></b>
22.09	Supporting young volunteers should be an objective of the Strategy. <i>Bristol Young People's Forum</i>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 22.08.  <b><i>Bristol Parks will write and adopt a Volunteer Policy.</i></b>
22.10	If there is a steering group or advisory panel for the Strategy then young people should be represented. <i>Bristol Young People's Forum</i>	It is envisaged that young people will be represented as advisors for implementation of the Strategy. Bristol Parks will continue to engage with other advisory bodies such as the Young People's Forum.
22.11	There should be a citizens' council established to contribute ideas and monitor progress. <i>Public response</i>	It is envisaged that the Bristol community will be represented on an advisory group for implementation of the Strategy.  The Bristol Citizens Panel and the annual Quality of Life survey often provide valuable feedback.
<u>Developing and supporting community groups</u>		

22.12	<p>The Parks Forum should be extended to include a wider consultation and voluntary sector base.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p>	<p>The council recognises that the Bristol Parks Forum plays an important independent role as a public advocate for the city's green spaces. The council also recognises that the Forum can only represent the range of organisations it can attract and so is currently not necessarily representative of the wider community. We would however help and encourage it to be so.</p>
22.13	<p>The Parks Forum would benefit from additional support from VOSCUR.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p>	<p>The Bristol Parks Forum acts as an independent body and as such is able to approach other agencies than the council for support.</p>
22.14	<p>The council should support community management of open space. This should include enabling parks trusts that can have legal responsibility for open space.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NET-WORK South Bristol Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>In principle the council supports different approaches to community management of green space up to and including local groups taking full legal responsibility.</p>
22.15	<p>The sale of green space could support community enterprises as an alternative to improving the quality of parks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NET-WORK South Bristol Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>Investing money raised from the sale of green spaces back into improving the quality of remaining green spaces will be the priority. Consultation suggests this is a strong factor in maintaining public support for the investment proposals.</p> <p>There are technical financial regulations that make it difficult for the council to use capital receipts to fund social enterprises although this idea should not be ruled out.</p>
22.16	<p>There is not enough acknowledgement of the contribution community groups make to improve the city's green spaces.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The council recognises the importance of community groups in making significant improvements to green spaces in the city and helping with their management. The Strategy makes it clear that the council is committed to supporting community groups and community participation in delivering better parks.</p> <p><b><i>The Strategy has been amended to include new policy D1 to add greater recognition and offer support to community and groups and community participation.</i></b></p>

	<u>Education and outreach</u>	
22.17	<p>There is not enough information on the need to make better links with schools.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>The importance of working with schools is detailed in the Delivery Section of the Strategy document; although the council agrees the potential for working closely with schools needs a more strategic and considered approach by the Parks Service and Children and Young People's Services.</p> <p><b><i>This is supported by new Policy D1.</i></b></p>
	<u>Health and exercise</u>	
	<u>Good communication and information planning</u>	
22.18	<p>Providing up-to-date information on changes and the progress of the strategy is important to local residents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public response</i></p>	<p>Agreed. It is intended that the parks web pages will be used to improve communications on all aspects of Strategy delivery.</p>
	<u>Events and festivals</u>	
22.19	<p>Small-scale, park specific community-led events need to be encouraged and supported.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NET-WORK South Bristol Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership</i></p>	<p>Agreed. Bristol Parks will continue to support such events.</p> <p><b><i>The Strategy has been amended to include Policy D2 which provides for support to events.</i></b></p>

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>23.0</b>	<b>Links between PGSS and urban planning</b>	
23.01	<p>The Bristol Green Space Standards should support the Bristol Development Framework as a Supplementary Planning Document. (SPD) / have closer links to the Framework.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Avon Wildlife Trust Natural England</i></p> <p>It is a matter of regret that the Strategy has been de-coupled from the Bristol Local Development Framework.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>The Strategy is a very important part of the evidence base that will inform the proposals and policies of the Bristol Development Framework. For example, the BDF's Core Strategy will include a core policy setting out the council's Open/Green Space aspirations including reference to the Bristol Green Space Standards.</p> <p>Also, the Strategy's approach will be used by the BDF's Site Allocations Document to designate valuable existing and new open spaces, protecting them from other types of development.</p> <p>There is still scope for the council to consider adopting the Strategy as an SPD in due course although this is not proposed at present, as it is not though to be necessary.</p>
23.02	<p>No mention of the creation of new green spaces by developers, particularly in the city centre.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Friends of the Earth</i></p>	<p>Where development proposals will generate a need for new green space, an appropriate level of provision, as guided by the strategy standards, will be sought through the planning process. In the event of the needs of an increased local population arising from new development, continuing to be met by existing provision, contributions will be sought in line with SPD 4 for investment in improving the quality of existing open spaces nearby.</p>
23.03	<p>The proposals for new Local Nature Reserves need to be incorporated in to the Bristol Development Framework.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>Designated wildlife sites, and the designation of new Local Nature Reserves, will be incorporated in to the Bristol Development Framework through its Site Allocations Document (due to commence preparation in 2008).</p>
23.04	<p>Links between the planning process and the Strategy could be strengthened by identifying key policies that should be included in the Bristol Development Framework.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p>Refer to Comment Ref n° 23.01.</p>

23.05	<p>The assertion that the city has more green space per capita in 2007 than the average comparable city needs to be justified given the definitional problems associated with such calculations and the importance of this assumption in planning terms.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CABE Space</i></p>	<p><b><i>Having undertaken further assessment of the levels of green space per capita in other Core Cities, the evidence is not reliable and therefore this assertion has been removed from the final Strategy document.</i></b></p>
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Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
<b>24.0</b>	<b>Scope of Strategy</b>	
24.01	<p>There is no mention of trees and how they will be managed and replaced within the Strategy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bristol Parks Forum Bristol Civic Society Forest of Avon Bristol Visual and Environmental Group VOSCUR member</i></p>	<p>Agreed. Trees are an essential component of green space including their management, replacement and new planting.</p> <p><b><i>A management and planting programme for trees is being prepared following the completion of ongoing asset and condition surveys.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>To emphasise the importance of trees a new policy LM10 has been added to support planting new trees.</i></b></p>
24.02	<p>A street tree planting strategy is needed, particularly where this can enhance wildlife corridors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Conservation Advisory Panel</i></p> <p>Parks should be extended into the city by tree planting and other landscaping close to park entrances.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i></p>	<p><b><i>Agreed. A separate but complimentary strategy for street trees is needed and being progressed. An ambitious programme of new street tree planting is proposed.</i></b></p> <p>Priorities for new street tree planting should very usefully compliment green space improvements where opportunities exist.</p>
24.03	<p>The Strategy does not include Bristol's city farms and community gardens in its assessment of green space provision.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens</i></p>	<p>The Strategy considers sites that are legitimately, publicly accessible recreational space. In assessing this reasonable judgements have been made and some spaces excluded - including city farms where it is believed the public are not able to access the site 'at will'. However there</p>

	<i>Windmill Hill City Farm/NET-WORK South Bristol</i>	<p>is scope to add sites such as City Farms within the scope of the Strategy if public access is confirmed. This in no way implies a lack of recognition of the importance of city farms to communities.</p> <p><b><i>The Strategy has been amended and details of these exclusions to the Typology have been added.</i></b></p>
24.04	<p>Churchyards and cemeteries provide valuable green space and wildlife habitats and should be supported as part of the city's green space.</p> <p><i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i></p>	<p>Agreed. Bristol Parks has numerous non-active churchyards and burial grounds, some of which are identified as Natural Green Space within the Strategy e.g. Clifton Parish churchyard (Birdcage Walk). Others may be mapped as Formal or Informal Green Space and not necessarily managed primarily for wildlife.</p> <p>Cemeteries whose primary role is the operation of burials or cremations are not considered by the Strategy or managed primarily for wildlife. They do not have legitimate, recreational access. This does not mean however that they don't have wildlife value e.g. Canford Cemetery.</p>
24.05	<p>There are small patches of council-owned land (incidental space) that are not considered by the Strategy. There needs to be an assurance that these will be managed to an acceptable standard.</p> <p><i>NET-WORK South Bristol Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership St Paul's Unlimited</i></p>	<p>The Strategy considers sites that are legitimately, publicly accessible recreational space but does exclude some smaller 'patches' of land where a judgement has been made that they do not have a recreational function. The new green space provision standards will be applied to these spaces. The council will continue to care for and maintain spaces not within the scope of the strategy and aim to improve their quality. Bristol Parks needs to work closely with other council departments to achieve this.</p>
24.06	<p>Is undeveloped land in Lawrence Weston, Kings Weston, Avonmouth and Shirhampton Marsh that has public access and wildlife value included in the 38m2 calculation of accessible public space?</p> <p><i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i></p>	<p>All spaces that are currently mapped as publicly accessible, recreational green space included in the Strategy are provided on a city map that can be viewed at <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks">www.bristol.gov.uk/parks</a></p>
24.07	<p>The Strategy is over too long a time period at 20 years.</p> <p><i>Joint Local Access Forum</i></p>	<p>In raising quality, the Strategy aims to reverse a long-term lack of funding and investment in Bristol's green spaces. A substantial amount of new funding is required to achieve this and 20 years is a realistic amount of time for this to happen.</p>

24.08	<p>The Strategy should consider a long-term aspiration for the management of Stoke Park and take responsibility for its management as public open space.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>David Lambert</i></p>	<p>The council is currently considering options for the future ownership and long-term management of Stoke Park, including taking on this responsibility itself. South Gloucestershire Council share in this decision and are currently supportive of the Bristol City Council taking over responsibility for Stoke Park.</p>
24.09	<p>The Strategy could be more effective if it was linked to a strategic approach to the planning and delivery of multifunctional Green Infrastructure that recognises the importance of a West of England wide approach able to respond to cross border opportunities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Natural England</i></p>	<p>The Strategy recognises the importance of Green Infrastructure outside the Bristol boundary, including Ashton Court Estate, and also the use made by non-Bristolians of its parks. We will be happy to link it to a wider West of England approach as the latter takes shape. The council is an active member of the West of England Green Infrastructure Project.</p>
24.10	<p>Wider green infrastructure – street trees, verges, gardens, embankments and waterways – should be enhanced and protected through the strategy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i></p>	<p>The areas included within the remit of the Strategy are those identified within the “Guidance for defining Typology of Green Space in Public Use”.</p> <p>There are a number of initiatives and protections for areas outside the scope of the Strategy for example for highway and garden trees, Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas.</p> <p>The inclusion within the P&amp;GSS does not in itself provide protection. However through the application of the Bristol Standards and through designations within the Local Plan (to be replaced by the BDF) a site may be a focus for enhancement and have multiple layers of protection.</p> <p><b><i>Further information explaining the rationale for inclusions and exclusions is included in the final Strategy document.</i></b></p>
24.11	<p>The Strategy should have a policy to protect historic parks and gardens.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The Garden History Society</i></p>	<p>Policies FG3, FG5 and FG8 specifically relate to protecting and improving the historic aspects of parks.</p> <p>Planning Policy NE9 in the Local Plan (to be replaced by the Bristol Development Framework) protects historic parks and gardens and other designed landscapes of national and local importance defined on the proposals map and described in the appendix. Development that would adversely affect the character or appearance of historic landscapes and,</p>

		in the case of nationally important sites, their settings, will not be permitted.
24.12	The historic environment in parks is weakly dealt with both in terms of policy (how they are to be protected) and interpretation. <i>Public response</i>	Refer to Comment Ref n° 24.11. The Bristol Design Guide also indicates the approach we would expect to take in restoring and improving historic environments.
24.13	Bristol Parks should be an example of sustainability to the rest of the city – recycling materials, composting, water storage and sustainable energy use. <i>Bristol Naturalists Society</i>	The council is committed to progressing more sustainable practices in managing open spaces. <b><i>The Strategy has been amended to incorporate new policy LM9 which specifically relates to this.</i></b>
24.14	CCTV should be considered to improve safety in parks. <i>VOSCUR member Bristol Young People's Forum</i>	Where appropriate CCTV will be considered, as we are currently providing at Blaise Estate.
24.15	Concern that the Strategy does not include any reference to Bristol's Green Belt or work with neighbouring authorities. <i>Public response</i>	The designation of a site as Green Belt is a Planning designation recognising the position of green space protecting the open countryside from development and 'urban sprawl'. The application of the Typology of Green Space in Public Use Strategy background document may include areas of Green Belt where they function as a park and green space. The Strategy considers the area under the administrative control of Bristol City Council only, although the Green Infrastructure process is identifying the connections with neighbouring authorities.
24.16	The strategy requires the support of all political parties to be successful. <i>Public response</i>	To date, the Strategy has benefited from support from all political parties.
24.17	Parks should provide opportunities for raising the profile of local food through new orchards/allotments, produce markets etc. <i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i>	The Allotments Strategy is designed for this and gives increasing emphasis to 'out-reach' work. It is agreed that the links between parks and allotments, and food growing generally, need promotion.

24.18	Green spaces should be considered as having potential for renewable energy production. <i>Green Capital Momentum Group</i>	The Strategy considers sites that are legitimately, publicly accessible recreational space and we would avoid undermining this function. Subject to this, we agree (wood production is the obvious example of an existing contribution).
24.19	There are spaces in the city e.g. Redland Chapel and Blaise Hamlet that have a function to provide / contribute to a historic setting. To consider the space in isolation may be to not fully communicate its full role. <i>Conservation Advisory Panel</i>	Comment noted. The Strategy recognises the historical importance of green spaces in policies FG3, FG5 and FG8. The Bristol Green Space Design Guide also provides guidance for considering historical context. When considering a green space for alternative use the Area Green Space Plan and 'assessment of value' processes will consider the historical context of green spaces. Green spaces with a historical context are also protected by existing planning policies.  Because of the above it is not felt that a separate typology is required for green spaces that provide / contribute to a historic setting.
24.20	The Strategy underplays the value of urban green space and importance of green corridors. <i>Northern Slopes Initiative</i>	It is felt that the 'Introduction' to the Strategy adequately addresses this.  <b><i>Policy LM12 has been amended in the Strategy to support improving green corridors.</i></b>
24.21	The creation of new green spaces in new development needs to be a consideration e.g. in the Temple Meads development. <i>Conservation Advisory Panel</i>	Where development proposals will generate a need for new green space, an appropriate level of provision, as guided by the strategy standards, will be sought through the planning process. In the event of the needs of an increased local population arising from new development, continuing to be met by existing provision, contributions will be sought in line with SPD 4 for investment in existing green space in the vicinity of the development.

Comment Ref n°	Summary of Submission	Officer response
25.0	<b>Public research process</b>	
25.01	There could be stronger and clearer links demonstrated	<b><i>The council has included a short paper to clearly identify how research has informed policy as an appendix to the Strategy.</i></b>

	between the findings of the user research and draft policy and standards. <i>CABE Space</i>	
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<b>Comment Ref n°</b>	<b>Summary of Submission</b>	<b>Officer response</b>
<b>26.0</b>	<b>Consultation process</b>	
26.01	The public consultation was low-key and carried out at the wrong time of year. <i>Public response</i>	Disagree. The Strategy was promoted citywide using a range of media including Bristol News. Bristol news reaches every household in the city.  The original 6-week consultation period was extended by 4 weeks to include September, traditionally outside of the holiday period.  The consultation programme was governed by the need for the Strategy programme to link with the Core Strategy Issues and Options public consultation and respond to the Bristol Development Framework programme.
26.02	If the sample population that responds to the consultation is not representative of the population of Bristol will you ignore the results? <i>Public response</i>	No. All submissions will be considered.



# 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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If you would like this information in a different format, for example Braille, audiotape, large print or computer disc, or community languages, please contact: **Bristol Parks 0117 922 3719**



■ • *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](http://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](http://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

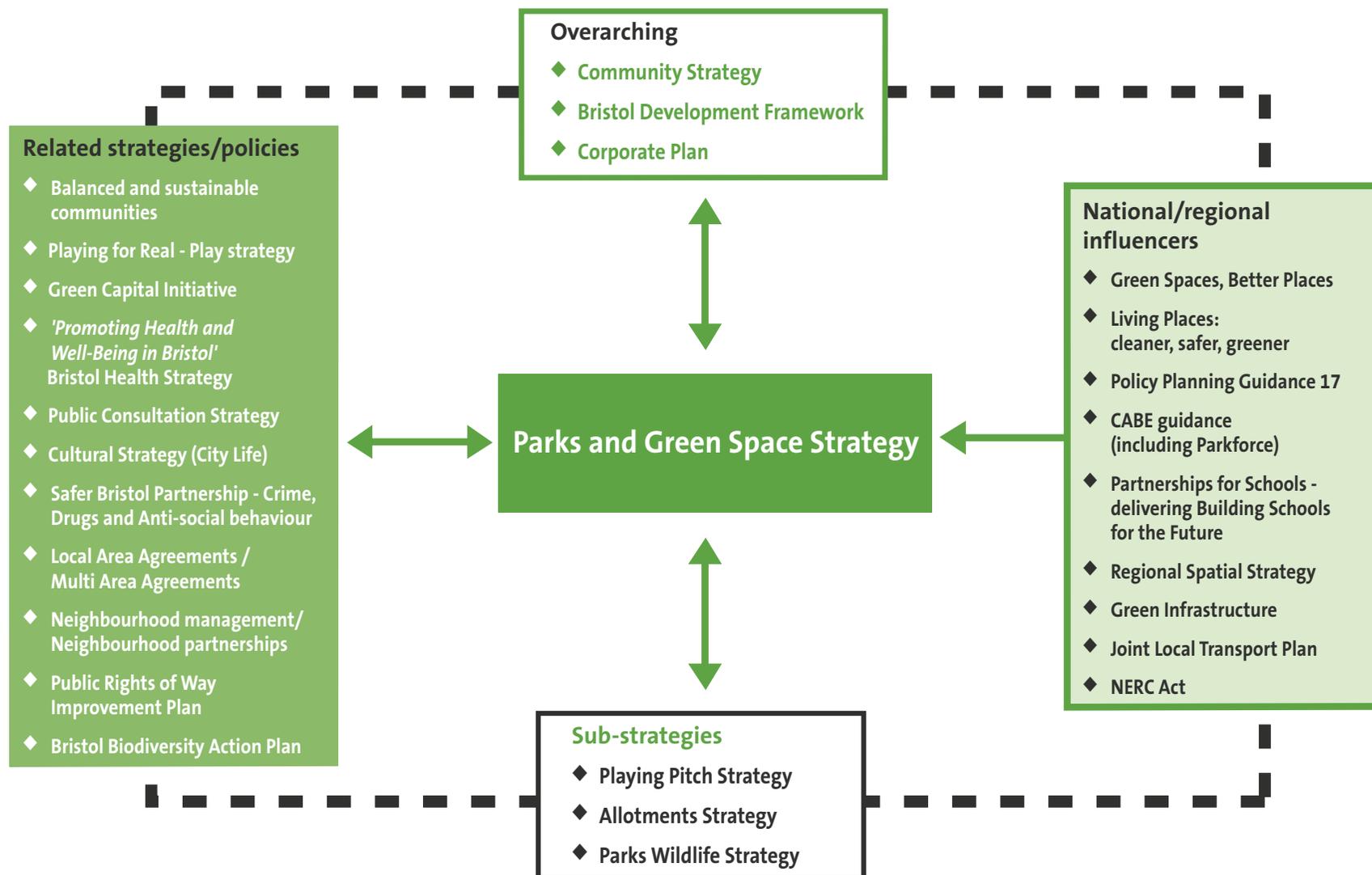
The Bristol Partnership's Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan set out five aims:

- ▶ 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](http://www.bristolpartnership.org) or look for the Corporate Plan online at [www.bristol.gov.uk](http://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><b>Children and young people’s space</b></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><b>Formal green space</b></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><b>Informal green space</b></p> 	<p>Informal in layout and character, where the emphasis is on informal recreation. They generally have few or no additional facilities.</p>
<p><b>Natural green space</b></p> 	<p>Sites providing people with access to, and experience of nature. It includes woodland, grassland, scrub, hedgerows and wetland.</p>
<p><b>Active sports space</b></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](http://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

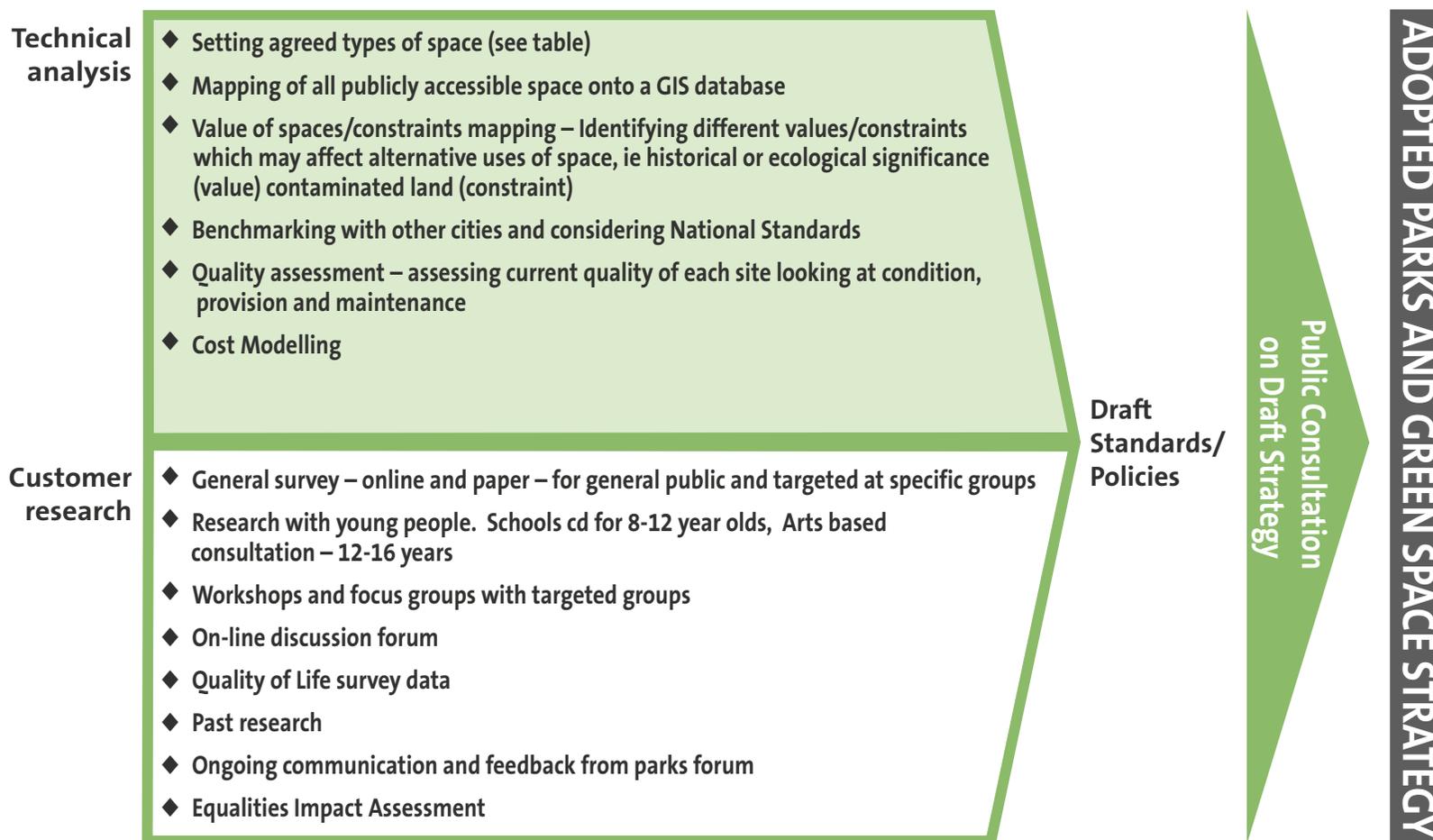
**SNCIs in private ownership**  
No public access

**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

### 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](http://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](http://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 the older kids.

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
<b>CY1</b>	<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"> <li>▶ Increase the number of play spaces, providing larger, better quality spaces well distributed across the city, working to a minimum size of 600m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>▶ Develop natural play spaces which are actively designed using both the natural landscape and the introduction of natural play materials.</li> <li>▶ promote children's play space as smoke-free</li> </ul>
<b>CY2</b>	<p>Provide diverse, exciting and challenging spaces for young people, including equipment, wheels parks and shelters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide a good quality wheels park within 2km of home, which includes space for spectators.</li> <li>▶ Provide a multi-use games area within 1km of home</li> <li>▶ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>CY3</b>	<p>Maintain and enhance three high quality major play spaces which attract citywide and regional users.</p>
<b>CY4</b>	<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](http://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](http://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
<b>NG1</b>	Establish a network of 16 Local Nature Reserves providing access to high quality sites for wildlife and a focus for supporting community involvement.
<b>NG2</b>	<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"> <li>▶ Develop a skilled dedicated workforce specialising in management of nature conservation sites, with suitable specialist equipment.</li> <li>▶ Improve entrances and routes through natural green space to improve welcome and security.</li> </ul>
<b>NG3</b>	Safeguard and enhance rich and diverse habitats and species within parks and green spaces through a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Bristol.
<b>NG4</b>	Achieve favourable conservation status on all publicly accessible Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) controlled by Bristol City Council by 2020.
<b>NG5</b>	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](http://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
<b>LM11</b>	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
<b>LM12</b>	Improve the quality of green corridors, riverside routes and cycle/walkways through the city for recreation, biodiversity and commuting.
<b>LM13</b>	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](http://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](http://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)	

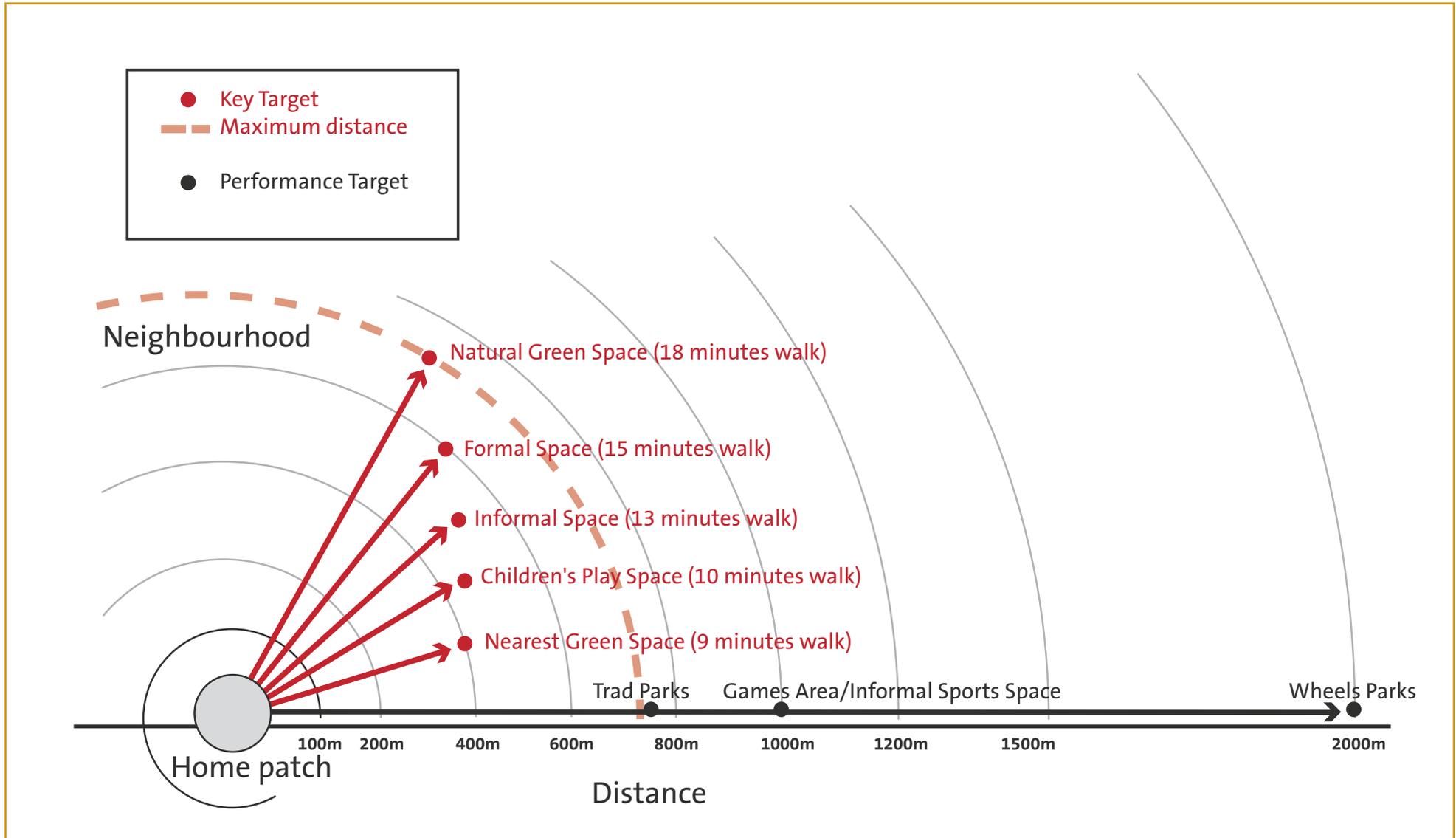
\* Estimated equivalent walking time based on NPFA guidance

### 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
<b>Total Bristol Standard</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>2.78</b>

### 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](http://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](http://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
<b>Approach</b>	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					
<b>Strategic Priorities/options (Improving service quality)</b>	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
<b>Indicative capital investment and financial implications</b>	£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](http://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:		LM5, LM6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Identify and establish dog free spaces</li> <li>▶ Train on-site staff to carry out education, and enforcement of dog fouling issues - focus initially on destination parks and traditional parks</li> </ul>	Year 1-2 (2008-2009) Year 1 (2008)	
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"> <li>▶ Sustaining the active partnership with Safer Bristol and Avon and Somerset Police</li> <li>▶ Rolling out Project Biker across the city to include a new off-road facility</li> </ul>	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"> <li>▶ Undertaking a feasibility study for the restoration of Kings Weston Estate</li> <li>▶ Confirming the future ownership and management arrangements for Stoke Park and Brentry Park</li> </ul>	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"> <li>▶ review and rationalisation bowling and tennis provision</li> </ul>	Year 1-2 (2008-2009)	AS3
Plan and implement improved communication and participation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ carrying out a signage audit and producing a policy for enhancing information and interpretation signs</li> <li>▶ Improving targeted information provision</li> </ul>	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 Young People's Services, 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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"> <li>■ St Pauls</li> <li>■ Bristol Women's Forum</li> <li>■ Bristol Race Equality Forum</li> <li>■ Bristol Older People's Forum</li> <li>■ Bristol Disability Equality Forum</li> </ul>	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.

## Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment - Abstract

### 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.

## Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment - Abstract

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&amp;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>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 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>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&amp;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>

## Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment - Abstract

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&amp;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&amp;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



## Appendix 4 You said, we did

### 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?

## Appendix 5 Factors for Assessing Value

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

## 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:

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

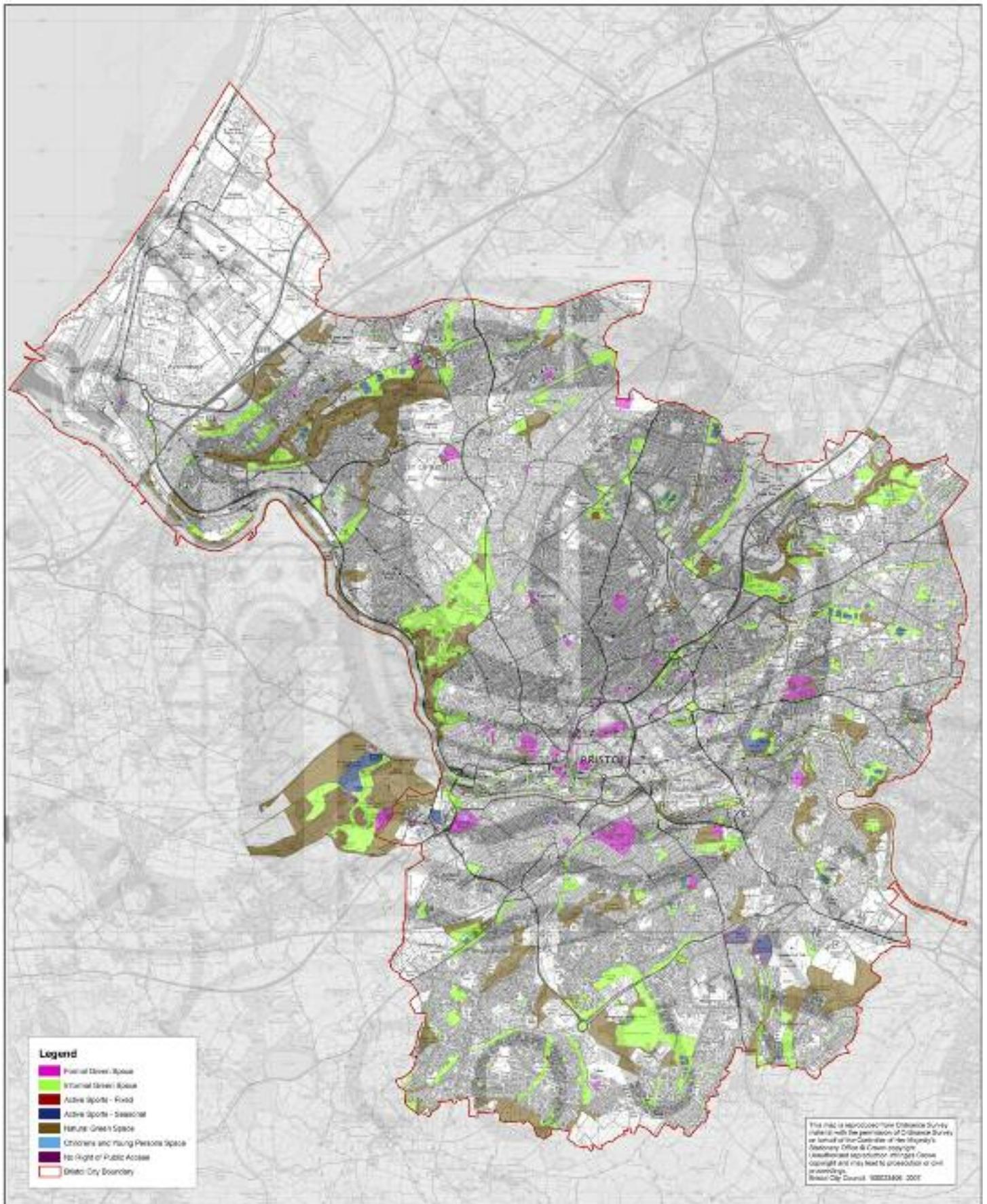


## Appendix 7 Maps

### Maps:

The following maps appear in this appendix:

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



## Parks and Green Space Strategy

### TYOLOGY MAPPING

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

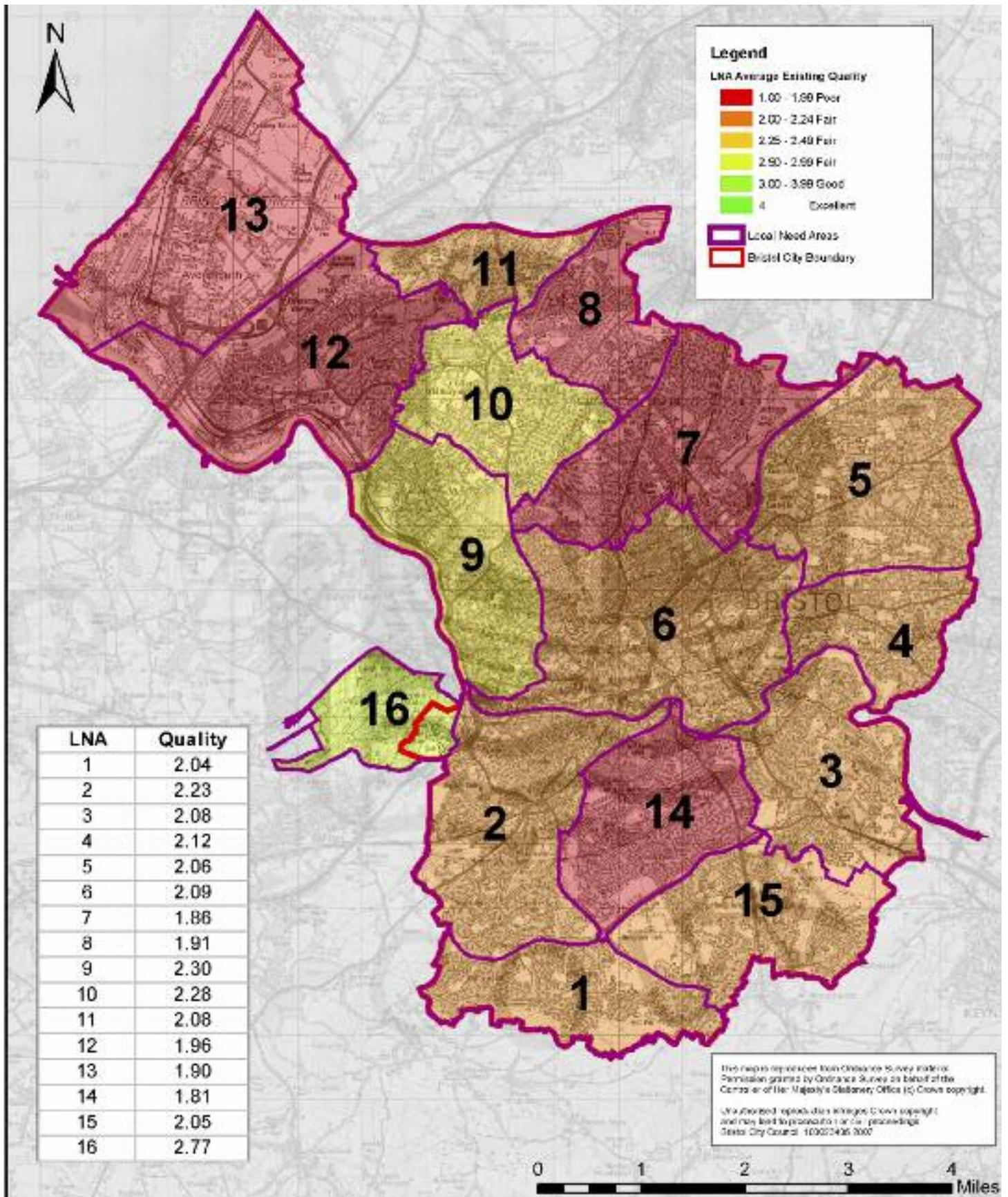


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**Bristol Parks, Culture and Leisure**





## Parks and Green Space Strategy

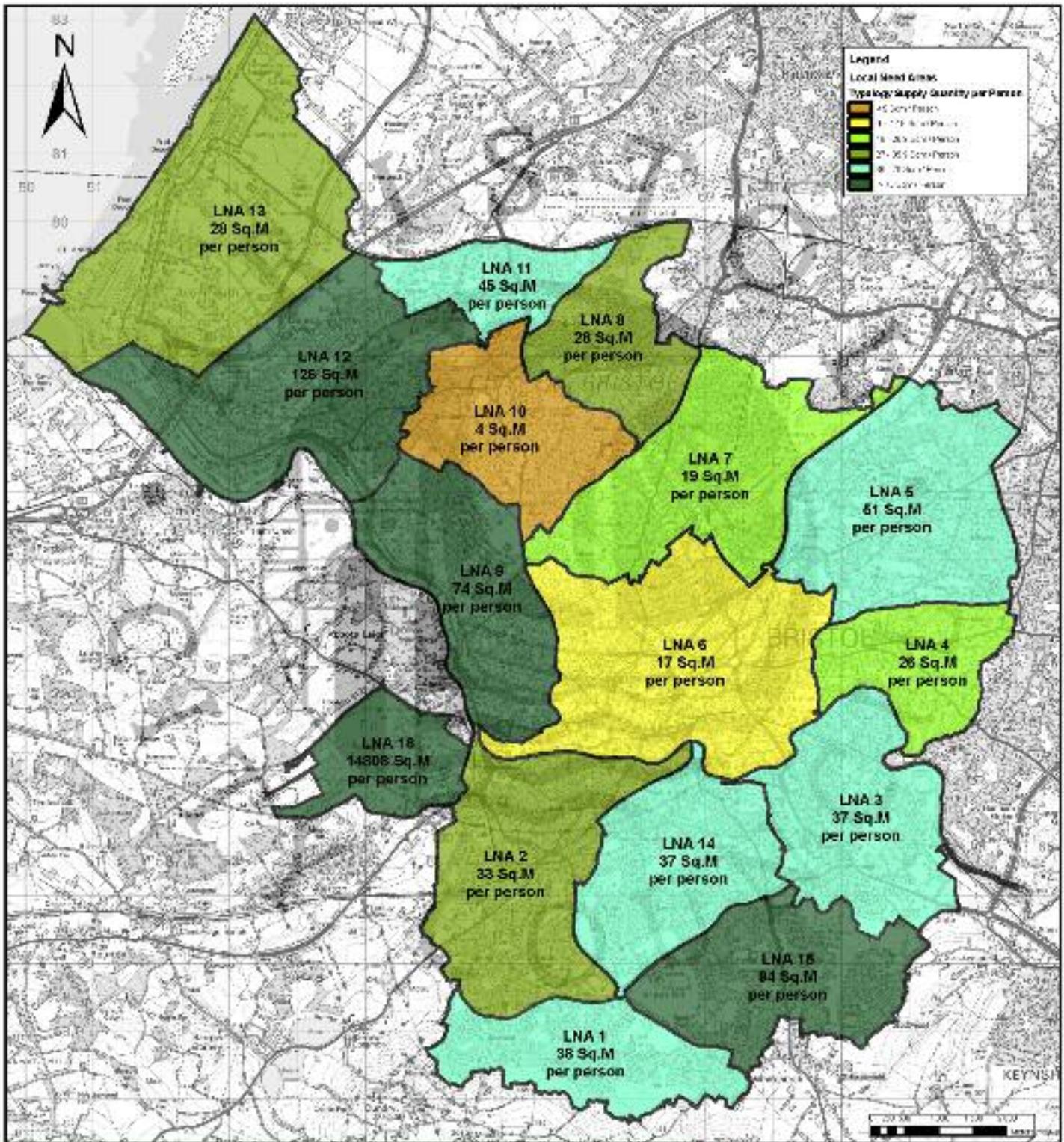
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## Local Need Area Average Existing Quality

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## 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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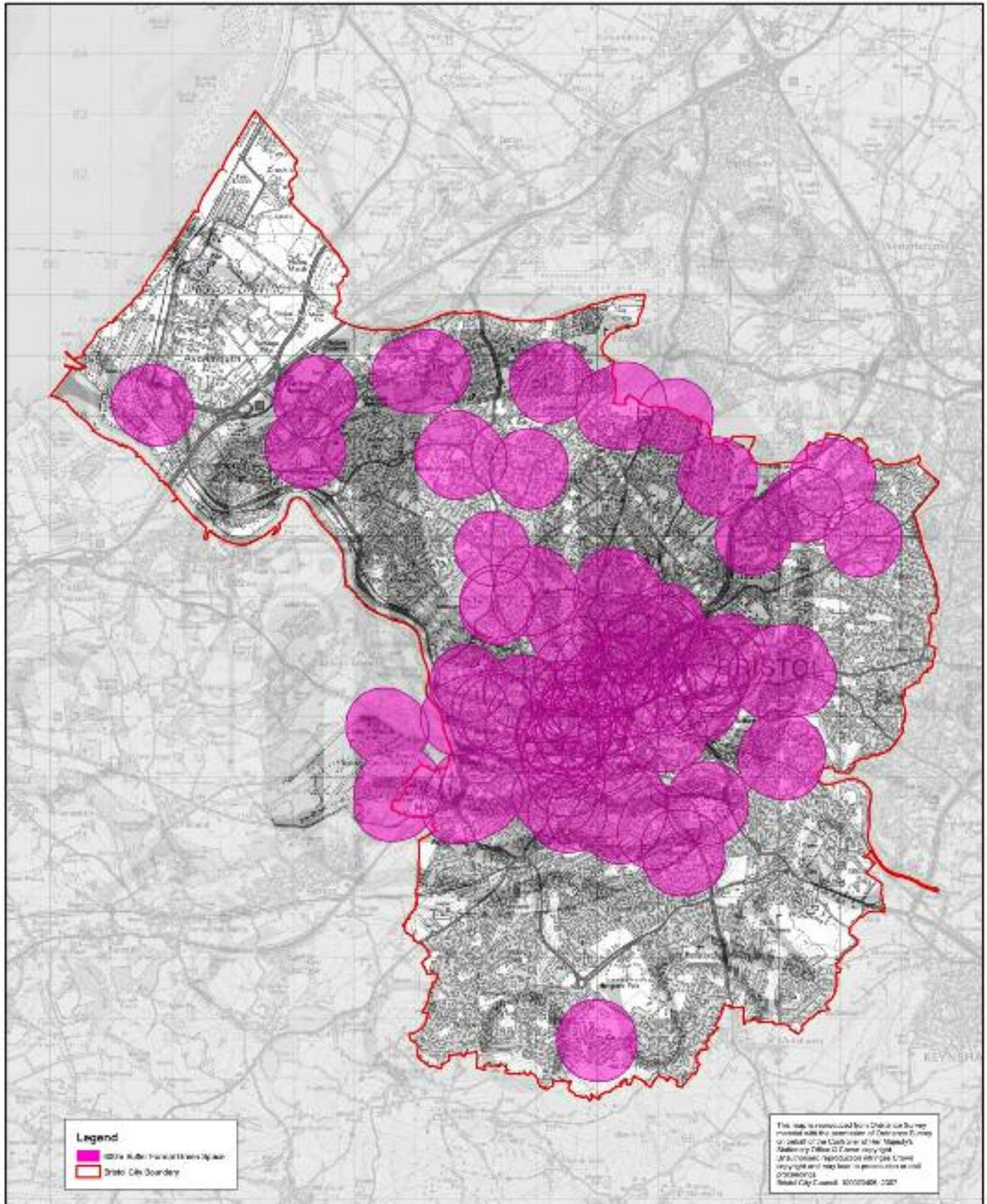


**Bristol Parks, Culture and Leisure**









## Parks and Green Space Strategy

**TPOLOGY : FORMAL GREEN SPACE**

**FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY**  
**Distance Buffer 600 Metre Radius**  
**Within 15 Minutes Radius**

May 2007

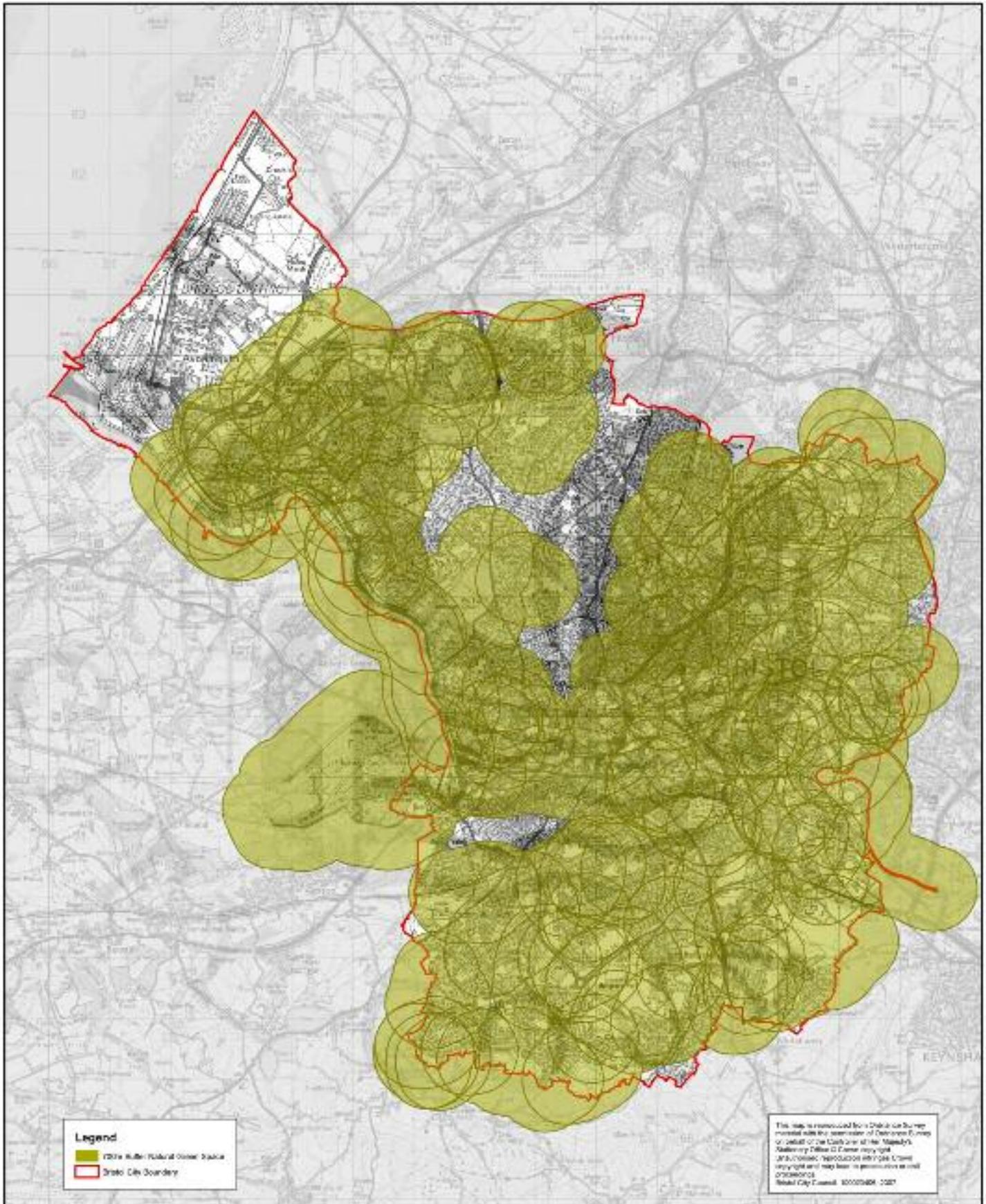


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## Parks and Green Space Strategy

TYPOLOGY : NATURAL GREEN SPACE

FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY  
Distance Buffer 700 Metre Radius  
Within 18 Minutes Radius

May 2007



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## ITEM 5 - APPENDIX C

### RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

		£m
<b>total capital investment requirement in Parks</b>		<b>87</b>
<i>funded by:</i>		
S106		15
grant funding e.g. Lottery		21 (note 1)
land disposal	<b>(A)</b>	41 “
core parks budget		<u>10</u>
subtotal		<b>87</b>
<b>revenue uplift (from year 20)</b>		
- for routine grounds maintenance standards		<i>dealt with under Grounds Maintenance review and Medium Term Financial Plan</i>
- for lifecycle maintenance (repair and renewal)		3.2p.a. (note 2)
<i>funded by capital contributions (note 3):</i>		
S106		10
land disposal	<b>(B)</b>	<u>22</u>
subtotal		<b>32</b>
Total strategy funding from disposal receipts (A+B)		63
Additional receipts for corporate requirements	<b>(C)</b>	27 (note 4)
<b>TOTAL LAND RECEIPTS IN MODEL (A+B+C)</b>		<b>90</b>
<b>Acres to fully fund strategy (note 5)</b>		<b>90</b>
<b>Percentage of current estate of 3700 acres</b>		<b>2.4%</b>

### Notes

1. Predicted grant income lifted by £0.5m p.a. compared to figures given in the consultation draft of the strategy, and land receipts reduced commensurately. This projection of grant income remains prudently lower than recent performance, in view of reductions in grant programmes nationally.
2. In addition, grant funding and core parks budget contributions, as listed in the capital investment schedule above, are projected to continue beyond the 20 year strategy. Approximately two-thirds of these work streams replaces or renews existing features, reducing the need for life-cycle maintenance by £1m p.a.
3. these capital contributions over the life of the strategy create a permanent uplift in this budget with no on-going funding needed.
4. This is based on 70% of receipts from green space disposals being reinvested in parks and green spaces, with 30% available for investment in other council priorities. This is an exception to the council policy of the “single capital pot” in which all receipts accrue to a single point for reallocation according to the capital priorities of the time.
5. subject to sufficient land of low recreational value being identified – model to be reviewed following detailed studies. Assumes land value averages £1m/acre.