

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	2nd December 2015	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E2813
TITLE:	Adoption of the Green Spaces Strategy	
WARD:	All	

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Given the large file size for these reports they can be viewed online as a series of pdf documents at:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks-green-spaces-information/green-space-strategy-review>

with appendices:

- Green Space Strategy Final Report
- Green Space Strategy Appendices one and two
- Further appendices: Bath Area Profile, Bathavon Area Profile, Chew Valley Area Profile, Keynsham Area Profile, Somer Valley Area Profile

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Bath and North East Somerset Council's Parks service has recently completed a review of the Council's Green Spaces Strategy. The review is designed to provide an assessment of both current open space and any surpluses or deficiencies in open spaces throughout the district. The findings of the review will help inform the policies within the B&NES Placemaking Plan, establish local provision standards and create an up to date evidential basis that can be maintained and used to aid the implementation of the policies and the provision of open spaces, during the life of the plan period.
- 1.2 The findings of this study have been drawn upon by the Parks Service to develop a set of nine objectives to guide the development and management of our open space assets until 2029.

2 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Cabinet adopt the proposed Green Space Strategy, findings of the review and associated area profiles, and agree that the findings of the report be used when preparing an action plan for the delivery and management of the green spaces across the district from 2015-2029.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The proposed Green Space Strategy 2015 sets out a series of draft policies and standards for the provision of green space across the district, and a methodology for interpreting and informing the provision for these assets until 2029.
- 3.2 This strategy will be used to prioritise the allocation of existing resources for managing the green space asset and for directing developers' and other third party funding contributions to where they are most needed.
- 3.3 There will be no new additional financial implications for the authority arising from the adoption of this strategy
- 3.4 There will be no new implications for Property and People arising from the adoption of this strategy.
- 3.5 The proposed strategy's Appendix 2 provides a summary of the calculations used for setting developers' contributions in the 2015 Developer's contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The study which informs the draft strategy has been carried out in-line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open space, Sport and Recreation. The strategy will provide the evidence base for the green space policies within the Place-Making Plan.
- 4.2 The proposed strategy will provide a means for prioritising expenditure associated with the district's green spaces and will help the Council meet its obligations in the areas of Sustainability and the Natural Environment (as they relate to green spaces).

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 There was a clear need to review the existing 2007 Green Spaces Strategy in light of the introduction of National Planning Policy Framework and to inform the policies within the emerging B&NES Placemaking Plan.
- 5.2 In carrying out the review a comprehensive local needs assessment was undertaken which included public consultation, review of neighbourhood plans, related B&NES strategies, policies and a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. An audit of 500 sites and the mapping of 2000 green spaces was undertaken together with reviewing the capital and maintenance costs for any new provision.
- 5.3 The study was undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning and overseen by a project board comprised of representatives from the Council's Planning Policy,

Public Health, Strategy and Performance, Environmental Services, Natural Environment and Sustainability teams. The Project Board scrutinised and directed the areas of work undertaken which informed the review leading to the production of the final strategy document and area profiles.

- 5.4 In producing the draft strategy a survey of 594 B&NES households was undertaken and 296 young people were consulted to inform the local needs assessment. This provided a snapshot of aspirations and expectations for green infrastructure across the district.
- 5.5 A review of capital and maintenance costs for green site provision was undertaken in parallel with this study to be used to inform planning policy relating to Developer contributions towards green space provision. Furthermore, the proposed strategy also sets out a methodology for using Developer contributions when addressing deficits and surpluses in green space provision and it is proposed that Planning Officers will use this in the assessment of applications for Planning Consent.
- 5.6 The proposed strategy sets out a series of expectations for the provision and management of green spaces across the district summarised as follows:
- (1) Deliver a mixture of doorstep and destination provision,
 - (2) Design and deliver greenspaces which are multifunctional,
 - (3) Develop an action plan for improving quality across the area,
 - (4) Address quantity shortages in key typologies – specifically allotments, youth provision, parks and recreation grounds, improving access to the Public Rights Of Way network,
 - (5) Help to create and enhance a network of both utility and recreation routes for use by foot and bike in both urban and rural areas,
 - (6) Use neighbourhood plans to identify locations for new provision
- 5.7 In addition to district-wide recommendations, the proposed strategy also identifies specific priorities and issues for each of the five community forum areas. These are shown in the associated area profiles contained as appendices documents at the webpage address listed on pages 1 and 5.
- 5.8 The recommendations from the proposed strategy have been used to develop a set of nine objectives for guiding the development and management of the green asset until 2029 which are as follows:

Bath and North East Somerset's green spaces will:

- Be managed sustainably
- Deliver spaces which help support fit and healthy communities
- Encourage communities to explore their green infrastructure through a connected green grid
- Support communities to connect with their green spaces
- Enhance the unique and beautiful landscape of the district

- Reveal and celebrate the unique local heritage
- Help mitigate the impacts of climate change and pollution
- Showcase excellence

5.9 If adopted, the strategy will be shared formally with partners and used to develop more detailed action plans for the provision and management of green spaces across the district until 2029.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The development of the proposed strategy has been undertaken by an external team of consultants and has been informed by an independent studies using established and rigorous methodology. The whole process has been overseen and scrutinised at all stages of the process by a multi-disciplinary B&NES Council team representing all key stakeholders involved in the provision and maintenance of green spaces.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 Continue with an out dated strategy (2007) based on information that is unfit to inform emerging or future Council policy.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Those consulted in preparing this report include the Council Cabinet Member for Communities, Section 151 Officer and Council Monitoring Officer. The Green Spaces Strategy was prepared in consultation with Officers throughout the Council.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance

Contact person	<i>Paul Pearce (01225 396879)</i>
Background papers Not included for draft dispatch	<p>Not attached due to substantial file size</p> <p>Green Space Strategy Final Report, Green Space Strategy Appendices 1 & 2 and Further Appendices: Bath Area Profile, Bathavon Area Profile, Chew Valley Area Profile, Keynsham Area Profile & Somer Valley Area Profile.</p> <p>These can be viewed on the council website at: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks-green-spaces-information/green-space-strategy-review</p>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an	

alternative format