

## Appendix 2

### Updated Green Space Strategy Action Plan July 2011

The table below sets out the action plan for the improvement of green spaces within Bath & North East Somerset. **This updated plan records progress up to the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the 5 year strategy.** In addition to addressing the recommendations coming directly from the strategy it also addresses some wider issues that came to light during the preparation of the strategy.

Any changes to the Green Spaces Strategy will be informed by the emerging Green infrastructure Strategy which is being developed within the Local Development Framework. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will provide a coordinated, cross boundary approach to managing and enhancing the natural places and corridors with cultural assets of the District in order to achieve multiple benefits.

Each action identifies the principal council priority that the action addresses. It should be noted that in many cases the actions address a number of council priorities but only the principal one is shown in this update.

The table goes on to identify when each action was or is due to be delivered, the principal benefit or outcome from the action, along with the lead service area and those partners and stakeholders involved.

The activities have been categorised into the following action areas:

1. Strategic Management – issues of a strategic nature with implications beyond the Council's own green spaces
2. Service Management – issues relating specifically to the management of this Council's own green space network
3. Site Management – issues relating to the management of individual sites
4. Community Issues – issues with a particular focus on community interest
5. Resources and Opportunities – issues around funding and other potential resources

Ref.	Actions – 1. Strategic Management	Principal Council Priority	When Delivered or To Be Delivered	Principal Parks & Green Spaces Benefit / Outcome	Lead Service	Partners
1,1	Adopt B&NES Local Plan which contains policy for the provision of recreational open space	Sustainable growth	October 2007	Protection of existing green space and requirement for appropriate provision of new green space associated with new development.	Planning Service	Various internal & external partners inc. Parks Service
1.2	Preparation and adoption of necessary Local Development Documents to facilitate the delivery of the Green Space Strategy beyond life of B&NES Local Plan (beyond 2011). To be resolved as part of future reviews (annual) of council Local Development Scheme (LDS).	Sustainable growth	2007 – 11 and ongoing	Parks and green space issues have featured heavily in the preparation of the Core Strategy and Sustainable Communities Strategy as well as work on Urban Extensions and other Local Development Documents. Significant Parks Officer time has been invested in this. The Council submitted the Core Strategy to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination on 3rd May 2011.	Planning Service	Parks Service Other Providers
1.3	Preparation and adoption of Supplementary Planning Document for Developers Contributions to enable developer contributions toward GSS through planning process.	Sustainable growth	July 2009	Greater certainty over the requirement of developer's contributions for green space provision. This is now material consideration to all new planning applications.	Planning Service	Parks Service Other Council Services
1.4	Ensure that the "Guide to the Provision of Green Space in Bath & North East Somerset" (Appendix F of the strategy) is a material consideration in the	Transport & public spaces	2007 to July 2009	The guide assisted in evidencing the requirement for developer's contributions for green space until the Contributions SPD (see 1.3 above) was adopted. Between 2007	Parks Service	Planning Service Other Providers

	determination of planning applications			and Nov. 2009 green space contributions totalling £300,337 have been secure via section 106 agreements.		
1.5	Preparation of a green space design guide setting out how new spaces should be designed and managed	Transport & public spaces	Not currently planned for development	With the significant reduction in development activity this action has been put on hold. Once completed the guide will inform potential developers of the design and management standards required for new green space within the district.	Parks Service	Planning Service
1.6	Consider the preparation of a district wide Tree and Woodland Strategy and promote the value of using trees to create green corridors and links between green spaces	Climate change	Not currently planned in this form	It is likely that the work involved in developing a tree & woodland strategy and the desired outcomes will be delivered via a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Planning Service	Parks Service Other Providers Other Organisations
1.7	Consider the preparation of a district wide Landscape Strategy to take full account of the visual benefits of all green spaces regardless of accessibility	Sustainable growth	Not currently planned in this form	This action has been partially delivered via a World Heritage Site Setting study and input into the Public Realm & Movement Strategy. The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy will also contribute to this.	Planning Service	Parks Service Other Organisations
1.8	Prepare and regularly maintain a central record of allotment plot waiting lists for the whole district, in order to detect trends and inform the LDF process	Sustainable growth	Ongoing	Since 2007 the provision of new allotments has been a requirement of all assessments of residential development applications.	Parks Service	Other Providers
1.9	Undertake a review of existing equipped children's play areas to address the recommendations in	Better lives for young people	2007 – 0912	A review of play areas in Bath helped in the distribution of the £2.5M Play Pathfinder funding. It	Parks Service	Other Providers Children's

	the strategy and to determine whether it would be more effective to remove smaller areas that are within the catchment of larger areas, and concentrate resources on the larger areas			also helped in ongoing negotiations with Somer Community Housing Trust over the future management of areas leased by them from the council. As a result 3 sites were transferred back to the authority in March 2011		Services
1.10	Work with partners to develop the concept of 'free play' within green spaces	Better lives for young people	On-going	The delivery of this has been principally through the Play Pathfinder project where new and innovative approaches to play provision are being tried.	Children's Services	Parks Service Other Providers Voluntary Sector
1.11	Undertake a review of existing facilities for young people in the urban areas and produce a strategic plan for the future provision of facilities within neighbourhood green spaces	Better lives for young people	To be considered to conjunction with Early Years & Extended Services	Play Pathfinder has delivered significant improvement to facilities for young people as well as children. Following completion of the project it is considered necessary to review provision and develop a strategic plan to address any deficient areas.	Parks Service	Youth Service Other Providers Children's Services
1.12	Investigate the possibility of securing the joint use of some school grounds to help achieve the new local standards for green space provision	Better lives for young people	Ongoing	Opportunities are being taken to influence the design of new and refurbished schools to improve access to green space in those areas outside of school hours.	Children's Services	Parks Service Independent Schools
1.13	Establish a Bath & North East Somerset Green Space Providers Forum to provide support to other green space providers e.g. Parish Councils and social housing providers	Transport & public spaces	Not currently planned for development	Support is provided to all other providers who manage children's play areas and regular contact is made and advice is freely available to all public allotment providers.	Parks Service	Other Providers

1.14	Undertake sample site assessments using the Green Flag Award criteria to compare scores with the system used in GSS	Transport & public spaces	No longer applicable	A new quality assessment system for parks & green spaces has been developed and implemented using the green flag award methodology.	Parks Service	
1.15	Prepare a strategic approach towards future entries into the Green Flag Award scheme	Transport & public spaces	2007 and on-going	The LAA stretch target of a geographic spread of entries of strategically important sites has resulted in the achievement of 6 Green Flag awards	Parks Service	Planning Service Other Providers
1.16	Work with local communities to enable them to make their own entries into Britain in Bloom	Transport & public spaces	2007 and on-going	Bath, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Radstock all making credible entries into the competition. Timsbury, Oldfield Park and others making Neighbourhood entries	Local Communities	Parks Service Other Services
1.17	Review and update the mapped and statistical information used to develop the Green Space Strategy	Sustainable growth	Planned for when new Census data is released	Maintaining accurate and up to date information is essential as it is the principal data relied upon to derive developer's contributions towards new green space provision.	Parks Service	
1.18	Annually review the Green Space Strategy Action Plan and report on progress to O&S Panel	N/A	2008 and on-going	Provides a mechanism for reviewing and reporting progress as well as planning future work.	Parks Service	
Ref.	Actions – 2. Service Management (Parks Service)	Principal Council Priority	When Delivered or to be delivered	Principal Parks & Green Spaces Benefit / Outcome	Lead Service	Partners
2.1	Preparation of a marketing framework to ensure that green	N/A	Now planned for	A greater understanding of the importance and many benefits of	Parks Service	Communications &

	spaces continue to be acknowledged as contributing to and adding value to the council's corporate priorities		winter 2012	green spaces from physical and mental health to education and social cohesion.		Marketing
2.2	Investigate whether there is scope for closer working and a reduction of duplication between the roles of Officers in different Services involved in the provision and management of B&NES Council owned green spaces	Transport & public spaces	Under review	Greater efficiency and concentration of appropriate 'estate management' skills within one service area.	Parks Service	Property Services Planning Services
2.3	Preparation of an access policy for green spaces, in consultation with groups and individuals, to ensure equality of provision for all	Transport & public spaces	2007	Full accessibility assessments of a range of green space types have been undertaken. This has resulted in investment of £80K in an accessible allotment facility in Bath with a further £40K to be invested in an accessible community growing space outside Bath in 2010. In addition, a range of access improvement plans have been prepared for green spaces.	Parks Service	Support Services Groups Individuals
2.4	Development of staff training programmes to ensure that the appropriate management and maintenance skills exist to care for our green spaces.	Transport & public spaces	2008	Apprenticeship scheme developed and in place achieving national recognition as an example of best practice from CABI Space, the Government agency for parks and green spaces.	Parks Service	
2.5	Work closely with Property Services to identify investment	Transport & public space	2008 and on-going	Quarterly liaison meetings held to ensure that capital and revenue	Parks Service	Property Services

	and funding needs for green space infrastructure. Use this to help sites meet the proposed quality standard of 60/100.			funding for property maintenance is directed towards the most critical areas to ensure customer satisfaction and safety.		
2.6	Preparation of an interpretation and information framework to enhance the benefit visitors gain from green spaces and the contribution they make towards the Councils life long learning objectives	Transport & public spaces	2008 and on-going	Interpretation signage provided within Royal Victoria Park. Keynsham Memorial Park provided during Summer 2010.  Interpretation Centre opened in Bath Botanical Gardens summer 2009 for public, schools and group use.	Parks Service	Legible City Group
2.7	Preparation of a green space events framework. Events are invaluable as they draw people into green spaces, link communities and provide interest and variety.	Transport & public spaces	Planned for 2010/11	Awaiting preparation and adoption of Corporate Events Strategy. Corporate Cultural Strategy adopted 2011	Parks Service	
2.8	Preparation of guidance and a clear procedure for decisions on whether people can buy Council land for their own use.	Transport & public space	Draft guidance produced 2010	Guidance will ensure the procedure is fair and transparent, and that land is only declared surplus after a rigorous process is followed.	Parks Service	Property Services
Ref.	Actions – 3. Site Management (B&NES owned sites)	Principal Council Priority	When Delivered or To Be Delivered	Principal Parks & Green Spaces Benefit / Outcome	Lead Service	Partners
3.1	Preparation of management plans to guide the management and development of District,	Transport & public spaces	2007 and on-going	Clear documented management plans for principle green spaces have helped ensure improvement	Parks Service	Planning Service Specialist

	Neighbourhood and Local Green Spaces. All management plans will have a simple annual review and update process built in			plans are developed with local groups and residents. This has helped the distribution of over £40K LAA pump priming money and £10K Ward Member initiative funding.		Groups Local Communities
3.2	Assessment of all green spaces to ensure that they contribute as much as possible to local biodiversity and sustainability, taking account of their primary use. The assessment will be made at the time of preparing / reviewing the site management plan and any scope for changes will be fed into site improvement plans.	Sustainable growth	2007 and on-going	At key sites independent ecological surveys have been undertaken and management recommendations implemented. This has resulted in many changes on the ground for example reduced regular grass cutting resulting in increased biodiversity benefit.	Parks Service	Planning Service Environment Team, Specialist Groups Local Communities
3.3	Undertake regular assessment and review of green spaces to assess quality, safety, progress against management plan and in order to prepare improvement plans. All assessment will take the form of the Green Flag Award	Transport & public space	2008 and on-going	A new quality assessment system for parks & green spaces has been developed and implemented using the green flag award methodology. This has been suspended due to staff resources.	Parks Service	
3.4	Consideration of the feasibility of 'self management' of appropriate green spaces as and when opportunities arise. With experience, determine whether a proactive approach to self management is in the wider community's interest.	Sustainable growth	As opportunities present themselves	The feasibility of a self-managed allotment site has been investigated but the interest of the proposed group declined. However, this remains an aspiration for any site.	Parks	Interested parties



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Ref.	Actions – 4. Community Issues	Principal Council Priority	When Delivered or To Be Delivered	Principal Parks & Green Spaces Benefit / Outcome	Lead Service	Partners
4.1	Preparation of a consultation framework for B&NES owned green spaces	Feeling safer	Planned for 2011/12	Clarity over the extent and type of consultation that will be undertaken in differing circumstances will assist in greater public involvement in decisions relating to green spaces and ultimately their sense of ownership / community pride.	Parks Service	
4.2	Preparation of a Friends Groups and Volunteers framework to ensure increased involvement in green spaces by the local community	Feeling safer	Planned for 2011/12	The encouragement of community involvement in green spaces through Friends Groups or volunteering will lead to a greater sense of ownership / community pride.	Parks Service	Planning Service Policy & Partnerships Existing Groups
4.3	Reduce the perception and effects of crime and anti-social behaviour in green spaces working closely other agencies	Feeling safer	On-going	Addressing the outcomes of PACT meetings and concerns received via Neighbourhood Watch schemes and other bodies has helped us change some people's perceptions.	Parks Service	Police Policy & Partnerships Other Agencies
4.4	Investigate and promote transport links to and between green spaces. The hierarchy of provision tells us which sites are of local, neighbourhood and district significance and public transport and car parking	Transport & public space	Planned for 2012	Improving access to green spaces will ensure that there is greater equity in provision and ensure everybody has access to the numerous benefits of green space, for example physical and mental health, social and educational	Parks Service	Transportation

	provision should reflect this			benefits. Review in conjunction with Green Infrastructure Strategy		
4.5	Investigate and promote cycle and pedestrian links to and between green spaces. All green spaces serve as Doorstep and Local Green Spaces and thus safe cycle and pedestrian access is important to all	Transport & public space	Planned for 2012	Improving cycle and pedestrian links will not just improve access but will also help in taking steps to tackle climate change and provide the opportunity for more healthy means of accessing recreational facilities. Review in conjunction with Green Infrastructure Strategy	Parks Service	Transportation
4.6	Investigate the benefits of making provision for environmental education within green spaces. Benefits could include greater community involvement, volunteers, and recruits into the service, reduced vandalism and greater value placed on green space provision by the general public	Transport & public spaces	2009	The creation of the Interpretation Centre at the Botanical Gardens in Bath has resulted in a multi-purpose facility for schools and groups wanting to have an educational base in an inspirational setting. Schools will use the facility to deliver many aspects of the curriculum from the sciences to art and creative writing. Community use of the facility will bring similar benefits and help to sustain the facility.	Parks Service	
Ref.	Actions – 5. Resources & Opportunities	Principal Council Priority	When Delivered or To Be Delivered	Principal Parks & Green Spaces Benefit / Outcome	Lead Service	Partners
5.1	Preparation of a register of all external funding opportunities available for works within green spaces	Transport & public spaces	2009	A good knowledge of funding opportunities helps to bring additional resources into the service. However, most funding is available to the voluntary groups that we work closely with.	Parks Service	

5.2	Preparation of a register of volunteer groups and other bodies e.g. conservation groups, Community Action, Youth Offending Team and Probation Service that may be able to provide volunteer labour towards projects in green spaces	Transport & public space	2009 + 2011	The Parks & Green Spaces Service works closely with B&NES Youth Offending Team, Avon Probation Service, British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and other local groups and individuals. During the period Jan to May 2009 over 2,000 hours were volunteered in parks and green spaces.	Parks Service	
5.3	Assessment of opportunities within green spaces for additional income by the negotiation of appropriate concessions or sponsorship, with income secured used to fund progress towards achieving the new local standards for green space provision either at that site or elsewhere	Transport & public spaces	2008 and on-going	<p>Sponsorship of 5 roundabouts was achieved in 2008 with net income of approx. £10K p/a. Formal applications for a second phase of sponsored roundabouts will shortly be made again with a further anticipated net income of £10K p/a.</p> <p>Significant service improvement has been achieved through the agreement of a new catering concession at Alice Park in Bath along with a 10 fold increase in income and further service improvements has been achieved from the catering concession in Keynsham Memorial Park. Concessions are being considered for further venues along with further appropriate sponsorship</p>	Parks Service	Property Services

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