

Hull City Council

Open Space Strategy

Protecting and improving Hull's green and open spaces now and in the future

April 2017



Hull

City Council

Foreword

Hull is a vibrant city with a vision for continued improvement. Recent vision has led to investment in, and recognition of Hull's passion and potential. With this energy Hull has an opportunity to make improvements to its parks and open spaces. We are extremely fortunate to have a number of historic parks, copious green open spaces and numerous well designed civic spaces across the city. Many of these are very popular with residents and community groups who are playing an ever more important role in making these sites their own. Many sites, however, are in need of investment and improvement.

The development of an open spaces strategy for the city started in 2008 when a large scale public consultation on open spaces was carried out. This will be repeated in the creation of Area Priorities and Actions reports associated with this strategy. The results of the consultation have led the development of the strategy and of measures of quantity, accessibility and quality.

The quality and provision of some facilities is currently below what people expect them to be. This strategy sets out our proposals for raising quality, and giving Hull residents and visitors to the city better access to a wide variety of types of open spaces taking into account current financial constraints. Based on the views of residents, the objectives in this document addresses key concerns such as quality, maintenance, anti-social behaviour, and children and young people's play provision. It is envisaged that these improvements will have a significant cost and time constraints associated with them and the implementation of the strategy will take some time, which is why there is a 20 year commitment to the strategy.

This Open Space Strategy will help to set out how Hull City Council will invest in and manage the open spaces within its boundary and ownership. The strategy will not look solely at council owned land but at all the publicly accessible open space within the city. It will cover parks, open space, civic squares, play facilities and amenity green space. It will provide the evidence, set the direction and help secure funds for investment in open space.

The city of Hull is a unique place with distinct environmental, social and economic characteristics. These characteristics have had a significant influence on how this strategy has been prepared and it is hoped that the strategy reflects Hull's unique identity.

Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	4
2. Introduction	5
3. The Aim of the Strategy	8
4. Open Space Strategic Context.....	10
5. Open Space Standards	17
6. Key Areas – What is Important to Hull.....	23
7. Findings & Recommendations	28
8. Implementation and Delivery	43
9. References	45
10. Appendices.....	47
Appendix 10.1 Glossary of Terms	47
Appendix 10.2: Wider Functions of Hull’s Open Space	48
Appendix 10.3: Relevant Sections of the National Planning Policy Framework	49
Appendix 10.4: Quality Assessment Protocol	50

1. Executive Summary

The Open Space Strategy is a corporate commitment to our green and open spaces. The main aim and key vision is “protecting and improving Hull’s open spaces now and in the future”. Hull has a number of different open spaces and corridors, some of higher quality than others. The importance of open space within Hull and the contribution that it makes to the health, wellbeing, image and identity for the residents of the city is acknowledged in the development of this strategy and it is important that the quality and quantity of open spaces, together with their biodiversity, are sustainably maintained and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.

The people of Hull value their open spaces and the benefit of having locally accessible, quality open space. It is therefore essential that we continue to preserve and enhance our open spaces so that future generations are also able to enjoy them. Hull’s city plan recognises that the city has a once in a generation opportunity to regain its status as a dynamic and thriving European port city, this requires the development of a high quality cityscape in order to enhance visitors’ and business’ experience of the city.

The key challenges facing Hull include providing sufficient housing, employment opportunities, reviving our neighbourhood areas, transforming the city centre, achieving economic growth and addressing social, environmental and sustainability issues. Open spaces are particularly important as the health of the population and the average wage are both below the national average making them an important aspect of residents’ recreation time. High quality open spaces are acknowledged as an important part of any regeneration programme. There is a strong evidence base that well maintained parks add to the perceived and realised value of property in an area. With developments happening across the city it is important to preserve and enhance our open spaces as part of the overall process. The future provision of open space will be challenging for Hull, particularly in the short term with little identified or committed funding to deliver projects but it is hoped that Hull can respond to the challenges posed and deliver a real difference for the residents of Hull.

This strategy sets out objectives for the improvement of the city’s open spaces and sets the standards required for the quantity, accessibility and quality of open spaces across the city. Objectives have been set in association with different types of open space with respect to feedback from residents and a set of universal objectives that cover a number of key features. Area Priorities and Actions documents will be developed in association with residents and ward councillors in response to the strategy which will prioritise and steer actions that are important, whilst allowing a degree of flexibility in response to funds becoming available and projects happening within a specific area.

2. Introduction

Open spaces are an important part of our built and natural environment and are a vital component of sustainable development. Open spaces should comprise a strategically planned and delivered network of quality open spaces and other environmental features which are capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. At the planning stage, new open spaces should be designed to ensure they fit a range of uses so that they can be well integrated into new developments or existing open spaces. Open spaces play an essential role in improving public health and mental wellbeing and helping to adapt to climate change. It visually improves the built environment through landscaping; it can provide wildlife habitats; safeguard biodiversity; help manage flood risk; attract new business and investment to an area and also promote a sense of place and community identity. The intention is that the Open Space Strategy will create an over-arching vision for the city and set a framework for the provision of a network of high quality accessible and multi-functioning open space within the context of growth and regeneration. The strategy will provide a basis for the delivery of projects and a robust evidence base for prioritising investment and further policy documents.

There is great potential for growth, development and regeneration within Hull with a vision for a 'green city' and the creation of new jobs and industry within the city. With this, comes the need for additional housing developments and the renewal of current developments. New development presents an opportunity for securing new and improved open space provision as part of a comprehensive Open Space Strategy. Various growth scenarios have been assessed for Hull and the requirement for new open spaces has been highlighted for each. Robust open space quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards are required to ensure that appropriate provision - size, location, type and future maintenance - is secured. The protection, enhancement and management of open space will be an essential aspect of the sustainable delivery of the council's housing targets. The Open Space Strategy is an important step in ensuring growth and will enhance Hull's existing open spaces and embed the ideals for creating new open spaces, habitats and green corridors that complement new development and ensure the needs of existing and future residents are met.

As part of the preparation of the Open Space Strategy, a review of Hull City Council's open space standards has been undertaken in order to develop a Hull specific set of local standards for a range of open space which reflect local circumstances and strategic policy objectives. The objective is to develop a set of standards which are easily understood and applied by both developers and the local planning authority (LPA) in determining planning applications and delivering high quality sustainable development in line with the Local Plan. The development of the 2014 Open Space Review was driven by the need to develop a good understanding of the local context and build on the large body of previous work and studies undertaken in connection with previous strategies. The methodology of the study has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the project brief and is based upon setting out the appropriate parameters to define and deliver an Open Space Strategy and associated Area Priorities and Actions reports which will create a high quality living environment and meet the needs of existing and future residents of Hull.

The development of local standards should be evidence-based and supported by knowledge of existing provision and an assessment of demand. Open space standards provide an easy to use,

transparent foundation for the negotiation of planning agreements and a robust method for assessing the type, amount, location and quality of provision needed in an area. Through new development they allow for an assessment of existing provision and a mechanism to secure new provision and improvements to existing provision together with future maintenance. The review of open space standards has been based on the audit of open space provision in the City undertaken in 2008 (Hull City Council – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study PMP, 2008) and has been informed by the Hull City Council Open Space and the Natural Environment Review (Planning Policy, 2014) and Playing Pitch Strategy 2011-2021 (Hull City Council, 2010). The review has also taken into account the further work undertaken by Natural England, the Hull and East Riding Local Nature Partnership and public consultation undertaken as part of the open space study undertaken by specialist sport and leisure consultants, PMP Consultancy in 2008 to understand residents' use of open spaces in the city.

This document supports recommendations for local standards for open space provision that are to be applied to new development proposals in the city and in the provision of open space through the planning process.

Hull's parks and open spaces play an important part in improving the overall appearance of the city as well as enhancing the quality of life for the communities who live and work around them; they provide opportunities for active and passive recreation, relaxation and play for generations. From the Victorian heritage of Pearson Park and East Park, the peace and tranquillity of Noddle Hill Local Nature Reserve and the River Hull corridor, to the hustle and bustle of Humber Quays and Queen's Gardens in the city centre; Hull has a great deal to offer both residents and visitor alike. As the daily pressures of the modern world increase, it is vital that these opportunities are still available for all and it is important that the council works to ensure that the future of Hull's open spaces are protected and developed/improved to reflect the changing needs of the city and its residents.

Over the last few years, the parks and open spaces team has achieved a great deal, with significant regeneration to open spaces across the city, Green Flag award for the city's East Park and the development of natural play and facilities for young people across the city. Recent economic shifts have put pressure on our open spaces not experienced since the declines of the 1980s with a reduction in staff numbers and cuts in maintenance regimes seen across the city. In times of economic downturn the ability to access free and quality open space becomes ever more important.

An open space strategy for Hull is needed in order to set clear goals for the protection and improvement of our great variety of open spaces. The strategy will help to generate political and inter-departmental support for open spaces and create a vision shared by councillors, officers, key partners, stakeholders and communities to ensure that the open space network meets the needs of local people now and in the future. The development of action plans will provide a framework for resource allocation that maximises funding to support improvements in Hull's open spaces where they are most required.

With Hull being the UK City of Culture in 2017, the strategy acts as a driving force to ensure that open space makes a real contribution to developing the city's economy and cultural opportunities and the vision of the city becoming a world class tourist destination.

This Open Spaces Strategy is a significant step forward in identifying the city's priorities for open spaces. Achieving the vision will be a challenging task for the services involved, requiring innovative thinking and the development of strong partnerships with other public bodies, community groups, and also the private and voluntary sectors to ensure that value for money is delivered.

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 Hull Local Plan, a new planning framework for the city and it is anticipated that the Open Space Strategy standards will be incorporated into the Hull Local Plan adopted framework.

3. The Aim of the Strategy

3.1 Vision

The strategy aims to establish a clear vision for green and open spaces within Hull. The strategy will be a 20 year framework that contributes to the planning, regeneration and management of open spaces in Hull by providing guiding principles and standards. It is important to generate councillor and inter-departmental support for open spaces so that they can be protected and enhanced for present and future generations. The Open Space Strategy should be viewed as a council-wide document, which should directly contribute to delivering the council's corporate aims and objectives. The Open Space Strategy will link to the Local Plan and provide the basis with which to maximise the opportunities provided by new development.

The strategy should provide the evidence to inform future obligations and charging mechanisms to be placed through the planning system and allocations document concerning potential housing and employment sites. The Open Space Strategy will play an important part in the design and creation of open spaces in the future and will make it easier to commit and direct responsibility, objectives, resources and actions. The neighbourhood-based action plans accompanying this document will form the up to date evidence base upon which these decisions will be established.

3.2 The Desired Outcomes

The Desired Outcomes of the strategy will be:

- To provide a network of high quality open spaces.
- To agree the range of different types of parks and open spaces across the city and a local standard for provision in Hull.
- Protect needed green space from development.
- To give a mechanism to assess the current quality and standards of open space provision in Hull.
- Produce a comprehensive action plan to address issues of quality and quantity in open space provision (new facilities will only be provided or supported if they contribute to the appropriate distribution of facilities).
- To ensure the city's open spaces meet the needs of the whole community.
- To provide a framework against which the aspirations of the Open Space Strategy can be implemented by Hull Culture and Leisure in partnership with Hull City Council.
- To provide a framework against which future funding decisions and applications can be made.
- To ensure that good quality open spaces are accessible to all communities.
- To provide clear objectives, and priorities, for the provision and management of open space during development and redevelopment opportunities through the development of an Action Plan that will set out the plan of works over future years.
- Work with providers and community groups (sports clubs, friends of groups) to secure and develop open spaces, sport and recreational facilities.
- Encourage active lifestyles and promote social inclusion.

- Ensure that existing and future provision complies with equalities legislation and is fully accessible for all residents.
- Provide affordable facilities, which are accessible to all sections of the community.

In providing high quality open spaces there is the potential to enhance the quality of the local environment for residents, visitors and wildlife. The hopes and aspirations of local communities and friends groups for open spaces was investigated in depth as part of the open space audit and the results from that have been an integral part in deciding accessibility, quantity and quality standards. From the consultation, a basic requirement for sites was 'keeping open spaces clean and safe'. The Open Space Strategy aspires to ensure that the needs of different sections of the community are clearly recognised and provided for in order to allow opportunities for local people to take an active role in the management and development of their local open spaces. Several sites across the city involve voluntary and community groups and enhanced local ownership of a site can only result in positive long-term benefits for that site.

Hull's vision of a lasting legacy of culture in the city allows open spaces to play a role in cultural performances and gatherings from local multi-cultural events to opera in the park. It is necessary to clearly identify open spaces where performances and events can take place and ensure these are fully promoted and invested in to ensure the safe and effective running of future events. A key development theme for Hull is the Green City vision, whilst this primarily focuses on renewables; a sustainable and intact green network will greatly contribute to this vision.

Our parks and open spaces are valuable assets; however, they are increasingly under threat from reductions in central government funding to local authorities. Spending on open spaces is likely to continue to fall leaving councils with the dilemma of how to provide a quality service to the public in their position of guardians of public assets. Certain areas of the city have large amounts of low quality open space. Significant improvements are needed to provide residents across Hull with good access to good quality open spaces.

The action plans will be designed to allocate resources in a way that maximises the value of capital investment and revenue expenditure by:

- identifying areas that need improvement;
- exploring new funding sources and identifying partnerships for targeted projects;
- developing opportunities for volunteer working; and
- exploring opportunities for attracting income.

4. Open Space Strategic Context

4.1 How Has The Strategy Been Developed?

During 2008, Hull City Council commissioned consultants PMP to undertake a comprehensive open space study, in accordance with government guidance. This would inform the development of an Open Space Strategy for Hull. The comprehensive study assessed the quantity, quality and accessibility of different types of open space within the city including parks, natural and semi natural open space, amenity green space, play facilities for children and young people, outdoor sports provision, allotments gardens, cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors. This document was updated and enhanced in 2014 by a planning policy officer to include accessible open spaces outside of the city boundary and civic spaces. The findings of these projects along with the results of public consultation help form the basis for this strategy, the methodology adopted has been tailored to address the city's distinct characteristics. This strategy relates to open space within Hull only and addresses open spaces that the council owns and manages outside of its boundaries.

4.2 Measures of Success

The government's policy objectives for open space were originally set out in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 which contained specific guidance on planning open spaces; this now has been superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Hull's Open Space Strategy has been developed to implement national policy, which requires effective planning for open space, sport and recreation against current and up to date assessments of local demand. The strategy is required to ensure that local standards of provision are set with reference to the 2014 Open Spaces Review and future standards are met by providing a mechanism by which the council can require open space to meet these local standards.

The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies and covers all topics on open space including biodiversity, sport, and recreation. It states that in order to ensure effective planning for open space, local authorities should undertake audits to identify existing and future needs for open space. In addition, it specifies that existing open space should not be developed unless 'the assessment clearly indicates that the open space is surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss'.

4.3 What is Open Space?

In the Hull context, open space includes all recreational amenity areas including civic spaces, parks, playing fields and allotments. When planning a new development or regeneration project within an area, there needs to be a standard approach to ensure the delivery of open spaces as part of the project. In general, open spaces serve a number of functions and the approach to planning open spaces needs to consider the creation and maintenance of a solid network of multifunctioning open spaces and corridors which provide links for both people and wildlife. This strategy also includes civic spaces. Civic spaces are considered to be an important part of any thriving city centre; offering pleasant outdoor spaces for tourists, workers and communities, enhancing the overall value of city working and living spaces making the city more attractive to visitors who will spend more time in the city and, furthermore spend more money in the area.

The Government provides a definition of green infrastructure in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12: “green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional open spaces, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.” In Hull, green infrastructure is a term that is used to describe all green and natural elements of open space. This links together to form a coherent network known as Hull’s green network.

Natural England place great importance on green infrastructure and its role in sustainability and delivering ecological services and quality of life benefits for the communities it serves. Natural England’s approach looks at green infrastructure on a landscape scale and its delivery from a sub-regional to local neighbourhood level. The Hull Open Space Strategy is minded to ensuring the continuity of the wider green network and its connectivity to the East Riding to ensure that both accessible natural open spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside are accommodated.

PPG 17 set several different typologies for open space and these are the definitions that were used in the 2008 Open Spaces Review throughout the consultation process, during the open space audit process and, as a result, they are now well understood in the Hull framework. Table 1 describes the different categories for open space in Hull.

Typologies that fall outside of the strategy include street trees, school grounds, highways landscapes, open space in private ownership, operational cemeteries, church yards associated with active worship, community gardens, and city farms. Although these sites have little recreational value for the general public it is recognised, however, that they form an important part of the city’s green infrastructure.

Table 1.0: Local definitions for Open Space Typologies in Hull

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
Allotments	Opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include community gardens and urban farms. This typology does not include private gardens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> growing vegetable, fruit and flowers
Amenity green space	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal activities close to home or work children's play enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
Cemeteries and churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> burial of the dead quiet contemplation
Civic spaces	Hard surfaced and designed landscapes including formal gardens associated primarily with the city centre and neighbourhood centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events setting for civic buildings
Green corridors	Includes paths and bridleways, cycle paths, buffer strips, rights of way, river and drain banks and used and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking, cycling or horse riding leisure purposes or travel opportunities for wildlife migration
Natural and semi-natural green spaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands. High biodiversity value and rural feel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildlife conservation biodiversity environmental education and awareness
Outdoor sports facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for formal and informal sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outdoor sports pitches tennis courts and bowling greens golf courses athletics tracks
Parks	Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one or more of the other types of open space within them. People will travel a greater distance to use these facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal recreation community events
Provision for children	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below aged 12. Includes equipped play facilities only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's play
Provision for young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people aged 12 and above. Considers only those spaces specifically designed for use by young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> teenage shelters skateboard parks BMX tracks Multi Use Games Areas

4.4 Size of Open Spaces

There are nearly 900 open space sites within the Hull's boundary, over 600 of these are accessible amounting to a total of 1676 hectares with approximately 900 hectares being publicly accessible. Many of these sites are very small and have been created with the loss of housing sites or created as play provision provided by new development. East Park and Noddle Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) are two of the largest accessible open spaces in the city, both covering over 40 hectares. The smallest recognised sites tend to be children's play facilities measuring less than 0.1 hectares.

4.5 Why do we need to protect?

The benefits of open space to people are often overlooked and their value to an area undervalued and misunderstood. Over the last twenty years there has been a renaissance with regards to acknowledging our open spaces and the functions they provide in delivering a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits. The Open Space Strategy will help Hull deliver a network of accessible high-quality open spaces for sport, recreation and wildlife. In setting the minimum standards for open space provision it will help the council meet the needs of all residents of Hull and will assist planners and developers in providing the right open space in the correct location.

Open Spaces provide a range of functions across the city as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Multifunctional benefits from the provision of high quality Open Spaces

SOCIAL	ECONOMIC	SUSTAINABILITY
Develops people and communities	One of the city's most important assets.	Ecosystem services
Health/well-being/increased life expectancy	High quality public realm attracts investment and tourism	Buffer against climate change; Flood mitigation: aqua greens and sustainable drainage schemes.
Communities actively participating	Adds value to houses and neighbourhoods	Cooling effect of open space
Increases level of satisfaction within the local area	Conserving and enhancing local townscapes	Local food production
Play and recreation is important for child development; both physical and cognitive	Opportunities to boost the local economy by investing in the environment.	Protects the biodiversity network; Provision of habitat for specific types of wildlife
Social inclusion	Tourism and the visitor economy	Improved air quality
Educational resource	Contributes to regeneration	Reduces noise and light pollution
Heritage and Cultural identity	Creates a sense of place, which is vital to community spirit and attracts visitors	Short- to medium-term carbon sequestration

4.6 Legal Context

Although open space provision is not a statutory provision in itself, it is still governed by Acts of Parliament and there are certain legal obligations placed on the management of open spaces. Legislation such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation and Heritage classifications put a legal obligation of the Council to manage these areas of land to a standard that

does not let them degrade. National policy context is set out in the Sustainable Communities Act (2007) and Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 places a statutory duty on all public authorities to conserve biodiversity. Through the publication of the Natural Environment White Paper by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Government asserted that a healthy, well-functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing.

4.7 Policy in Hull

4.7.1 Hull City Plan

The Hull City Plan was conceptualised in 2013 with a vision of “creating 7,500 jobs for local jobseekers” by taking advantage of Hull’s unique identity and strengths; its location and its rich heritage and culture. The hard work of many has manoeuvred Hull into the embryonic stages of becoming a major renewable energy centre with new businesses, energy production and conservation. Through this process, it is hoped that the city can capitalise on opportunities for city centre regeneration, to further increase the number of visitors and boost the local economy. The City Plan focuses on five priorities to achieve the main goal to create and sustain jobs in Hull. These are:

1. Harness all Hull’s assets to become the leading UK Energy City
2. Make Hull a world class visitor destination
3. Help residents to make their money go further
4. Prevention and early intervention
5. Safeguarding the most vulnerable residents

Through these five priorities run several themes that are intricately linked to the aims and objectives of the Open Space Strategy. At the heart of making Hull a world class visitor destination is investment in the public realm; ensuring that the city centre is a place where people want to work, live and visit. The provision of high quality civic and open spaces creates a sense of pride and opportunities to link these spaces with the protection and enhancement of Hull’s heritage and culture should be maximised.

4.7.2 Hull Local Plan

Hull’s Local Plan (in preparation) has a vision that by 2030 “Hull’s network of parks, playing fields and other open spaces are enhanced and linked by high quality green corridors”. This strategy will focus how improvement to the network of green infrastructure and open spaces within the city can be made, specifically enhancing the visitor offer and to increase the environmental sustainability of the city in the future. This will help Hull to address climate change using wide-ranging and sustainable mitigation and adaptation measures. The Open Space Strategy and its associated Action Plans will help form an evidence base for the Local Plan and the requirements of policies within the document.

4.7.3 Relevant Strategic Priorities to 2030

- Strengthen economic growth in the city.
- Improve the city centre.
- Protect and enhance open spaces and natural environment.

- Mitigate flood risk and address climate change.
- Develop an environment that supports healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.
- Ensure Hull has the infrastructure to deliver the Local Plan's aspirations.

4.7.4 Other Relevant Strategies

Other Strategies that link to the Open Spaces Strategy are:

- Active Hull: A Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity 2014-2017 (*places and spaces section*)
- Public Realm Investment Strategy
- Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2010-2020
- Sustainable Travel Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2020
- Hull Surface Water Management Plan and associated Aqua Greens Project
- Flood Risk Management Plans
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2009 – 2019
- Area Action Plans

4.7.5 Sub-strategies

These strategies and policies will link to the Open Space Strategy

Playing Pitch Strategy

The Playing Pitch Strategy complements the Open Space Strategy and analyses the current and projected supply and demand for playing pitches within the Hull. It identifies areas of under and over provision of pitches, future needs and any issues affecting pitch quality. The Playing Pitch Strategy provides a focus for investment and future development in the provision of playing pitches in Hull. It aims to ensure that facilities are of good quality, appropriate and accessible. The audit of playing pitches within the strategy shows the need to upgrade facilities and determines whether there is sufficient provision across the city in respect of the Sport England standard. Sport England requires the Playing Pitch Strategy to be a 'living document' being annually updated in response to changing demands.

City Tree Plan

The City Tree Plan is currently in draft and will form a sub-strategy to this document. It sets out the long term strategy for Urban Forestry management. Hull has a rich and diverse tree heritage dating from as far back as the late 19th century. The City Tree Plan describes the aims and objectives which are required to deliver the optimum, sustainable future tree population for the city. It also provides the policy statements and management prescriptions necessary to achieve the objectives. The Tree Plan covers the management of privately owned and public trees including highways trees, Victorian parks and tree planting schedules for the future.

Allotment and Community Garden Strategy

The Allotment and Community Garden Strategy will form a sub-strategy to this document and sets out the long term strategy for sustainable food growing in the city. Community food growing and allotments are high on the agenda for a number of the city's environmental groups and the social, health and sustainability rewards are widely championed. Community farms also have a place in the

Hull agenda with the well established East Hull Community Farm, a charity serving as an important educational resource in the east of the city and the development of the City Farm off Beverley Road.

Hull Biodiversity Action Plan

Hull's adopted Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published in 2002 and needs updating with regards to the information it contains about the requirements for, and status of, nature conservation in Hull. The BAP sets out the city council's approach to natural environment issues and covers the processes relating to the implementation and monitoring of the plan and its associated actions. Hull's BAP seeks to protect and enhance the city's key ecological assets targeting key species and habitats found in the city through a series of actions delivered by a range of partners. The updating of Hull's BAP through the Open Space Strategy Action Plans presents an opportunity for Hull to demonstrate its commitment to meeting the biodiversity duty imposed on local authorities within the NERC Act.

5. Open Space Standards

5.1 National Standards

Historically, no formal national standard has been established for open spaces. Many organisations (Fields in Trust, Natural England, Woodlands Trust, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and the Forestry Commission) have established a framework for standards applicable to certain elements of open space. The Fields in Trust standard is a long-established benchmark for outdoor play space; known as the '6 acre standard' which reflects provision for play space in the context of amenity space. The standard has been loosely applied to Hull in the past.

Although now superseded by the NPPG the PPG17 is the current accepted context for the preparation of open space standards at the national level.

PPG 17 states that standards should include:

1. Quantity standard
 - How much open space of different types there should be.
2. Quality standard
 - The relevant level of quality which green spaces should attain.
3. Accessibility standard
 - The reasonable distance people should expect to travel to reach a particular green space.

These form the basis for the Hull Open Space Standards. PPG 17 also recognises the importance of sport and recreation for an individual's health and well-being and encourages the allocation of land and water resources for organised sport and informal recreation. This highlights the importance of protecting areas for recreation and amenity open spaces which enhance the quality of urban life; and encouraging the provision of a wide range of opportunities for all.

5.2 Open Spaces Management

5.2.1 Hull City Council

Hull is unusual in comparison with most authorities nationally in that the council is in ownership of the majority of the open spaces across the city and around its boundaries. The strategic control of the city's open spaces lies directly with Hull City Council and their Parks and Open Spaces Development and Strategy team.

5.2.2 Hull Culture and Leisure

The day to day operational management of city council owned parks and play spaces lies with Hull Culture and Leisure Ltd (HCAL), a council owned leisure and heritage company. HCAL hold the maintenance and repair budget for play equipment and have responsibility for income generation through events and facilitating sporting fixtures within their sites but report directly to Hull City Council. The current inspection programme for play equipment involves a bi-monthly assessment of the city's play equipment that is undertaken by specialist engineers and bi-annual inspections by the Council's insurers.

5.2.3 Grounds Maintenance

Hull City Council's Streetscene Services undertake the grounds maintenance and cleansing of all council owned amenity green spaces, green corridors, cemeteries, golf courses, civic spaces and outdoor sports grounds. They also carry out grounds maintenance in parks managed by Hull Culture and Leisure.

5.3 Setting Hull-Based Standards

The standards apply to publicly accessible open space and have been set using a locally based approach using standards developed from the 2008 PMP assessment of open space in Hull. In setting Hull's open space standards, it is essential that they are locally determined and they reflect the city's open space assets and historic patterns of provision. Whilst quantity standards vary between authorities, reflecting their particular geographies, continuity between accessibility standards is of particular importance. This is critical where new development is proposed to ensure consistency of provision and to meet aspirations that ensure sustainability for future generations. The baseline and hence 'local standards' reflect Hull's tight urban boundaries and as a result some national standards will not be achievable within our city.

5.4 Prioritising the standards

Quality of provision is the priority for residents of Hull and the main factor in determining whether open spaces will be used. Priority will be therefore given to meeting the quality standard followed by distance and quantity even when this means that the number of sites in the city may be reduced.

5.5 Quality Standards

Quality assurance issues are the essential elements of a quality standard and traditionally, no national standard has been set for quality of open spaces; however, several schemes recently have aimed to address this. A national measure of quality in parks and open spaces is provided by the Green Flag Award scheme. Through this initiative, councils are encouraged to manage their parks and open spaces in accordance with the Green Flag standard, as outlined in Raising the Standard, the guide to the Green Flag Award scheme. Sites are judged against eight key factors.

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

5.5.1 Hull Approach to Quality

Hull has chosen to assess quality of open space by benchmarking individual sites against national standards, adapted for Hull. The Green Flag standards are recognised nationally as providing aspirational targets for open spaces across the UK. The standards have been adapted to reflect those categories that are important to the people of Hull. See Appendix 10.4.

Hull City Council believes that an emphasis should be placed on quality of provision, ensuring that sites are maintained and improved to an acceptable standard. Open space standards have been set for Hull based on a broad set of standards and through consultation set out in the Open Space Assessment, National Standards and Hull City Council's aspirations. Standards are based on a minimal acceptable standard to allow rapid and easy assessment of the quality of a particular site. The quality standards will allow objective assessments as to how and whether existing open spaces need improving. Beyond the minimum acceptable standard, they are aspirational for the existing provision and for the requirements of new provision. The Hull quality standards are loosely based on Green Flag criteria.

5.5.2 Land Audit Management System

Land Audit Management System (LAMS) is a quality inspection system, initially developed by local authorities in Scotland which has now been rolled out on a UK wide basis, to monitor grounds maintenance and/or street cleansing for a total street scene quality score. The LAMS system has already been proven to be a simple and effective performance measuring system, which has benefits far beyond simply showing the cleanliness and quality of open spaces and the street scene. A number of transects across a local authority area are chosen where inspections are undertaken every month. These transects typically include a number of different amenity types or 'zones':

- High amenity e.g. town centres
- General amenity e.g. approaches to towns
- Low maintenance e.g. woodlands

By assigning a quality/cleanliness grade to each of the transects within each of the different types of zones, an overall picture can be established as to the cleanliness and quality of a local authority's environment and scores can be benchmarked against other local authorities.

5.5.3 Previous Hull Quality Audit

An audit of quality was undertaken in 2008 by independent consultants across all of Hull's publicly accessible green and open spaces. The audit assessed quality from a visitor's perspective and revealed wide ranges in quality across all types of spaces and within all areas. Key findings of the open spaces assessment's customer research project showed that quality was the most important consideration affecting satisfaction with barriers to use of open spaces listed as poor maintenance, dog fouling, litter, anti-social behaviour. A rolling programme of open space audits is required in order to assess where improvements are required and how open spaces can be utilised to fulfil their potential; this will have resource implications but it is necessary to complete in order for the council to comply with section 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (see Appendix 10.3:).

5.6 Accessibility Standards

In 2010, Natural England published 'Nature Nearby' that sets new standards for accessible natural green space standards (ANGSt) for towns and cities. These are as follows

- No person should live more than 300 metres from their nearest area of accessible natural green space of at least 2 hectares in size which roughly equates to two full size football pitches
- There should be at least one 20 hectare accessible natural green space within 2 kilometres of home
- There should be one 100 hectare accessible green space site within 5 kilometres

- There should be one 500 hectare accessible natural green space site within 10 kilometres
- At least 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature reserve should be provided per 1,000 population
- A minimum of one hectare of statutory local nature reserves per 1,000 population

Play England aims that all children and young people in England have regular access to free and inclusive local play provision and recreation space.

The Woodland Trust has produced a Woodland Access Standard (WASt) which states that:

- No person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectare in size.
- There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km roundtrip) of people's homes.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggest a standard of 20 allotments per 1000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,200 population based on 2 per household) or 1 allotment per 200 people. This equates to 0.125 ha per 1000 population based on an average plot size of 250 m². There is no existing national standard for quality.

The demographics in Hull mean that open space needs and requirements differ between communities. Those living in social housing in large estates have different requirements to those living in leafier areas where there are large gardens. Future provision must be weighted to take this into account. Accessibility standards have been carefully considered through the development of various standards and audited and amended as part of the background research. Local standards have been previously agreed based on a process of public consultation, national recommended accessibility standards and have also been assessed against the provision standards of adjacent local authorities. Significant analysis of the accessibility of open space to residents using geographical information system mapping has been undertaken. The results can be found in the Appendices of the Open Space Review 2014. In determining access to open spaces, the 2014 audit considered accessible green space outside of the city's boundaries. Much of the land is Hull City Council owned, and as such, the council has the ability to ensure these areas are protected. The recommended accessibility standards for open space in Hull are printed in the table below alongside the equivalent standards for East Riding of Yorkshire (ERoY), York and Leeds.

Table 5.2 Open Space Accessibility Standards

Type	Hull	ERoY	York	Leeds
Allotments	20 minute walk (960m)	None given	15 minutes walk (720m)	20 minute walk
Amenity green space	10 minute walk (480m)	2km	5 minute walk (240m)	10 minute walk
Children's play facility	10 minute walk (480m)	11 minute travel time to three types of play space	10 minute walk (480m)	15 minute walk
Natural and semi-natural open space	20 minute walk (960m)	4km	15 minute walk (720m)	15 minute walk
Outdoor sports facilities	20 minute walk to tennis/bowls/ synthetic pitches. 15 minute walk to grass pitches. 20 minute drive to athletics tracks/golf courses	20 minute travel time	15 minute walk (720m) for pitches/ tennis/ bowls. 20 minute public transport for synthetic turf pitches	20 minute walk time to tennis,10 minute drive to bowls /grass pitches 20 minute drive to athletics tracks/golf courses/ synthetic pitches
Parks	20 minute walk (960m)	10km	20 minute walk (960m)	15 minute walk
Young people's facility	15 minute walk (720m)	n/a	15 minute walk (720m)	n/a

The accessibility standards for Hull compare well with other nearby local authorities' standards with the exception of natural and semi-natural open space; where Hull's accessibility standards reflect the city's tight boundaries.

Quantity standards

Using updated survey data (Open Spaces Review, 2014), it can be established that the open space standards devised in 2008 are still valid and can be applied as benchmarks for future development at strategic and local scales. Although some changes in the overall provision of open space types due to population growth and some re-classification of open spaces, the overall standards remain valid as locally-established benchmarks of provision. These reflect the character and extent of established local provision and also compare well with national and comparative benchmarks from other local authorities. The recommended quantity standards for open space in Hull are shown in the table below.

Table 5.3 Open Space Quantity Standards

Type	Hull Standard (ha/1000 people)	Hull Provision 2014 (ha/1000 people)	ERoY (ha/1000 people)	York (ha/1000 people)	Leeds (ha/1000 people)
Allotments	0.24	0.21	0.30	0.29	0.24
Amenity green space	0.67	0.73	0.60	1.45	0.45
Children's play facility	0.03	0.03	2.6m ² equipped play per child in urban areas	0.48 facilities per 1000 children	2 play facilities per 1000 children
Natural and semi-natural open space	0.62	0.90	2 ha + 1 ha of statutory nature reserve	2.13	2.00
Outdoor sports facilities	1.68	1.60	1.18	1.78	1.85
Parks	0.50	0.54	0.18	0.18	1.00
Young people's facility	0.023	0.022	n/a	0.21 facilities per 1000 children	n/a
Civic spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

6. Key Areas – What is Important to Hull

6.1 Consultation and Community Involvement

The involvement of communities in improving their local open spaces should not be underestimated. Some of the most successful spaces in the city have been created and cared for by the people who use them most. There are a number of excellent examples in Hull of community-led open spaces. These include Rainbow Garden, Rosebery Community Garden and Pelican Park. Communication and consultation with communities is the best way of understanding where improvements could be made and how to enhance community spaces.

In some areas of the city, anti-social behaviour and vandalism are a problem; this reflects badly on an area and prevents community usage and leads to a loss of pride and community cohesion in an area. Well managed, inviting playgrounds are essential and long-term community involvement engenders a sense of ownership and pride. Where possible, communities should be encouraged and supported to take ownership and management of their open spaces. This is important in developing safer and cleaner spaces across the city encouraging greater community use. In order to achieve the long-term aims and objectives of this strategy, community support and interest will need to be maintained over the years ahead. Community involvement is also important so that Hull's open spaces are valued by, and serve the needs of the community.

6.2 Sustainability

It is anticipated that Hull's open spaces will be affected by climate change. Open spaces will provide sustainability benefits to the city including pollution reduction, cooling effects and perhaps most importantly, flood alleviation. Open spaces will play a key role in reducing the effects of these events on people and wildlife. Managing the open spaces in a more environmentally sensitive way could include the recycling of materials, change of land use, alternative planting schedules, use of biomass for heating, the use of energy efficient transport and renewable energy production.

Increasing temperatures are likely to result in greater, more intense use of accessible open spaces for longer periods of the year. An extended growing season will require changes in management, such as increased frequency of grass cutting, in turn escalating maintenance costs. It is important to address sustainability practices in the future management of Hull's open spaces. The need for sustainable design links into the future planning of equipped play facilities. There is a need to review the way in which play equipment is chosen to ensure that it is robust and serviceable and new facilities do not put undue pressure on the maintenance budget.

6.3 Funding

Funding pressures through revenue cuts is an issue facing councils nationwide. As a Council we have a duty to ensure that open spaces are safe and well managed. A review of our maintenance operations is essential in order to provide solutions to both the economic and environmental challenges ahead.

Committed funding to deliver increased provision and/or new open space facilities in Hull is scarce and major decisions are required in order to enhance the overall quality of place to bring about the

transformational change to deliver real benefits to the city's residents. Decisions are made all the more difficult when projects are within the wider context of helping shape regeneration in certain parts of Hull

Hull presently has no specific capital budget for the renewal of open spaces or replacement of play equipment. Capital works are reliant on ward budgets, Section 106/Community Infrastructure Levy monies, funding applications and community initiative projects. These funding sources rarely come with a long-term maintenance budget and they do not allow for repairs or renewal of well-used or damaged pieces of play equipment. These factors result in a pressure to the most popular sites and a programme of works should ideally be drawn up to reflect the quality of sites as assessed through the maintenance and inspection reports. Sites that are scored as low quality should be further assessed with regards to their accessibility and quantity provision. Those sites that are surplus to requirement should be removed and the focus should be on fewer, higher quality sites. Where there is deemed to be a need for new equipped play provision in an area only amenity green space or low value sites will be considered as other open space typologies are of local value and are less replaceable.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a framework that local authorities can use to secure financial contributions from new development. In summary, CIL is a charge levied at the planning stage on specified new developments according to their internal floor area. The money raised through the scheme supports the development of an area through additional investment in essential infrastructure needed across the city which includes open space amongst others.

6.4 Climate Change

Hull's green and open spaces play a vital role in helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst also providing high quality recreational facilities. Hull is extremely urbanised and therefore is less able to buffer the effects of climate change whether it be an extreme rainfall event where the drainage systems are overwhelmed or increased temperatures brought on by the urban heat island effect. Green spaces have been shown to have multiple benefits that help reduce the effects of climate change. Well-designed green infrastructure can help to mitigate flood risk and also help manage water resources by providing storage and retention areas which can reduce and slow down flows, help slow tidal surges, and reduce water runoff to sewers during peak rainfall events.

Hull is at risk from tidal, ground and surface water flooding; reducing flood risk by capturing and slowing water during and after heavy rainfall can help to prevent localised flooding; in a city where the vast majority of properties lie in a flood plain the challenge of reducing flood risk becomes ever more important. Hull has a history of culverting waterways and a combined sewerage and drainage system exacerbates the situation, Hull's drainage systems are at capacity resulting in a number of properties being at risk of surface water flooding. Significant surface water flooding in 2007 and a tidal surge in 2013 make flood risk management a high priority for Hull. Retrofitting hydrological schemes in green spaces can incorporate design that provides adequate storage for the site and that also leads to benefits in water quality and biodiversity.

6.5 Access for All

Access to open spaces can be restricted by a number of factors, the most simple of which is distance and availability of suitable open space within a local area. Other barriers to use include safety fears;

an unmanaged space has no sense of place. People fear crime and others and the community loses its identity. Physical changes to, and better management of public space in Hull are key to allowing everyone to make the most of the city's open spaces.

Physical barriers can prevent those with limited mobility using an open space. The Equalities Act (2010) requires service or facility providers to consider the needs of people with disabilities and to make reasonable adjustments to overcome barriers to access. Selected high profile open spaces in Hull should be audited for equality compliance as part of ongoing improvement to sites. There are some accessible play spaces (e.g. East Park) and some sites that cannot be made accessible at any reasonable cost. An equalities audit will provide recommendations for facilities and an indicative schedule for improvements.

Unauthorised access of open space, however, is a citywide issue and is often at the detriment of both the community and the environment. Unauthorised use covers unauthorised encampment and motorised vehicle use. In ensuring access for all, a balance must be found in preventing misuse and subsequent damage of open spaces.

6.6 Marketing and Promotions

Improving the information that is provided to residents and visitors about our parks and open spaces both offsite and on-site is crucial to promoting the use of Hull's open spaces. Off-site marketing and promotion could include the council website, leaflets and articles in tourist magazines or ward newsletters to allow people to make informed choices in relation to visiting specific sites. Onsite information signs or interpretation or online leaflets would contribute to enabling better access and experience and help people to navigate their way around sites, this is particularly important for our larger parks and nature reserves. This is also particularly significant for people with a disability or mobility issues who need to access information before and during their visit, however, such schemes need to be realistic, affordable and deliverable.

6.7 Events and Festivals

Open spaces are integral to the hosting of events, festivals and activities held in the city from large festivals and music concerts, through to play days, guided walks and community events. Over 100 events take place each year and Hull is increasingly being recognised as a vibrant and cultural city. It is hoped that this will attract event organisers and promoters for large events which will attract audiences from across the wider region. The Freedom Festival harnessing local creative talent and Hull Fair bring in visitors from across the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire regions and our open spaces provide a key setting for these events. With growth in tourism planned for the city, the enhancement of open spaces needs to be designed with events in mind allowing for adequate infrastructure in those sites which will attract larger, more popular events. Small-scale community events are seen as being important for increasing local use of spaces and promoting ownership of the smaller sites.

6.8 Biodiversity and Trees

The Government's White Paper, *The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature* (2011), stresses the social, economic and environmental benefits of the natural environment. The paper highlights the important role open spaces play in urban areas by providing habitats and forming green links to

wider ecological networks. Hull has its own unique wildlife system with a diversity of sites, species and habitats of interest that need protection. Hull is bound to the south by the Humber Estuary International Site which is designated as a Ramsar site, Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Hull has two Local Nature Reserves, numerous Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and several locally important wildlife corridors.

It is important to acknowledge the importance of the wider countryside in relation to Hull's ecology network and the importance of high quality ecological corridors that link with the wider region and linking in with landscape scale schemes in the neighbouring East Riding of Yorkshire. Many of Hull's higher quality sites are on the outskirts of the city where there is more space and less disturbance. Incorporating biodiversity considerations into the open spaces action plans and developing individual site management plans, will also present an opportunity for Hull to demonstrate its commitment to meeting the biodiversity duty required within the NERC Act.

Hull's fragile ecological network is more important than its green areas from a planning and biodiversity perspective as it is less re-creatable. Hull's urban landscape presents a significant physical barrier for wildlife, restricting its distribution. The development of a strong Local Wildlife Site (LWS) system will protect the best of Hull's habitats and species and will allow areas of weakness to be identified within the ecological network. This will help direct actions that will strengthen links between key sites. By improving Hull's network of green corridors through habitat restoration and creation the natural environment will be more cohesive and can better resist change.

Trees in Hull are important for the city in terms of both visual amenity and biodiversity. There are over 100 different species of tree within the city that help provide shade and protection from the elements, remove pollutants from the air, reduce noise, and provide habitat and food for wildlife. Many areas across the city are short of these benefits including:

- Carbon storage
- Cooling effects of trees and green space
- Flood alleviation
- Improvements in air quality

To improve our environment we need to conserve and plant more trees where space allows especially where there is a deficit. Urban tree and woodland are a key component of green infrastructure and an important part of a green network.

6.9 Health and Wellbeing

Although in today's world we can expect to be much healthier and live a lot longer, in Hull, there are some health inequalities closely linked to poverty, housing, education, employment and social isolation. The health benefits of high quality open space provision, such as providing opportunities for an active lifestyle and relaxation, are well documented (Department for the Environment, 2004). Recent reports highlight other benefits of open spaces such as a positive effect on mental wellbeing and their ability to contribute to social cohesion. Effectively designed open space is vital to improving residents' quality of life, especially in urban areas and areas of deprivation. There is already an active move to integrate informal opportunities for exercise in a number of open spaces

in the form of outside gyms and trim trails and increasing opportunities for natural play for children and young people. Improving access to and the quality of open spaces and green corridors and improving connectivity between them will make them more attractive and available to pedestrians and cyclists. Access to high quality, well-maintained open spaces can help to improve both physical and mental wellbeing by encouraging people to walk, to play sport, or simply to enjoy their natural environment. Hull's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2020 identifies a number of challenges that need to be overcome including childhood obesity and major discrepancies in life expectancies across Hull wards. Encouraging the use of parks and open spaces can help engender a culture where physical activity is undertaken for free. Hull's open spaces are pivotal in creating an environment that promotes physical activity and active transport in everyday settings for everyone.

6.10 Education

In Hull, parks are a significant but untapped resource for schools and life-long learning. Whilst a limited amount of engagement in open spaces with schools happens in the form of Playstyle and visits to parks it is largely on an informal and ad hoc basis. An action plan needs to be developed to improve facilities and establish a programme of activities with schools which meets the needs of the curriculum in addition to creating positive use of open spaces.

7. Findings & Recommendations

The 2014 Open Spaces update assessed local provision by ward and area in terms of the supply in relation to the demand and projected change in different population growth scenarios. More detailed ward-based analysis helps identify any gaps in the wider locality and open space requirements where significant development is planned. Understanding open space provision, accessibility and quality across the city is central to ensuring that opportunities for additional provision are used most effectively in relation to the demand. Overall there is a deficit in the quality and quantity of open space in Hull and this is exacerbated by the fact that many of the current facilities are aging or heavily used and require significant maintenance and upkeep.

7.1 Allotments

The primary purpose of allotments is to provide opportunities for residents to grow their own produce. This links in well to strategies on health, social inclusion and sustainability in the city. This type of open space may also include urban farms and areas for community food growing. This typology also includes community gardens and city farms which offer opportunities for people to actively work the land. Allotment provision at schools has not been assessed as part of the Open Space Strategy but it is seen as playing an important role in early and further education.

Neighbourhood Area	Accessibility/Quality/ Provision Gaps	Current Position
East	Wansbeck Road Allotments is the only site.	Demand for sites is low
North Carr	Low provision of sites in this area	Demand for sites is low
Northern	Residents in the Orchard Park and Greenwood ward and residents in the north of Beverley ward have poor access to allotments	Provide a new allotment within the Orchard and Greenwood ward should the demand exist
Park	Sites well distributed and occupied	No current demand
Riverside	Low provision	High demand
West	Sites well distributed and well occupied	Demand for additional sites is low
Wyke	Good access and high provision and high quality sites; large waiting list	High demand. Continue to maintain the high quality of sites.

Objectives for Allotments

A1	Ensure that the emphasis is made for high quality provision and continue to invest in site quality and security as funding allows.
A2	Continue to assess demand based on waiting lists; undertaking site inspections to raise the quality of the sites and reduce waiting lists.
A3	Improve the management of vacant plots and waiting lists to ensure that vacant plots are utilised to meet the waiting list demand where possible.

7.2 Amenity Green Space

Amenity green space in Hull occurs in many different forms but this typology is most regularly associated with residential housing where it provides visual amenity and a place for informal recreation. In areas where parks and play facilities are in short supply; amenity green space is important in that it provides a space for children to play. Amenity space provision should be considered closely with other open space typologies. Consultation as part of the open spaces assessment in 2008 showed that higher value is placed on amenity green spaces in deprived areas which benefit from the social interaction and cohesion that their community green space offers. Amenity green spaces often lack landscaping, character or interest and as a result are perceived to be of poor quality.

Neighbourhood Area	Accessibility/Quality/ Provision Gaps	Current Position
East	Provision high. Quality of sites highly variable.	Priority should be given to the enhancement of existing amenity space in order to improve their functionality
North Carr	Sufficient provision to meet current and future demand	Focus on enhancing the quality of amenity green space and possibly increasing functionality of existing spaces.
Northern	High accessibility in northern half of the area.	Opportunities should be sought to enhance the quality of provision.
Park	Residents in the Southcoates East / Holderness wards those in eastern areas of the Marfleet ward do not reach accessibility standards.	Increase provision in Marfleet and Southcoates East wards. Enhance and maintain quality of sites
Riverside	There are a number of smaller sites in this area meaning that whilst they are easily accessible to residents overall provision per resident is poor. There is significant variation in the quality of sites	Focus on enhancing the quality of amenity green space and possibly increasing functionality of existing spaces.
West	Slight deficit	Focus on enhancing the quality of amenity green space and possibly increasing functionality of existing spaces.
Wyke	The largest shortfall in the city is in this area; however, the creation of new amenity green space is restricted by the developed nature of the area. Consultation shows demand is low in this area as residents in this ward have generally have access to larger than average sized gardens.	Prioritise new provision. Seek to improve the quality of existing amenity spaces. Improving functionality of existing green spaces.

Objectives for Amenity Green Space

AGS1	Increase the quality of amenity green space from low to high; priority should be given to areas where amenity spaces provide the only informal recreational opportunity.
AGS2	Upgrade some of the larger areas of amenity green space to raise their standard or expand the typology to satisfy gaps in provision.
AGS3	Create more functional amenity green spaces through, for example, provision of formal seating and/or play areas, to offer greater community value
AGS4	Improve grounds maintenance focussing on the basics of grass cutting, litter and fly tipping to ensure that the green space is usable.
AGS5	Tackle anti-social behaviour in informal green space focussing on prevention and greater responsiveness to incidents, access and visibility.
AGS6	Look at opportunities for involving communities in the management of their local amenity green space
AGS7	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 funds for reinvestment.
AGS8	Redesign those amenity sites that lack community focus and improve personal safety

7.3 Cemeteries and Churchyards

Cemeteries and churchyards cover those that are directly connected with a church such as St John's in Newland and those outside of a place of worship such as the General Cemetery. Included in the Hull assessment are private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards. Cemeteries, although primarily concerned with the burial of the dead and quiet contemplation; frequently have high biodiversity value. Disused churchyards form an integral part of the open space in the Wyke Committee area of the city. The majority of churchyards in Hull are open to the public by and offer spaces for quiet contemplation and wildlife. Most churchyards will not be considered in the Area Priorities and Actions documents because of their active use and private ownership. Only those church yards and cemeteries with an amenity value will be considered as part of the Action Plan.

Neighbourhood Area	Provision	Current Position
East	St James Churchyard Private (P)	n/a
North Carr	None	
Northern Park	Northern Cemetery Active(A), St John's Church (P) Hedon Road Cemetery, Jewish Burial Ground (P), Eastern Cemetery (A) St. Giles Burial Ground (P)	Maintain to current standard Maintain Hedon Road Cemetery to current standard. Provide habitat management plan for disused cemeteries.
Riverside	Trinity Burial Ground, Castle Street	
West	None	
Wyke	Northern Cemetery and Crematorium (A), General Cemetery, Western Cemetery (A), Hull Hebrew Congregation Cemetery (P), Cemeteries north and south of Sculcoates Lane (P), Cemetery junction of Air Street and Bankside (P)	Maintain to current standard. Provide habitat management plan for disused cemeteries.
Citywide	Existing cemeteries are close to capacity. There are no graves left in the Northern Cemetery and there is only capacity to accommodate burials over the next 10 to 15 years in Eastern Cemetery.	New provision is provided by Priory Cemetery, completed in 2008 to the west of the city

Objectives for Cemeteries

C1	Continue to maintain current maintenance standards in cemeteries and churchyards.
C2	Promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and investigate the implementation of ecological management.
C3	Encourage use of cemeteries for informal recreation such as walking and enhance areas with wildlife value where possible.
C4	Encourage greater use of cemeteries as an educational resource, both in terms of heritage value and environmental value.

7.4 Civic space

The majority of the city centre civic 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 Queens Gardens, Kingston Square, Queen Victoria Square, the Museum Gardens, Paragon Square and Trinity Square along with landscaped areas around the marina such as Humber Quays and Minerva Terrace. These spaces have an important recreational function for city workers and residents and are important tourism resources that enhance the character of Hull's city centre. It is important that these sites are well maintained as high quality sites positively reflect on the city and contribute to the local economy. By looking attractive and well maintained they invite people to live, work and revisit the area. Many of Hull's civic spaces have a strong cultural association such as the former docks and Holy Trinity frontage adding to the all-round experience. Hull's civic spaces are a key way of raising the city's profile on a national scale.

Neighbourhood Area	Provision	Targets
City Centre	Good	Maintain current provision to a very high standard; look for opportunities to create more civic spaces within new developments

Objectives for Civic Spaces

CS1	Protect and enhance existing provision maintaining them to a very high standard in line with Hull's aspiration to be a major city and tourist destination
CS2	Seek additional high quality provision through new city centre development.
CS3	Increase seating provision throughout the city centre civic spaces.
CS4	Make greater use of civic spaces for events.
CS5	Explore opportunities for public art to enhance civic spaces.
CS6	Minimise water use by designing drought resistant planting schemes.

7.5 Green Corridors

Hull has a number of strategically important green links that provide an important relationship between the City and the East Riding of Yorkshire. These links are multi-functional providing important traffic free cycling and walking routes, as well as acting as corridors for wildlife. Many of these links offer blue and green connectivity across the wider landscape. The most important of which is the River Humber International Site; conserving and enhancing the Estuary's habitats and species is a key principle within the local plan. On a landscape scale, several key corridors run through the city; perhaps the most important local linkage, through the heart of Hull, is the River Hull corridor that links the wider countryside to the Humber Estuary. Other important local links include:

- Hull to Hornsea dismantled railway line
- Hull's "Green Arc" to the north of the city
- Holderness Drain
- Beverley and Barmston Drain.

These provide green and blue links through the city and are important for nature. These used and disused railway lines offer pedestrians and cyclists safe routes away from traffic. People use these routes for both long and short journeys and for regular commuting to work. Other routes can be found across the city. It is important to support joint projects with the East Riding of Yorkshire to enhance these routes, ensuring improvements in quality to encourage an increase in cycling and walking within and through the city. Hull's green network is fragmented and lacks resistance to development that would further reduce cohesion of sites. Development allocations need to be carefully considered to take this into account. The development and protection of green infrastructure will help promote biodiversity and quality of life for local residents. On a landscape scale it is important to view developments regionally with regards to how these may contribute not only to on-site provision of open space/ green infrastructure but also to the wider network.

Blue corridors run through the heart of the city and they form Hull's southern boundary. Opportunities exist to implement biodiversity improvements into public realm schemes or Sustainable Drainage schemes (SuDS) to create attractive spaces for local people and visitors. Schemes that involve setting back defences would allow community connectivity along the River Hull and provide better use of space for people and nature. The benefits of large scale flood alleviation schemes in Hull would have far reaching economic benefits and would link in well with the city's climate change vision.

Making Space for Nature highlights the importance of restoring ecological networks, working on a landscape scale in order to improve ecological connectivity and reverse this decline. The Natural Environment White Paper emphasises the role that the planning system can play in doing this. Functional connectivity is important to enable species movement through the city. A well planned coherent ecological network would help reduce fragmentation of the landscape and facilitate migration of species through the city. The Making Space for Nature report establishes designated sites as being at the heart of ecological networks and they play a vital role in species range expansions in response to climate change.

Objectives for Green Corridors

GC1	Work to preserve important green linkages in line with planning policy and develop opportunities to work with key stakeholders such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to strengthen and protect these linkages
GC2	Improve the quality of green corridors, riverside routes and cycle/walkways through the city for recreation, biodiversity and commuting.
GC3	Investigate methods to reduce motorbike access to green space whilst seeking to enable the fullest access for legitimate users.
GC4	Establish links with the highways department to improve access, entrances and pathways to and within sites for different users providing easier access for all.

7.6 Natural and Semi-natural Green Spaces

Natural and semi-natural spaces are a valuable asset in Hull; however, maintenance standards are variable as these sites are the first to be removed from cutting schedules. Due to the low quantities of semi-natural green space in Hull the priority should be to ensure that sites are maintained to a high quality to ensure the most is achieved from the site for both people and nature. Inclusion of Council owned natural and semi-natural green space outside of the city boundaries and green corridors in the 2014 assessment helped Hull reverse deficiencies identified in the 2008 assessment.

Neighbourhood Area	Accessibility/Quality/ Provision Gaps	Targets
East	Sufficient provision	Existing site quality needs to be raised.
North Carr	Excellent provision	Protect and enhance quality of existing sites
Northern	Sufficient provision as there is plentiful NSN provision outside of the city boundaries	Accessibility and quality of HCC owned sites on the boundaries to be prioritised along with links along the water bodies.
Park	Low provision is offset by some NSN provision in East Park.	Protect and enhance quality of existing sites
Riverside	Very low provision of accessible NSN.	West Park Railway triangle to be prioritised for enhancement.
West	Deficiency of NSN	Some of the city's highest quality sites are within this area and these sites should be protected from development.
Wyke	Low provision of NSN but sites good quality	Protect and enhance current provision. Work to provide access to private sites

Objectives for Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

NSN1	Ensure LNR sites have management plans to guide strategic management.
NSN2	Improve safety perceptions and facilitate greater community/education activities/interpretation opportunities.
NSN3	Continue to work towards meeting the Natural England targets for LNR provision. Work with East Riding on designation of HCC owned sites within the East Riding of Yorkshire Council boundary. Encourage and continue to support the formation of LNR 'friends of' groups.
NSN4	Work to raise awareness of accessible LNR provision through increased information provision on the HCC website and possible production and distribution of promotional leaflets. Engage with local schools.
NSN5	Safeguard and enhance rich and diverse habitats and species within parks and green spaces through a new Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Hull.
NSN6	Achieve favourable conservation status on all publicly accessible Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)/Local Wildlife Sites controlled by Hull City Council by 2030.
NSN7	Create new habitats for wildlife to remedy shortfalls in natural green space.
NSN8	Build partnerships with external agencies and voluntary sector organisations involved in the management of key sites.
NSN9	Continue to encourage community involvement in the improvement and management of natural/semi natural greenspaces, particularly to develop disused open spaces.
NSN10	Improve maintenance and management regimes ensuring optimum conditions for wildlife alongside attractive, welcoming and accessible places for the enjoyment by people.
NSN11	Complete the tree strategy for Hull.
NSN12	To develop programmes of environmental education with external and internal partners within Hull.

7.7 Outdoor Sports Facilities

The Playing Pitch Strategy deals with the provision (accessibility and quantity) of sports facilities across the city. The Open Spaces Strategy sets priorities with regards to quality as the principle aim is 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 accessibility on a day to day basis. Membership of bowling clubs is declining across the city and provision needs to be reviewed to determine whether all the city's bowling facilities are needed. Open spaces have an important role in providing opportunities for informal sports such as jogging, rounders and Nordic walking and less formally organised games of cricket and football. It is possible to provide simple ways to promote sports activities such as measured 5km routes, goal posts, trim trails and multi-gyms. Open spaces provide an accessible and free route to active participation in formal and informal sporting and recreational activities; in promoting the use of our open spaces we can help develop healthier communities. The Open Space Strategy will aim to run concurrently with city sports and health strategies whilst encouraging informal use of open spaces for activities such as sports. The provision of high quality, affordable facilities will help promote local sporting opportunities. Fewer, larger high quality grounds are preferable to more, smaller ones, since the former are more likely to sustain additional facilities such as changing rooms; such decisions need to be supported by a leisure facilities audit in order to inform the long-term strategy for their improvement.

Neighbourhood Area	Provision	Current Position
East	Sufficient Provision	Focus on quality
North Carr	Sufficient Provision	Focus on quality
Northern	Sufficient Provision	Focus on quality
Park	Slight deficiency	Focus on quality
Riverside	Large deficiency	Focus on quality
West	Sufficient Provision	Focus on quality
Wyke	Slight deficiency	Focus on quality
Citywide	the distribution of facilities across the city is comprehensive	Enhance all current provision ensuring sites are accessible for all

Objectives for Outdoor Sports Facilities

OSF1	The quality of playing pitches will be enhanced by improving toilet and changing facilities, pavilions and pitch quality.
OSF2	A small number of locations will provide tennis courts managed by either a club or someone to take bookings.
OSF3	Support clubs and individuals by providing the right facilities and encourage participation in outdoor sport.
OSF4	Review and rationalise bowling provision.
OSF5	Enhance the wider park environment for informal sport.
OSF6	Increase the provision of trim trail and multi-gyms in the city.
OSF7	Ensure sites are accessible for all.
OSF8	Aim to provide multi-functional sites in order to make the most of the facilities provided.

7.8 Parks

Parks provide a community hub and are seen as important on a city and regional scale, often attracting visitors from outside of the neighbourhood area and city boundaries. The city has 30 parks of varying size covering approximately 140 ha within the city boundary. Priority should be given to parks falling below the quality threshold to increase them to high quality and maintaining the largest sites to an excellent standard. All low value sites should be assessed and the aspiration is to improve quality as a priority rather than try to meet catchment gaps. Generally, due to lack of alternative options within Hull, catchment gaps will have to be met by long term investment in other typologies fulfilling the same recreational function for example, amenity green space.

Neighbourhood Area	Accessibility/Quality/Provision Gaps	Current Provision
East	Good provision	Focus on maintaining quality
North Carr	Slight deficiency	Improvement to amenity green space. Continue enhancements to Parks
Northern	Poor provision especially around boundaries	Amenity green space sites will go some way towards fulfilling gap with increased formal provision. Recent investment at King George V Playing Field has improved provision
Park	Good provision	Focus on maintaining quality of priority sites.
Riverside	Good provision	Focus on maintaining quality.
West	Generally good provision some deficiencies to north of committee area.	Continue to invest in the larger sites to provide high quality facilities at Pickering and at Springhead Parks.
Wyke	Generally good provision some deficiencies to west of committee area.	Prioritise enhancements to key sites in wards.

Objectives for Parks

P1	Ensure that there is a good quality traditional park offering a range of facilities within easy reach of all homes.
P2	Improve safety perception associated with the city's parks. Identify ways of decreasing anti-social behaviour and vandalism, e.g., through increased security presence, improved lighting etc.
P3	Improve signage and entrances to sites. Install interpretation where appropriate.
P4	Encourage and support community involvement in the management of the City's parks.
P5	At larger sites (East Park, Pearson Park) provide 'traditional' park features within sites e.g. formal footpaths, entrances, seating and bin provision, with additional features such as attractive landscaping, garden areas, play areas, attractions and other features of interest.
P6	Maintain and enhance the four major Victorian parks which attract citywide and regional users.
P7	Provide highly visual perennial planting schemes in key formal green spaces.
P8	Development and renew management plans for the major parks to help focus development and enhance site quality and increase public use.
P9	Restore, enhance and safeguard key historic features whilst responding to modern day needs.
P10	Maintain a staff presence in parks across the city.
P11	Provide good quality accessible toilets at main traditional parks.
P12	Increase use and enjoyment of spaces through a range of activities by working with partners to provide health and exercise related opportunities, events, and festivals. Improve information provision.
P13	Support participation and involvement in parks through consultation, participation in active management of spaces, volunteering, education and outreach activities.
P14	To work with partners to investigate ways in which open spaces can be used to improve the health and well-being of Hull's residents.
P15	Access policy to be developed for major open spaces.

7.9 Provision for Children

Equipped play provision is acknowledged as playing an important part in child development allowing children to integrate and learn social and movement skills in their local environment. Children's play facilities are designed specifically for those aged under twelve.

Neighbourhood Area	Accessibility/Quality/ Provision Gaps	Targets
East	Slight deficiency in provision	Enhance current provision; investigate opportunities to create new sites.
North Carr	Sufficient provision	Maintain and enhance quality of current provision.
Northern Park	Sufficient provision	Maintain and enhance quality of current provision.
Park	Slight deficiency in provision	Enhance current provision; investigate opportunities to create new sites.
Riverside	Sufficient provision	Maintain and enhance quality of current provision.
West	Deficiency in provision	Enhance the quality of current provision; upgrade amenity areas where possible.
Wyke	Deficiency in provision	Enhance current provision; investigate opportunities to create new sites.

7.11 Provision for Young People

These facilities cover equipped provision specifically designed for young people (over the age of 12) and includes Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), skate parks, basketball courts, youth shelters, informal kick-about areas and BMX tracks.

Neighbourhood Area	Accessibility/Quality/ Provision Gaps	Targets
East	Sufficient provision	Maintain and enhance current provision
North Carr	Slight deficiency in provision	Look for opportunities to enhance current provision and to develop new sites as appropriate
Northern Park	Large deficiency	Maintain and enhance current provision
Park	Excellent provision	Maintain and enhance current provision
Riverside	Slight deficiency in provision	Look for opportunities to enhance current provision and to develop new sites as appropriate
West	Sufficient provision	Maintain and enhance current provision
Wyke	Slight deficiency in provision	Look for opportunities to enhance current provision and to develop new sites as appropriate

Children's and Young People's Provision Objectives

CYP1	Replace traditional and well-worn playgrounds with a range of hard-wearing exciting and interactive equipment.
CYP2	Prioritise those areas for improvement where provision is low.
CYP3	Ensure consultation is undertaken in areas where improvements or developments are planned.
CYP4	Facilities to be dog free, safe, clean and well-maintained.
CYP5	Facilities should cater for a range of ages and abilities.
CYP6	Increase opportunities for young people within existing spaces.
CYP7	Develop natural play spaces which are actively designed using both the natural landscape and the introduction of natural play materials.
CYP8	CYP8 - All children's play grounds to be smokefree through the adoption of a city-wide voluntary code.
CYP9	Provide diverse, exciting and challenging spaces for young people, including equipment, skate parks and shelters.
CYP10	Maintain and enhance at least one high quality major play space within each Committee Area.

7.12 Open Spaces (General)

There are a range of open space objectives that span different typologies; these have been raised from customer questionnaires and feedback

Open Space Objectives

OSS1	Improve access to open space for a wider range of people
OSS2	Tackle problems of dogs fouling and uncontrolled dogs through education and enforcement. Create dog free spaces across the city whilst ensuring that dog walkers retain a varied choice of open space to visit.
OSS3	Utilise our open spaces to help adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change; including planting trees for shade, developing drought resistant plantings and use of sites for water storage.
OSS4	Adopt sustainability targets in the management of Hull's Open Spaces e.g. developing biomass heating and recycling education.
OSS5	Protect open spaces from development.
OSS6	Reduce the amount of pesticide and herbicide used.
OSS7	Investigate the implementation of carbon reduction techniques across the parks and open spaces.
OSS8	To adopt and promote practices that recognise the key role that Hull's open spaces can play in the city's adaptation to climate change.
OSS9	Ensure there is a coordinated approach to the development of open spaces on the Hull boundary with the East Riding of Yorkshire.
OSS10	Design all new open spaces to high standards in line with green flag principle ensuring they are well integrated with the surrounding area.
OSS11	Suitable facilities for dogs and dog walkers should be integrated into new and existing open spaces where appropriate.
OSS12	Develop a strategy for assessing the most appropriate lines of communication and information materials for open space marketing and promotion.
OSS13	Review maintenance standards for open spaces and report on performance annually.
OSS14	Work to reduce unauthorised use of open spaces.
OSS15	Encourage community ownership and management of open spaces

8. Implementation and Delivery

Delivering the vision and objectives for Hull's open spaces is a long term project. It is not feasible for all of the outcomes to be achieved within short timescales. The collective improvement of our open spaces for climate change or environmental improvement for example, will require a regional approach and much longer timescales. The Open Space Strategy and supporting documents will support the Local Plan natural environment and open space policies. It will also help to direct investment in new and existing open spaces by identifying priorities for investment and improvement.

Delivering the strategy will take a combined and committed effort by Hull City Council and a number of partners including the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Wildlife Trust, community groups and other open space stakeholders. Partner organisations will be important to the process as they can help to access funding, promote the use of open space, develop and harness the dedication of volunteers and contribute to the management of open spaces within the city. There are many organisations that already contribute greatly to open space development and protection in Hull. The development and delivery of the Open Space Strategy for Hull is therefore an opportunity to encourage and help direct the activities of our partner organisations in a coordinated way.

The open space accessibility and quantity standards for Hull adopted in this strategy will be applied to new development through the planning system. This ensures that developers are aware of the open space provision required for new development. The Open Space Strategy and supporting evidence base will help to establish the provision for new development and whether it should be in the form of new open space, enhancement to existing open space, or both. The strategy will also be used to provide advice on open space related matters for planning applications. The strategy can also feed into neighbourhood plans, with regards to indicating where improvements should be made and where new provision is required.

The actions necessary to deliver the vision, aims and objectives adopted in the strategy will be set out in the area based action plans. These will be developed in consultation with local people and ward councillors, making specific proposals to improve the quality of facilities and provide the open spaces people need in their local area. These plans are the crucial delivery mechanism for the strategy. For each objective, information is given on the implementation approach, targets, timescale for delivery and possible delivery partners. The timescale shows the date by which each action should be completed. Where relevant, links to the Local Plan and to other corporate documents are shown. The action plans address quality issues identified in the audit and contribute to the delivery of excellent open spaces. The priority is to raise that quality standard of open spaces that achieved poorly in the quality audit. The action plans will also address priorities that have been highlighted by the customer consultation particularly improving the maintenance, cleanliness and safety of open spaces in the city.

Grounds Maintenance

It is recognised that grounds maintenance is a critical issue in the public's perception of quality of open spaces. Effective and efficient grounds maintenance is fundamental in the delivery of several of

the objectives of this strategy. Routine maintenance standards and investment in high quality infrastructure that does not require maintenance is not prioritised. The council's approach to grounds maintenance is being regularly reviewed with the aim of streamlining maintenance regimes. Continued efficiency savings across the services means that community management of some individual spaces will have to be considered.

The Area Priorities and Actions supporting documents will be reviewed and updated every three years until the end of the strategy period. This will provide scope to respond to any changes such as political or organisational change and new funding opportunities as they arise, whilst protecting the overall vision for open spaces in Hull. Monitoring will be undertaken as part of the updating review of the action plans. This will then feed back into future plans.

It is acknowledged that delivery, management and investment in green infrastructure, open space and sport and recreation will be a complex and challenging matter for Hull. The strategy and the development of the action plans will help provide a focused and sustainable approach to the delivery of high quality open spaces, now and in the future.

9. References

Bratman G.N., Daily G.C., Levy B.J. and Gross J.J. (2015). *The benefits of nature experience: Improved affect and cognition*. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 138, 41–50.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) (2004). *Green space Strategies - a good practice guide*. CABE, UK

CABE (2006). *Paying for parks. Eight models for funding urban green spaces*. CABE, UK.

CABE and the Greater London Authority (2009). *Open space strategies - Best practice guidance*. CABE, UK.

Department for Communities and Local Government (2002). *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17*. The Stationery Office, Norwich, UK.

Department for the Environment (2004). *Planning Policy Statement 8 (PPS 8) Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation*.

Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (2002) *Green Spaces Better Places - Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Task Force*.

Department of Health White Paper. *Healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England*'.

Department of Transport, Leisure and the Regions (DTLR). (2003) *Green Spaces Taskforce 'Green Spaces, Better Places'*.

Derksen M.L., van Teeffelen. A.J.A. and Verburg, P.H. (2013). *Quantifying urban ecosystem services based on high-resolution data of urban green space: an assessment for Rotterdam, the Netherlands*. *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

Heritage Lottery Fund (2014) *State of UK Public Parks 2014 - Research Report*

Hull City Council (2009). *Hull City Council Corporate Plan 2009-2012*

Hull City Council (2010). *Playing Pitch Strategy 2011-2021 (Revised 2016)*

Hull City Council and Hull Clinical Commissioning Group (2014). *Hull- Healthier Together: Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014 - 2020*

Hull City Council (2014). *Hull Local Plan to 2030 Issues and Options Consultation Document May / June 2014*

Hull City Council (2014). *Parks and Open Space Strategy for Kingston upon Hull Draft Version 1.0*

Hull City Council Leadership Board (2013). *Hull CityPlan*

Newcastle City Council (2004). *Green spaces...your spaces - Newcastle's Green Space Strategy*

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (2002). *Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) National Audit Office (2006) *Enhancing Urban Green Space*. Stationery Office, London.

ODPM (2005) *How to create Quality Parks and Open Spaces*. ODPM (2003) *Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener*.

ODPM (2005). *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*

Play England (2008) *Design for Play: a Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces*.

Rolls S. and Sunderland T. (2014). *Microeconomic Evidence for the Benefits of Investment in the Environment 2*. Natural England. Available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/32031?category=49002> [accessed April 2015]

Sheffield City Council (2010) *Sheffield's Green and Open Space Strategy 2010 – 2030 - Sheffield's Great Outdoors*.

Town and Country Planning Association and The Wildlife Trusts (2012) *Planning for a healthy environment – good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity*. RAPSider, Oldham, UK

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Urban Parks Forum (2001). *Public Park Assessment A survey of local authority owned parks focusing on parks of historic interest*

Urban Green Spaces Task Force (2002) *Green Spaces, Better Places*.

Wallis E. (2015). *Places to Be: Green spaces for active citizenship*. Fabian Society. London

10. Appendices

Appendix 10.1 Glossary of Terms

Ecological network - Inter-connecting open spaces which are of importance to, or have potential for, wildlife.

Green Flag Award - A quality award for green spaces for spaces that are well-maintained, welcoming and part of the community.

Green Infrastructure

All green spaces together that includes parks, amenity green space, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces - woodland and scrub, grassland (e.g. meadow) flowing water, wastelands and disturbed ground, green corridors, allotments, community gardens, city farms, cemeteries and churchyards.

Green network - all forms of inter-connecting green recreational open spaces.

Local Nature Reserve - An area of land protected for wildlife and used by the community, declared by the Council and English Nature.

Local Wildlife Sites – A protected site, valuable for wildlife on a local scale, decided by a robust set of selection criteria

Management plans - A detailed description of how a site will be maintained managed and improved over a specific time frame.

Natural and semi-natural green spaces (NSN)-Spaces that have either not been managed at all, or have natural features such as water courses, meadows or ponds. They are managed in a way that allows nature to develop.

Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) - A protected site, valuable for wildlife on a local scale, decided by the Council

Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI) - A protected site, valuable for wildlife or geological features on a national scale, decided by Natural England.

Sustainable - Meeting our needs whilst still taking future generations needs into account.

Appendix 10.2: Wider Functions of Hull's Open Space

Open space	Open space such as parks and green spaces
Biodiversity	Wildlife and habitats
Landscape	Landscape features
Products of the land	Agriculture / Community food growing
Mitigating flood risk	Floodplain and areas at risk from flooding, or areas where green infrastructure could be used to reduce run off in flood risk areas
Contribution to mitigating climate change	Areas which are, or could be, managed for non-flooding climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration. Woodland creation where possible
Health	Green space can be used to increase outdoor activity or address pollution issues by acting as a carbon sink
Accessibility	Public rights of way allowing access by foot, cycle or horse riding along the corridor. Commuting and green corridors
Recreation	Formal and informal outdoor recreational assets such as golf courses, play areas and sports pitches
Education	Noddle Hill LNR and other sites used for environmental education
Cultural	Gardens, civic spaces, cemeteries, historic features or buildings in areas with public access
Tourism	Visitor assets which would form part of at least a day trip for people from outside the immediate area e.g. East Park
Poor quality environment	Poor quality environments which could be improved with investment in open space
Land and property values	Investment in green infrastructure can positively affect local land and property values
Economic growth	Where development is proposed and increased green infrastructure is likely to attract further economic investment (e.g. higher value industry).

Appendix 10.3: Relevant Sections of the National Planning Policy Framework

Paragraph 73 of the NPPF states that

“73. Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required.”

Paragraph 74 of the NPPF states that

“74. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.”

Playing fields are also protected by regulations set out in the ‘Town and Country Planning (playing fields) (England) Direction 1998 which prevents the loss of playing pitches through the planning process.

Other areas of the NPPF that are relevant to this document include those covering public rights of way. Paragraph 75 states “Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.” This is of particular note with regards to several of the city’s main green corridors.

The NPPF also provides opportunities for local communities to designate important open spaces within their neighbourhood as Local Green Spaces through the development of local and neighbourhood plans. This allows the open space additional protection and rules out new development unless there are exceptional circumstances. Paragraph 77 of the NPPF states that the designation should be used only

- “where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.”

Appendix 10.4: Quality Assessment Protocol

A Benchmarking Approach to Quality Assessments of Hull's Open Spaces against Green Flag

This is based on a benchmarking approach that uses the best national standards available and then adjusts them to suit the range of typologies of open space present within Hull. Open spaces within Hull do not need to meet Green Flag standards to be classified as a good quality site. It is not the function of many of Hull Spaces to provide the range of facilities and infrastructure required for the standard. This quality bench marking system uses feedback from customer comments and questionnaires to understand what is important to the people of Hull for their local spaces. Green Flag criteria cover both facilities and operational management of the site

The Green Flag categories of relevance to Hull's Open Spaces are as follows:

1. A Welcoming Park

- Good and safe access
- Signage
- Equal access for all

2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

- Equipment and facilities must be safe
- A secure place to be in
- Dog fouling
- Appropriate facilities present (e.g. toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment)
- Quality of facilities present

3. Clean and Well Maintained

- Waste management and litter
- Grounds and/or horticultural maintenance
- Buildings maintenance
- Equipment maintenance

4. Sustainability

- (Justify) pesticide use
- (Eliminate) Peat use

- Waste minimisation
- Arboriculture and horticultural standards
- Environmental sustainability (e.g. energy conservation, pollution reduction)

5. Conservation and Heritage

- Conservation of natural features, wildlife and flora
- Conservation of landscape features
- Conservation of buildings and structures

6. Community Involvement

- Appropriate provision for all sections of the community
- Community involvement in management and development including outreach work

7. Marketing

- Promotion as a community resource
- Provision of appropriate information on activities/opportunities to get involved
- Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information

8. Management

Implementation of the management plan – will not be assessed, however, a management plan or strategy should be in place for the city’s larger parks and open spaces that addresses the key criteria above and this should be actively implemented to ensure a structured approach to management and maintenance. This will, in turn, help to demonstrate financially sound management of the city’s open spaces.

Scoring

Each individual criterion is scored out of a possible 10. Criteria that do not apply to a particular site such as “buildings maintenance” where no building are present will score zero and therefore this is not included in the scoring matrix preventing bias in favour of the better equipped sites. Scores are associated with a quality term as shown in the table below.

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Percentage	0%	1 - 10%	11 - 20%	21-30%	31 - 40%	41 - 50%	51 - 60%	61 - 70%	71 -80%	81 - 90%	91 – 100%

Standard	N/A	Un-acceptable	Very Poor	Poor	Below average	Average	Above Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Exceptional
-----------------	-----	---------------	-----------	------	---------------	---------	---------------	------	-----------	-----------	-------------

Quality Assessment Scoring

Final scores are obtained by taking the average of all the scores and dividing them by the number of criteria that the site has been assessed against. This score is then multiplied by 100 to give a percentage score.

Benchmarked scoring

Hull has an array of typologies of Open Space that fulfil a range of functions, therefore, it cannot be expected that a small inner city play facility will score within the same quality band as a city park and regional visitor destination. Once a percentage score has been achieved for a particular site it can be assessed against the bands agreed for its particular typology.

Proposed Open Space Benchmark Standards.

Classification	Poor	Below Average	Average	Minimum Standard	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Allotments	25% - 39%	40% - 49%	50% - 54%	50%	55% - 60%	60% - 69%	70% +
Amenity Green Space	15% - 29%	30% - 39%	40% - 49%	41%	55% - 59%	60% +	
Cemeteries and churchyards	25% - 39%	40% - 49%	50% - 54%	50%	55% - 60%	60% - 69%	70% +
Civic Spaces	30% - 44%	45% - 54%	55% - 59%	60%	61% - 64%	65% - 74%	75% +
Green corridors	15% - 29%	30% - 39%	40% - 49%	41%	50% - 59%	60% +	
Natural and semi-natural green spaces	30% - 44%	45% - 54%	55% - 59%	60%	61% - 64%	65% - 74%	75% +
Outdoor sports facilities	35% - 49%	50% - 64%	41% - 64%	65%	65% - 80%	81% - 90%	81% +
Parks	35% - 49%	50% - 64%	41% - 60%	71%	71% - 80%	81% - 90%	81% +
Provision for Children	30% - 44%	45% - 54%	55% - 59%	60%	61% - 64%	65% - 74%	75% +
Provision for Young People	25% - 39%	40% - 49%	50% - 54%	55%	55% - 60%	60% - 69%	70% +

Assessment Matrix												
Site Name		Parks	Amenity Green Space	Green Corridor	Natural Semi-Natural	Children's Facility	Young People's Facility	Cemetery	Allotments	Civic Space	Outdoor sports facility	
Date												
Assessor												
Classification												
Scoring		N/A	Unacceptable	Very Poor	Poor	Below average	Average	Above Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Exceptional
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. A Welcoming Park												
Good and safe access												
Signage												
Equal access for all												
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure												
Equipment and facilities must be safe												
A secure place to be in												
Dog fouling												
Appropriate facilities present (e.g. toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment)												
Quality of facilities present												
3. Clean and Well Maintained												
Waste management and litter												
Grounds & horticultural maintenance												
Buildings maintenance												
Equipment maintenance												
4. Sustainability												
(Justify) pesticide use												
(Eliminate) peat use												
Waste minimisation												
Arboriculture and horticultural standards												
Environmental sustainability (e.g. energy conservation, pollution reduction)												
5. Conservation and Heritage												
Conservation of natural features												
Conservation of landscape features												
Conservation of buildings and structures												
6. Community Involvement												
Appropriate provision for all sections of the community												
Community involvement in management & development												
7. Marketing												
Promotion as a community resource												
Provision of appropriate information												
Provision of appropriate educational info'												
8. Management Plan – Not Assessed												
CORE												
AVERAGE												