

Greenspace Strategy

Executive Summary and Standards

2008 - 2018



Coventry City Council

www.coventry.gov.uk/parks

Introduction

The Greenspace Strategy has been developed to provide a strategic framework for the future management of Coventry City's parks and green spaces whilst also addressing the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17(PPG17), which sets out government guidance in relation to the development of clear and transparent planning policies for parks, open spaces, outdoor sports and recreational facilities.

The guidance calls for local authorities to set standards for parks and open spaces that recognise both the present level of provision, and local people's views and aspirations regarding the present and future provision. It therefore has a requirement for local authorities to undertake two main pieces of work:

An audit of current provision, examining:

- **Quantity** – what type of space is it, how much of each type is there and what is the primary purpose?
- **Quality** – how well does this provision meet the purpose for which it is intended when measured against best practice?
- **Accessibility** – is the space provided actually in the places where it is needed, are there communities that are not well served by existing provision and how far do people have to travel to get to the different facilities and provision?

Consultation has been carried out with local people to establish what use is made of different types of space, what barriers prevent people from using space, and how well existing provision meets people's needs and aspirations.

The outcome is a robust local assessment of provision at both a city wide and local level.

There are four guiding principles for local assessments:

- Local needs
- The delivery of a network of high quality, sustainable open spaces and sport and recreation facilities
- The improvement and enhancement of the accessibility and quality of existing provision
- The value of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities – local needs and wider benefits such as biodiversity and health and well being for people.

This work was undertaken in mid 2007 and examined provision of parks and open spaces, children's play, natural green space, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, outdoor sports facilities etc. Each site was assessed and evaluated against agreed criteria, and the results were then compared with the feedback from a limited response to an extensive public consultation (including consultation with stakeholder groups, and with young people) to determine what standards of provision should be.

The desired outcome is to provide a Greenspace Strategy for the city that is based on a robust assessment of local need and helps :

- To meet the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17(PPG17): Planning for open space, sport and recreation through the development of local standards of provision relating to each different type of greenspace. PPG17 advocates that standards need to be set in relation quantity, quality and accessibility that are based on local need.
- To provide high quality networks of accessible greenspace and outdoor recreational facilities that are valued by the local community and cater for local need in both urban and rural areas.
- To provide fit for purpose provision that is economically and environmentally sustainable.
- To ensure that the city provides an appropriate balance between new provision and ensures that existing provision is improved and enhanced
- To provide clarity for developers and land owners with regards to what the Council expects from development proposals in relation to greenspace provision.
- To provide a clear framework of investment that balances increased accessibility, enhancement and improvement to existing provision, and new provision.
- To deliver a consistent approach through relevant strategies that supports the emerging Local Development Framework.



The Greenspace Strategy provides a clear framework and approach that determines the priorities for investment, guides policy and identifies opportunities for the city and its partners in relation to the city's greenspaces.

In developing the Greenspace Strategy the city has been subdivided into three core areas, these are the existing Neighbourhood Management Areas currently utilised by the city. Using the neighbourhood areas enables the city to identify the priorities for each area of the city in relation to the emerging Local Development Framework. Priorities may also be drilled down to the ward level.

The Greenspace Strategy has been developed following the stages as outlined in the companion guide to PPG17 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' as published by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2002). This has included the following:

- A comprehensive review of existing strategies, corporate documents and policies that may influence greenspace (this includes planning policy)
- Identification of all existing greenspace and the associated facilities such as outdoor sport or recreation
- The establishment of a steering group and project board of internal and external stakeholders to oversee the development of the Greenspace Strategy
- Consultation with key stakeholders within the City Council, Local, Regional and National Governing bodies
- A digital mapping exercise firstly to identify provision by type and secondly to transfer the findings for quality, quantity and accessibility into a computer based mapping management tool (GIS). This will enable informed management decisions to be made in the future
- Utilising the GIS data to establish and to test local standards of provision at the city and Neighbourhood Area level
- The development of an Action Plan to guide future management and planning decision in relation to greenspace

In order for the city to achieve the network of accessible good quality greenspace of the right type, in the right place for the right needs will require investment and as such will greatly depend on the availability of funding both capital and revenue. The Capital funding will be required to improve quality and accessibility of existing space and to design and provide new space where required. The revenue funding will ensure long term sustainability of sites.

The Vision

The vision of Coventry City Council for greenspace is:

"To provide attractive, high quality accessible greenspaces that are well maintained, safe, clean and are important to local people. This will be achieved through clear, open and robust planning policies that ensure that green space contributes to local character and plays an important role in everyday life of residents whilst supporting the regeneration of the city."



Green Space in Coventry

Methodology

Definition of Greenspace

For the purpose of this strategy 'greenspace' is a collective term that refers to the city's provision of parks and public gardens, children's play areas, outdoor sports facilities such as playing pitches and sports grounds, woodlands, nature reserves, allotments, cemeteries and linear open space.

PPG17 guidance advocates the development of a local typology for the different types of greenspace within the city. For this strategy we are referring to the range of green areas that are used by the public and are in the main managed by Coventry City Council.

The Greenspace Strategy considers core typologies of provision in Coventry, as well as setting out plans and policies for each of the typologies. The strategy proposes provision standards to ensure that people have equal access to the range of typologies regardless of where they live.



Table 1 - City of Coventry Typology - part 1

Coventry City Typology	Hierarchy of Provision	Primary Purpose and Vision
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">Parks and Open Space</p>	<p>Premier Park</p>	<p>The city has identified War Memorial Parks as the Premier Park using the following justification: Significant numbers of people visiting the park from all over the city. The park is easily accessible by public transport and is close to the city centre. The park includes many attractive features and is of a scale that provides a rich variety of opportunities. An improvement plan has been developed for the park.</p>
	<p>Area Park</p>	<p>The city has identified 4 sites - Allesley, Holbrooks, Longford and Caludon that have been selected as having the potential to become area parks. These parks provide a broad range of opportunities for local people. In developing the parks the emphasis will be placed on community involvement. The parks are well located and development plans for each site will include a varied range of activities.</p>
	<p>Neighbourhood Park</p>	<p>These are the large areas of open space that are not of significant scale to warrant development as area parks, these sites are strategically placed to serve smaller local communities around the city.</p>
	<p>Principal Open Space</p>	<p>Large open space areas where development is restricted due to the nature of the site, such as they form part of the flood plain or have had a history of previous tipping, some sites being important and are designated as open space, others are protected as sites important to nature conservation.</p>
	<p>Incidental Open Space</p>	<p>Small pockets of amenity space in residential areas maintained to minimum requirements, clean and safe to use.</p>
	<p>Ornamental Areas</p>	<p>Important heritage landmarks in the city that help to enhance the quality of the city as a tourist venue. Horticultural elements include shrub beds and bedding plants providing colour and interest.</p>
	<p>Country Park</p>	<p>The aim is to realise the potential which the park offers for social, educational and community development for the people of Coventry.</p>

Table 1 - City of Coventry Typology - part 2

Coventry City Typology	Hierarchy of Provision	Primary Purpose and Vision
<i>Outdoor Sport</i>	Sports Grounds	Sites specifically intended to meet demand for formal participation in sport.
	Grass Pitches	Grass pitches for football, cricket and rugby.
	Other Outdoor Sport Provision	Participation in outdoor sports such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls and athletics.
<i>Natural Greenspace</i>	Woodland	Sites that promote respect and understanding of woodlands through programmes of interpretation, conservation and management. These sites will also provide for recreation and wildlife.
<i>Provision for Children and Young People</i>	Equipped Play Areas	Accessible, safe, clean and well maintained areas designed for or including facilities primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
<i>Allotments</i>	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
<i>Cemeteries and Churchyards</i>	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Areas for quiet contemplation to remember the deceased.

The Approach

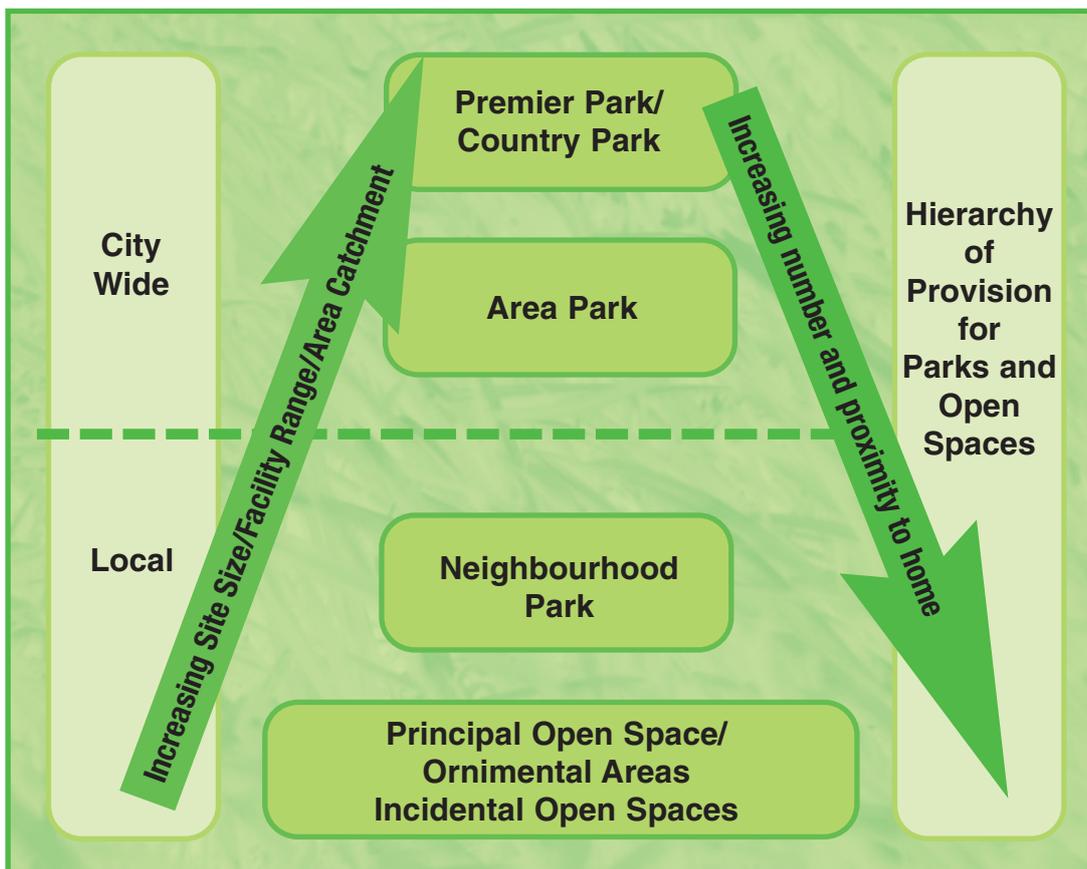
The Strategy covers all greenspaces where there is legitimate public access. The Council owns and manages much of the provision but there are areas under private control or that are not fully publicly accessible such as school grounds.

The following greenspace types are not considered in any great depth as part of this strategy:

- Private land including domestic gardens
- countryside
- the public rights of way network
- private sports grounds or school grounds with no community use.

The geographical scope of the Strategy conforms to the administrative boundary of Coventry City Council. However, it is important to recognise that several sites belonging to the city fall outside the City Council boundary namely Coombe Abbey Country Park, Westwood Heath Allotment Leisure Gardens, Bagington Mill Allotment Leisure Gardens. These sites are included within the Greenspace Strategy as they are City Council assets.

Table 1a - Coventry Parks and Open Space Hierarchy



A review of existing policies and plans

In order to develop a Greenspace Strategy for the city it has been necessary to consider and review the existing large number of plans, policies and strategies produced by the city and its partners that have an influence on greenspace across the city. These existing documents have to be considered as they provide an important source of information, background and context with regards to provision and policy that has shaped the current provision of greenspace across the city.

National Standards

Greenspace policy in Coventry has been influenced by national standards that have been produced by national bodies. The most influential has been the standards set through the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and Sport England. Other national bodies such as Natural England (formerly English Nature), the Lawn Tennis Association and to a lesser degree the Association of Leisure and Allotment Gardens have all promoted standards of provision. These have all been considered and applied where relevant or possible and are discussed within the relevant sections of the Greenspace Strategy.

PPG17 guidance advocates the development of locally determined provision standards based on local needs that are sustainable and more importantly reflect local circumstance.

Audit and Digital Mapping

The study adheres to the guidance detailed in “Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17” providing guidance on undertaking local assessments of open space, sport and recreation provision. The Council already hold large amounts of information in relation to greenspace. This information is spread through different departments and divisions within the Council and external bodies. This has resulted in part to an inconsistent approach to the provision of greenspace. The Council is not alone in this as many other authorities are finding they are in a similar position as they also undertake the required PPG17 assessments.

A key stage in developing the strategy was to pull together the information currently held by the Council and governing bodies into a digital data base. The database has pulled together the threads of information and has

captured sites by creating digital layers for each of the different typologies. The database has been created to enable the Council to regularly update the information and to use the information as a management tool to guide future decisions for planning and management of greenspace.

In developing the Greenspace Strategy a comprehensive qualitative audit of open space, sport and recreational facilities in terms of quality and accessibility has been undertaken to support the quantitative data captured as part of the digital mapping. The audit has assessed each site against best practice in terms of the physical condition of the site and the infrastructure within them.

Digital maps have been produced from the data base and are an important element in providing the information that has guided the development of this Greenspace Strategy.



Assessing Needs

Consultation has taken the form of questionnaire surveys to the public and user groups, face to face consultation, telephone and questionnaire surveys of key stakeholders, National Governing Bodies and other interested bodies.

Public and Staff Consultation

The Council undertook consultation with the residents and City Council staff living within Coventry. The Consultation was through a standard questionnaire approach as follows:

- **Questionnaire on Web Site** - this went 'live' in June 2007 and was made available to local people until September 2007. The survey was advertised 4 times in the local press and was advertised on the Council Web Site
- **Questionnaire to other places** - A hard copy of the questionnaire was available in libraries, community centres and key reception areas. The survey was advertised in Council buildings via a poster campaign. The survey was also promoted at large Council events such as the Godiva Festival
- **Staff Questionnaire** - Staff in three core departments who live and work in the City Council were notified of the opportunity to have their say via a note attached to their pay slips pointing them to the questionnaire on the web site and via an individual email
- **Other media** - An article was placed in City Vision on two occasions (the free news letter delivered to all homes in the city)

Consultation with the public has attempted to identify local needs and aspirations and importantly to identify the issues at the local level to enable informed decisions about the future management and provision of greenspace to be developed. In order to develop a strategy and set local policies from it, it is essential to consult with the local community to gain an insight into local needs and aspirations. It is also important to ascertain the views of local communities as part of the Best Value and community planning process.

It has to be stated that the response from the public consultation outlined has been limited and as a result evidence gathered from other Council initiated consultation has been used to strengthen the development of this strategy. In addition extensive consultation on the standards and draft strategy with the executive summary is being undertaken in May – June 2008.

Previous consultation with organisations clubs and groups held by the city has been reviewed along with a resident and staff survey. The questionnaire responses have been analysed, and a database has been established that

will provide the Council with detailed analysis for types of open space and areas of residence.

The survey was designed to assess views of residents, their attitude and aspirations with regard to open space, outdoor sport and recreational facilities across the city. In particular the survey set out to identify and establish the following:

- The usage of open space, sport and community recreational facilities by residents within the city
- The value local people attach to open space, sport and community recreational facilities
- The attitude of local residents towards open space, sport and community recreation facilities
- Attitudes to the level of existing provision and facilities
- The frequency of use by local residents to the differing types of provision
- Main mode of transport local resident use to access open space, sport and community recreational facilities
- The views of residents to the accessibility of open space, sport and community recreational facilities
- The barriers that prevent or reduce local use of open space, sport and community recreational facilities
- Local needs and expectations

Key Stakeholders

50+ individuals and regional governing bodies were consulted either by face to face interviews, telephone interview or via an email survey. The key stakeholders were identified by the City Council as people with an influence or interest in greenspace across the city.

Local Groups and Schools

Questionnaire surveys were sent to Friends of Parks Groups, Allotment Societies, Schools, Football Clubs, Cricket Clubs, Bowls Clubs, Tennis Clubs, and Athletics Clubs.

Young People

The City Council has recently completed a Play Strategy for Children and Young People and the evidence collated is incorporated into the greenspace strategy.

Neighbourhood Management Areas

In order for the Greenspace Strategy to reflect the differences in provision and spatial distribution of facilities within local communities the city strategy has considered provision on two levels. Firstly the quantity, quality and accessibility of greenspace at a citywide provision level and secondly using the city's existing Neighbourhood Management Areas. Neighbourhood Management is the way in which the council works to reflect needs and preferences in local neighbourhoods to improve its services and the quality of life of local people.

By making use of the Neighbourhood Management Areas the Greenspace Strategy can support the Councils three key roles for Neighbourhood Management:

- Problem solving – working with local partners and residents to find local solutions to local problems
- Community involvement and consultation – making sure that local residents and community groups have the opportunity, skills and confidence to take part in deciding how local services are delivered
- Planning to deliver better services – making sure that neighbourhood priorities are included in future plans for your neighbourhood

The use of Neighbourhood Management Areas will also enable:

- A comparison to be made between the different areas of the city
- Identify the spatial distribution and accessibility of facilities within the Neighbourhood Areas compared to the city overall
- Provide an insight into the what facilities or provision need investment, replacement or new provision when negotiating financial contributions with developers

The data collected in developing the Greenspace Strategy has been developed in such a way as to enable the Council to drill down further and to undertake analysis if needed at the ward level.

In developing the Greenspace Strategy the city has been subdivided into the three core Neighbourhood Management Areas:

- North East
- North West
- South

For the purpose of this Greenspace Strategy the following definitions are relevant;

- **City wide** - everything within the administrative footprint of the City of Coventry
- **Area** - the administrative division within the city
- **Neighbourhoods** - the places where the communities live and identify with
- **Wards** - the electoral boundaries that elected members represent.

Comparison with other local authorities

It is useful to gauge the city provision against other similar local authorities and as such the findings and standard from other authorities PPG17 assessments would be a valuable point of comparison. The use of this information is dependent upon its availability and accessibility. The provision within the city is compared with other local authorities of a similar size where possible.

PPG17 advocates local authorities move away from the use of national provision standards in order to develop local standards that best fit the city and local need. The use of benchmarking with other city's is useful to ensure the people of Coventry are provided with a good level of facilities and provision.



Management Issues and Financial Implications

Ownership and management of greenspace and the associated facilities across the city is subject to different regimes. The regimes are linked to the function and type of provision dependent upon ownership. Therefore sites of the same type may well be subjected to differing maintenance and management practices.

A key issue for the greenspace strategy is to raise awareness of both the capital and revenue funding required to maintain and manage the city's greenspace facilities. People are often aware of the cost of built facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools, but tend to be less aware that the footpaths in the local park have a predicted lifespan and will need resurfacing in a similar way that the roads and public footpaths need re surfacing, purely and simply because after so many years they wear out. The cost of resurfacing the paths for example in one of the city's larger parks such as Allesley Park would cost hundreds of thousand pounds and considering the city has 20+ other parks the cost runs into millions.

Another issue is the fact that much of the city's greenspace is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week and as such is often unprotected and therefore exposed to the more undesirable activities such as vandalism and abuse. However if something is damaged or broken it has to be repaired or made safe in order to reduce the insurance liability and risk to the people using the site. This is very much dependent upon factors such as location, community involvement or the more difficult to predict the long term unexpected costs such as vandalism, abuse, cost of keeping building and facilities secure through staffing, policing and ongoing repair.

The Greenspace Strategy will provide a framework for the city to achieve key objectives over the next 10 years. The strategy identifies the issues that will need to be addressed and will form a key planning and management document for the future provision across the city by setting out the future vision for enhancing, improving, preserving and managing the city's greenspaces.

The results of this work served two purposes. They guide the authority in the development of a strategy for future development of different types of green space, and they also serve as evidence to support the Council's requirements for contributions from developers where planned developments create an additional demand for different types of space.



Green Space in Coventry

Setting Provision Standards

The Standards set out the provision standards for the various categories of open space looking at quantity, quality and accessibility.

The standards plus supporting information is given in the main report appendices. There is also a set of quality standards for each of the provision standard categories. The standards devised reflect the information received from the various needs surveys and the audit information. This is a summary of a very much longer detailed and carefully argued report which can be accessed separately.

The results were these:

Parks

The city has identified a hierarchy of provision for its parks and open spaces. Within that hierarchy the sites defined as parks and open space (Premier Park, Area Park, Neighbourhood Park, Country Park, Principal Open Space, Incidental Open Space and Ornamental Areas) are important elements of the city's Greenspace. They provide a sense of place for the local community and provide landscape quality to particular densely populated urban areas of the city.



The recommended minimum standards are:

Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
<p>Standard for Parks The quantity standard for parks should be 0.69 hectares per 1000 population</p> <p>Standard for Open Space (Principal Open Space, Incidental Open Space, Ornamental Areas): The combined quantity standard should be 2.44 hectares per 1000 population Broken down as: Principal Open Space Provision standards should be 0.69 hectares per 1000 population. Incidental Open Space standards should be 1.79 hectare per 1000 population. Ornamental Areas standards should be 0.01 hectares per 1000 population.</p>	<p>Standard The appropriate quality score for the Premier and Country Park should be to Green Flag Award Standard.</p> <p>5 other parks should also meet Green Flag Award Standard</p> <p>The appropriate quality score for Area Parks and Neighbourhood Parks should be 50% and a quality rating of Good.</p> <p>The standard for Open Space should be between 46%- 60%</p>	<p>Standard Parks above 20ha in size within a travel distance threshold of 2000m.</p> <p>Area Parks 2-20 ha in size within a travel distance threshold of 800m.</p> <p>Neighbourhood parks and Principal Open Space within a travel distance threshold of 400m.</p> <p>Incidental Open Space or an Ornamental Area within a travel distance threshold of 400m.</p>
<p>The standard has identified deficiencies of parks in the North West and South Neighbourhood Area and deficiencies of principal open space and incidental open space in the North East and North West Area. The deficiencies are most marked in the more rural North West Neighbourhood Area.</p>		



Accessible Natural Green Space

It is widely understood that sites of a natural or semi natural nature that are accessible enhance the quality of life for people. The wildlife and bio-diversity benefits that these sites also contribute are often neglected. Bio-diversity is important to the quality of the air that people breathe, to the richness in variety of species in an area and as an indicator of the health and quality of a local environment. These areas not only have benefits in terms of biodiversity they can also be valuable to local economies and as a tourist asset.

The recommended minimum standards are:

Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
<p>Standard 1.75 Ha per 1000 population of accessible natural greenspace according to a system of tiers into which the different sizes will fit.</p> <p>A natural greenspace within 400 m of home One accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home.</p> <p>One 100 ha site within 10 km of home .</p>	<p>Standard The standard for designated Local Nature Reserves should be between 46%- 60% or Good.</p> <p>The standard for accessible natural greenspace should be between 46% 60% or Good</p>	<p>Standard No Person should live more than 400 metres from their nearest natural greenspace.</p> <p>One accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home.</p> <p>One 100 ha site within 10 km of home</p>
<p>The standard has identified deficiencies of accessible natural greenspace in the North East and North West Neighbourhood Area and a significant surplus in the South Neighbourhood Area The deficiencies are most marked in the more rural North East Neighbourhood Area however it is important to recognise that the public rights of way network may serve to provide people in the area with access to wider countryside.</p>		

Provision for Children and Young People

For the purposes of developing the ‘Greenspace Strategy’ provision for children and young people has concentrated the research on the fixed play provision within the city and consists of equipped play areas and other specialist provision such as multi use games areas and wheeled play provision or skate parks.

The provision facilities for children and young people are important in facilitating opportunities for physical activity and the development of movement and social skills. As such the results for quality audit for play provision are often much lower than expected as the audit considers not only the physical condition of the equipment it considers the range, play value and measures them against models that are considered best practice in terms of play provision

This section of the report examines space designated for children’s play, but recognises that children play in a wide variety of other spaces as well.

The recommended minimum standards are:

Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
<p>Standard 0.10 Ha per 1000 population of fixed and natural play provision.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>The standard has identified deficiencies of fixed play provision in all three neighbourhood areas. However it is recognised there are opportunities for natural play.</p> </div>	<p>Standard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reasonably close to home and within sight of main travel routes across site ● Located with informal surveillance from surrounding property or other well used facilities or public spaces ● Sited in places identified in agreement with local children and young people ● Be seen as part of the local community infrastructure ● Provide the opportunity for risk through design and choice of equipment and landscaping ● Provide opportunities for children of all abilities <p>In addition all equipment should comply with recognised European standards BSEN 1176 for fixed equipment and BS EN 177 for Impact absorbing surfacing.</p> <p>Provision for Teenagers should provide variety of expectation and enable young people to sit or take exercise in a safe and clean environment.</p> <p>All sites to be maintained to a good standard of 60% or above.</p>	<p>Standard</p> <p>Parks above 20ha in size within a travel distance threshold of 2000m.</p> <p>Area Parks 2-20 ha in size within a travel distance threshold of 800m.</p> <p>Neighbourhood parks and Principal Open Space within a travel distance threshold of 400m.</p> <p>Incidental Open Space or an Ornamental Area within a travel distance threshold of 400m.</p>



Outdoor Sports

This section considers the wide range of outdoor sports provision across the city. It includes specific sites developed within the hierarchy to focus resources and to promote sport and recreation, these are the sports grounds. It considers the grass pitch provision across the city both public and private on dedicated sites or in other open spaces such as parks, it also considers other sports provision such as bowls, tennis and athletics that may also be on specific sites or in other spaces.

Outdoor sports facilities, for the purposes of the assessment have been sub-divided into the following facilities:

- Sports Grounds – Sites specifically developed to cater for sport often containing provision or facilities for more than one sport .
- Grass Pitches – provision for Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey have been assessed using the prescribed methodology detailed within “Towards a Level Playing Field” It is important to note that the pitch Quality Assessment auditing was undertaken during the summer months and as such pitches were not in regular use.
- Other Sports- Bowling Greens have been assessed separately as discrete sports facilities. Where they are present in parks, bowling greens have formed part of the overall quality score for the facility. Tennis Courts, as with bowling greens have been assessed as discrete sports facilities and where facilities are present in parks, have contributed to the overall score for the park/open space. Athletics have been assessed as part of this study in terms of quantity owing to tracks and pitches not being readily accessible at the time of the site auditing.

The recommended minimum standards are:

Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
<p>Standard The standard for outdoor sport is 1.80 ha per 1000.</p> <p>With 0.77 ha provided as sports grounds and 1.0 ha per 1000 as grass pitches and 0.01ha per 1000 for bowls 0.02ha per 1000 for tennis.</p>	<p>Standard Grass pitches to achieve a minimum standard of 66% or Good.</p> <p>This needs further consideration to incorporate the presence of changing and showering facilities.</p> <p>Sport Grounds need to adhere to the above.</p>	<p>Standard No Person should live more than 1200 metres from their nearest outdoor sports facility.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Based on the quantitative standard for sports grounds the main deficiency is in the North West Neighbourhood Area. There is a good distribution of sports pitches across the City and the level of community use needs to be established to enable accurate supply and demand calculations to be established.</p> </div>

Allotments

This section considers the provision of both public and private allotments across the city. The accessibility of greenspace varies greatly dependent upon the type of provision, and it is by their very nature that allotments are only accessible with restrictions in that you must be a tenant or plot holder. Allotments provide a key type of provision within the overall portfolio of open space, sport and recreation facilities. From the consultation undertaken, the value of allotments is significant, providing facilities for physical activity in addition to the promotion of healthy eating and educational value. The provision of allotments is a statutory function for local authorities under a number of legislative acts including the 1950 Allotment Act.

The recommended minimum standards are:

Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
<p>Standard The standard for allotments is 0.38ha per 1000.</p>	<p>Standard The proposed standard for allotment is 60% minimum quality rating.</p>	<p>Standard No Person should live more than 1200 metres from their nearest allotment site.</p>
<p>Based on the quantitative standard for allotments there are deficiencies in the North West and South Neighbourhood Area. This needs to be considered with caution as from the audit a number of sites have vacant plots, some more than others that need to be brought back into use before new sites are established. Further discussion with private allotment sites needs to be undertaken to identify the number of vacant plots</p>		

Churchyards and Cemeteries

Cemeteries and closed churchyards can provide a valuable contribution to the portfolio of open space provision within an area. For many, they can provide a place for quiet contemplation in addition to their primary purpose as a final resting place. They often have wildlife conservation and bio-diversity value. In the context of this study, it is important to acknowledge that cemeteries are not created with the intention of providing informal or passive recreation opportunities.

The recommended minimum standards are:

Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
<p>Standard No quantitative Standard Set.</p>	<p>Standard The proposed standard for Cemeteries is 76% plus or to an excellent standard.</p>	<p>Standard No standard set.</p>

The council subscribes to the Charter for the Bereaved.



Coventry Proposed Quantity Standards

Typology	Quantity Standards	Accessibility Standards	Comment
Parks and openspace	The standards have been set using the current provision as the baseline to guide the development of standards for the future.	Standard Parks above 20ha in size within a travel distance threshold of 2000m. Area Parks 2-20 ha in size within a travel distance threshold of 800m. Neighbourhood parks and Principal Open Space within a travel distance threshold of 400m. Incidental Open Space or an Ornamental Area within a travel distance threshold of 400m.	These standards are a combination of Natural England' ANGST standards and existing thresholds identified in the Local Plan.
Accessible Greenspace	The standards have been set acknowledging the Natural England Accessible Greenspace Standards and using the current provision as the baseline to guide the development of standards for the future.	Standard No Person should live more than 400 metres from their nearest natural greenspace. One accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home. One 100 ha site within 5 km of home.	These are taken from Natural England's ANGST Standards
Outdoor sport	The standards have been set recognising the accessibility thresholds identified by Sport England the current provision as the baseline to guide the development of standards for the future.(Local accessibility thresholds could not be set due to local clubs not responding to consultation.	Standard No Person should live more than 1200 metres from their nearest outdoor sports facility.	These standards are a combination of Sport England recommended threshold standards and existing thresholds identified in the Local Plan.
Provision for children and young people	The standards have been set acknowledging the Councils use of the NPFA recommended standards and using the current provision as the baseline to guide the development of standards for the future. Also recognising the value of natural playspace	Standard No child or young person should live more than 400m from space provided for informal play. A NEAP standard play area within 1000m of home.	These standards are a combination of Natural England' ANGST standards the NPFA recommended thresholds for play and existing thresholds identified in the Local Plan.
Allotments	The standards have been set using the current provision as the baseline to guide the development of standards for the future.	Standard No Person should live more than 1200 metres from their nearest allotment site.	These are based on best practice and research into provision thresholds in other authorities similar to Coventry.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No standards are set.	No standards are set.	No standards are set.

General Recommendations

Design of Greenspace

The design of greenspace has a major role to play in the delivery of sustainable communities. Good design is recognised for developing a sense of local community and mutual responsibility. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE Space) has outlined the need for good design in a number of publications and guidance documents. It is possible to design and create greenspace that meet people's aspirations and in meeting aspirations people will take pride in their local area and help preserve them for future generations.

The following design principles are taken from best practice and although not an exhaustive list they give an indication as to what works in ensuring the sustainability, value and management of greenspaces. Greenspace design should therefore.

- Maximise positive use by the community
- Be easily accessible for all members of the community
- Provide facilities that are accessible to all
- Be part of a wider network that provide/allow traffic free routes through residential areas and links to other areas via bus stops and cycleways
- Provide a sense of place for local people and reflect local history or culture
- Facilitate high quality and effective management and maintenance
- Facilitate local communities involvement in new or future provision
- Minimise the opportunity for anti social behaviour and design out opportunities for crime
- Have clear vistas and sight lines across the site, maximising personal safety and casual surveillance
- Prevent any sense of isolation or insecurity through the use of appropriate lighting

- Provide a setting for adjoining buildings, whilst minimising any detrimental effect on local amenity
- Be designed and managed to benefit wildlife, provide integrated habitat areas and support and allow the movement of wildlife, plants and animals. The site should provide a range of habitat type
- Have an appropriate mix of mown grass areas and indigenous planting with mown areas that are large enough to facilitate informal kick about and mini soccer
- Safeguard the integrity of any existing open space or space of heritage value and where appropriate enhance the setting of listed features
- Wherever possible implement flood storage or sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) to negate flood risk
- Provide for local children, it is important that facilities provided match the age range of children and young people
- Provide surfaced tarmac paths that are at least 2metres wide and concrete edged
- Provide adequate litter bins that are in keeping and bins are set into a concrete surface for ease of maintenance
- Provide adequate seating that is in keeping, seating in children's play areas should be set into appropriate safety surfacing. Seating in open space should have arm rests and be linked to paths, seating should be provided in both sunny and shaded areas and allow for wheelchairs and pushchairs to park alongside, off the path.
- All sites should have signage that informs people of the site name, ownership and contact details
- Larger sites or sites where people are expected to cross to get to nearby facilities such as schools or shops should have street lighting
- Sites in new housing should have housing fronting on to the site to allow for surveillance.
- The development of site specific management plans for larger sites, especially new provision

In order to start to meet the standards a number of recommendations are made in relation to all sites and the assessment undertaken. These are concerned with the use of information gathered and the further development of the study in future years. The following recommendations are made:

- a.** Audit sport, leisure and open spaces on a regular basis (every two/three years) and publish findings. This will allow trend data to be collated and improvements to be tracked. It is important that findings are published to enable wider stakeholders to track progress.
- b.** Develop a central record of all open space to include the findings of the assessment undertaken. Currently many different sections of the Council hold this information; this information is not always consistent (sites listed by different names etc). The central record should include access to GIS mapping.
- c.** Establish a central consultation database for the Council, using the data and contacts gathered through this study. This information is held currently by a number of different sections/individuals in the Council; in the course of this study, a number of inaccuracies/wrong contact details etc have been identified; establishing a central database, which is regularly updated, will address these issues for the future.
- d.** Address the current fragmented responsibilities for the management, development and future provision of open space across the city through the establishment of a consultative Steering Group, involving representatives from both sport and leisure, and planning and grounds maintenance, to consider specific site development proposals relating to existing, former and proposed sport and leisure provision. This inter-departmental group should be established to share, and utilise the expertise of leisure and planning officers, to ensure that specific site development issues are fully considered, and the implications shared, before a planning decision is made.
- e.** Continue to develop the marketing information produced about the parks and open space facilities available, key activities accommodated and access arrangements. The Council should seek to work with key partners in future marketing, such as the local Primary Care Trust (PCT), the wider voluntary sector, education, the Youth Service etc to ensure that open space fulfils a valuable role in meeting wider social objectives (e.g. health improvement, increased active participation).
- f.** Develop an access standard regarding physical access for those users and potential users with a disability.
- g.** Review maintenance standards for open space, and agree with local people any changes. Report on performance annually. It is important to set quality standards for each of the open space categories.

- h.** Develop and fund a programme of signage installation. The absence of signage or the presence of outdated signage was found to be a key weakness of many sites audited. Develop a consistent approach to the provision of signage at all sites, through a rolling programme of installation and improvement. All sites should have a sign with site details, ownership and contact numbers. This can address a number of issues including helping with the reporting of vandalism and improving community safety.
- i.** Continue to work towards the reduction of the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces.
- j.** Establish and implement a programme of action to address the actual, and perceived, issues of safety in parks and open spaces. This could take the form of installing CCTV at identified sites, or investing in park/open space infrastructure to encourage increased use, which in turn may have a positive impact on the fear of crime because more people are likely to be around.

Parks and Open Space

Management plans are needed for some of the major formal greenspaces; the city has achieved success at the Green Flag Award and needs to continue this success. However the success should not be at the expense of other sites and the city use the audit to improve all sites categorised as Parks and Gardens to a Good Standard, paying particular attention to sites classified as Local Parks. The recommendations detailed below form a response to the assessment undertaken and need to be viewed as complementary to any policies developed within The Green Space Strategy. This principle applies to all managed open space. The recommendations made in this report are focused on addressing facility deficiencies. On the basis of the assessment undertaken the following recommendations are made:

- a.** Build on the Green Space Strategy for the city utilising the results, issues and recommendations
- b.** Identified provision deficiencies are addressed as a priority in the production of a Local Development Framework (LDF)
- c.** Continue to develop and support Friends Groups for key parks and open spaces to increase local involvement and ownership
- d.** Continue to review, develop and improve site Management Plans and extend the practice of management planning to a greater range of parks and open spaces

- e.** Continue to test the quality and “performance” of formal spaces through entering externally judged competitions and quality recognition schemes (e.g. Green Flag/ Britain in Bloom).
- f.** Raise the standard by improving all sites to a good standard
- g.** Develop an asset register of the facilities within sites such as benches, bins, location, date installed, lifetime expectancy, replacement timeframe
- h.** Develop quality standards that are achievable and realistic
- i.** To provide ‘Good’ quality sites as a minimum
- j.** To continue to recognise the importance of the city Gateway sites as a means of raising the city image and address the quality issues identified
- k.** Ensure that future provision is well designed, serves a purpose and is appropriate in size (anything below 0.1 ha is not readily useable by children and young people without the potential for conflict with neighbours)

Woodlands / Natural / Semi-natural greenspace

A number of recommendations are made in response to the assessment findings. These are:

- a.** Identified provision deficiencies are addressed as a priority in the production of a Local Development Framework (LDF)
- b.** Develop a greenspace databases and consider utilising the results, issues and recommendations
- c.** Work to develop a rolling programme of renewal and improvements, e.g. bins, signage and seating
- d.** Develop a walking strategy to set out how the city’s existing walking networks link together
- e.** Further develop the city’s footpath network and link into wider footpath networks outside of the city
- f.** Increase awareness of the opportunities for walking in the city

- g.** Link the use of both open space and sport and recreation facilities with travel awareness initiatives
- h.** Continue to develop the strategic approach to the development and provision of cycling routes across the city given the importance and health benefits of this mode of transport in a congested area, through the Local Transport Plan
- i.** Develop the Biodiversity Action Plan for the city
- j.** Adopt appropriate management and maintenance programmes for the Nature Conservation sites to reflect their natural characteristics, and thereby preserving their special characteristics
- k.** Develop an education/resource centre to develop better local awareness and understanding of open space, and in particular nature conservation sites
- l.** Protect all existing nature conservation sites
- m.** Develop a Green Infrastructure plan for the city

Provision for Children and Young People

The following recommendations are made in relation to provision for children and young people:

- a.** To provide 'Good' quality sites as a minimum
- b.** Improve the security of play areas through improved staff presence
- c.** Expand signage on all sites with site details and contact numbers
- d.** Develop equipment that caters for children and young people with disabilities
- e.** Involve young people in the design and choice of provision
- f.** Aspire to deliver the Hierarchy of provision and continue to address the Surplus/ deficiency imbalance across the city
- g.** Consider moving away from providing fixed play equipment as a means to catering for children and young people

- h.** Improve provision for Young People, especially Teenagers and Toddlers, through the Hierarchy and also by making the provision within the city's main parks more adventurous and bigger in terms of the range of equipment and the element of risk
- i.** Ensure that the recommended accessibility thresholds are implemented

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Playing Pitches. The following recommendations are made in response to the findings of the Playing Pitch Assessment. These are:

Playing Pitches

- a.** Develop a priority list for the development/improvement of changing room facilities, which reflect the type of pitch usage e.g. competitive, or Sunday pub team
- b.** Establish a policy to ensure that all multi-pitch sites are served by good quality changing facilities, to ensure that all sports and participants, irrespective of gender, can be accommodated
- c.** Improve pitch quality across sites where there is regular community use
- d.** Work with Private Clubs to ensure pitch quality is maintained, particularly in relation to cricket and rugby provision
- e.** Re-assess pitch provision using the 'Towards a Level Playing Field' methodology in 2009 and on a rolling 5 year cycle to ensure that changes in demand and supply are considered
- f.** Work with local clubs and schools in areas of deficiency or poor quality to provide alternatives during poor weather or high demand

Bowling Greens

- a.** Work with the Grounds Maintenance division and local Bowls Clubs to improve the quality of both existing Greens and ancillary facilities
- b.** Priority should be given to the improvement of 'below average' sites
- c.** Work with the local Bowls Clubs to promote the sport in the city, and encourage participation by younger people

- d.** Review security measures at greens located in parks, in light of the reduction in staff presence on some sites
- e.** Improve the publishing of information at parks about opportunities to play bowls

Tennis Courts

- a.** Retain the current provision of tennis courts and work with key partners and private clubs to maintain quality and improve access for potential new participants
- b.** Develop a programme of court improvement in the city Parks
- c.** Ensure public courts have appropriate quality nets and equipment

Allotments

The following recommendations are made in relation to allotment provision and the establishment of a working group between the city and the Parishes:

- a.** Measures need to be put in place to work alongside current chair of city's allotments as knowledge and expertise will be hard to replace
- b.** A programme of facility development with a focus on toilet provision needs to be established and prioritised, where appropriate
- c.** Facilities for users/potential users with a disability need to be further developed
- d.** Review the mechanism for the allocation of vacant plots to reduce the number of empty plots, and address the local demand for allotments
- e.** Work with Allotment Societies to develop, improve and enhance the existing allotment provision
- f.** Develop partnerships to increase the value and accessibility of allotments. Partnerships could include, schools (where sites are close enough) and the further development of health-related projects

Action Plans



Green Space in Coventry

Objective 1

Following the principles of PPG17 to develop a network of accessible greenspace across the city and to adopt a comprehensive approach to the provision and management of green space as a network of parks and open space, woodlands, outdoor sport, allotments and churchyards and cemeteries that brings many, economic, social and environmental benefits to people that live, work or visit the city

Aims

To provide a focus and setting for economic regeneration across the city

To create a strategic framework that contributes to improved biodiversity, water quality, air quality and sustainable living

Create a focus for social inclusion, education, training, health and well-being

To ensure the Greenspace resource meets local need at the local level

Reinforce and enhance landscape character and local distinctiveness

Encourage and develop partnership working both internally within the City Council and externally with a wide range of agencies and interest groups

Measures of Success

The integration of the Greenspace Strategy within the aims and objectives of the developing Local Framework and other core strategies

The benefits of green space contributing to wider agendas such as:

- Social inclusion,
- healthy environments,
- lifelong learning,
- improving local neighbourhoods,
- safer communities
- economic regeneration
- promoting independence,

Key Targets

Preparation of a comprehensive green infrastructure base plan and schedule to inform all strategies and subsequent monitoring

Objective 2

To work in partnership with the community, governing bodies and stakeholders to develop, manage and promote the green space resource to ensure it meets the needs of local people and local communities

Aims

To fully understand the needs of local people and local communities

To promote and encourage active involvement by local communities in the future management of the greenspace resource

To work in partnership to enhance and promote the green space

To proactively improve community enjoyment, sense of ownership and awareness of the greenspace resource

Measures of Success

Promotion of a greenspace network

Increased level of customer satisfaction with greenspace

To promote the development of 'Friends' group or a greenspace 'Focus' group in each ward

To develop a local recognition award for community involvement

To promote greenspace opportunities through a wide availability of information and promotional materials

Achievement of National/Regional Awards

Key Targets

To expand the number of community led events in greenspace

To monitor public satisfaction

To develop new friends groups

To support existing friends groups and to establish a friends forum

To increase the level of community involvement

Develop a green space awards scheme

To develop a green space website and increase promotional material available

To build on existing partnership, to create new partnerships and strengthen working relationships

Submit applications to appropriate award schemes

Objective 3

To ensure the greenspace network is protected and improved to meet identified local needs.

Aims

To protect and improve the City's greenspace network

To protect links between green spaces, surrounding countryside and the Rights of Way network

Measures of Success

To ensure the City provides a balanced green space provision that is comparative with national and local standards

The amount of valuable green space protected through planning policies

The creation of additional facilities and the number of existing sites improved

Completion and Implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy

Implementation of the Play Strategy

The development of an Allotment Strategy

Produce the Statutory Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Development of a cycleway network

Key Targets

Maintain the open space audit in line with PPG 17 Government Guidance Note

Replace the Unitary Development Plan with the Local Development Framework

Develop and improve existing outdoor sports facilities such as:

- pitch drainage,
- changing rooms
- car parking facilities

in accordance with Sport England's standards

Improve children's and young peoples play and activity areas

Work with local clubs and schools to develop and improve their facilities

Develop and implement parks improvements

Objective 4

To raise and improve the quality standards of greenspace across the City

Aims

To secure the Green Flag Award

To develop a Coventry Parks and Open Space Standard

To reduce the level of anti-social behaviour throughout the green space

To improve the visual impact of the green space

To improve the quality of green space and facilities

To increase the staffing presence in the green space

Measures of Success

Achievement of Green Flag Awards

Reduction in the number of successful third party insurance claims against the council

Reduction in dog fouling and vandalism

Increase in number of green space sites with live management plans

To monitor the quality of greenspace on a regular basis

To improve the first impression of sites by visitors through improvements to site infrastructure

Key Targets

To sustain the Green Flag Award for Coombe Abbey and to secure the Award for War Memorial Park and four other key parks

All key sites managed in line with Green Flag criteria and maintained to the Coventry Standard

The development of a robust safety inspection system for the green space

Maintain the baseline quality assessment of green space against green flag criteria

Produce management plans for the key sites

Introduce revised byelaws for the green space

Introduce a park watch scheme and increase the number of Park Watch Schemes by two per year

Increase number of dog waste bins

Bring all children's play areas up to current standards

Expand the annual tree, shrub, bulb and flower planting programme

} Subject to revenue levels

Objective 5

to Increase awareness of and access to the green space resource by all members of the community.

Aims

To develop a parks champion from the elected members

To publicise the availability and access to the green space

To raise public awareness to the variety of opportunities and various green space functions

To work towards ensuring greenspaces are as accessible as physically possible

To develop the green space as a learning resource

To work towards access for all

Measures of Success

Political awareness of the importance of greenspace and the need for investment

To enhance the green space information currently available on the website through a more informative greenspace web site

To develop Education packs available for key green space sites

Increased educational use of the green space

Number of sites fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act

Increased attendances at Rangers events

Improved access and provision of fixed play equipment for children with disabilities

Key Targets

A comprehensive easy accessible green space website

Produce education packs for Green Flag Award sites and main parks and open spaces

Consultation with colleges and schools to identify how the green space resource can assist in meeting their curriculum requirements

At least one site per ward achieving school visits

Improved access to parks buildings and facilities

Improve and increase signage in greenspace

Assist in the provision of allotments for people with disabilities

Achievement of national, regional and local awards

Annual events programme for the green space

Number of items of play equipment fully accessible to all children

Objective 6

Ensure the strategy is sustainable in terms of the use, management and maintenance of the green space network

Aims

To promote sustainable principles in the management of the green space resource.

Measures of Success

Increased levels of green waste recycling

Reduction in the use of pesticides in green space maintenance

Increased procurement from sustainable resources

To work towards only purchasing plants from suppliers grown in peat alternative composts

Promotion of energy conservation

Key Targets

Implement green procurement strategy

Re-use materials on site whenever possible especially timber from woodland management operations for timber and woodfuel

Introduce alternatives to pesticide use whenever possible



Objective 7

To Protect, increase and manage the woodland resource

Aims

The management of trees and woodlands and associated non woodland habitats

Involving local people in the creation and management of the Woodland Resource

Facilitating the use and enjoyment of woodland sites by local people
Increasing the economic viability of woodlands

Measures of Success

Increase the area of woodland in the City

Increase the number of people actively visiting sites

The number of friends of woodland groups established

The number of sites with site specific management plans

Key Targets

Implement the City Woodland Strategy

Develop management plans for each of the key woodlands and Local Nature Reserves



Objective 8

to make the most effective use of existing resources and to actively seek new funding sources and resources to secure improvement in the delivery and maintenance of green space.

Aims

To make the most effective use of existing resources to provide the quantity and quality of green space to best meet the needs of the Community

To maximise the investment in the green space resource from new developments via planning developments

To review and maximise external funding opportunities

To maximise voluntary sector involvement in the management and maintenance of the green space

To enable colleges, schools and outside agencies to use the green space as a resource for educational purposes

Measures of Success

Number of new or improved facilities funded from planning contributions

Number and value of external funding awards

The development of an annual work programme implemented by volunteers, outside agencies, schools and colleges

Number and value of external funding secured

3 yearly review of fees and charges

Key Targets

To review the calculation formula for developer contribution and commuted sum payments

The number of volunteers and outside agencies engaged in the management of the greenspace resource

Minimum of one lottery bid for each appropriate programme of funding

identify the revenue implications for the maintenance of all key sites

Objective 9

Biodiversity -to Safeguard, enhance and increase enjoyment of the wildlife resource.

Aims

To protect and enhance habitats and species

To raise awareness of and improve accessibility to nature

To manage land for the benefit of biodiversity to control harmful exotic species

To increase training to increase biodiversity

Measures of Success

Increased area designated as Local Nature Reserves

Increase in the area of land positively managed for biodiversity including improved connectivity of sites

Reduction in the number and area of sites affected by harmful exotic species

Key Targets

Implementation of the Policy for Nature Action Plan



Area Action Plan

North East Area

Population 104,993

Total Area 2,545ha

Total Open Space 338.7ha (13.3% of total area)



Green Space in Coventry

N.E. Area Comparison to Standards

Greenspace Type	Current Proposed Standard	Current Provision	Comparison to Proposed Standard	Actions
Parks and openspace	3.1ha per 1000	2.27 ha per 1000	There is a deficiency of formal parks and open space in the North East Area	The Council will work in partnership to improve the quality of existing open space to the recognized quality standard. The Council will also protect open space particularly larger sites for the benefit of local people
Natural Greenspace	1.72ha per 1000	0.32ha per 1000	There is a significant deficiency of accessible natural greenspace although residents are most likely to make use of Coombe Abbey Country Park which is a City Council Facility located outside the City Council administrative boundaries.	It is not likely that new provision of natural greenspace will be made and therefore the Council will in consultation with local people introduce more naturalistic areas into local parks and open spaces. To provide as a minimum 1 ha per 1000 of Land designated as Local Nature Reserve
Provision for children and young people	0.10 ha per 1000 (aged 2-19 years)	0.08 ha per 1000	There are accessibility deficiencies on the boundaries of the neighbourhood area particularly at the city boundary perimeters	Upgrade play provision to the recognized NEAP standard or natural play provision. Ensure that children and young people have access to a NEAP standard play area or natural play provision within 1000m of home and to good quality informal play space within 400m of where they live
Grass Pitches	1.02 ha per Overall	0.74 ha per 1000	There is a slight deficiency in pitches when compared to the minimum City Standard. The standard of 0.74 ha per 1000 should be the minimum standard for the North East.	Pitches are a demand led facility and as such the City Council will work with local clubs and teams to ensure pitches are playable through out the Season. If demand increases the Council will work with Schools and private providers to secure community use. The Council will strive to ensure an over provision of at least 10% will be maintained in order to provide flexibility and to respond to fluctuations in demand
Other Outdoor Sport	Standards have not been set in order for the City to provide a range of accessible facilities within a reasonable distance		The City Council will ensure that a full range of adult and youth facilities for outdoor sport will be available within each Neighbourhood Area. These will include, bowling greens, tennis courts, all weather pitches, skate park or wheeled play facility, an athletics track or fitness circuit, a multi use games area, basket ball court and youth shelter	The approach advocated is to ensure that people in each Neighbourhood Area has a full range of provision. This may require people to travel outside their immediate settlement area for certain facilities but will ensure that facilities are within a reasonable distance and often within easy walkable distance.
Allotments	0.38ha per 1000	0.27 ha per 1000	The Area falls short of the proposed standards. There are currently in excess of 60 vacant plots across the area	The Council will work with allotment holders to ensure vacant plots and waiting lists are kept to a minimum. Private allotment sites need further research to establish an overall picture of vacant plots

Area Action Plan

North West Area

Population 82,008

Total Area 3,613ha

Total Open Space approx 358.3ha (9.9% of total area)



Green Space in Coventry

N.W. Area Comparison to Standards

Greenspace Type	Current Proposed Standard	Current Provision	Comparison to Proposed Standard	Actions
Parks and openspace	3.1ha per 1000	2.77 ha per 1000	There is a deficiency of formal parks and open space in the North East Area	The Council will work in partnership to improve the quality of existing open space to the recognized quality standard. It is generally accepted that people living in rural areas do not expect to have the same level of provision in terms of the actual number of sites available
Natural Greenspace	1.72ha per 1000	1.19ha per 1000	There is a significant deficiency of accessible natural greenspace in this area	It is important to recognize the role the wider countryside plays in meeting the needs of people that live in rural areas. The Council will work to improve the quality of existing spaces to provide people with good quality sites. To provide as a minimum 1 ha per 1000 of Land designated as Local Nature Reserve
Provision for children and young people	0.10 ha per 1000 (aged 2-19 years)	0.07 ha per 1000	There are accessibility deficiencies on the boundaries of the neighbourhood area particularly at the city boundary perimeters Comparison to Proposed Standard	Upgrade play provision to the recognized NEAP standard. Ensure that children and young people have access to a NEAP standard play area within 1000m of home and to good quality informal play space within 400m of where they live. Actions
Grass Pitches	1.02 ha per	Current Provision 0.74 ha per 1000	There is a slight deficiency in pitches when compared to the minimum City Standard. For the North West Area the 0.74 ha per 1000 is the minimum standard of provision	The Council will strive to ensure an over provision of at least 10% will be maintained in order to provide flexibility and to respond to fluctuations in demand
Other Outdoor Sport	Overall Standards have not been set in order for the City to provide a range of accessible facilities within a reasonable distance.		The City Council will ensure that a full range of adult and youth facilities for outdoor sport will be available within each Neighbourhood Area. These will include, bowling greens, tennis courts, all weather pitches, skate park or wheeled play facility, an athletics track or fitness circuit, a multi use games area, basket ball court and youth shelter	The approach advocated is to ensure that people in each Neighbourhood Area has a full range of provision. This may require people to travel outside their immediate settlement area for certain facilities but will ensure that facilities are within a reasonable distance and often within easy walkable distance.
Allotments	0.38ha per 1000	0.54 ha per 1000	There is an identified surplus of provision when compared to the City Wide Standard	The Council will work with allotment holders to ensure vacant plots and waiting lists are kept to a minimum. Private allotment sites need further research to establish an overall picture of vacant plots

Area Action Plan

South

Population 113,847

Total Area 3,706ha

Total Open Space approx 791.7ha (21% of total area)



Green Space in Coventry

South Area Comparison to Standards

Greenspace Type	Current Proposed Standard	Current Provision	Comparison to Proposed Standard	Actions
Parks and openspace	3.1ha per 1000	5.54	There is a surplus of provision of both parks and open space in this area, although there may be accessibility deficiencies in Earlsdon and Wainbody Wards. It is important to recognize that Memorial Park is a large site that skews the provision in the South Area. The park is very much a site that serves the whole City.	The Council will work closely with the local community to prioritise improvements to site that fall below a good standard.
Natural Greenspace	1.72ha per 1000	3.4	There is a surplus of accessible natural greenspace when measured against the Citywide standards.	The Council will work to improve the quality of existing spaces to provide people with good quality sites. To provide as a minimum 1 ha per 1000 of Land designated as Local Nature Reserve
Provision for children and young people	0.10 ha per 1000 (aged 2-19 years)	0.11	The current level of provision in the south are reflects the minimum standard set for the City although sites need to be upgraded to the necessary NEAP standards	Upgrade play provision to the recognized NEAP standard. Ensure that children and young people have access to a NEAP standard play area within 1000m of home and to good quality informal play space within 400m of where they live.
Grass Pitches	1.02 ha per	1.46	There is an over provision of pitches when measured against the city wide standards. The Standard of 1.46 ha per 1000 is the minimum standard for provision in the South Area	The Council will strive to ensure an over provision of at least 10% will be maintained in order to provide flexibility and to respond to fluctuations in demand
Other Outdoor Sport	Overall Standards have not been set in order for the City to provide a range of accessible facilities within a reasonable distance		The City Council will ensure that a full range of adult and youth facilities for outdoor sport will be available within each Neighbourhood Area. These will include, bowling greens, tennis courts, all weather pitches, skate park or wheeled play facility, an athletics track or fitness circuit, a multi use games area, basket ball court and youth shelter	The approach advocated is to ensure that people in each Neighbourhood Area has a full range of provision. This may require people to travel outside their immediate settlement area for certain facilities but will ensure that facilities are within a reasonable distance and often within easy walkable distance.
Allotments	0.38ha per 1000	0.33	There is a slight deficiency of allotments when measured against the City standards	The Council will work with allotment holders to ensure vacant plots and waiting lists are kept to a minimum. Private allotment sites need further research to establish an overall picture of vacant plots

Ward Based Provision Assessment Against Standards



Green Space in Coventry

Ward Based Provision Assessment Against Standards

Ward based provision per 1000 population

Area	Area Pop'n	Ward	Ward Pop'n	Parks and openspace	Accessible Natural	Outdoor Sport Grass Pitches	Provision for children and Young People	Allotments	
City Minimum Standard per 1000				3.1	1.72	1.02	0.10	0.38	
North East	104,993	Foleshill Ward	17968	0.85	0.03	0.23	0.11	0.09	There is a deficiency across all typologies
		Henley Ward	17027	4.91	0.84	1.23	0.06	0.20	High provision of parks and open space, under provision of natural greenspace, under provision of children and young people and allotments
		Holbrook Ward	18427	1.25	0	2.00	0.09	0.27	Under provision of parks and open space and allotments, high provision of grass pitches
		Longford Ward	17601	5.56	1.11	0.70	0.05	0.39	High provision of parks and open space under provision of natural greenspace, grass pitches and provision for children and young people
		Radford Ward	16901	0.71	0.00	0.20	0.02	0.03	There is a deficiency across all typologies
		Upper Stoke Ward	17069	0.41	0.00	0.40	0.10	0.65	Under provision of parks and open space, natural greenspace and grass pitches, high provision of allotments

Ward Based Provision Assessment Against Standards

Ward based provision per 1000 population

Area	Area Pop'n	Ward	Ward Pop'n	Parks and openspace	Accessible Natural	Outdoor Sport Grass Pitches	Provision for children and Young People	Allotments	
City Minimum Standard per 1000									
				3.1	1.72	1.02	0.10	0.38	
North West	82,008	Bablake Ward	15041	2.17	2.15	4.40	0.13	0.98	Below standard provision of parks and open space, high provision of natural greenspace, grass pitches and allotments
		Sherbourne Ward	16531	2.21	0.32	0.06	0.13	1.01	High provision of allotments Below standard provision of parks and open space, grass pitches, natural greenspace
		St. Michael's Ward	15413	0.88	0.00	0.30	0.09	0.24	There is a deficiency across all typologies except provision for children and young people where the deficiency is negligible
		Whoberley Ward	16537	4.00	0.55	0.06	0.13	0.48	High provision of parks and open space, above city standard provision for children and young people and allotments, under provision of natural greenspace and grass pitches
		Woodlands Ward	18486	1.18	2.78	0.47	0.08	0.08	High provision of natural greenspace under provision across all other typologies

Ward Based Provision Assessment Against Standards

Ward based provision per 1000 population

Area	Area Pop'n	Ward	Ward Pop'n	Parks and openspace	Accessible Natural	Outdoor Sport Grass Pitches	Provision for children and Young People	Allotments
City Minimum Standard per 1000				3.1	1.72	1.02	0.10	0.38
South	113,847	Binley and Willenhall	18296	5.16	4.63	0.35	0.05	0.00
		Cheylesmore Ward	13983	7.80	5.29	2.00	0.18	1.52
		Earlson Ward	16543	4.11	1.84	1.30	0.13	0.52
		Lower Stoke Ward	15778	1.38	0.12	0.79	0.07	0.03
		Wainbody Ward	16306	4.08	4.34	1.69	0.03	0.00
		Westwood Ward	14983	4.76	4.67	0.97	0.27	0.13
		Wyken Ward	17958	5.03	3.01	2.38	0.09	0.28

High provision of parks and open space and accessible natural greenspace, under provision across all other typologies

Above City standards across all typologies

Above City standards across all typologies

There is a deficiency across all typologies

High provision of parks and open space and accessible natural greenspace and grass pitches under provision across all other typologies

High provision of parks and open space and accessible natural greenspace and provision for children and young people under provision across all other typologies

High provision of parks and open space and accessible natural greenspace and grass pitches slight under provision of allotments

The Next Steps

The Draft Strategy and Executive Summary documents are being circulated for wider stakeholder and public consultation from May to June 2008.

The results from this consultation will be compiled, strategy documents redrafted, and brought forward to the council's Cabinet in late July/August 2008.

The strategy will be available on the Council's website, and in hard copy, and will be reviewed in 2013.



