

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPORT, LEISURE AND PARKS

'BREATHING SPACE' - NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITY GREEN SPACE INVESTMENT PLANS

1 SUMMARY

This report informs members on the progress of 'Breathing Space', the Council's Strategic framework for the management of its open and green spaces. It provides an update on the development of the action plan prior to it going to the Executive Board and it asks members to review the work carried out on the individual area based Neighbourhood Priority Green Space Improvement Plans.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) note the progress of 'Breathing Space';
- (b) note the updated and consulted Action Plan prior to it being put forward to Executive Board;
- (c) note the consultation carried out on developing the Neighbourhood Priority Green Space Improvement Plans;
- (d) agree the ranking of the sites as Neighbourhood Priority Green Space Improvement Plans;
- (e) agree to two nominated individuals to represent the area on the City Wide Green Space Forum to be established.

3 BACKGROUND

'Breathing Space', the City's Strategic framework for the management of its open and green spaces was adopted by the City Council's Executive Board in December 2006. Since then a number of key actions have been initiated to complement and further develop the strategic framework.

During the last six months a considerable amount of progress has been achieved using the 'Breathing Space' framework to help plan and prioritise developments across the city both from a planning perspective as well as a site management basis. To complement the considerable amount of work that has already taken place on the development of the typologies 'Strategic Leisure' have been commissioned to carry out work on the remaining six key land types (Allotments, Amenity, Cemeteries and disused Church Yards, Provision for Children and Young People, Outdoor Sports Facilities, and Institutional). Their work will involve auditing each site for quality, refreshing the map data and setting standards for quantity and accessibility.

Progress in other areas has resulted in continued success in the Green Flag awards, and the City has increased its profile as a leading green space authority, not only

within the region but also nationally through hosting the launch of the Green Space East Midland Forum during the summer.

The initial draft Action Plan was produced as part of the original 'Breathing Space' Strategy Framework document adopted in December 2006. At that time, only the strategic outcomes were adopted with an agreement to consult further on the draft actions, customer benefits, lead department/officer, and timescales. This consultation has now taken place with additional internal consultation carried out to ensure that the actions are smartly aligned with both the City Council's and One Nottingham priorities and that the actions identified are both stretching and achievable. A copy of this revised plan is enclosed. (APPENDIX 2)

Through working closely with the Neighbourhood Management Teams, Area Committees, and local communities a prioritised list of open and green space improvements in each area has been developed. During the summer over 50 consultation events (APPENDIX 4 – Local consultation events) have taken place across the city and Green Stat parks user surveys have been carried out, both on site and over the phone involving up to 4500 people. These lists have then been scored on a number of criteria (APPENDIX 3) that take into account the consultation comments, the results from the Green Stat surveys, and other elements such as heritage value, locality of a project in relation to priority wards and the ease of carrying out a project. The criteria also included funding available and the benefit that the project would make to the local community. Each project has then been ranked within areas according to this total score.

4 PROPOSALS

The Executive Board in December 2006 requested that the Action Plan be taken back to the Executive Board along with the completed standards for each of the six remaining typologies for adoption in April 2008.

The Neighbourhood Green Space Priority Improvement Plans will be used to help plan work programmes in each of the 9 areas; allowing both parks officers, ground maintenance staff, area committees and local communities to work to a clear programme that has been agreed and consulted on. The Neighbourhood Green Space Priority Improvement Plan will be reviewed and consulted on thoroughly every three years but projects can continually be added to the bottom of the list and can be prioritised accordingly. (APPENDIX 1)

It is proposed that the top three priorities for each area will go forward to a City wide forum that will consider where resources and funding should be allocated across the City. This forum will be made up of a representative from each area, a number of representatives from outside organisations to provide 'critical friends' support and internal officers who are responsible for planning the work. The City Wide Green Space Forum will meet yearly to review progress and to ensure that targets are being delivered.

It is requested that each area through the Area Committee put forward 2 nominated representatives who will be supported via an induction training programme provided by the City Wide Green Space Forum. The role of these area representatives will be to put forward local views whilst helping to clearly set priorities for the City as a whole.

This proposed process of area consultation, setting priority improvement plans and establishing a City Wide Green Space Forum to develop a city wide plan has been reviewed and put forward following discussions by the Open and Green Spaces 'Champions Group' This group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Leisure and Culture has been established for over 2 years and has been instrumental in the development of Breathing Space.

5 TIMESCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The action plan, the final typologies and the standards set for them for accessibility, quality and quantity and a revised strategic document reflecting these revisions will be taken back to Executive Board in April 2008 for the final adoption of a 10 year plan for the management of the City's open and green space.

The Neighbourhood Priority Green Space Improvement Plans will be agreed with all Area Committees by December 2007 and will form the main basis for discussion and agreement for the City Wide Green Space Improvement Plan.

It is envisaged that the Area Representatives nominated by each area committee be in place by the end of December 2007 and will be invited to attend the first City Wide Green Space Forum will meet in January 2008. This will allow the City wide list to be drawn up and agreed on by April 2008 for inclusion into the Executive Board report.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recognised that the development of the prioritised action plan and the Neighbourhood Priority Green Space Investment Plans have inherent cost implications contained within the proposals. Some of this funding can be sourced from external funds but there is a need for additional capital and revenue funding to be sourced from the City Council budgets. Any bids for greenspace funding will need to be prioritised against other services requiring investment.

The costs identified for the West Area amount to £4,591,399 with a total indicative cost for the city being £35,544,144. However it must be noted that this cost does not include any expenditure on sports pitches, or amenity areas and includes minimal expenditure on allotments in some areas.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

8 OBSERVATIONS OF OTHER OFFICERS

The Neighbourhood Managers and their teams are committed to working with communities and providers to jointly plan and manage services to transform neighbourhoods and improve satisfaction with neighbourhoods. The consultation work carried out forms a strong part of this ethos and will help to:-

- raise satisfaction levels with neighbourhoods as a place to live;
- raise satisfaction with the quality of Council services;
- increase numbers of people who feel that they can influence decision-making.

9 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The strengthening of engagement through the development of the Neighbourhood Green Space Priority Improvement Plans have allowed local communities to help identify which open and green spaces are a priority to them and what improvements are most needed within their local area. Improvements to the sites will result in improved facilities that are attractive, sustainable and better meet the needs of the local community.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Not adopting the recommendations will result in the continued deterioration of the infrastructure, rendering sites unusable, unsafe, unviable, driving up costs and increasing complaints and liability. Open and green space land in the City will reduce and become even more fragmented.

11 CONSULTATIONS

The consultations that were key to the development of the Neighbourhood Green Space Priority Investment Plans were intended to maximise involvement of people from across the City. Consultations were organised in partnership with the Neighbourhood Management teams and primarily took place at a number of open days and community events including all Parklife events and at Tenants and Residents group meetings. Where it was not possible to consult at these events drop in sessions were held and questionnaires were mailed out to community groups. The Green Stat surveys have contributed greatly to the prioritisation and nomination of projects included in the improvement plan. These surveys were conducted face to face and over the telephone throughout the summer. In total more than 4500 people have been involved in the development and prioritisation of proposals. The Green Stat survey is a continuous method of assessment available on line for the public to log on to and comment on their local park. The data collected through this survey will be used to plan future projects on open and green spaces in the City.

12 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The 'Breathing Space' Action Plan is aligned with the City's corporate themes with the proposed actions grouped accordingly. The actions are key to ensure that open and green spaces are aligned with the city's core objectives. The approval of the recommendations will make a significant contribution towards the delivery of the following Corporate Priorities, People feeling safe in their communities, a cleaner city. The recommendation will also contribute towards the delivery of all the Corporate Plan themes.

13 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

Improving open and green spaces in line with the communities needs will help to address many of the antisocial issues that currently exist on a number of the City's sites. By improving sites more people will use them, increasing the public presence and reducing the potential for crime. The strengthening of engagement and action planning will help to identify issues and help to prioritise investment that may result in reduction of crime and disorder therefore improving the quality of life within our neighbourhoods.

14 VALUE FOR MONEY

Open and green spaces in the main are a free resource to the City's residents and visitors. There is a need to improve these facilities and make them fit for purpose for the 21st Century. By involving the community in setting clear priorities and planning these improvements the City Council is ensuring that money spent provides the best value for money from its services and that these services meet the needs of those communities.

15 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

None

16 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

'Breathing Space' a strategic framework for the management of Nottingham's Open and Green spaces
Executive Board Report December 2006

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APPENDIX 1 (PART A) WEST AREA Neighbourhood Green Space Improvement Plan 2008/9 – RANK

Project	Condition of facility	Site Quality Audit Score	GreenSTAT Rating	Priority Ward Information	Heritage Status	Consultation Priority	Consultation Theme	Green STAT Nominated	DDA Improvement	Community Involvement	In House Funding	External Funding	Revenue funding available	Viability of Project	Public Benefit	Regeneration Initiatives	Partnership Opportunities	Total Score	Rank
Investigate the feasibility of improving Broxtowe Park		5	5	5	1	11	5	2	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	69	1
Improve the Phoenix Adventure Playground at Broxtowe Park	Awaiting results of play strategy	0	5	5	0	5	4	2	5	5	0	3	3	3	3	3	5	51	2
Improve Facilities at Kennington Road Park		3	1	0	0	5	4	2	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	3	0	49	3
Improve footpaths and Recreation Zone at King George V Park		5	1	3	0	5	4	2	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	0	48	4
Improve Melbourne Park Pavilion and Footpaths		5	1	3	0	7	1	2	3	1	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	46	5
Woodfield Road Park Footpaths and Entrances		5	1	5	0	5	1	0	3	5	0	3	3	3	3	1	5	43	6
Improve accessibility to Robins Wood		5	5	1	1	5	1	0	3	3	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	42	7

Project	Condition of facility	Site Quality Audit Score	GreenSTAT Rating	Priority Ward Information	Heritage Status	Consultation Priority	Consultation Theme	Green STAT Nominated	DDA Improvement	Community Involvement	In House Funding	External Funding	Revenue funding available	Viability of Project	Public Benefit	Regeneration Initiatives	Partnership Opportunities	Total Score	Rank
Investigate feasibility of a BMX Track at Broxtowe Park	Awaiting results of play strategy	0	5	5	0	5	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	41	8
Improve facilities at Balloon Woods Adventure Playground	Awaiting results of play strategy	0	1	1	0	5	4	2	5	1	0	3	3	3	3	3	5	39	9
Improve facilities for young people at the Strelley Park Youth Shelter and Recreation Zone	Awaiting play strategy results	0	3	0	0	5	4	2	1	5	3	3	3	5	3	1	0	38	10
Improve Children's Playground at King George V	Awaiting play strategy results	0	1	3	0	5	4	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	37	11
Install new Children's Playground at Amesbury Circus	Awaiting results of play strategy	0	1	5	0	5	4	0	3	5	0	3	0	3	3	1	3	36	12

Project	Condition of facility	Site Quality Audit Score	GreenSTAT Rating	Priority Ward Information	Heritage Status	Consultation Priority	Consultation Theme	Green STAT Nominated	DDA Improvement	Community Involvement	In House Funding	External Funding	Revenue funding available	Viability of Project	Public Benefit	Regeneration Initiatives	Partnership Opportunities	Total Score	Rank
Replace equipment at Birchover Children's Playground	Awaiting play strategy results	0	1	0	0	9	4	0	1	5	0	3	3	3	3	3	0	35	13
Improve equipment available at Lancaster Way Children's Playground	Awaiting play strategy results	0	5	0	0	5	4	2	1	3	0	3	3	3	3	1	0	33	14
Install a new play area and Recreation Zone at Hoylake Crescent Park	Awaiting play strategy results	0	3	0	0	5	4	2	1	3	0	3	3	3	3	1	0	31	15
Install a play area at Beechdale Mews	Awaiting play strategy results	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	1	5	3	3	5	3	1	1	0	31	15
Improve facilities available at Fernwood Drive Children's Playground	Awaiting play strategy results	0	1	0	0	5	4	2	1	1	0	3	3	3	1	1	0	25	17

Project	Condition of facility	Site Quality Audit Score	GreenSTAT Rating	Priority Ward Information	Heritage Status	Consultation Priority	Consultation Theme	Green STAT Nominated	DDA Improvement	Community Involvement	In House Funding	External Funding	Revenue funding available	Viability of Project	Public Benefit	Regeneration Initiatives	Partnership Opportunities	Total Score	Rank
Improve facilities at Western Boulevard Children's Playground	Awaiting results of play strategy	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	17	18

Columns highlighted in grey are subject to the assessors discretion, all other columns are based on existing data

APPENDIX 1 (PART B) WEST AREA Neighbourhood Green Space Improvement Plan 2008/9 – INDICATIVE COSTS

Project	Households to benefit	Size of Site m²	Size of Site ha	Development Costs	Implementation Costs	Total costs	Explanation of ball park costs
Investigate the feasibility of improving Broxtowe Park	10290 (city residents only)	425924	47.59	£242,950	£2,000,000	£2,242,950	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha and £5,000 for each subsequent ha. Implementation cost based on past tender of £1.7m given in 2005, now thought to be £2m. The cost of implementation may change following the results of the feasibility study.
Improve the Pheonix Adventure Playground at Broxtowe Park	83618 (city residents only)	8586.5	0.85	£10,000	£200,000	£210,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost is typical cost of a large adventure play area = £200,000
Improve Facilities at Kennington Road Park	496	1862.2	0.18	£10,000	£4,656	£14,656	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation costs based on £2.50 per sqm.
Improve footpaths and Recreation Zone at King George V Park	9124	114207	11.42	£10,000	£100,000	£110,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation costs are estimated cost for rec zone = £50,000 plus estimated costs for footpath improvements = £50,000
Improve Melbourne Park Pavilion and Footpaths	9235	145568	14.55	£77,500	£363,922	£441,422	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha and £5,000 for each subsequent ha. Implementation costs based on £2.50 per sqm.

Project	Households to benefit	Size of Site m ²	Size of Site ha	Development Costs	Implementation Costs	Total costs	Explanation of ball park costs
Woodfield Road Park Footpaths and Entrances	2753	16855.1	1.69	£10,345	42137.8	£52,483	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha and £5,000 for each subsequent ha. Implementation costs based on £2.50 per sqm.
Improve accessibility to Robins Wood	1992	29936	2.99	£19,950	£29,939	£49,889	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha and £5,000 for each subsequent ha. Implementation costs based on £2.50 per sqm.
Investigate feasibility of a BMX Track at Broxtowe Park	10290 (City residents only) with 25% population aged 0 - 15 years	425924.	47.59	£10,000	£0	£10,000	Development cost for feasibility study only. Implementation costs to be assessed separately once feasibility study completed.
Improve facilities at Balloon Woods Adventure Playground	39421 (City residents only)	4475.3	0.44	£20,000	£500,000	£520,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha plus £5,000 for subsequent ha. Implementation cost is estimated to be £500,000 as overnight facilities will be included in improvements.
Improve facilities for young people at the Strelley Park Youth Shelter and Recreation Zone	385 households with approx 18% population aged 0 -15	572.1	0.06	£10,000	£50,000	£60,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation costs estimated to be £50,000 which will include a youth shelter and a nutmeg court.

Project	Households to benefit	Size of Site m²	Size of Site ha	Development Costs	Implementation Costs	Total costs	Explanation of ball park costs
Improve Children's Playground at King George V	9124 households with approx 30% population aged 0 -15	752.5	0.07	£10,000	£100,000	£110,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost is typical for large play area on a neighbourhood site.
Install new Children's Playground at Amesbury Circus	1790 (city residents only)with 30% population aged 0 - 15 years	497.5	0.05	£10,000	£150,000	£160,000	Development is estimated at £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost is typical for a playground at a neighbourhood site = £75,000 plus a skate park = £75,000.
Replace equipment at Birchover Children's Playground	2025 households with 20% of population aged 0-15 yrs	1491.4	0.14	£10,000	£100,000	£110,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost based on estimate for a large play area on neighbourhood park.
Improve equipment available at Lancaster Way Children's Playground	404 households (within City boundary) with approx 26% of population aged 0 - 15 years	205.7	0.02	£10,000	£75,000	£85,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost based on estimate for a typical play area = £75,000

Project	Households to benefit	Size of Site m²	Size of Site ha	Development Costs	Implementation Costs	Total costs	Explanation of ball park costs
Install a new play area and Recreation Zone at Hoylake Crescent Park	964 households with 22% population aged 0 - 15	730.2 (footprint of current play facilities)	0.07	£10,000	£150,000	£160,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost based on estimate for play area = £75,000 plus rec zone for neighbourhood site = £75,000.
Install a play area at Beechdale Mews	416 households with 18% of population aged 0 - 15	1125.4	0.11	£10,000	£75,000	£85,000	Development estimated at £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost is typical for a playground of the size needed at Beechdale Mews.
Improve facilities available at Fernwood Drive Children's Playground	605	222.3	0.02	£10,000	£75,000	£85,000	Development costs based on £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost based on estimate for a typical play area = £75,000.
Improve facilities at Western Boulevard Children's Playground	262 households with 16% population 0 - 15 years	326.4	0.03	£10,000	£75,000	£85,000	Development estimated at £10,000 for the first ha. Implementation cost is typical for a playground of the size needed at this site = £75,000.

Total Cost

£500,745

£4,090,654

£4,591,399

APPENDIX 2 Breathing Space Action Plan 2007- 2017

Corporate theme 1 - Choose Nottingham

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcomes 1

Identify priorities for site and infrastructure improvements through the development of an investment plan for City's open and green space.

1.1	Work with Area Committees and Neighbourhood Management Teams to develop prioritised investment plans for open and green spaces linked to the Neighbourhood Transformation Strategy	Local Area Action Plans	Local involvement in the development of a prioritised investment plan will ensure that it is drawn up in response to perceived local need and that the customer will understand the reasoning behind it	Parks and Open Space Development	December 2007
1.2	As part of the investment planning process, identify local champions from each area and establish a City wide open and green space forum	Local Area Agreements	The City wide open space forum will facilitate coordinated management of open and green space across the City.	Parks and Open Space Development	First meeting to be held January 2008
1.3	Embed policy in Local Development Framework to be incorporated into new developments	Local Development Framework	A properly structured development plan will ensure provision of a well structured network of good quality open and green space	Parks and Open Space Development	On going from April 2008
1.4	Restructure Parks and Open Spaces Development Team to improve capacity and maximise external funding opportunities	Best Value	Customers can see that development is constant and linked to action plan	Parks and Open Space Development	September 2007

Strategic Outcomes 2

Establish a clear and consistent style for the promotion of Nottingham's open and green spaces.

2.1	Establish web pages for open and green space within the Nottingham City Council web site	Corporate Visual Identity Guidelines	The web pages will provide a single information point.	Marketing Team	Outline by June 2007
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Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale	
2.2	Create a style that identifies accessible open and green space for wider marketing and as the basis of a design manual	Corporate Visual Identity Guidelines	The distinct style will give a clear message that Nottingham's open and green spaces are a continuous network	Marketing Team	On going Adopt fully by August 2008

Strategic Outcome 3

To have a programme of cultural events and activities that maximise opportunities and increase income for Nottingham's open and green spaces

3.1	Produce a seasonal events calendar.	Cross departmental events calendar	Well publicised events will allow the public to plan their leisure time more effectively	Marketing Team	First issue Spring 2008
3.2	Complete an events management strategy for open and green spaces.	Cross departmental events calendar	Events will be properly managed and funded. Events held on open and green spaces will provide greater opportunities for people to use these spaces across the City	Parks and Open Space Development	June 2008

Strategic Outcome 4

Raise horticultural, arboriculture and grounds maintenance skills

4.1	Review required skills and staffing levels of ground staff and restructure as necessary	City Development Human Resources Service Plan	The customer will benefit from a well trained, focused workforce	Environment and Regeneration	Implement findings by June 2008
4.2	Assess current level of skills among staff and address any deficiencies with appropriate nationally accredited training	Performance and Development Review	Well trained staff will be able to deliver progressive, ambitious projects on Nottingham's green and open spaces	Environment and Regeneration	February 2008
4.3	Increase opportunities for nationally accredited training through Pathfinder apprenticeship schemes	Local Jobs for Local People Initiative	Customers will have access to a range of opportunities that will contribute towards their personal and social development	Nominated grounds maintenance coordinator	Additional training facilities by 2012

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcome 5

Achieve local, regional, and national recognition for Nottingham's open and green spaces.

5.1	Continue to achieve gold medals in the 'Britain in Bloom' and 'East Midlands in Bloom' competitions. Enter RHS Tatton Flower show when not in Britain in Bloom	Greater Nottingham Development Strategy	Success in East Midlands and Britain in Bloom raises the profile of the City nationally	Nottingham in Bloom	Annually
5.2	Compile a 5 year plan of sites to be entered yearly for a Green Flag Award and ensure that once entered, these sites are sustained at this high level	Developing Nottingham Strategy	Achieving awards raises standards and contributes towards sustained improvement in the quality of open and green spaces	Parks and Open Space Development	Award scheme to be entered annually
5.3	Review success of Green Flag applications and the sustained quality of those sites.	Developing Nottingham Strategy	The Green Flag Award Scheme is an ideal tool to achieve sustained quality of open and green spaces	Parks and Open Space Development	2012 Entered yearly
5.4	Promote the Green Flag Award Scheme at the local level by supporting community groups who wish to apply for a green pennant award	Developing Community Focus	Communities will be strengthened by entering the green pennant award scheme	Parks and Open Space Development	1 site in each area by 2017
5.5	Instating staff on all Destination and City sites	Developing Community Focus	Permanent on site staff has been proven to reduce antisocial behaviour and increase user satisfaction	Parks and Open Space Development	All in place 2012
5.6	Provide training for other Local Authorities	Improving the Nottingham Offer	Building on Nottingham's reputation as having high quality open and green spaces improves the Nottingham offer and attract funding to the City	Nominated grounds maintenance coordinator	2013

Corporate Theme 2 - Respect for Nottingham

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcomes

6.0 Set up an open and green space ranger service to make open and green spaces more useable

6.1	Develop a proactive customer focussed ranger service	Developing Community Focus	Uniformed rangers on site increase the community's perception of safety on open and green spaces	Parks and Open Space Development	First officers in post by July 2007
6.2	Carry out a review of the patrol service and integrate with new patrol service	Best Value		Parks and Open Space Development	April 2008
6.3	Link Ranger Service with Community Wardens Scheme and the Police Community Support Officer's to coordinate additional enforcement	Community Neighbourhood Protection Service Plan	Shared intelligence between partners will ensure a more focussed response to antisocial behaviour	Ranger Service	Quarterly meetings Jan 2008

Strategic Outcomes

7.0 Develop a grounds maintenance service that can deliver the vision, and work towards the strategic statements, and raising standards

7.1	Monitor and respond effectively to health and safety issues	Health and Safety	Street Scene carry out their work in public places and so staff safety is directly related to public safety	Street Scene	On going
7.2	Review present maintenance delivery and identify mechanisms for improving and maintaining standards	Best Value	Efficient maintenance delivery is key to the public's enjoyment of open and green spaces	Parks and Open Space Development	Completed March 2009
7.3	Revise all maintenance specifications and site contracts in accordance with the 'Breathing Space' strategic framework	Best Value	Site specific management plans and maintenance agreements will reflect the needs of individual sites	Parks and Open Space Development	Key sites by April 2009. Other sites 2/3 per year

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcomes				
8.0 Manage open and green spaces in a sustainable manner.				

8.1	Adopt Biodiversity Statement.	UK/LBAP	This will demonstrate the City Council's commitment to promoting biodiversity	Nature Conservation Team	November 2007
8.2	Implement a species indicator monitoring programme	UK/LBAP	Measures taken to improve biodiversity will be demonstrated using indicator species	Nature Conservation Team	Annually
8.3	All green flag sites to have ecological appraisals.	Greener Nottingham	Green Flag sites will lead the way as sustainable open and green spaces	Parks and Open Space Development	On going
8.4	Develop an Arboriculture Strategy.	Climate Change Programme	Trees in the City will be managed in a sustainable and safe manner	Environment and Regeneration	Adopt by 2008
8.5	Produce a set of habitat targets based on the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan	UK/LBAP	The habitats identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan are of local and national importance	Nature Conservation Team	Adopted by June 2008
8.6	Designate new and existing sites as Local Nature Reserves up to 156 hectares to meet the national standard	UK/LBAP	Increased protection for the City's wildlife will have positive effects on the health and wellbeing of Nottingham's residents and visitors to the City	Nature Conservation Team	Designate 156ha by 2017
8.7	Review maintenance practices in line with sustainable working practices	Best Value	This review will result in focused sustainable working practices	Street Scene	Review complete 2008
8.8	Review current water management on open and green space	Best Value	Open and green spaces can be used to mitigate for climate change for the City	Parks and Open Space Team	Implemented by 2012
8.9	All Destination & City parks and allotment sites to have on site composting facilities.	Greener Nottingham	On site composting facilities in the main sites across the City will contribute to sustainability.	Street Scene	2012
8.10	Increase the use of native species in open and green space planting plans where appropriate	UK/LBAP	Incorporating native species in planting plans will increase biodiversity in open and green spaces	Horticultural Officer	Destination and City sites to include wildlife areas

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale	
8.11	Review plant use on open and green spaces and adapt management practices for climate change.	Climate Change Programme	Working to protect and conserve open and green space for the future.	Parks and Open Space Development	Review completed 2009 implemented 2014

Strategic Outcome 9 Maximise partnership working to drive improvements to open and green spaces.					
9.1	Work with Area Committees and Neighbourhood Management Teams to develop active decision	Best Value	Local people have an opportunity to make informed contributions to decision making	Parks and Open Space Development	On going
9.2	Review partnership working opportunities with business and private sector partners	One Nottingham	Partnerships can make a range of skills and resources available including access to funding	Parks and Open Space Development	Review and implement by 2010
9.3	Offer training and support for community groups on effective partnership working.	Sustainable Communities	With a better understanding of partnership working a productive relationship can be maintained with community groups.	Ranger Service	First courses available from 2008
9.4	Create a process for the management, support, and growth of partnerships to maximise their benefits for all involved	Partnership Policy	Partnerships will be dedicated to delivering improvements for customers.	Parks and Open Space Development	"Management Handbook" completed 2009

Strategic Outcome 10 Reduce dog fouling, litter, vandalism, and antisocial behaviour on open and green spaces.					
10.1	Develop initiatives that reduce dog fouling, litter, vandalism and antisocial behaviour	Local Community Plans	Reducing these issues will increase people's ability to use these areas and feel safe and secure	Ranger Service	Launch initiative Autumn 2008
10.2	Review and update bylaws for open and green space relating to dog fouling and littering	Public Health, Pollution and Enviro Crime	Appropriate litter and dog fouling reducing measures on open and green space will benefit public health.	Parks and Open Space Development	Review completed by 2009

Corporate Theme 3 - Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcome 11 Realign open and green spaces to meet the needs of local communities.				
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11.1	Develop a play strategy through a review of current facilities and public consultation	Play and Engagement Plan	Resources can be targeted towards play areas in the City where deficiencies have been identified.	Parks and Open Space Team	September 2007
11.2	Develop an Allotments, Community Gardens, and Urban Farms Strategy	Greener Nottingham	Allotments are becoming more popular and need to be managed appropriately to meet demand	Allotments Service	Adopted 2008
11.3	Identify gaps in the current accessible open and green space network	Serving Nottingham Better	Proper analysis will lead to high quality provision in the right locations with the right equipment	Parks and Open Space Development	Summer 2008
11.4	Identify opportunities for new open and green spaces that increase the accessibility for local communities	Sustainable Communities	Making sure that all residents in the city have access to good quality open and green space	Parks and Open Space Development	On going
11.5	Develop a new strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports facilities	Physical Activity Strategy	Outdoor sports facilities provision will be directly related to customer need	Parks and Open Space Development	Adopted 2008
11.6	Carry out accessibility audit on all Destination and City open and green spaces	Disability Discrimination Act	Barriers to access will be identified and resolved where possible	Parks and Open Space Development	Audits completed by 2010
11.7	Any major site improvements to have an accessibility audit carried out.	Disability Discrimination Act	Improved site facilities will be available to all City residents where reasonable adjustments can be made	Parks and Open Space Development	As necessary

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcome 12 Improve the planning process so that it better meets local needs				
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12.1	Improve the management of section 106 agreements to better meet local needs	Local Development Framework	Communities will have a better understanding of the impact that open and green space planning will have on their local environment	Parks and Open Space Development	March 2008
12.2	Develop and set local recommended standards for all typologies.	Local Development Framework	Clear categorisation of open and green spaces will allow effective management and protection of sites	Parks and Open Space Development	Adopted August 2008

Strategic Outcome 13 Set up consultative mechanisms for open and green space planning in each area committee.				
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13.1	Work with Area Committees and Neighbourhood Management Teams to develop consultative groups, which will act as mechanisms to engage local communities and individuals.	Developing Neighbourhood Focus	These consultative mechanisms will create opportunities for local engagement in open and green space planning and improvements.	Parks and Open Space Development	Consultative mechanisms to be established by 2008
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Corporate Theme 4 - Supporting Nottingham People

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcome 14

Develop outdoor learning opportunities that engage local communities

14.1	Deliver school and community projects that provide opportunities for learning and developing new skills	Childrens Services	Through introducing new ways of interacting with open spaces the community will benefit both physically and mentally	Ranger Services	Jan 2008
14.2	Develop a programme of nature talks and activities	Life Long Learning	Open and green spaces will function as a forum for learning for all members of the community	Ranger Services	Summer 2008
14.3	Identify sites and facilities that can be developed as outdoor classrooms and used for life long learning	Pathfinder Initiative	Customers will develop increased awareness, knowledge and interest in their local open and green space environments	Ranger Service	September 2007
14.4	Establish a community project to clear unused allotment sites across the City	Healthier communities	There will be an increased availability of allotment sites.	Ranger Service	September 2008

Strategic Outcome 15

Provide the opportunity for all residents to have access to open and green space sites on which they can carry out physical activity and exercise

15.1	Improve and increase facilities in order to expand on site programmes.	Income Generation	Improved facilities will increase customers learning opportunities	Parks and Open Space	On going
15.2	Develop a programme of health walks using the open and green space network	Health and wellbeing	The provision of good quality spaces will improve health and the quality of life.	Ranger Services	COMPLETED
15.3	Promote physical activity and health benefits through volunteering.	Physical Activity Strategy	Physical activity through volunteering is growing in popularity as a way of improving health.	Ranger Service	Winter 2007
15.4	Promote advantages of healthy eating through grow your own schemes with Allotments	Health and wellbeing	There are numerous health benefits to growing your own food and eating organically.	Allotment Services	Spring 2008

Corporate Theme 5 Serving Nottingham Better

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale
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Strategic Outcome 16

One department to be the custodian for all Council open and green space

16.1	Assign a single department within the Council to act as the custodian and strategic lead in respect of recommendations for disposals and changes to Nottingham's open and green spaces.	Best Value	Customers will know which department to contact for all open and green space issues. A single custodian will eliminate overlap between services and will allow projects to be managed efficiently.	Parks and Open Space Development	2007
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Strategic Outcome 17

Develop a central system for storing, recording, and managing open and green space information

17.1	Set up a joined up approach to the gathering, management, collection, and storage of open and green space data	Developing Customer Focus	Improved access to information about Nottingham's open and green spaces	Parks and Open Space Development	January 2008
17.2	Ensure that all of the open and green space land is mapped and the digital information made available through NOMAD	Developing Customer Focus	The completed mapping of this resource will allow sites to be managed as a network across the City.	Parks and Open Space Development	All typologies available on Nomad 2008
17.3	Develop an annual rolling programme of quality audits, linked with typologies to measure improvements	Performance Monitoring	The outcomes of these audits will ensure that the service is being run effectively and efficiently	Parks and Open Space Development	Quality audits for all sites every 5 years
17.4	Set up mechanisms that provide opportunities for feedback from individuals and local communities	Developing Customer Focus	The opportunity to contribute ideas to the development and management of sites will develop a sense of ownership.	Parks and Open Space Development	Summer 2007
17.5	Set up performance indicators and mechanisms monitoring	Performance Monitoring	The improved understanding of users needs will allow better management decision making.	Parks and Open Space Development	By April 2008

Actions to be Taken	Main Strategic Link	Customer benefits	Who's leading	Timescale	
17.6	Set up monitoring programme for park usage	Developing Customer Focus	Help identify which sites are most used	Parks and Open Space Development	Monitoring to begin 2008
17.7	Demonstrate increased open space usage from 2008 baseline level.	Developing Customer Focus	Increased usage will be a measure of management success for open and green spaces.	Parks and Open Space Development	Annually from 2008
17.8	Complete analysis of physical composition of area and social deprivation	Developing Customer Focus	Allow services to be developed that reflect the needs of local communities.	Parks and Open Space Development	2008 onwards
17.9	Produce an open and green space annual report	Performance Monitoring	The annual report will highlight progress and success in the management of Nottingham's open and green spaces	Parks and Open Space Development	March 2009

APPENDIX 3 - Neighbourhood Green Space Improvement Plan Scoring Criteria

Condition of Facility

For use when quality audit score is not applicable e.g. for a play area.
Following a site visit or using existing knowledge, the site is judged to be

Unusable as a result of health and safety concerns	(7)
Severely derelict, underused or neglected	(5)
Showing signs of dereliction, under use or neglect	(3)
Little evidence of dereliction, under use and neglect	(1)
Well used and in good condition	(0)

Site Quality Audit Score

The most recent quality audit percentage score for the site if available.

Quality Score less than 50%	(5)
Quality Score between 50% and 70%	(3)
Quality Score 70% or over	(1)
No quality audit carried out	(0)

Green STAT rating

Question C9 Green STAT parks and open spaces questionnaire refers to the participants overall impression of the park or open space. Questions C7 should be used when project relates to a play area. Question C9 should be used when project relates to sports facilities.

Mostly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	(5)
Mostly neither satisfied or dissatisfied	(3)
Mostly satisfied or very satisfied	(1)
Mostly don't know/no green STAT information	(0)

Priority Ward Information

The project should be assessed in relation to population data which indicates the degree of deprivation in the surrounding area.

Project to take place within a priority ward	(5)
Project to take place within 300m of a priority ward	(3)

Catchment of site in relation to strategic group includes a priority ward (1)
Project has no impact on a priority ward (0)

Heritage Status

The historic status of the site and its features where the propose project will take place should be considered. Designations relation to nature conservation value will also be taken into account here.

Site listed as a heritage site and contains separately listed features (5)
Site is listed but has no separately listed features (3)
Site is designated as a Local Nature reserve or SSSI (3)
Site contains listed features (1)
Site is not considered to have historic value (0)

Consultation Priority

This reflects the rank that the project was given by the community in the Breathing Space consultations.

Highest scoring project for area (11)
Second highest project for area (9)
Third highest project for area (7)
Project rated outside of the top 3 for the area (5)
Project not viewed as a priority by the local community (0)

Consultation Theme

This refers to the management themes ranked by the community in each area of the City as part of the Breathing Space consultation.

Project consistent with highest priority management theme (5)
Project consistent with second highest management theme (4)
Project consistent with third highest management theme (3)
Project consistent with other management theme (1)
Project not consistent with an identified theme (0)

Green STAT Nominated

Question C10 Green STAT parks/open spaces questionnaire asks participants to suggest improvements to the park or open space.

Project supported by green STAT consultation (2)

Project not raised as part of green STAT consultation (0)

DDA Improvement

Accessibility and inclusion must be considered for each proposed project.

Project will improve accessibility beyond basic DDA requirements (5)

Project will satisfy DDA requirements (3)

Project will contribute to satisfying DDA requirements (1)

Project has no DDA implications (0)

Community Involvement

The project may have support from active community groups, such as Tenants and Residents Associations who are willing to take part in all stages of the project or there may be individuals in the community who are willing to be involved in the project at various stages on a casual basis. There will also be projects with no community involvement or capacity for it to be developed.

Active community group supporting project (5)

Considerable community support for project but no established group (3)

No community involvement (0)

In House Funding

In house funding confirmed for all parts of the project (5)

In house funding confirmed for initial part of project (3)

In house funding potentially available for any part of the project (1)

No current funding opportunities (0)

External Funding

External funding confirmed and immediately available (5)

External funding potentially available (3)

No current funding opportunities (0)

Revenue Funding available

Revenue confirmed to sustain project (5)

Revenue partially confirmed to sustain project (3)

No revenue available to sustain project after initial stages (0)

Viability of Project

Further work may be required before project can begin e.g. planning permission, further consultation.

Projects has no constraints or obstacles to be overcome	(5)
Project has minor constraints	(3)
Project has major issues to be overcome before implementation	(0)

Public Benefit

Public benefit will be judged on relevance of project to the needs of the wider community e.g. play areas where there are a high proportion of 0 - 15 yr olds; contribution to open space network; potential for high levels of public use e.g. over looked/near to public buildings.

Considerable benefit to the wider community	(5)
Some public benefit	(3)
Little public benefit	(1)
No public benefit	(0)

Regeneration initiatives

The contribution a project makes to regeneration initiatives will be judged according to; improving health and housing standards; reducing crime and increasing education opportunities;

Considerable contribution to regeneration initiatives	(5)
Some contribution to regeneration initiatives	(3)
Little contribution to regeneration initiatives	(1)
No contribution to regeneration initiatives	(0)

Partnership Opportunities

This evaluates the potential for a project to be linked with the work of external partners and encourage cooperation between City Council departments.

Confirmed opportunities for partnership working	(5)
Reasonable potential for partnership working	(3)
Low potential for partnership working	(1)
No known opportunities for partnership working	(0)

APPENDIX 4 West Area Breathing Space Consultations

Neighbourhood on the Square

Broxtowe Country Park Parklife

Tenants and Residents Chairs Meeting

Bells Lane and Aspley Tenants and Residents July Meeting

Broxtowe Tenants and Residents Association August Meeting

Bilborough Market Consultation

Broxtowe Park Consultation Evening

Ainesly and Kennington Road Tenants and Residents Drop in Event

Melbourne Park Parklife

Drop in Consultation at the Vale Community Centre

Green Stat Surveys carried out on the following sites;

Amesbury Circus

Bramley Road Recreation Ground

Broxtowe Country Park

Kennington Road Open Space

King George V Park

Melbourne Park

Strelley Recreation Ground

Baloon Woods

Edgeway Plantation

Hoylake Crescent Open Space

Birchover Recreation Ground

Bilborough Park