



Appendix 3

Terms of Reference

Open and Green Spaces Champions Group

March 2024



Description

The Open and Green Spaces Champions Group is a Steering Group established to support Nottingham City Council's Greenspace and Natural Environment offering constructive review, challenge, support and feedback.

Overview of the Steering Group's purpose (include legislation where relevant)

- ✓ Members of the steering group will support the delivery of Nottingham City Council's 'A Greener, Healthier, Happier Nottingham' greenspace strategy taking a city-wide approach.
- ✓ Members will advocate for citywide Green/Blue infrastructure to protect and maintain existing greenspace through the adoption of Natural England's 40% Urban Greening Factor (UGF)
- ✓ Members will be guided by / reference the Environment Act 2021 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/102>) which includes the mandatory implementation of the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) process <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty> and is a statutory duty that all councils are required to adopt.
- ✓ Members will commit to partnership and cross sector working aligned with a strategic, collaborative approach.

The Open and Greenspaces Champions Group is accountable to the Director of Operational and Resident Services. Meeting notes and feedback from the group will be provided to the Director.

Purpose

The purpose of the Open and Greenspaces Champions Group is to support the delivery of the Greenspace strategy through constructive review, support, feedback, and both challenge and advocate from within and outside the Council in order to deliver better outcomes for Nottingham's open & greenspaces

Objectives

The Group will achieve its purpose by providing support and making recommendations to the Director of the Greenspace and Natural Environment service on the delivery of its strategic outcomes as outlined in the Green spaces strategy, *as well as the discharge of the Councils statutory duty.*



Crucially the steering group has no decision-making authority, powers or spending limits.

AIMS

- ✓ **Act** as champions/advocates ensuring that Greenspace and Natural Environment strategic ambitions are promoted more widely.
- ✓ **Support** the successful *production and adoption* of Greener Healthier Happier Nottingham's greenspace strategy.
- ✓ **Ensure** strategic recommendations are implemented and provide guidance to help shape future prioritisation for Capital & Section 106 spending in relation to the development and maintenance of Open & Green space within the city.
- ✓ **Assist** in the development of future strategic direction and provide ongoing performance monitoring support for its implementation.
- ✓ **Provide** an opportunity for officers to present new initiatives/policies that affect/impact Nottingham's Open & Greenspace including Planning, Biodiversity & Climate Change. Seek early views, ensure policies are constructively challenged & seek support/advice regarding changes and impact on future strategic direction/approvals.
- ✓ **Promote** and provide opportunities to discuss/constructively challenge new innovative approaches to both maintaining and managing Nottingham's Open & Green Space including future Volunteering strategies.
- ✓ **Identify** new opportunities to promote and implement projects that improve/protect areas of Biodiversity and help both adapt to and mitigate the effects of Climate Change

Membership and Chairing

- ✓ The Open and Greenspaces Champions Group is chaired by the current Portfolio Holder responsible for the Greenspace & Natural Environment.
- ✓ The group should comprise senior Council representatives as well as advocates for the Conservation, Voluntary and Health and Wellbeing sectors.

Membership should be reviewed regularly to ensure broad sector representation and advocacy.



The group will seek to ensure residents' views are represented through the organisations invited onto the steering group.

Quorum

Meetings will take place when attendees from all sectors are available to attend to ensure cross council / organisation representation

Frequency of Meetings

The group meets quarterly with pre-agreed dates set annually.

Substitutes

Substitutes are permitted with members deputising attendance if not available to ensure consistent representation.

Duration

There is no limit on the lifespan of the Open & Greenspaces Champions Group.



Our Vision, Mission and Values



GREENER

Over a fifth of Nottingham is dedicated green space. And we strive for more. With nature in mind, we will support wildlife to thrive, joining spaces to benefit our people and the city ecosystem.

WE WILL be proud of a rich, resilient and connected open and green space network that in turn, protects the planet.

HEALTHIER

Nature-rich beautiful spaces are vital for our mental and physical well-being.

WE WILL continue to provide areas for rest & reflection immersing our citizens in diverse green and open spaces whilst enabling movement around our city through vibrant green corridors on foot or on two wheels.

HAPPIER

Our open and green spaces bring us together and connect us.

WE WILL continue to share ownership of them to give us a common purpose. These spaces are active and well-used, welcoming people from across our communities to play, socialise, participate & partner in looking after, improving & enjoying our city.

Our Values



PROTECT

We commit to looking after our green spaces to leave a lasting legacy.

INVOLVED

Together, we will share responsibility for how we care for our green spaces.

CONNECTED

For people and for nature, we will inform and influence how we manage our impact on the natural environment.

ACCESSIBLE

Our green spaces will be welcoming, accessible, attractive and safe.