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Chief Executive

Date: 14 January 2014



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

To: Members of the Hinckley Area Committee

Mr SL Bray (Chairman)
Mrs L Hodgkins (Vice-Chairman)
Mr JG Bannister
Mr DC Bill MBE
Mr DS Cope

Mr KWP Lynch
Mr MT Mullaney
Mr K Nichols
Miss DM Taylor
Ms BM Witherford

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear Councillor,

There will be a meeting of the **HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE** in the De Monfort Suite - Hub on **WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2014 at 5.30 pm** and your attendance is required.

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen
Democratic Services Officer

HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE - 22 JANUARY 2014

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS
2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 2)
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2013.
3. ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
To be advised of any additional items of business which the Chairman decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive verbally from Members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. **This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the agenda.**
5. QUESTIONS
To hear any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.
6. HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2014/15 (Pages 3 - 8)
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction).
7. GREEN SPACE DELIVERY PLAN (Pages 9 - 84)
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction) attached.
8. ASHBY ROAD CEMETERY - WORLD WAR I MEMORIALS (Verbal Report)
Verbal report of the Head of Street Scene Services.
9. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS MATTERS OF URGENCY

Agenda Item 2

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE

13 MAY 2013 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr JG Bannister - Chairman
Mrs L Hodgkins – Vice-Chairman
Mr DC Bill MBE, Mr SL Bray, Mr DS Cope, Mr MT Mullaney, Mr K Nichols and
Ms BM Witherford

Officers in attendance: Katherine Bennett, Rebecca Owen and Caroline Roffey

504 APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lynch & Taylor, and it was also noted that Councillors Hodgkins and Mullaney were at another engagement and unlikely to be able to attend.

505 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Nichols, seconded by Councillor Witherford and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

506 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bray stated that he would need to declare an interest if there were to be any discussions regarding Netherley Court, but he would do so at the relevant point if necessary.

507 DRAFT OUTTURN 2012/2013

The Committee received the revenue and capital outturn for the Special Expenses Area for 2012/13. It was reported that some carry forward was required to cover tree works in the cemeteries which were intended to be completed in 2012/13 but this hadn't been possible due to the weather. In response to a member's question it was explained that works to Richmond Park should be completed in two weeks depending on the weather.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the draft outturn for 2012/13 for the Special Expenses Area be noted;
- (ii) the requested carry forward for tree works be approved.

Councillors Hodgkins & Mullaney entered the meeting at 6.42pm.

508 FUTURE BUDGETS

Members were presented with options for the future use of the balances and reserves held by the Special Expenses Area. It was noted that the suggested projects in the appendix to the report were not in priority order, and that those benefiting from Section 106 contributions would be undertaken as a priority. Work was currently being undertaken to identify those projects to ensure the Section 106 money was used.

During discussion, reference was made to the following:

- Grit bins and the process for purchasing;
- Wildflower meadows;
- Walking and cycle routes in the area of the Harrowbrook Corridor;
- The low usage of outdoor gyms;
- The possibility of a play area on New Street car park;
- Reinstatement of bench at The Rock Gardens and general improvements;
- Pathways in parks following complaints about shale; and the need for pathways to be hard wearing;
- Provision of trees at Hamilton Close;
- Funding for improvements on the land between Clifton Way and Florian Way;
- The footpath to Barlestone Drive;
- The public objection to the suggestion to change Burbage Common to a Country Park and suggestion therefore to remove from the list of possible schemes;
- Bulb and tree planting at Trinity Vicarage Road.

Councillor Bray left the meeting at 7.15pm.

It was suggested that schemes be spread evenly across the Special Expenses Area and that a working group be set up with one member from each of the Hinckley Wards to prioritise the schemes. Members felt that up to £100k of available funds for 2013/14 be spent on the chosen schemes. It was

RESOLVED – Councillors Bill, Cope, Nichols and Witherford form a working group to prioritise schemes following identification of those subject to Section 106 contributions and that up to £100k be allocated to these schemes.

(The Meeting closed at 7.28 pm)

CHAIRMAN

HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 22ND JANUARY 2014

HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2014/2015 REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
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WARDS AFFECTED: HINCKLEY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the proposed revenue budget and council tax for 2014/2015 for the Special Expenses area of Hinckley

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.2 That the Committee endorses the revenue budgets and council tax for 2014/2015 for the Special Expenses Area of Hinckley and recommends these to Council for approval.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 This report presents the budget relating to the Special Expenses Area of Hinckley for the Committee to consider and make recommendations to Council for approval. The 2014/2015 General Fund revenue budget (including the Special Expenses) will be presented to Council for approval on 20th February 2014.
- 3.2 The budget for 2014/2015 together with the latest figures for 2013/2014 are shown in **Appendix 1**. The proposed budget has been drawn up in accordance with the principles set out in the 2014/2015 Budget. The key assumptions approved in this Strategy include:
- Reversal of one off growths from previous years
 - Application of no growth on non contract supplies and services
 - Application of 3.2% inflation on contracted spend unless otherwise stipulated

Revised budget 2013/2014

- 3.3 The revised budget for 2013/2014 has increased from the original budget by £10,293. The majority of this increase (£8,000) relates to the approved cost of funding a disabled toilet at the Wykin Community Centre.
- 3.4 In addition to this service expenditure, the budget has been revised to take into account the transfer of £136,000 of excess balances (i.e those above the minimum budget requirement) to reserves, as approved by Council in July 2013.
- 3.5 Taking into account these movements, the balance has been transferred to reserves to ensure nil impact on the budget requirement and therefore council tax.

Proposed budget 2014/2015

- 3.6 The proposed budget for 2014/2015 has been detailed in **Appendix 1** and has been prepared using the assumptions identified in 3.2 above. Compared to the original estimate for 2013/2014, service expenditure for the SEA has increased by net £2,510 in 2014/2015. This is a net movement created by an increase in budget for expenditure and a decrease for cemeteries. The main reasons for this change are due to a more accurate process of coding salaries and support service recharges between the cost centres which have had minimal net impact overall.

- 3.7 The budget has assumed the ongoing contribution of £25,000 from the Special Expense Area to car parks in Hinckley.
- 3.8 As agreed by Council in December 2011, 25% of New Homes Bonus granted to the Council each year is pass ported to parishes and the Special Expense Area. The allocation of this is based on the number of properties brought into Council Tax in each area as detailed in the Council Tax Base1 form (CTB1). Based on this information, £127,343 of New Homes Bonus will be allocated to the SEA in 2014/2015.
- 3.9 The Tax Base (number of chargeable properties) in the Special Expenses Area has increased by 1.6% (147.2 Band D equivalents) in 2014/2015, reflecting the increase in the Local Council Tax Support cap. In order to ensure that council tax is frozen for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council as a whole, it is recommended that the council tax for the Special Expenses Area is frozen for 2014/2015 at £58.63 for an average Band D property. Based on the proposed council tax base of 9,596.90, the budget requirement needed to ensure this freeze is £562,651 and therefore a contribution to reserves and balances of £73,004 is proposed to achieve this. The split of this transfer is further explained below.
- 3.10 Based on the proposed budget, balances in the SEA at 31st March 2015 are estimated as follows:

	£
Balance at 1 st April 2013	183,000
Transfer from Balances 2013/14	<u>-136,000</u>
Estimated Balance at 31 st March 2014	<u>47,000</u>
Transfer to Balances 2014/15	<u>9,000</u>
Estimated Balance at 31 March 2015	<u>56,000</u>

- 3.11 The transfer to balances in 2014/2015 has been recommended to ensure that the resulting balance (£56,000) meets the 10% minimum balance requirements for the Special Expense Committee.
- 3.12 Earmarked reserves have been set aside for the SEA to meet the cost of Green Space projects within Hinckley. This reserve at 31 March 2015 is projected to be £322,438 based on the following movements

	£
Balance at 1 st April 2013	150,883
Transfer to reserves 2013/14	165,511
Transfer from reserves (revenue)	-8,000
Transfer from reserves (capital)	<u>0</u>
Estimated balance at 31 st March 2014	308,394
Transfer to reserves 2014/15	64,044
Transfer from reserves (revenue)	<u>0</u>
Transfer from reserves (capital)	<u>-50,000</u>
Estimated Balance at 31 March 2015	<u>322,438</u>

3.13 The following points should be noted with regards to reserve movements:

- The £165,511 transfer to reserves in 2013/2014 reflects the transfer of excess balances and balancing figures as referenced in sections 3.4-3.5
- Currently, the budget reflects that £50,000 of funding will be provided from reserves in 2014/2015 to fund Green Spaces work. This will be amended to reflect the revised Green Space Delivery Plan which is included on this agenda

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [KP]

Contained in the body of the report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AB]

No direct implications

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The recommended budgets will allow the relevant Corporate Plan objectives to be met.

7. CONSULTATION

The Council consulted on all budget priorities in the Budget Setting Survey conducted in August/September 2013.

All budget holders, Corporate Operations Board and the Strategic Leadership Board have been consulted throughout the budget setting process.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None		

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed budget will have an impact on those groups within the Special Expenses Area

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning Implications
 - Voluntary Sector
-

Background papers: Budget book and Civica files

Contact Officer: Katherine Plummer, Head of Finance ext 5609

Executive Member: Cllr Stuart Bray

Appendix 1 – Special Expense Area Budget

	2013/14 ORIGINAL ESTIMATE £	2013/14 REVISED ESTIMATE £	2014/15 ORIGINAL ESTIMATE £
SPECIAL EXPENSES (HINCKLEY)			
Urban parks (bez)	402,300	404,593	437,448
Cemeteries (cba)	181,130	181,130	148,492
Hinckley Car Parks	25,000	25,000	25,000
Wykin Community Centre	0	8,000	0
Hinckley Town Centre Christmas Lights	2,000	2,000	2,000
Hinckley West Neighbourhood Watch	4,000	4,000	4,000
	614,430	624,723	616,940
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	31,804	157,511	64,044
Contribution to/(from) Balances	0	-136,000	9,000
Net Expenditure	646,234	646,234	689,984
New Homes Bonus	-92,223	-92,223	-127,343
Budget Requirement	554,011	554,011	562,641
Band D Equivalent Properties	9,449.7	9,449.7	9,596.9
Band D Council Tax	58.63	58.63	58.63

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HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE– 22 JANUARY 2014

GREEN SPACE DELIVERY PLAN 2014 -2018 REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
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WARDS AFFECTED: PRIMARILY HINCKLEY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek members endorsement of the Green Space Delivery Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Hinckley Area Committee endorses the Green Space Delivery Plan.
- 2.2 Members agree to the financial implications for the Hinckley Area budgets (these require Council approval).

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

The Green Space Delivery Plan (Appendix 1) builds from the improvements delivered by the first Green Space Strategy and determines the priorities for improvements to HBBC owned green spaces for the next 4 years. It takes the Councils Strategic aims, improvements identified in the Green Infrastructure Study and the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, and various other strategies to continue to implement the vision that:-

“Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work in partnership with the local community and other service providers to create a network of high quality and accessible green space that meets the needs of local people. We will provide clean, safe and well maintained parks and green spaces, which offer varied leisure opportunities for all ages, helping to make a Borough to be proud of, supporting regeneration, biodiversity and healthy living”.

Themes and priorities within the plan are:-

- 1. Green space quality – continue to improve the quality of green space provision with an emphasis on improving amenity green space and low quality sites, and reducing the quantitative and accessibility gaps identified within the Open Space Sport and Recreation Study.
- 2. Health and activity – encourage healthy and active lifestyles
- 3. Green infrastructure – support the green infrastructure interventions proposed in the Hinckley and Bosworth Green Infrastructure Study in order to help ensure that there is a network of adaptable and multifunctional green spaces across the Borough.
- 4. Biodiversity and environmental impact – change the management and maintenance of sites to increase biodiversity

Four cross cutting delivery principles will underlie the delivery of the themes and priorities:-

- 1. Community involvement and partnership working – engage and empower local communities to become actively involved in the management of local green spaces supporting the government’s localism act.
- 2. Life long learning – provide a varied programme of events and activities and volunteer opportunities which raise awareness of green space and environmental issues through promotion, education and lifelong learning.
- 3. Equalities – ensure that green spaces provide a variety of leisure, recreation and play opportunities which are accessible to everyone in our communities.

4. Funding – Given the current economic climate, seek to identify new mechanisms for funding open space improvements.

Key capital improvements identified are listed in the action plan in section 5. This is a working document and the timings of these projects may change depending upon the resources available. The Service Improvement Plan will be updated annually to reflect the funding availability, and to deliver the non capital priorities within the plan.

The delivery plan is now out for public consultation prior to reporting to Council for adoption.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

4.1 Details of costs and funding for schemes are contained in section 6 of the Delivery Plan. Scheme budgets, impact on borrowing, the increase in the borrowing requirement and the revenue costs will require Council approval. The estimated costs of new schemes are summarised in the table 1 below:-

Table 1: Capital Schemes

<u>Year</u>	<u>HBBC Capital</u>	<u>S106</u>	<u>External Funding</u>	<u>Special Expenses</u>	<u>Unidentified Funding</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
yr 13/14	76,576	75,815	61,179	0	0	213,570
yr 14/15	44,994	94,742	0	99,264	0	239,000
yr 15/16	0	126,559	0	0	199,441	326,000
yr 16/17	0	46,550	0	0	219,450	266,000
yr 17/18	12,980	42,020	0	0	10,000	65,000
Total	134,550	385,686	61,179	99,264	428,891	1,109,570
Already Approved/ received	76,014	75,815	61,179		0	213,570
Balance	58,536	309,817	0	99,264	428,891	896,000

Revenue Schemes

<u>Year</u>	<u>HBBC Revenue Scheme</u>	<u>S106</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
yr 13/14	272	2,228	2,500
yr 14/15	2,142	858	3,000
yr 15/16	2,000	0	2,000
yr 16/17	8,000	0	8,000
yr 17/18	2,000	0	2,000
Total	14,414	3,086	17,500

Where section 106 monies has not been received or where funding has not been identified the schemes will only commence when s106 funding has been received or where grant funding has been confirmed by the awarding body.

4.2 Borrowing Costs

If approved the gross cost of £1,109,570 will to be added to the capital programme. The table 2 below summaries the financing costs that will arise from borrowing £58,536. Schemes are based on the assumption that the schemes have an average asset life of 10 years. Additionally the Council's prudential borrowing limit will also need to be increased by £58,536. The gross revenue cost of financing will be £8,108.

Table 2

HBBC Financing Requirement	Borrowing Amount	Annual Additional costs	
		MRP	Interest
yr 13/14	562	0	22
yr 14/15	44,994	56	1,732
yr 15/16	0	4,499	0
yr 16/17	0	0	0
yr 17/18	12,980	0	500
Yr 18/19	0	1,298	0
	58,536	5,854	2,254

4.3 Revenue Schemes

The estimated net cost of revenue schemes per table 1 above is £14,414. If the schemes are to agree approval will be required for a supplementary cost budget of £17,500 and income budget of £3,086.

4.5 Comparison Against Current Draft Programme

The capital programme is currently being reviewed and the latest version was reported to the Executive on the 20th November 2013. The current and draft proposals are detailed in the table below. The current draft programme reported to Executive assumes the following:-

- i, an annual contribution from the Special Expenses reserve of £50,000 compared to the current proposal of a one off contribution 2014/15;
- ii, no additional HBBC funding compared against the proposal of £57,974 over the life of the plan;
- iii, unfunded balances will be met from grants and contributions compared against the current proposal that identifies an unfunded balance of £488,891.;
- iiii, Section 106 contributions being lower by £139,422 over the life of the plan.

	Total	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-18
Total Additional Cost	475,149	91,258	149,441	169,450	65,000
Section 106 contributions	139,422	25,595	30,807	41,000	42,020
Unidentified income	328,489	-28,595	168,634	178,450	10,000
Special Expenses Area reserves	-50,736	49,264	-50,000	-50,000	0
Impact on HBBC Budgets	57,974	44,994	0	0	12,980

4.6 Unidentified Funding

If the unidentified funding was financed by HBBC the estimated additional impact by 2018/19 will be £59,401. Table 3 shows the annual impact on the General Fund revenue budget.

Table 3

Unidentified funding	Costs	Annual Additional	
		MRP	Interest
Year 13/14	0	0	0
Year 14/15	0	0	0
Year 15/16	199,441	0	7,678
Year 16/17	219,450	19,944	8,449
Year 17/18	10,000	21,945	385
Year 18/19		1,000	0
	428,891	42,889	16,512

4.7 Annual Revenue Maintenance Costs

The estimated additional maintenance cost is estimated to be £4,208. This relates to the new play areas in the North of Hinckley and Westfields which are due to be installed in 2015/16. All other costs will be met either from existing budgets or additional S106 income.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

None raised directly by this report

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This plan meets the Council's strategic aim of creating a vibrant place to work and live, and specifically seeks to protect and improve our parks and open spaces. Improving parks and open spaces was identified as resident's second highest priority in the autumn 2013 citizens panel survey.

7. CONSULTATION

Consultation used to develop the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (upon which this plan is developed) included a postal household questionnaire distributed to 5000 households (474 returned), workshops for key stake holders, sports clubs and parish councils, an internet survey for children and young people, a drop in session on Hinckley market, and one to one consultations with relevant Council officers.

This report seeks endorsement of the delivery plan from the Hinckley Area Committee. The plan will be amended in light of any comments received before seeking adoption from Council.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Funding shortfall	Maximise utilisation of S106 funds fro projects Annual review of projects and priorities Maximise use of external grants Develop partnerships to increase funding opportunities.	Ian Pinfold
Land availability / in partnership	Seek partnerships with land owners to facilitate improvements where	Ian Pinfold

	necessary.	
Improvements not made to green spaces in parished areas of the Borough / land not in HBBC ownership	Hold workshop to promote delivery plan approach Promote use of Parish and Community Initiative fund for green space improvements	Paul Scragg
Failure to change maintenance practices	Staff training on biodiversity management where necessary. Purchase new equipment where necessary.	Tony Cunnington

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Prior to each improvement project the local community will be engaged with and consulted with. Appendix 7 details how this will be approached dependent on the nature of the site and the value of the project.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Green Space Delivery Plan 2014-2018

Contact Officer: Caroline Roffey, x5782

Executive Member: Councillor David Bill

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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

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GREEN SPACE DELIVERY PLAN

2014 - 2018



January 2014 (Consultation)

Green Space Delivery Plan 2014– 2018

Contents

Forward by Councillor Crooks

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2. Strategic context
3. Vision
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5. Action Plan
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7. Risk register

Appendices

1. Headline outcomes from Green Space strategy 2005-2012
2. National, regional and local publications reviewed
3. Core Strategy policies
4. Open Space, Sport and recreational facilities- summary of findings
5. Green Infrastructure Study – summary of findings
6. Green Space Strategy 2005-10 Long term aims
7. Community involvement and engagement strategy
8. Green Space events strategy
9. Open Space Study quality audits for Hinckley sites
10. Management of new Public Open Space
11. Themes and Priorities for the plan

Forward by Councillor David Bill

In the Autumn 2013 residents survey, improving the area's green spaces was rated as almost the top priority of Hinckley & Bosworth residents, an aim shared by all of us who treasure these vital features of the landscape.

The Borough Council has made considerable improvements to its own parks and open spaces and has assisted many Parish Councils to do the same through the Parish and Community Initiative fund.

This delivery plan builds on these successes and maps out the improvements and changes for the next 5 years. It keeps this activity to the forefront of the Council's aims and ambitions, recognising the priority given to this work by local residents.

Can I thank everyone who contributes to maintaining and protecting these most valued attractions.

Councillor David Bill MBE

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council are the main provider of green space sites in Hinckley and also provide countryside sites and green space within Council owned housing developments across the Borough. This delivery plan will focus on green space priorities for Council owned land for the next 5 years as well as providing support to Parish Councils to develop their own green spaces. This delivery plan should be read in conjunction with the Borough Council's Adopted Core Strategy (2009).

The data collated in 2011 as part of the Open Space, Sport and Recreational facilities study, the findings of the Green Infrastructure Study 2008, and a review of national, regional and local policy / strategy (including planning policy) will be used to identify and deliver priorities for this Delivery Plan (see section 4).

It is important to note that this delivery plan will deliver the green space priorities proportionate to the development growth within the Borough as derived from the Core Strategy.

1.2 Green Space Strategy Achievements 2005-2011

The first Green Space Strategy represented a firm commitment to improve Council maintained green spaces, providing a strategic approach to management and a comprehensive programme of improvements have been put into place. Headline achievements are given in appendix 1. These included four green flag award, improvements to 6 community parks, Hollycroft Park and Burbage common, 6 new play areas for infants and juniors, 5 new multi use games areas / ball courts, 1 new skate park, an extension at Ashby road cemetery and a new natural burial service, a new woodland, new allotments at 2 sites, merging the green space management and grounds maintenance functions, improved tree management and improvements to the environmental performance of the service.

2. Strategic Context

2.1 Key publications and policies developed at a national regional and local level since 2005 which have been considered during the development of this delivery plan are detailed in appendix 2 (National, regional and local) and appendix 3 (Core strategy policies). The key change has been the intensification of the green infrastructure (GI) agenda. GI is a network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect cities, towns and villages. It represents a holistic approach to viewing the natural environment, acknowledging the benefits and vital functions it provides for the economy, wildlife, people and communities alike.

This delivery plan will provide the mechanism for delivering the improvements identified in two local strategies produced as part of the development of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2006-2026. These are:

- The Green Infrastructure Strategy for Hinckley & Bosworth (2008). Full document available at http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/208/green_infrastructure_strategy
- The Open space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Study (2011). Full document available at http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/657/open_space_sport_and_recreational_facilities_study

2.2 A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Hinckley & Bosworth (2008)

The Green Infrastructure Strategy assesses the network of green spaces, pathways, bridleways and wildlife corridors and how they are linked to the borough's towns and villages and other rural settlements. Interventions which relate to council owned land are at Burbage Common & Woods, Hinckley town centre, the Harrowbrook corridor and the Hinckley / Barwell / Earl Shilton / Burbage green wedge.

2.3 Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Study 2011

This report sets out the key findings for open space, sport and recreation facilities, and is a key part of the evidence base for the Local Plan. Central to this work was an audit of open space provision (consistent with planning policy guidance 17 (PPG17) and the open space typology detailed in section 1.2), which included site assessments of identified open spaces based on set criteria, and a range of consultation to identify local attitudes and aspirations relating to open space issues.

A variety of consultation methods were used including a postal household questionnaire, distributed to 5000 households by random selection (474 postal surveys were returned). Other methods of engagement included workshop sessions for key stakeholders, sports clubs and Parish Councils, whilst an internet survey was designed for children and young people. Finally, “drop in” session at Hinckley market and one-to-one consultations with Council officers also took place.

The table shown in appendix 4 summarises the headline findings of this audit process and highlights important policy recommendations for future delivery.

2.4 The strategic aims of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

It is fundamental that this plan also supports the Council's key strategic document, the Corporate Plan 2013 -2016, which sets out the Council's aims for achieving its vision of making a Hinckley and Bosworth “A Borough to be proud of”. It highlights four strategic aims:

1. Creating a vibrant place to work and live
2. Empowering communities
3. Supporting individuals
4. Providing value for money and proactive services

This Green Space Delivery Plan will contribute towards meeting these aims, having a major impact on “Creating a vibrant place to work and live”. Specifically, the Corporate Plan seeks to “protect and improve our parks and open spaces”.

3. Vision

Given the Council's corporate priorities, the vision of this Delivery Plan must emphasise the need for high quality green space provision that meets the needs and expectations of local residents, thereby creating a sense of pride in local communities. The vision of the Council's first Green Space Strategy continues to embrace the Council's aspirations for green spaces and is therefore adopted for this delivery plan:

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council will work in Partnership with the local community and other service providers to create a network of high quality and accessible green space that meets the needs of local people. We will provide clean, safe and well-maintained parks and green spaces, which offer varied leisure opportunities for all ages, helping to make a Borough to be proud of, supporting regeneration, biodiversity and healthy living.

4. Developing Themes and priorities for this Delivery Plan

A set of four key themes have been developed for this Green Space Delivery Plan. These themes emerge from policy at national level, the Council's corporate plan, the long term aims of the first Green Space Strategy (appendix 6), the Open Space Study (appendix 4) and GI strategy interventions (appendix 5) and clearly identify and justify the choice of priorities identified for the duration of this delivery plan:

NB These themes indicate the priorities for the Councils green space team during the delivery plan period 2013 - 2018. Other policies such as the provision of new and protection of existing green space will be implemented through the planning process.

Full rationale and justification for the priorities is given in Appendix 11.

4.1 Themes and Priorities for the Delivery Plan

4.1.1 Green Space Quality

Continue to improve the quality of green space provision, with an emphasis on improving amenity green space and low quality sites, and reducing the quantitative and accessibility gaps identified within the Open Space Sport and recreation study. Appendix 9 gives the quality audits for areas open space within Hinckley.

Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- Ensure the Clean Neighbourhood strategy is followed on green spaces including promoting responsible dog ownership, reducing dog fouling and littering, removing all abandoned vehicles and fly tipping within 24 hours of being reported, respond to vandalism within 48 hours of reporting.
- Through Endeavour (integrated community protection project) seeking to improve people's feelings of personal safety in green spaces, and address antisocial behavior issues as they arise.
- Seeking developer contributions to develop and enhance existing green spaces in Hinckley (OSSRS quality audit and policies have been used to identify improvements listed in the action plan).
- Ensure new residential developments provide on site open space where they are large enough to enable them to do so.
- Develop and enhance the variety, quantity, quality and accessibility of children and young peoples play. Includes seeking to provide a new play spaces north and south of Hinckley town centre, and equipped play in Hinckley town centre. Preston Way and Clarendon Park play areas will be enhanced.
- Encourage use of the Parish and Community Initiative fund by Parish Councils to improve green spaces.
- Assess access to green spaces by public transport and if necessary seek to increase this.
- Improve the quality of amenity green space in Hinckley through landscaping and ancillary facilities.
- Achieving Green flag standard at Council maintained green spaces at Hollycroft Park and Burbage Common.
- On going commitment to improving the quality of grounds and tree maintenance by Council staff.
- In partnership with funeral directors and memorial masons seek to improve the cemetery service, and ensure the safety of visitors.
- Ensuring new green spaces are adopted quickly and maintained to a high standard. Appendix 10 sets out details for the management of new public open spaces.

4.1.2. Health & Activity

Encourage active and healthy lifestyles. Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- Improve the quality of council owned outdoor sports facilities
- Seek to provide access to a grass pitch in south east Hinckley
- Seek community access to schools sports facilities
- Seek to support and co-ordinate all partners and providers of outdoor sports facilities to ensure a co-ordinated approach to provision

- Seek to improve the quality of allotments, to provide additional allotments, and maximize occupancy and utilization of the allotment land available
- Seek to develop alternatives to traditional allotment provision e.g. allotment associations, garden share, community growing.
- Improve opportunities to use green corridors for activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding
- Increase the opportunities for the community to engage in physical activity on green spaces.

4.1.3 Green Infrastructure

Support the Green Infrastructure Interventions proposed in the Hinckley & Bosworth Green Infrastructure Strategy in order to help ensure that there is a network of adaptable and multi-functional green spaces across the Borough. Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- Further improvements at Burbage Common & Woods including improved access to the site.
- Hinckley Town Centre - Mitigate against the urban 'heat island' effect by increasing the number of trees on green spaces (and in general) near the centre of Hinckley.
- Harrow Brook Corridor - Improve access at the western end of this route to allow access to the Ashby Canal. Increase the number of habitats along the corridor.
- Contribute to increasing the multifunctional nature of existing green space by increasing natural and semi natural green space through management and maintenance changes (see biodiversity priorities below). This will include providing semi natural green space within all formal parks.
- Seek to negotiate and improve access to sites which are currently inaccessible.
- Work with other organizations to help facilitate the strategic interventions proposed as part of the development of the strategic GI network.

4.1.4 Biodiversity and environmental impact

Change management and maintenance of sites to increase biodiversity. Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- Management of council owned natural and semi natural green space to enhance biodiversity and nature conservation
- Management of other green space types to increase biodiversity e.g. closed churchyards and cemeteries, allotments, green corridors and formal parks
- Changes to grounds maintenance to reduce the environmental impact of our operations (ongoing reductions in use of herbicides, acquisition of machinery for meadow management etc)
- Partnerships with local communities and the voluntary sector to increase biodiversity management.

4.2 Delivery principles.

Four cross cutting principles will underlie delivery of all the themes and priorities.

1. Community involvement and Partnership working - Engage with and empower local communities to become actively involved in the management of local green spaces, supporting the Government's localism act. This will include:-

- Consulting with local communities when making key decisions about green spaces, following the guidance within the community engagement and involvement strategy in appendix 7.
- Working with local communities and other providers to manage, develop and promote green spaces.
- Support existing and encourage new friends groups, volunteer groups and other mechanisms which transfer delivery to local communities.
- Promote and increase awareness of all green spaces in the Borough.
- Support parish councils to enable them to develop their own green space delivery plans

2. Life long learning - Provide a varied programme of events and activities and volunteer opportunities which raise awareness of green spaces and environmental issues through promotion, education and lifelong learning. Guidance in appendix 8 will be followed.

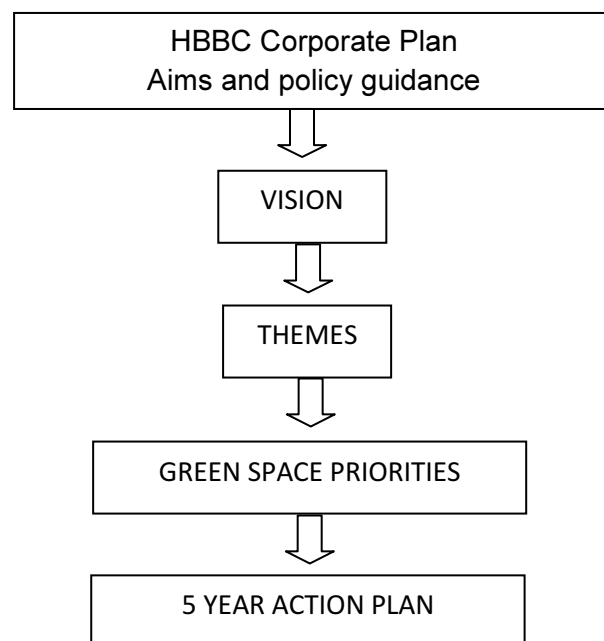
3. Equalities - Ensure that green spaces provide a variety of leisure, recreation and play opportunities which are accessible to everyone in our communities.

4. Funding - Given the current economic climate, seek to identify new mechanisms for funding open space improvements by:-

- Maximising external funding for green spaces
- Identifying income sources which do not deter use of green spaces
- Where capacity exists within the service, seek to generate income to support the service delivery, and reduce the cost of the service.
- Maximising use of the s106, new homes bonus and other developer contributions available for green space improvements.
- Prioritise adopting new open spaces to increase revenue to increase grounds maintenance quality
- Maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the service at every opportunity.

4.3 Summary

Using these priorities, the over-arching vision and themes, a five year action plan has been developed, and this decision-making framework is summarised below:



5. Action Plan

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS– 2014 – 2018

Year 1 (January 2014 – March 2015)

Site	Key issues	Recommended Action	Green Space Development Plan Theme number/s	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risk
1. Preston Road	<p>Site scored low (30%) in PPG 17 study. (recommendation in ref AGS1, AGS2,AGS4, AGS5, CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, CYP6)</p> <p>Lack of provision for children.</p> <p>No basic site infrastructure or site furniture.</p>	Provide a new toddler/junior play area. Improve landscaping of the site, through improved access, fencing and site furniture.	<p>1 Quality</p> <p>2 Health</p>	£65k (£20k equipped play £45k landscaping)	<p>Section 106 ref: 05/01167/OUT. £8,580 equipped (received)</p> <p>Ref: 11/00571/FUL. £6,006 equipped and £47,151 (unequipped)</p> <p>£5k HBBC special expenses funding</p>	<p>106 money not yet received.</p> <p>May not be released within year 1 of action plan.</p> <p>106 funding weighted towards unequipped provision.</p>
2. Netherley Court and Jelicoe Way	<p>Site scored low (55%) in PPG 17 study. (recommendation in ref AGS1, AGS2,AGS4, AGS5)</p>	Consult with local residents with regards to plans for improvements. Potential landscaping, site furniture, access improvements, bulb planting.	<p>1Quality</p> <p>4 Biodiversity</p>	£10k	<p>Section 106 ref: 05/01160/FUL. £9,438 unequipped (received).</p> <p>£500 HBBC funding</p>	Lack of support for plans from local residents.

<p>3. Gowrie Close, Clifton Way, Roston Drive and Erskin Close.</p>	<p>Sites are grouped together in one project area. Sites scored low in PPG 17 study. (recommendation ref AGS1, AGS2, AGS4, AGS5)</p>	<p>Site landscaping and access improvements. Install new site furniture.</p>	<p>1Quality 4 Biodiversity</p>	<p>£15k</p>	<p>No section 106 funding currently allocated. £15k from special expenses funding.</p>	<p>Lack of support from public.</p>
<p>4. Amenity Green Space (NE Hinckley, Stoneygate Estate). Barwell Lane, Woburn Close, Warwick Gardens, Ribblesdale Avenue, Field Close, Wendover Drive, Saville Close, Newquay Close.</p>	<p>A number of small areas of green space within the NE Hinckley. Scored low in PPG17 study, (recommendation ref AGS1, AGS2, AGS4, AGS5) lack of basic infrastructure, landscaping and site furniture.</p>	<p>Create areas of bulb planting, new pathways, tree planting and site furniture.</p>	<p>1Quality 4 Biodiversity</p>	<p>£25k between all sites</p>	<p>Section 106 ref: 08/00084/FUL £568 unequipped. (received) £24.5k from special expenses funding.</p>	
<p>5. The Rock Gardens</p>	<p>Landscape and access improvements. (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG4,PG5)</p>	<p>New tarmac surfaced pathways. Landscaping works</p>	<p>1Quality 4 Biodiversity</p>	<p>£26k for tarmac pathways. Additional £14k for resin bonded pathways.</p>	<p>Section 106 ref: 10/00498/FUL £1,635 unequipped. (received) £24.5k special expenses funding. Additional 14k for resin bonding.</p>	<p>Site already scored reasonably highly in PPG17 study (80%).</p>

<p>6. Queens Park (phase 2)</p>	<p>Further improvements following on from main community park improvements. (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG6, PG7, PG8, CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, CYP4, CYP5, CYP6, CYP9)</p>	<p>Small scale increase to play equipment including new roundabout, improve the biodiversity of the site through creation of wildflower meadows and bulb planting. Provide new cycle route along the main pathway with new heritage lighting columns. Install outdoor gym equipment.</p>	<p>1 Quality 2 Health 3 Green Infrastructure 4 Biodiversity</p>	<p>£64k (2k wildflower & bulb planting, £17.5k for equipped play and £24k for cycle route, and £20,800 heritage lighting)</p>	<p>Section 106 ref: 10/00632/FUL £572.40 unequipped, 11/00952/FUL £572.40 unequipped, 10/00931/FUL £817.80 unequipped, 08/00907/FUL £817.80 unequipped. 11/00182/FUL £817.80 equipped 10/00681/FUL £2,453.40 equipped. Received.</p> <p>Section 106 ref: 12/00768/FUL £817.80, 11/00516/FUL £544, 11/00224/FUL, £3,271, 10/00910/FUL £1,635, 11/00104/FUL £817, 11/00581/EXT £7,254 (equipped)</p> <p>Ref: 11/00681/FUL £1,635, 11/00680/FUL £1,635 11/00749/EXT £1,250, 11/00263/FUL £817.80, 11/00516/FUL £69.30, 11/00232/OUT £817.80, 11/00581/EXT £924 (unequipped) Not yet received.</p> <p>£37k HBBC capital, special expenses funding.</p>	<p>Install equipment sympathetically to compliment existing equipment. Timescales associated with creation of wildflower meadows and negative press involved. Some 106 money not yet received.</p>
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7. Richmond Park	<p>Poor quality football pitches due to lack of sufficient drainage. Improve path surfaces. Further possibilities for equipped play and tree planting. (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG6, PG7, PG8. CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, CYP4, CYP5, CYP6, CYP9, OSF1, OSF2, OSF3, STP2, PITCHES 2)</p>	<p>Carry out earthworks to level the site and create further football pitch. Install a new drainage system to improve pitch quality. Improve surface of footpath around perimeter of site. Install further equipped play.</p>	<p>1 Quality 2 Health 4 Biodiversity</p>	<p>£300k drainage and footpath improvement £5k additional equipped play and tree planting</p>	<p>Grant funding from FA football foundation £150k (agreed) Section 106 ref: 08/00349/FUL £45,395 HBBC capital (already agreed) Further Section 106 not yet received. 11/00571/FUL £20,982 formal 10/00733/FUL £1,635 Equipped 12/01110/FUL £817.80 11/00547/FUL £817.80 Unequipped</p>	<p>Weather conditions. Required space for additional equipped play and additional tree planting.</p>
8. Burbage Common	<p>Poor quality access provision at main entrance points (recommendation in PPG17, ref NSN1, NSN2, NSN3, NSN4, NSN6, NSN7)</p>	<p>Carry out access improvements at Main Car park and extension car park, to improve visitor experience.</p>	<p>1 Quality 3 Green Infrastructure 4 Biodiversity</p>	<p>£35k</p>	<p>HBBC Capital (already agreed)</p>	<p>Cost implications.</p>

9. Wykin Park	Improve the biodiversity of the site. Increase allotment provision (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG7, PG8, CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, CYP4, CYP5, CYP6, CYP9)	Create areas of wildflower meadow at the site. Extend the current allotments.	1 Quality 2 Health 4 Biodiversity	£3k	Section 106 ref: 05/00648/FUL. £858 HBBC revenue/capital funding £2.5k	Support from public. Timescales needed to create wildflower areas.
10. Play area north of town Centre	Lack of play provision in this area of Hinckley (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS2, AGS4, AGS5)	Year 1 investigate potential of locating a new play area at Holliers Walk School.	1 Quality 2 Health	£60k	Funding for new play area may be required in year 2 if negotiations are successful.	Investigation/negotiations may not prove successful.
11. Battling Brook Corridor (including Odstone Close, Lochmore Close and Brodick Close)	Increase site quality through landscaping and access improvements (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS2, AGS4, AGS5)	Improve biodiversity of the site through bulb planting and tree planting, install site furniture, investigate link between Odstone Close and the canal (steps to perimeter road)	1 Quality 3 Green infrastructure 4 Biodiversity	£15k	15k Special expenses funding	Not all land under HBBC ownership. Investigations/negotiations may not prove successful.

12. Equipped play area in Westfields area of Hinckley.	Lack of play provision in this area of Hinckley. (recommendation in PPG17 ref CYP8)	Year 1 investigate co-use of school grounds for new play area.	1 Quality 2 Health	£60k	Funding for new play area may be required in year 2 if negotiations are successful.	Investigations/negotiations may not prove successful.
13. Granville Road	Improve biodiversity of site (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG8, CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, CYP4, CYP5, CYP6, CYP9)	Introduce areas of bulb planting.	1 Quality 4 Biodiversity	£2.5k	Section 106 ref: 10/00847/FUL £2,228 unequipped. Ref: 10/00847 £7,785 formal, £10,831 equipped Ref: 09/00870/FUL £1,635 equipped	106 money allocated for formal and equipped provision. Lack of space on this site for this type of provision.
14. Countryside Sites. Manor Farm, Billa Barra Hill, Hill Hole Quarry)	Site interpretation. Lack of good quality signage on sites. Identified in SIP. (recommendation in PPG17 ref NSN1, NSN2, NSN3, NSN4, NSN6)	Improve site signage at Billa Barra Hill and manor Farm, reinstate and refurbish signage at Hill Hole Quarry.	1 Quality	£10k	Possible section 106 allocated to National Forest site improvements. Possible funding through Stepping Stones grant fund. HBBC capital and revenue.	Lack of funding. Staff resources.

Site	Key issues	Recommended Actions	Green Space Development Plan Theme number/s	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risk
1. Argents Mead	New leisure centre development will lead to a need and opportunity to redevelop the site. (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG6, PG7, PG8, CYP8,CYP9)	Landscaping improvements to existing sites including improvements around area of the Moat. New town centre play area in keeping with new leisure centre development.	1 Quality 2 Health 3 Green Infrastructure 4 Biodiversity	£200k (section 106 £116k equipped, £8k formal, 2.5k unequipped) £73k HBBC capital	Section 106 ref: 10/00505/OUT £95,752 equipped. Plus further £20,300 for equipped provision from other developments. Refs: 05/0121/FUL, 04/01165/FUL, 04/01317/COU, 04/01168/FUL, 03/00685/OUT, 03/00354/COU, 08/00884/FUL, 09/00884/FUL. £2,643 for unequipped provision refs: 12/00563/COU, 11/00480/FUL, 08/00884/FUL, 09/00884/FUL and £7,864 for formal provision refs: 09/00884/FUL, 08/00884/FUL. £73k Further funding from Special Expenses, capital, further 106)	Lack of public support. Lack of funding.
2. Play area north of town Centre	Lack of play provision in this area of Hinckley (recommendation in PPG17 ref CYP8)	Implement installation of new play area if agreement can be reached.	1 Quality 2 Health	£60k	Section 106. No current agreement within this area. HBBC capital funding, special expenses funding.	No agreement can be reached with landowner, lack of available funding.

3. Equipped play area in Westfields area of Hinckley.	Lack of play provision in this area of Hinckley. (recommendation in PPG17 ref CYP8)	Implement installation of new play area if land can be identified and access agreed.	1 Quality 2 Health	£60k	Section 106. No current agreement within this area. HBBC capital funding, special expenses funding	No agreement can be reached with landowner. Lack of available funding.
4. Barlestone Drive	Improve quality score through small scale improvements (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS5)	Carry out bulb planting, tree planting and landscaping. Install new site furniture.	1 Quality 4 Biodiversity	£6k	HBBC capital, special expenses funding	Lack of support from local residents
5. Wykin Linear Park	Improve quality score through small scale improvements (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4, AGS5)	Carry out bulb planting, install new site furniture.	1 Quality 3 Green Infrastructure 4 Biodiversity	£2k	HBBC capital, special expenses funding	Lack of support from local residents
6. S.W. Hinckley/lower Coventry Road	Lack of grass pitch provision. (recommendation in PPG17 ref STP1)	Investigate available land for installation of football pitch.	1 Quality 2 Health	Officer time for initial investigation. Budget will then depend on quality of land available.	HBBC capital/revenue, 106, special expenses.	Lack of land available. No willingness from people to sell or negotiate with regards to land.

7. N.E. Hinckley	Lack of grass pitch provision. (recommendation in PPG17 ref STP1)	Investigate co-use of school fields for grass pitch, other possible areas of land for siting a grass pitch.	1 Quality 2 Health	Officer time for initial investigation. Budget will then depend on quality of land available.	HBBC capital/revenue, 106, special expenses.	Lack of willingness from schools, no suitable land available.
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Year 3 (April 2016 – March 2017)

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Green Space Development Plan Theme number/s	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risk
1. Clarendon Park	Current play area is becoming dated, lack of overall infrastructure to the site. Improvements needed to increase quality score of the site. (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG6, PG7, PG8, CYP1,CYP2 CYP3, CYP4, CYP5, CYP6, CYP9)	Develop the site as a community park, new equipped play area, pathways and landscaping.	1 Quality 2 Health 3 Green Infrastructure 4 Biodiversity	£150k	Section 106 ref: 12/00646/FUL £725.40, 05/01191/FUL £858, also potential large amount from residential development on adjacent site on Coventry rd. (No details at this time). HHBC capital and special expenses funding	Lack of funds.

2. Ashby Road Cemetery	Improve quality of the site through site improvements and development. (recommendation in PPG17 ref CC2, CC3)	Develop areas of wildflower meadow and bulb planting in natural burial area, new pathways, new kerb section in cemetery extension, tree planting and access improvements.	1 Quality 4 Biodiversity	£25k	Section 106 ref: 04/01369/OUT £798, 10/00834/EXT £1,871. £22.5k HBBC funding, Special expenses funding, further 106 funding.	Lack of funding.
3. Weston Close/ even Close	Improve quality Score through site improvements (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS5)	Tree planting and installation of bins and seating	1 Quality 4 Biodiversity	£4k	No 106 at this time. HBBC revenue/capital, Special expenses funding.	Lack of public support.
4. Waterside Park Green Spaces. (Beams Meadow, Long Meadow Drive and Paddock Way.	Scored low in PPG 17 study, Improve quality of sites (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4, AGS5)	Improve landscaping, improve biodiversity of the area, investigate access to the pond area.	1Quality 3 Green Infrastructure 4 Biodiversity	£41k	Section 106 ref: 05/00132/FUL £798. £41k due on adoption to allow for necessary landscaping to rectify poor maintenance by the developer.	Sites not yet adopted.
5. Waterside Park Play area.	Increase play facilities for all ages.	Install new play equipment to enhance current	1Quality 2 Health	£40k	Section 106 ref: 05/00185/FUL £798, 05/00098/FUL £500	Site not yet adopted, public support.

	(recommendation in PPG17 CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, CYP4, CYP5, CYP6)	provision and provide for all ages.			HBBC capital, special expenses funding.	
6. Canal Way	Improve quality of site through small scale improvements (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4, AGS5)	Create wildflower and bulb areas, further biodiversity improvements alongside the canal, install seating and bins.	1 Quality 4 Biodiversity	£4k	No section 106 at this time. HBBC capital/revenue.	Site not yet adopted.
7. Hinckley Town Centre Tree Planting	Improve the biodiversity and mitigate against the urban 'heat island'	Investigate and implement options for tree planting within Hinckley Town Centre. Possible free tree scheme, Street tree initiatives, green space tree planting.	1 Quality 2 health 4 biodiversity	£5 -£10k	HBBC capital/revenue, special expenses.	Needs the cooperation of other individuals and organisations.

Year 4 (April 2017 – March 2018)

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Green Space Development Plan Theme number/s	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risk
1. Hollycroft Park	Improve biodiversity of the site. Improve range of facilities to increase visitor numbers. Maintain Green Flag status (recommendation in PPG17 ref PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG8)	Create new wildflower and bulb planting areas, New outdoor gym equipment, mini golf area.	1 Quality 2 Health 4 biodiversity	£25k	Section 106 ref: 07/00452/FUL £1,136, 08/00432/FUL £568 Unequipped, received. 10/00925/FUL £4,089, 10/00588/EXT £13,758 equipped not yet received. £5.5k from HBBC capital/revenue	Lack of support from public and Friends Group.
2. Langdale Park	Improve soft landscaping of the site. Improve the quality and range of facilities for users. (recommendations in PPG17 ref PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4, PG5, PG6, PG7, PG8, CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, CYP4, CYP5, CYP6, CYP9, OSF1, OSF2, OSF3, STP2, PITCHES 2)	Increase shrub, tree and bulb planting. Improve MUGA and cricket square, install outdoor gym equipment in suitable location.	1 Quality 2 Health 4 biodiversity	£25k	Section 106 ref: 09/01007/FUL £21,037 formal and £1,432 equipped received. £3k HBBC revenue/capital	Lack of support from public.

3. Brodick Road FRB and allotments	Improve access to the area (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4, AGS5)	Landscaping improvements in area of flood retention basin. New bridge crossing to improve access.	1 Quality 2 health 3 Green Infrastructure	£10k	No section 106 at this time. HBBC capital/revenue, special expenses funding.	Land not in HBBC ownership
4. Trinity Vicarage Road	Low score in PPG 17 study, Improve landscaping to increase quality score. (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4, AGS5)	New tree planting and bulb planting.	1 Quality 4 Biodiversity	£2k	HBBC revenue Section 106 ref: 11/00335/FUL £3,271 equipped	Lack of support from residents. 106 money allocated for equipped play. No equipped play required at this site, equipment was removed due to anti-social behaviour.
5. Harrowbrook Corridor	Poor quality landscaping, lack of site furniture, signage. (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4, AGS5)	Improve landscaping, access improvements, bulb planting/biodiversity and signage.	1 Quality 2 Health 3 Green Infrastructure 4 Biodiversity	£5k	HBBC revenue/capital	Lack of support/funding.
6. Harwood Drive	Scored low on PPG17 study. Currently used for grazing land. (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4, AGS5)	Investigate/consult on future options for the site. Continue to graze, create new allotment or wildlife area, dispose of site.	1 Quality, 2 health 4 biodiversity.	Initial discussions for future use of site will determine required budget.	HBBC capital/revenue	Lack of support for proposed changes from local residents.

7. Little pit and paddock areas.	Lack of access, possible strategic links to improve the green network. (recommendation in PPG17 ref AGS1, AGS4)	Investigate and negotiate access to these sites. Improve access to these sites for the public	1. Quality, 2. Health 3. Green infrastructure 4. Biodiversity.	£10k per site dependent on agreed actions.	HBBC capital/revenue, 106, special expenses.	No willingness from land owners to agree to access.
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This 5 Year action plan is a working document, and the timings of these projects may change depending on the resources available. In particular the availability of funding and the need to move projects within this 5 year plan on receipt of section 106 funds from developers. The Service Improvement Plan (SIP) for the Green Spaces Section will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to reflect the planned capital works for the next 12 months.

This action plan is looking at capital projects planned for the Green Spaces section over the next 5 years. The other priority areas of work as detailed in section 4 of the Green Space Development Plan, which are not covered by projects within this plan will be detailed within the SIP.

6. Financial requirements

Year 13/14
Projects
Richmond Park *
Burbage Common *
Netherley Court
Granville Road
Totals

Capital Schemes					
HBBC Capital	S106	External Funding	Special Expenses	Unidentified Funding	Total Cost
9,804	66,377	61,179			137,360
66,210					66,210
562	9,438				10,000
					0
76,576	75,815	61,179	0	0	213,570

Revenue Schemes		
HBBC Revenue Scheme	S106	Total Cost
272	2,228	2,500
272	2,228	2,500

Year 14/15
Projects
Preston Road
Gowrie Close
Stoneygate estate
Rock Gardens
Queens Park
Richmond Park Phase 2
Wykin Park
Battling Brook
Countryside Sites
Totals

HBBC Capital	S106	External Funding	Special Expenses	Unidentified Funding	Total Cost
3,263	61,737				65,000
			15,000		15,000
	568		24,432		25,000
15,000	1,635		23,365		40,000
15,000	27,533		21,467		64,000
1,731	3,269				5,000
					0
			15,000		15,000
10,000					10,000
44,994	94,742	0	99,264	0	239,000

HBBC Revenue Scheme	S106	Total Cost
2,142	858	3,000
2,142	858	3,000

Year 15/16
Projects
Argents Mead
Play Area N Hinckley
Play Area Westfields
Barlestone Drive
Wykin Linear Park
Totals

HBBC Capital	S106	External Funding	Special Expenses	Unidentified Funding	Total Cost
	126,559			73,441	200,000
				60,000	60,000
				60,000	60,000
				6,000	6,000
					0
0	126,559	0	0	199,441	326,000

HBBC Revenue Scheme	S106	Total Cost
2,000		2,000
2,000	0	2,000

Year 16/17		Capital Schemes					Revenue Schemes		
		HBBC Capital	S106	External Funding	Special Expenses	Unidentified Funding	Total Cost	HBBC Revenue Scheme	S106
Projects									
Clarendon Park		1,583			148,417	150,000			0
Ashby Road Cemetery		2,669			22,331	25,000			0
Weston Close						0	4,000		4,000
Waterside Open Spaces		41,000				41,000			0
Waterside Play area		1,298			38,702	40,000			0
Canal Way						0	4,000		4,000
Town Centre tree planting					10,000	10,000			0
Totals		0	46,550	0	0	219,450	8,000	0	8,000

Year 17/18		Capital Schemes					Revenue Schemes		
		HBBC Capital	S106	External Funding	Special Expenses	Unidentified Funding	Total Cost	HBBC Revenue Scheme	S106
Projects									
Hollycroft Park		5,449	19,551			25,000			
Langdale Park		2,531	22,469			25,000			
Brodick Road					10,000	10,000			
Trinity Vicarage						0	2,000		2,000
Harrowbrook Corridor		5,000				5,000			
Totals		12,980	42,020	0	0	10,000	2,000	0	2,000

* Schemes already approved

It is important that these financial requirements are reviewed on a regular basis. It is anticipated that much of the funding currently specified as unidentified in years 15/16, 16/17 and 17/18 will be allocated from future 106 agreements, although this cannot be guaranteed and possible funding from other external grants, HBBC capital, revenue or Special Expenses may need to be secured if these projects are to be successfully completed.

7. Risk Register

Key risks identified to the delivery of this plan are shown in the table below:-

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner	Net Risk
Lack of funding to deliver projects (capital and revenue)	Accurate monitoring and collection of s106 and other sources of funding (forecasting and receipt of)	Accountancy, Ian Pinfold, Planning	Amber
	Inclusion of projects within MTFS, and maintenance of funding for green spaces (dependent on Councils financial position)	Accountancy	Red
Loss of key personnel	Restructure key posts within grounds maintenance service to ensure resilience in service delivery	Ian Pinfold	Green
Reputation	Consultation and engagement strategy to be followed	Ian Pinfold	Green
Political	Engage local councillors in projects in their ward, and ensure they are fully briefed.	Ian Pinfold	Amber
In Partnership – inability to engage partners in delivery of strategy	Joint working at planning stage and resources to reduce barriers to partners contributing to actions.	Ian Pinfold	Red
Legal -			



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

GREEN SPACE DELIVERY PLAN

2013 - 2018

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Green Space Strategy Achievements 2005-2012.

- Restoration works at Hollycroft Park, and partnership work with the Friends of Hollycroft Park to achieve the national Green Flag Award in recognition of its high quality and value to the local community.
- Improvements to the six community parks (Richmond, Clarendon, Langdale, Wykin, Swallows Green, and Queens Parks) to meet the needs and expectations of local residents, including new footpaths, seating areas, bins, land drainage, notice boards etc.
- The Council has installed six new play areas for juniors and infants at Granville Road, Langdale, Queens, Swallows Green, Wykin and Richmond Parks.
- The Council has also created five new ball courts (called multi-use games areas) at Wykin, Langdale, Clarendon, Richmond and Swallows Green Parks, a skate park at Queens Park and BMX tracks at Wykin and Langdale Community Parks.
- A five year programme of repairs and restoration has been carried out at closed churchyards.
- A major extension to Ashby Road cemetery in Hinckley will provide burial land for a further 25 years.
- Improvements to visitor facilities at Burbage Common including access improvements, and improvements to footpaths leading to the site.
- Creating Brodick road community woodland and nature area.
- Merging the green space management and grounds maintenance functions to reduce administration, develop shared working systems and values, improvements in the quality of maintenance, and an audit of the assets maintained.
- Recognising the need for sharing of information and best practice, the Council delivered a series of workshops for the benefit of the Borough's Parish Councils prior to 2008.
- The Council created the Hinckley & Bosworth Play Partnership, developed a play strategy, secured £200,000 funding for play from the Big Lottery. This directly benefited play area schemes in Earl Shilton, Sheepy Magna and Burbage, and also provided play workers who supported play on open spaces across the Borough.
- Introducing a comprehensive system for managing the Councils tree stock, and employing a dedicated Tree Officer (shared with North West Leicestershire District Council) to improve tree management.
- An updated site management plan for Burbage Common has been produced. In addition, the Council have now developed detailed management plans for Hollycroft Park and Ashby Road Cemetery.
- The cemetery booking system has been reviewed and updated with a new electronic administration system implemented.

- An audit of allotment provision, new plots at Wykin and Hillhole Quarry, and introducing measures to reduce waiting lists have resulted in 34 more people having an allotment (29% increase compared to 2008).
- Improvements to the environmental performance of the service such as peat free, and reduction in the use of herbicides and pesticides.

Appendix 2: National, regional and local publications reviewed

A) National Policy

1) Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base (CABE Space, 2010)

This research concluded nine out of ten people use parks and green spaces and value them; the higher the quality of the green space, the more likely people will be to use it; in 2009 95% of people thought it was very or fairly important to have green spaces near to where they live; if people are satisfied with local parks they tend to be satisfied with their council; and people in deprived areas receive a far worse provision of parks and green spaces than more affluent neighbourhoods.

2) Community-led spaces - A guide for local authorities and community groups (CABE Space, 2010)

This guidance document explores the transfer of public space ownership and management from local authorities to community groups; how to maximise the help that communities can offer; how to forge more effective working partnerships between the local authority and residents; and options for different levels of community involvement.

3) Skills to Grow – Seven Priorities for Improving Green Space Skills (CABE Space, 2009)

Identified seven priorities for improving green space skills; Increase Awareness of the Sector and the Opportunities it offers, Improve the Availability of Training and Quality of training, including continuing professional development, Improve Management and Leadership Skills, Increase the Sector's investment in skills, and Build Capacity for Co-ordinated Working.

4) Open Space Strategies: What Local Authority Decision Makers Need to Know (CABE Space, 2009)

Identifies the need to examine all types of open space in public and private ownership and the importance of high quality open space in helping to resolve problems such as obesity, poor health and deprivation and the need for sustainable transport, climate change adaptation, and community cohesion.

5) Making the Invisible Visible – the Real Value of Park Assets (CABE Space 2009)

The asset value of a park does not necessarily reflect the wider values that the park has for local people.

6) Paying for parks - Eight models for funding urban green space (CABE Space 2006)

This guidance suggests that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach will not work and the importance of establishing dedicated funding and management arrangements from the outset which incorporates a portfolio of different funding sources, mechanisms and partnerships.

7) Nature Nearby - Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (Natural England 2010)

This guidance was developed as a key tool for those working on the planning and management of parks and green spaces and their 'natural' development. Natural England expects that publicly accessible natural green space is delivered to meet Quantity and Accessibility standards (ANGSt), Visitor Service Standards, and Quality Standards.

In addition to these specific publications, policy at the national level has also been reviewed by the coalition Government, which has introduced the notion of the 'Big Society' and the new 'Localism Bill'.

B) Regional Documents

1) Leicestershire Stepping Stones Delivery and Action Plan (2008) - includes parishes in the north of the Borough. Identifies strategic aims and proposed strategic interventions across the county which were further developed within the 6C's Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010) and the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Hinckley & Bosworth (2009).

2) The 6 C's Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)

This strategy provides an over-arching strategic framework to 2026 for green infrastructure planning, investment and delivery by stakeholders working across the environmental, economic and social sectors across the 6C's Growth Point, covering Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire authorities. The strategy aims to protect, enhance and extend networks of green spaces and natural elements in and around the three cities, connecting with their surrounding towns and villages and identified actions at 3 spatial levels:

Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Corridors – to maintain the integrity of the green infrastructure network in the long-term, and connect the 6Cs network to wider regional green infrastructure corridors.

City-Scale Green Infrastructure Corridors – to connect the sub-regional corridors, the urban fringe and the urban cores related to specific principal urban areas and sub-regional centres.

Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones - to deliver green infrastructure benefits for both existing and new communities (Sustainable Urban Extensions) related to specific principal urban areas and subregional centres in the local areas where most development is likely to take place.

With these spatial scales in mind, Hinckley and Bosworth is recognised as a sub regional centre, including the key areas of Barwell and Earl Shilton, and the action plan supporting this work is heavily influenced by the Hinckley and Bosworth Green Infrastructure Strategy.

3) Charnwood Forest Regional Park (2012)

Recognizes the unique natural and cultural heritage features of Charnwood Forest, and has its own specific objectives to provide environmental, social and economic benefits to this area.

4) Leicestershire County Council Green Space Consultation report (2011)

Early in 2011 the County Council asked the public to say which local green spaces they particularly valued and why. This was in response to Government proposals to create a new designation, to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.

5) Local Transport Plan (LTP3) (2011)

Sets out how Leicestershire County Council will seek to ensure that transport continues to play its important role in helping Leicestershire to continue to be a prosperous safe and attractive County.

C) Local strategies

1) A Play Strategy for the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth (2007 - 2012)

This strategy identified a set of six play priorities which are linked to the development of a five year action plan.

2) Culture and Sports Strategy (2012 – 2017)

Key themes linked to green spaces are supporting young people and children, showcasing events, reducing health inequalities, encouraging play, sporting opportunities and promoting tourism.

3) Hinckley & Bosworth Climate Change Study (2008) This strategy recognises that climate change is likely to have a range of effects on trees and woodlands, and management regimes may need to be changed consequently, and that there could be opportunities for the planting a wider variety of new tree species. Growing more trees is important in terms of carbon sequestration. Different species sequester carbon at different rates and the National Forest proposes to commission research in order to “assess the carbon sequestration progress and future potential of the Forest and to develop a framework for long term monitoring”. The role of green infrastructure is again highlighted and the function it can have in improving connectivity.

4) Clean Neighbourhoods Strategy (2013). Sets out the Borough Council's priorities for cleanliness (including on parks and open spaces) and service standards.

Appendix 3: Core Strategy policies

The Core Strategy is the key strategic document in the council's Local Plan for the Borough to 2026 which uses information from other strategies to set out objectives and policies focused on improving the environment and the range of facilities in the Borough. It includes a set of 13 spatial objectives. Green space can contribute to the following spatial objectives; 3: Strong and Vibrant Rural Communities, 7: Healthier Active Communities, 8: Stronger Safer Communities, 9: Identity, Distinctiveness and Quality of Design, 10: Natural Environment and Cultural Assets and 12: Climate Change and Resource Efficiency.

In addition to these spatial objectives, the Core Strategy provides a spatial interpretation of the key drivers for change in order to deliver sustainable development. The Spatial Objectives set out the broad strategic direction for development in the Borough, whilst the Spatial Strategy provides an interpretation of the specific issues that need to be addressed to tackle the key challenges being faced in the Borough, and does this through a series of policies. Those relevant to this delivery plan are:-

Policy 1: Development in Hinckley

Policy 5: Transport Infrastructure in the Sub-Regional Centre

New pedestrian and cycle linkages from proposed developments into Barwell and Earl Shilton.

Policy 6: Hinckley / Barwell / Earl Shilton / Burbage Green Wedge

Within the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton/Burbage Green Wedge uses will be encouraged that provide appropriate recreational facilities within easy reach of urban residents and promote the positive management of land to ensure that the Green Wedge remains or is enhanced as an attractive contribution to the quality of life of nearby urban residents.

The following land uses will be acceptable in the Green Wedge, provided the operational development associated with such uses does not damage the function of the Green Wedge:

- (a) Agriculture, including allotments and horticulture not accompanied by retail development
- (b) Recreation
- (c) Forestry
- (d) Footpaths, bridleways and cycleways
- (e) Burial grounds
- (f) Use for nature conservation

Any land use or associated development in the Green Wedge should:

- (a) Retain the function of the Green Wedge
- (b) Retain and create green networks between the countryside and open spaces within the urban areas
- (c) Retain and enhance public access to the Green Wedge, especially for recreation and
- (d) Should retain the visual appearance of the area

Policy 19: Green Space and Play Provision

This outlines a set of minimum standards used in relation to green space and play provision, with the aim that all residents have access to sufficient high quality, accessible spaces.

Quantity

Equipped Children's Play Space - A minimum of 0.15 ha/1000 population (excluding buffer zones).

Casual/Informal Play Space - A minimum of 0.7 ha/1000 population.

Outdoor Sports Provision – A minimum of 1.6 ha/1000 population.

Accessible Natural Green Space - A minimum of 2 ha/1000 population.

In areas with populations under 1000 people, a pro-rata approach will be used.

Accessibility

District Parks and Green Spaces - All households should be within 5 kilometers of an open space of at least 10 hectares which provides general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting.

Neighbourhood Parks and Green Spaces - All households should be within 600 meters of an open space of between 1 and 10 hectares which provide general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting.

Local Parks and Green Space - All households should be within 400 meters of an open space of between 0.2 - 1.0 hectare which provide facilities for recreation within a localized area, catering for the specific informal needs of the local community.

Incidental/Amenity Green Space - All household should be within 300 meters of a small formal or informal area of open space.

The above standards will be used to determine:

- a) Where improvements are needed to existing green spaces and play areas.
- b) Where new provision of green spaces and play areas are required to support existing and new residents and workers in the borough.

Standards need to be assessed according to their geographical context and in rural areas and smaller settlements with lower populations these standards may be difficult to achieve. In such cases access to provision in larger neighbouring settlements should be identified and accessibility improved where practical.

Policy 20: Green Infrastructure

This policy outlines the strategic interventions outlined in the Hinckley and Bosworth Green Infrastructure Strategy (detailed in 3.3.1), recognising that this is a key priority for the Council

Appendix 4: Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities study recommendations 2011

Open Space Type	Audit & Consultation Comments	Council Maintained Site Scores (Hinckley based unless stated)	Policy Recommendations
<p>Parks and Gardens</p>	<p>38 formal parks are identified across the Borough, equating to 87.41 hectares of open space. Site assessments indicate that formal parks recorded the second highest quality assessment scores, with an average quality score of 74%. Hollycroft Park is identified as the highest quality park, achieving a mark of 100%. All Borough Council sites score at least 70%, with the exception of Granville Road which was marked down due to litter and the lack of lighting on site. There is good distribution of formal parks across the Borough. Consultation showed that the quality of formal parks is generally perceived to be good, and importantly, the quality of formal parks has been identified as improving significantly in recent years.</p>	<p>Hollycroft Park - 100% Argents Mead and the Memorial Gardens - 80% Langdale Park - 80% The Rock Gardens - 80% Wykin Park - 80% Swallows Green - 75% Clarendon Park - 75% Queens Park - 70% Richmond Park - 70% Granville Road Recreation Ground - 65%</p>	<p>PG1: Continue to develop and enhance the quality of existing formal parks. Drive a structured programme of improvements with clearly defined outputs to create an overall network of sustainable parks. This may include the production of parks management plans.</p>
			<p>PG2: Work with providers of open space to initiate the creation of friends groups at parks and support existing friends groups established at parks in the Borough.</p>
			<p>PG3: Work with providers of open space to incorporate sustainable management techniques to promote biodiversity and create a healthy ecosystem at parks in the Borough.</p>
			<p>PG4: In light of the importance of formal parks, seek to protect all existing sites from residential development through the LDF. Formal parks should only be lost to development where it can be proven that there is no demand for the facility or that improvements to another site will be of greater value to residents in the immediate catchment of the park to be lost.</p>
			<p>PG5: Ensure that new housing developments contribute towards (or provide on site where they are large enough to be reasonably expected to do so) the provision of new, or enhancement of existing formal parks where possible and appropriate. Where the supply of formal parks in the surrounding area is sufficient, policy should ensure that contributions are required for qualitative improvements.</p>
			<p>PG6: Monitor demand for increased provision of formal parks within urban areas (particularly Burbage) and rural centres. Should demand be sufficient consider increasing the provision of formal parks within these areas. Use the local standard, and minimum size criteria, to determine whether parks are required in rural villages. Villages should contain a minimum of 482 residents before parks are considered.</p>
			<p>PG7: Consider the redesignation of an existing formal park with overlapping catchments for the purpose of natural or semi natural open space, or the provision of natural or semi natural open space within the existing formal parks to alleviate access deficiencies to natural open space and semi natural open space. This would be of particular benefit to Earl Shilton. This links with recommendation PG3/PG4.</p>

			<p>PG8: Seek to increase access to existing formal parks through the development of the green infrastructure network and enhancement of existing infrastructure (example footpaths). Ensure that where possible, formal parks are located on public transport routes.</p>
<p>Natural and Semi Natural (NSN)</p>	<p>The total amount of accessible NSN open space within or in close proximity to settlement boundaries is 674.82 ha. NSN open space is poorly distributed, with much of the provision focused in the north east and south east of the Borough. Whilst access to large sites is good, local access to sites less than 10ha in size is limited, particularly in Earl Shilton, Barwell, Desford, Newbold Verdon, Barlestone and Stoke Golding. Average quality score is 65%. Stakeholder workshop identified that there is good provision of wildlife and biodiversity. Consultation highlighted the importance of NSN to local residents. These spaces were perceived to define the character of the area.</p>	<p>Groby Pool Nature Area (Groby) - 90% Hill Hole Quarry (Markfield) - 80% Clarendon Park Nature Area - 70% Billa Barra Hill (Stanton Under Bardon) - 55 % Harwood Drive - 40% Ashby Road NSN - Site not accessible at time of visit Manor Farm (Bagworth) - Site not accessible at time of visit</p>	<p>NSN1: Seek to maintain and enhance the quality of country parks in Hinckley & Bosworth. Sympathetic management techniques should be practiced at sites of importance for nature conservation and biodiversity.</p>
			<p>NSN2: Seek to enhance and develop the quality of NSN open space in the Borough. Drive a structured programme of improvements with clearly defined outputs using the site assessments and quality vision as a basis. Seek to incorporate sympathetic management techniques at wildlife sites and sites of importance for biodiversity in the Borough drawing on the findings of the biodiversity study.</p>
			<p>NSN3: In light of the importance of NSN open space in the Borough, all sites should be protected through policies in the LDF. NSN should only be lost to development if certain exception criteria (set out in policy) are met.</p>
			<p>NSN4: In light of the importance of country parks in the Borough, all sites should be protected through policies in the LDF.</p>
			<p>NSN5: Identify opportunities for the creation of new accessible NSN open spaces in the Borough, focusing particularly on areas which are shown as deficient. This may involve creating new spaces, incorporating natural areas into parks, and improving access to sites which are currently inaccessible. In particular, access to NSN open spaces is more limited; deficiencies exist in Earl Shilton, Barwell, and Hinckley as well as in several of the rural centres (Desford, Newbold Verdon, Barlestone and Stoke Golding).</p>
			<p>NSN6: Seek to increase access to existing NSN open spaces in the Borough. Developing the Green Infrastructure network through the provision of additional cycle routes and footpaths.</p>
			<p>NSN7: Seek to increase access to strategic NSN open spaces and country park by ensuring that such sites are on public transport routes.</p>

<p>Amenity Green Space</p>	<p>171 sites identified in the audit Site assessments show quality is poorer compared to other types, with the average score calculated at 60%. This type of provision is mainly found in urban areas and rural centres Consultation highlighted a mixed response to the quantity and quality of amenity green space provision</p>	<p>Barrie Road - 75% Barlestone Drive - 70% Ferndale Grove - 70% Leisure Centre Grounds - 70% Mount Road Car Park - 70% Wykin Linear Park - 70% Canal Way - 65% Clifton Way - 65% Odstone Close - 65% Roston Drive - 65% Falmouth Drive 65% Field Close - 65% Paddock Way - 65% Wendover Drive - 65% Aulton Crescent - 60% Coppice Walk - 60% Darwin Close - 60% Landseer Drive - 60% Ribblesdale Avenue - 60% Warwick Gardens - 60% Woburn Close - 60% Barwell Lane - 55% Harwood Drive - 55% Leven Close - 55% Lochmore Close - 55% Netherley Court - 55% Newquay Close - 55% Trinity Vicarage Road - 55% Waterside Park - 55% Weston Close - 55% Brodick Close - 50% Lochmore Drive - 50% Middlefield Lane - 50% Saville Close - 50% Long Meadow Drive - 45% Battling Brook FRB - 40% Brenfield Drive - 40% Preston Road - 35% Gowrie Close - 25% Middlefield Inn - 20%</p>	<p>AGS1: Seek to enhance the quality of amenity green spaces in the Borough aiming to achieve a minimum quality score of 80%. Increased ancillary accommodation and an improved range of vegetation will significantly increase the overall value of sites to local residents.</p> <p>AGS2: Priorities for improvement should be those sites which fall in the bottom quartile and in particular, sites which provide the only informal recreation opportunity in the area. Planning policy should protect valuable amenity green spaces from development. Valuable amenity green spaces include those which serve unique catchments and those which are frequently used.</p> <p>AGS3: A decision to approve the disposal of an amenity green space should only be given if the site is surplus to requirements and is not required for use as another type of open space.</p> <p>AG4: Seek to increase access to amenity green space, particularly in smaller settlements where this type of open space is the only local form of informal open space. Improving footpaths, disabled access and ensuring safe routes will be important.</p> <p>AG5: Ensure that policy requires contributions towards amenity green space as part of new development as appropriate. Promote an accessibility led approach to determine levels of provision required as part of new development.</p>
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		<p>Brodick Road, Erskine Close, Laxford Close, Linwood Close & Waterside FRB - 0%</p>	<p>AG6: Consider the allocation of new amenity green spaces in areas lacking in provision: East of Hinckley Town Centre North East & North West Burbage West Hinckley South East Barwell Identify demand for amenity green space within the hamlets, particularly within Cadeby, Sibson, Sutton Cheney and Peckleton. Monitor demand for additional amenity green space in other areas, including Carlton.</p>
<p>Provision for Children and Young People</p>	<p>59 children’s play areas and 36 facilities for young people identified Quality of children’s play generally good (average 69%), although scores are lower for provision for young people (66%). The highest scoring play area in Hinckley is located at Waterside Park (87%), whilst for facilities for young people, the MUGA at Langdale Park scores highest (87%). Opinion varies regarding the sufficiency of existing provision of play areas for children and young people, with the greatest levels of dissatisfaction found within the hamlets. The Parish Council workshops highlighted that the provision of appropriate access routes to play spaces is as important as the facilities themselves. The quality of children’s play areas</p>	<p>Waterside Park Play Area - 87% Wykin Park Play Area - 85% Clarendon Park Play Area - 80% Granville Road Recreation Ground Play Area - 80% Langdale Park Play Area - 80% Richmond Park MUGA - 80% Swallows Green Play Area South - 80% Wykin Park BMX Track - 75% Swallows Green Play Area North - 70% Clarendon Park MUGA - 67% Swallows Green MUGA - 67% Wykin Park MUGA - 67% Langdale Park BMX Track - 87% Queens Park Play Area - 60% Preston Road Play Area - 20% Richmond Park Play Area - No recorded quality score</p>	<p>CYP1: Seek to upgrade traditional facilities with challenging and exciting play facilities for children and young people that encourage children to explore their boundaries and balance risk and safety. This may include the creation of natural play areas which link with the surrounding environment as well as equipped play facilities.</p> <p>CYP2: The council and other providers of facilities for children and young people should seek to consult with children and young people in the local community over the design of facilities.</p> <p>CYP3: Seek to enhance the quality of children’s play areas in the Borough, aiming to achieve a quality score of 80%. Site assessments reveal that improvements to security and safety and increased ancillary accommodation are the factors requiring most improvement.</p> <p>CYP4: Seek to enhance the quality of facilities for young people in the Borough, aiming to achieve the target quality score. Site assessments reveal that improvements to cleanliness, maintenance, security and safety are likely to be factors requiring most improvement.</p> <p>CYP5: Seek to protect valuable facilities for young people serving unique catchments through the LDF. Facilities should only be lost to development where it can be proven that there is no demand for a facility or that improvements to another site in the immediate catchment of the site will be of greater value to the residents.</p>

	<p>are generally viewed favourably, but there is dissatisfaction with current facilities aimed at young people with two thirds marking these facilities as poor.</p>		<p>CYP6: Ensure that policy requires contributions towards facilities for both children and young people as part of new development as appropriate. Promote an accessibility led approach to the determination of levels of provision required as part of new development.</p>
			<p>CYP7: Seek to provide a new children's play area within the south of Groby. Monitor demand for children's play areas in the urban areas, rural villages of Congerstone and Nailstone and several hamlets (Barton-in-the-Beans, Carlton, Cadeby, Dadlington, Sibson and Sutton Cheney). Should demand be sufficient, seek to provide new children's play areas in these areas of the Borough.</p>
			<p>CYP8: Seek to allocate new facilities for young people in areas of deficiency within Hinckley, Markfield, Burbage, Earl Shilton, Desford, Groby, Bagworth and Thornton. Assess demand for young people in rural villages (Nailstone, Sheepy Magna and Witherley) and hamlets (Cadeby, Sutton Cheney, Barton-in-the-Beans and Sibson). Should demand be sufficient, seek to provide new facilities in these areas. Investigate the need to provide new facilities in areas where demand has already been identified.</p>
			<p>CYP9: Facilitate the development of the Green Infrastructure network between large residential neighbourhoods, play facilities and other green spaces. Encourage the development of facilities of sites which are easily accessible by public transport.</p>
<p>Outdoor Sports Facilities</p>	<p>The total amount of land dedicated to outdoor sports facilities is 222.03 hectares, (excluding golf courses as they tend to skew overall provision) There is a range of outdoor sports facilities provided across the Borough Findings from the household survey highlight a level of dissatisfaction with the quantity of synthetic turf pitches, tennis courts and athletics tracks in the Borough. The amount of grass pitches,</p>	<p>Hollycroft Park Bowling Club - 90% Clarendon Park - 80% Langdale Park Sports Pitch - 75% Swallows Green Football Pitch - 65% Richmond Park Football Pitch - 40%</p>	<p>OSF1: The council should seek to support and co-ordinate all partners and providers of outdoor sports facilities in order to promote a co-coordinated approach to facility provision</p>
			<p>OSF2: Protect all outdoor sports facilities from development unless criteria set out in Sport England policy are met. This should be carried out through the incorporation of appropriate policies in the LDF.</p>
			<p>OSF3: Seek to increase access to outdoor sports facilities within Hinckley & Bosworth. Developments to the Green Infrastructure network (including footpaths and cycle routes) and improvements to the public transport system will be important if this is to be achieved.</p>
			<p>OSF4: Seek to negotiate formal community use agreements of outdoor sports facilities at all schools in the Borough.</p>

	<p>bowling greens and golf courses is deemed to be acceptable. Sport in Desford was highlighted as an example of a high quality site.</p>		<p>A range of other sport specific policy recommendations are proposed. Refer to the PPG 17 report for an overview.</p>
<p>Allotments and Community Gardens</p>	<p>35 allotment sites in the Borough containing circa 700 plots. There are a further 8 allotment sites which are privately owned for which there is no data. Overall quality mark of 61%. Demand for allotments has increased in recent years and this is reflected in the size of waiting lists at sites across the Borough. 44% of respondents to the household survey indicated that provision is insufficient at present. The need for additional allotments was raised at all workshops as well as at the drop-in session at Hinckley Market.</p>	<p>Wykin Park Allotments - 75% Langdale Road Allotments - 70% Middlefield Lane Allotments - 70% Hill Hole Quarry Allotments (Markfield) - 60% Heath Court (Earl Shilton) - not accessible at time of site visit Hollycroft Allotments - not accessible at time of site visit</p>	<p>ALLOT1: Seek to enhance the quality of allotments in the Borough aiming to achieve a minimum quality score of 80%. Site assessments and consultation indicate that improvements to ancillary accommodation (example toilets and water supplies), security and safety should be prioritised.</p> <p>ALLOT2: As well as improving the function of allotments from a user perspective, ensure that management, maintenance and future planning of these sites takes into account their role in nature conservation and biodiversity</p> <p>ALLOT3: Consideration should be given to the implementation of appropriate policies to promote effective usage of allotment sites including: Providing half plots as opposed to full plots to ensure that sites can accommodate a higher number of residents Ensuring that residents only have one allotment plot at any time Promoting appropriate use of allotments</p> <p>ALLOT4: Include a policy within the LDF that protects allotments from development. Loss of allotments should only be permitted where it can be proven that the site is surplus to requirements and is unlikely to be required in future years.</p> <p>ALLOT 5: Work with all providers of allotments to ensure that untenanted plots are bought back into use. Seek to allocate new allotments in the borough, specifically within Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell and Field Head.</p> <p>ALLOT6: Ensure new housing developments contribute to any increase in demand as necessary through the inclusion of appropriate policy in the LDF. It may be necessary to consider innovative solutions to the provision of allotments, for example, the location of facilities at school sites or on the Green Wedge.</p>

			<p>ALLOT7: Consider opportunities to increase the provision of allotments in the rural villages and hamlets. Assess demand for allotments within larger parishes, in particular Sheepy Magna and Witherley, where there is currently no provision and consider the location of new sites where demand is sufficient.</p> <p>ALLOT8: Seek to increase access to allotments in Hinckley and Bosworth through the development of additional footpaths and cycle routes.</p>
Cemeteries and Churchyards	<p>39 churchyards and 9 cemeteries identified in the audit. Overall quality assessed at 77% (highest for any type of provision). Residents view the quality of cemeteries and churchyards positively, with 51% marking these types of open space as either good or excellent.</p>	<p>St Mary's (Barwell) - 80% St Mary's Churchyard (Hinckley) - 75% St Michaels (Markfield) - 75% Ashby Road Cemetery - 70% Unitarian Chapel - 70% Baptist Chapel (Earl Shilton) - 68% St Simon and St Judes (Earl Shilton) - 58% United Reform (Earl Shilton) - 58% Holy Trinity - No assessment recorded</p>	<p>CC1: The council should keep under review the opportunities for the reuse, expansion or acquisition of suitable land to ensure the continued and sustainable provision of local cemeteries. The LDF should facilitate the provision of additional burial spaces in Parish areas where new localised provision is required / desired. A standard of 0.0003 hectares per 1000 population should be used to estimate the implications of population growth. There is a need for new provision in Barwell over the LDF period.</p>
			<p>CC2: Support improvements to the quality of cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough, using the findings of the site visits to guide where and what improvements are required.</p>
			<p>CC3: Stakeholders should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop a greater awareness of ecological management and maintenance of cemeteries and churchyards.</p>
Green Corridors	<p>A range of provision including towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines. National cycle routes 52 and 63 pass through parts of the borough. Gaps in network around Hinckley, routes in Market Bosworth fragmented. Green corridors are a well used type of open space, with 70% of respondents using green corridors, with 40% doing so once or more per week. At the Parish Council workshop,</p>	No quality assessments carried out	<p>GC1: Facilitate the delivery of the strategic interventions identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy and in Core Strategy Policy 20 by producing an Action Plan for implementation. The key priorities identified should also be considered during the preparation of the Site Allocations and Generic Development Control Policies DPD. Key priorities identified in the settlement specific spatial strategies and policies of the Core Strategy should also be implemented. The potential of the canal network for the creation of green corridors for both people and wildlife should be maximised.</p>
			<p>GC2: Incorporate green corridors and linkages into the master planning process for the SUES.</p>
			<p>GC3: Support Parish Councils (through guidance and advice) on the provision of localised routes to meet deficiencies.</p>

	<p>Ashby Road Canal was identified as an example of good practice, providing an important link between a number of settlements.</p> <p>For many Parish Councils, the creation of green corridors and access routes was a key priority moving forwards.</p>		<p>GC4: Drive a programme of improvements to enhance the quality of green corridors for recreational use, focusing in particular on the priorities identified within the Leicestershire PROWIP and local consultation.</p>
			<p>GC5: Promote the opportunities available to increase usage of green corridors. As well as increasing awareness, partnership working with the PCT and other key organisations to deliver organised opportunities should be considered.</p>
			<p>GC6: Ensure the maintenance regimes at green corridors are sympathetic to the wider role of these sites in terms of biodiversity and habitat creation.</p>

Appendix 5: Hinckley and Bosworth Green Infrastructure Study Key Findings and Interventions

Headline findings of existing green infrastructure found within the borough include:

- The National Forest area in the north east of the Borough dominates and contains most of the Borough's natural assets, mostly consisting of woodland and includes three large water bodies. Some of the Borough's rural settlements are on the periphery of the National Forest area.
- Outside of this area, natural assets are scattered with some smaller clusters around Market Bosworth, to the west of Shackerstone at Gopsall Park and Burbage Common to the east of Hinckley and Burbage.
- The agricultural landscape in the west of the Borough has few natural areas, though the river system in this area provides a natural landscape element that connects this area with the rest of the Borough, with the Ashby Canal providing another key connection between town and countryside.
- The main conurbations in the south west of the Borough have a relative scarcity of natural green space, although provision of amenity green spaces, parks and recreational spaces is fair and accounts for most of the green space provision across Hinckley, Barwell, Burbage and Earl Shilton. The main open space available to these towns is Burbage Common (shown opposite), which has a considerable biodiversity value and is an important recreational resource for these four towns and villages.
- There are few if any natural corridors connecting the towns to the surrounding rural areas, though there are several streams flowing from urban to rural areas, particularly the Ashby Canal; connecting the west of Hinckley to the northern rural areas and passing close to the nationally and regionally important Bosworth Battlefield Site.

Within Hinckley & Bosworth there are two Green Wedges: one separating Groby, Ratby, Anstey and Glenfield, and another separating Hinckley and Burbage from Barwell and Earl Shilton.

Key Interventions

Intervention Zone	Intervention Details	Potential partners to delivery
Southern Zone	<p>Burbage Common & Woods As the population continues to expand, access to the site needs to be improved. Interventions include the need to increase the size to increase community and biodiversity value, and improve access to the site particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>	<p>Volunteers Adjacent land owners PROW team</p>
	<p>Hinckley Town Centre Mitigate against the urban ‘heat island’ effect by increasing the number of street trees to provide shade, and other measures including flood storage ponds</p>	<p>LCC Highways</p>
	<p>Harrow Brook Corridor Improve access at the western end of this route to allow access to the Ashby Canal. Retention and enhancement of flood storage ponds along the Battling Brook to reduce the rate of water entering the brook and increase the number of habitats along the corridor.</p>	<p>PROW team Adjacent land owners</p>
	<p>Sketchley Brook Corridor Increase the biodiversity interest of the west of Burbage by bringing parcels of land along the brook’s route that are currently in poor or unmanaged condition under suitable management.</p>	<p>Developer Parish Council</p>
	<p>Burbage Allotments Enhance the semi abandoned allotment site that separates Burbage and Hinckley as part of the east-west recreational corridor linking the Ashby Canal, Sketchley Brook, Burbage Allotments and Burbage Common.</p>	<p>Parish council</p>
	<p>Disused Railway Line (Nuneaton – Shenton Station) Develop this route as a pedestrian and cycle route from Nuneaton to some of the borough’s biggest tourist assets such as the Battlefield Line, Water Park and Battlefield site, as well as a connection to the borough’s other strategic asset, the Ashby Canal.</p>	<p>PROW team Parish councils Voluntary sector</p>

Intervention Zone	Intervention Details	Potential partners to delivery
	<p>Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Include measures such as retaining strategic footpath routes that pass through the site to ensure access from Barwell to the open countryside.</p>	<p>Developer Parish council</p>
	<p>Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Protect existing access to Burbage Common and provide a recreational corridor to Burbage Common and beyond, ensure suitable crossing points over the Earl Shilton Bypass are retained to maintain the visual and physical links between Earl Shilton and the surrounding countryside.</p>	<p>Developers Town council</p>
	<p>Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton/Burbage Green Wedge Maintain the green wedge between Hinckley and Barwell as it plays an important environmental and landscape protection role.</p>	<p>Parish councils</p>
	<p>Improved connections between Market Bosworth and Bosworth Water Trust Provide safe pedestrian (and possibly cyclepaths) to connect Market Bosworth and the Bosworth Water Trust and improve access between the canal, the Water Park and Market Bosworth.</p>	<p>Parish council PROW team</p>
	<p>Shackerstone Protect and enhance the village's tourism assets and create a multifunctional corridor incorporating the Gopsall Temple and Woods and the Sense Valley Forest Park near Ibstock.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>
	<p>Bosworth Battlefield Provide a recreational route through to the Weddington Country Walk and Nuneaton to connect the Battlefield site, railway terminus and Ambion Wood, creating a 'tourism hub' for the borough.</p>	<p>Parish council LCC Country Parks service</p>
	<p>Disused Railway Line - Nuneaton to Market Bosworth Multifunctional Corridor Develop this route into a multifunctional corridor, linking into the southern zone.</p>	<p>PROW team Parish council</p>

Intervention Zone	Intervention Details	Potential partners to delivery
Western Zone	<p>Earl Shilton to Newbold Verdon Multifunctional Corridor Create a multifunctional route along the stream corridor that passes close to the two towns and encompasses patches of semi-natural ancient woodland, a scarce habitat in the Borough.</p>	<p>PROW team Parish council</p>
	<p>Gopsall Park Multifunctional Route Create a multifunctional route starting and ending at Shackerstone and encompassing several important biodiversity assets and the Gopsall Temple.</p>	<p>PROW team Parish councils</p>
	<p>River Sence Corridor Management Work with landowners to protect the River Sence and its tributaries as the key connecting feature at the landscape scale in the west of the Borough. This will enable the continued movement of species and help reduce flood risk.</p>	<p>Stepping stones Land owners</p>
	<p>Shackerstone to Ibstock Multifunctional Corridor Create a multifunctional corridor following the River Sence Corridor and connecting to the River Sence Forest Park and the Ashby Canal. Promote the extensive existing cycle network to increase the tourism potential in this part of the Borough.</p>	<p>Parish councils, Prow team Tourism officer</p>
North Eastern Zone	<p>Tourism Support Continue to develop relationships with the National Forest, Stepping Stones Project and the Charnwood Forest to enable the continued implementation of these initiatives.</p>	<p>Tourism officer</p>
	<p>Transport Corridor Disturbance Mitigation Plant trees alongside the A50 and A46 to the north and east of Groby and to the north and west of Markfield to reduce the visual and physical effects of the roads. Prioritise the area to the south of the school and college in Groby.</p>	<p>LCC highways Parish councils</p>
	<p>Redevelopment of Extraction Sites Work with existing site owners of the three main working extraction sites (Ibstock site between Bagworth Heath and Grange Wood, the quarry site to the north west of Stanton Under Bardon and the site to the south west of Newbold Verdon) to restore the sites to provide multiple green infrastructure assets.</p>	<p>LCC Land owners</p>

Intervention Zone	Intervention Details	Potential partners to delivery
	<p>Markfield to Groby: Public Access Provide multi-user and traffic free access between Markfield and Groby.</p>	Parish councils
	<p>Bagworth to Market Bosworth Multifunctional Corridor Create a multifunctional corridor following two stream corridors to connect the National Forest with the Borough's other main tourist and biodiversity asset around Market Bosworth.</p>	Parish councils National forest
	<p>Rothley Brook Corridor Management Continue the work of the Stepping Stones project to deliver an unbroken natural buffered corridor that continues to the upper reaches and to the main source at Thornton Reservoir, under a comprehensive river management programme.</p>	Stepping stones
	<p>Ratby to Desford Multifunctional Corridor Create a recreational corridor along Rothley Brook between Ratby and Desford where the stream corridor provides a landscape-scale connecting feature between the two settlements.</p>	Parish councils
	<p>Linking Assets to Long Distance Trails Link assets to the Ivanhoe Way and Leicestershire Round by additional access 'spurs' from the main route to add to the recreational and tourism interest of these promoted paths.</p>	PROW team
	<p>Improved Access around Thornton Reservoir Develop Thornton Reservoir as a major recreational feature in the north east of the borough. Provide additional multi-user access routes in conjunction with any recreational/tourism development.</p>	Severn Trent

Appendix 6: Green Space Strategy (2005 - 2010): Long Term Aims

1. To develop and maintain high quality and accessible parks and open spaces throughout the borough, providing varied leisure opportunities for all age groups in high quality landscapes.
2. Provide safe, clean and interesting play areas within reasonable distance of every child's home (no more than 600m or a 15 minute walk).
3. Address the needs of young people by developing a variety of outdoor leisure facilities and crime diversion activities specifically for teenagers.
4. Encourage active healthy lifestyles, increasing participation in sport and physical recreation by ensuring the availability of high quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities.
5. Create opportunities for people to enjoy and take part in the arts and entertainment through a programme of outdoor events and activities across the borough.
6. Manage and maintain green space to ensure the sustainability and diversity of wildlife habitats.
7. Encourage positive use of green space, tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing levels of littering and dog-fouling.
8. Improve and maintain green space to support regeneration and encourage tourism, making the borough a more attractive place to live, work and visit.
9. Raise awareness of environmental issues through educational and life-long learning programmes at green space sites.
10. Provide a high quality cemetery and bereavement service which is responsive and sympathetic to the needs of its customers.

Appendix 7: Community Engagement & Involvement Strategy

The consultations held for the improvements to Hinckley's Parks over the last 6 years have been extensive. Front end consultation (by questionnaire to every household within 500m of a park) was used to determine resident's priorities. Each park was then designed to meet each communities different needs, and designs were then further consulted on through drop in sessions at parks where designs could be viewed and commented on. New play equipment has been selected by school children from schools local to each park, and has also included the views of children with special needs. The youth council, and other groups representing young people have also chosen the equipment for their use on parks. At Burbage common consultation has involved both users and non users.

This investment in understanding exactly what each community needs from their park means we now know what each community values. On some improvements we were not able to deliver all of the improvements suggested by residents due to budget limitations. As the scale of improvements to Hinckley's Parks over the next 5 years will be smaller, it would not be appropriate, nor will we have the resources to undertake such large front end consultations. However we will be able to

use the previous consultation results to inform our improvements, and all improvements will still be available for consultation prior to implementation.

Our engagement and involvement strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council owned green space for the duration of this delivery plan will therefore be:

In all improvements we make to council owned green space we will seek the views of local residents and users, we will listen to their views, and will ensure we deliver improvements which have the support of the majority of respondents., and continue to ensure our parks and green spaces accessible to all.

Friends groups – where a friends group exists on a site we will work in partnership with the friends group to agree an appropriate involvement framework for the site. This document will be used to inform this process, but we will ensure we listen to the friends groups opinions.

Where appropriate we will use the Borough Bulletin, councils website, community houses and park notice boards to ensure we engage with residents. We will work in partnership with the local media to engage with a wide audience on larger changes.

Large scale improvements to a site (value over £100k) - front end consultation by questionnaire to all residents living within 400m of a site will be used to determine resident's priorities. These results will then be used to inform the design of the park. Further consultation on designs will take place on site through a consultation event lasting no less than 3 hours, and through the Councils website. We will seek to develop a friends group for large scale projects to inform our improvements and deliver more sustainable benefits to the local community. NB. Argents Mead park redevelopment will be agreed via the planning process, and will be subject to a separate consultation process.

Medium scale improvements (value under £100K) and small scale Improvements (value under £50k) – previous consultation results will be assessed to determine which facilities prioritised by residents previously could be increased, and if there were any features not previously provided which residents supported. Officers will also identify any new innovative features not included in previous plans. Plans will be developed from the above and these will then be displayed in notice boards at these sites for comment, and on the Councils web site. Where we have the contact names and addresses of people who previously expressed an interest in joining a friends group for the site we will write to these people seeking their views on the proposed improvements. The views of local councillors will also be sought. Where consensus on proposals is unclear, a focus group will be held to determine which improvements to implement. NB the focus group will be randomly selected from residents who have previously commented on this site and will include 1 local councillor.

Amenity green space improvements – The views of residents living adjacent to the open space will be sought, and we will endeavour to determine how the space is currently used by asking visitors, regularly visiting the site etc. We will use this information, and the ppg17 desirable and essential standards to design improvements to the space. Designs will be displayed on the space, and on the council's web site for residents to comment (similarly to the way planning applications are displayed on developments). If the investment in the amenity green space is greater than £50k then the guidance for small scale improvements will be followed.

Play area improvements – the play value of the current play equipment will be assessed along with previous consultation results. Green space officers will then visit schools local to the play area and seek the views of children who use this play area to select new play equipment to be provided. Children with disabilities will be included in this process. NB consultation will be with children of the relevant age group. Proposals for new play equipment will be displayed on the parks notice board and the council's website for comment.

Facilities for young people – as for play area improvements except the views of young people will be sought either through the local secondary school, or through a youth group. If improvements are greater than £50k then the youth council will be asked to comment.

Natural and semi natural green space – these improvements are likely to be changes in maintenance to part of a larger site. Plans will be developed and displayed in the site notice board, and smaller notices displayed on the area to be changed indicating change is proposed and residents should look at the notice board. Residents will be able to comment to the green space team and via the council's website. If the changes proceed then small signs will be placed in the area explaining how the maintenance has been changed and why. The council will also seek to work in partnership with local schools and to set up a group of conservation volunteers to develop these areas to their full potential for wildlife.

Green infrastructure routes – the GI routes were consulted on as part of the development of the GI strategy and the core strategy for the LDF and are therefore known to have support. It is likely that the majority of these routes will be delivered through the planning process, parish councils and Leicestershire County Councils Public rights of way team. In these cases they will be subject the due process of these teams. Where HBBC is leading on delivery, then we will seek comments from residents through the Borough Bulletin and the council's websites, posters on the route etc. The views of local walking and cycling groups will also be sought.

Sports pitch improvements – we will always work in partnership with sports clubs using our sites to develop improvements to sports pitches.

Allotments – we will always seek the views of allotment holders on a site before making changes at an allotment site.

Appendix 8: Green Space Events Strategy

Introduction

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Green Space Team have historically run a number of events and activities at both Burbage Common and Hollycroft Park. These have range from major large scale events such as Burbage Common open day to smaller craft activities such as table mat making and wooden spoon animals. The numbers and varieties of events have increased over the years but without a clear strategy as to what the purpose of these are and how they contribute to the work of the section.

This strategy will rationalise all these activities in order to focus the work of the Green Spaces team in delivering events and activities that deliver HBBC's corporate objectives and also the objectives set out in the Business and Street Page 61 Service improvement plan.

It will also give direction with regards to working with partners and volunteers to help deliver this programme of events and improve and develop our green spaces.

Criteria

Events and activities delivered by the Green Spaces team will need to demonstrate that they fulfill at least one of HBBC's corporate aims.

It is also important to ensure they come within the objectives of the Green Space delivery plan and that they fall within at least one of the following categories:

- Education – events should offer an element of education with regards to wildlife conservation, the environment or ecology.
- Healthy living – events should offer an element of physical or mental well being.
- Develop the Green Space – events should help with the future development and quality of the park or open space.
- Value for money – events must be able to show they can offer value for money.

Public Feedback

It is important to ensure that the events strike a balance between what the public want and Green Spaces remit and the criteria specified.

We will therefore carry out the following elements of consultation to ensure we continue to offer events and activities that fulfill the needs of the community:

- Customer satisfaction and feedback forms will be handed out at the end of an event/activity.
- Consultation with Friends Groups, volunteers and other user groups.

Promotion of events and use of Parks and open spaces

A system of promoting events and activities will be agreed to ensure all events and activities are promoted appropriately for their size. Events and activities will be promoted corporately through HBBC's communication section using the following process:

- All events being delivered by the Green Spaces team will be added to an annual corporate Communication plan, this plan will have the details of the event, what types of promotion will be required and when the promotional material should be distributed.

Events and activities will be promoted using the following means:

- Posters (in parks notice boards, town centre notice boards and other locations dependent on the size of the event), Fliers in local schools, Press Releases, The Borough Bulletin and HBBC web site.

The communication plan is a live document and should be reviewed in line with any further planned events, but at least every quarter.

People will be asked where they learnt about the event through their feedback forms and this will be reviewed alongside the satisfaction reports.

Partnership working

Where appropriate the running of certain events will be outsourced to other organisations and partners. The Green Spaces team will offer any necessary support and guidance to ensure these are run to the required standard.

In the case of larger events or a series of events a standard agreement will be drawn up between HBBC and the organisation to ensure parameters are set.

We currently have an agreement with the Friends of Hollycroft Park group to run a series of summer band concert events at Hollycroft Park and with Leicestershire Wildlife Trust to run a series of environmental education events at Burbage Common during the Easter and Summer school holidays.

If 'Friends of' groups are established at other HBBC parks and open spaces, The Green Spaces team will offer initial support to these groups with the planning and running of events and activities. Groups will also be given guidance in applying for funding opportunities to help set up and run these events.

The Green Spaces team will highlight the opportunity for the use of its parks and open spaces as possible venues for outside groups and organisations to hold events. This will be promoted through the Council web site, through the Borough Bulletin and any other appropriate channels.

An events pack is available for groups who are interested in holding events on HBBC's parks and open spaces to ensure correct procedures are followed. There maybe a need to revue this document to ensure it is user friendly.

Friends Groups, User Groups and Volunteers

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Green Spaces will actively encourage the setting up of friends groups, user groups and volunteers on its community park sites and main countryside sites. This is seen as a key factor in the continued development of sites. We will achieve this using the following methods:

- Site posters – to encourage people to come forward if they are interested in joining/forming a group.
- Recruiting people at events.
- Information on the web site
- Via customer services team – people can be signposted to joining a group when phoning to report and issue regarding a particular park.

After the initial establishment and support, it is anticipated that these groups will become a major factor in the continued development and management of HBBC's key parks and open spaces. Friends groups and other similar groups can offer the following benefits:

- They will offer a core of people who have a keen interest in the particular site.
- Ensure members of the local community have their voices heard
- Offer volunteer time and effort into running events.
- Can gain access to a range of grant funding.
- Act as extra eyes and ears for the site.
- Bring local knowledge to decision making
- Bring members of the community together.

Sustainability

Existing groups such as Burbage Common Volunteers and Friends of Hollycroft Park will continue to be supported and developed this will include, formalising constitutions, encouraging more input into decision making and site management, greater participation in running and organising events, steering site development and working towards green flag award criteria.

With the success of creating further groups, and depending on the number of these groups there may be opportunities and a need in the future for further support, this could be in terms of training opportunities, helping to facilitate events, attending monthly meetings. This will help to sustain the group's membership increase capacity, allowing them to work independently, but in partnership with HBBC.

Appendix 9. Open Space Study Quality Audits for Hinckley sites

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
	The Rock Gardens	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Good	Good	Good	Good
14	Argent's Mead & Memorial Gardens	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Good	Good	Good	Good
16	Hollycroft Park	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Very good	Very good	Very good	Very good
17	Clarendon Park	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Average	Good	Good	Average
18	Granville Road Rec Ground	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Average	Average	Average	Good
19	Queen's Park	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Average	Good	Good	Average
20	Wykin Park	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Good	Good	Good	Good
21	Langdale Park	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Good	Good	Good	Good
22	Swallows Green	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Good	Good	Good	Average

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
23	Richmond Park	Hinckley	HBBC	1	Formal Parks	Average	Average	Good	Good
46	Harwood Drive	Hinckley	HBBC	2	Natural and Semi Natural	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
60	The Paddock	Hinckley	Private (Paynes Garage)	2	Natural and Semi Natural	Average	Good	Average	N/A
83	Battling Brook	Hinckley	HBBC	3	Green Corridors	Good	Good	Good	Good
85	Applebees Meadow	Hinckley	Developer / HBBC	3	Green Corridors				
88	Ashby Road canal	Hinckley	British waterways	3	Green Corridors				
90	Newquay Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor
91	Field Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Average
92	Barlestone Drive	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Good	Good	Very poor
93	Laxford Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Good	Good	Average
94	Odstone Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Good	Very poor
95	Canal Way	Hinckley	Developer / HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Good	Very poor

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
96	Clifton Way	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Good	Very poor
97	Roston Drive	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Good	Very poor
98	Weston Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor
99	Brodick Road	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Good		
103	Battling Brook flood retention basin	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Very poor	Poor
105	Waterside Park flood retention basin	Hinckley	HBBC / Developer	5	amenity Green Space				
106	Brentfield Drive	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Poor	Poor	Poor
107	Brodick Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Poor	Very poor
108	Leven Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor
109	Lochmore Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
110	Lochmore Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Poor	Very poor
111	Linwood Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	
112	Erskine Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Very poor
113	Aulton Crescent	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Very poor
114	Gowrie Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Poor
115	Wykin Linear Park	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Good	Good	Very poor
116	Landseer Drive	Hinckley	Developer	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Very poor
117	Middlefield Lane	Hinckley	HBBC housing	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Poor	Very poor
118	Falmouth Drive	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Good	Average	Average
119	Wendover Drive	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Good	Average	Very poor
120	Barwell Lane	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
121	Woburn Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Very poor
122	Warwick Gardens	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Very poor
123	Darwin Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Average
124	Harwood Drive	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor
125	Ribblesdale Ave	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Very poor
126	Coppice Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Very poor
127	Saville Close	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Poor
128	Trinity Vicarage Road	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Good	Poor	Very poor
183	Leisure Centre Grounds	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Good	Average
193	Paddock Way	Hinckley	Developer / HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Good	Average	Average
211	Netherley Court	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Poor	Average	Average	Average

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
212	Ferndale Grove	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Good	Average	Average
223	Mount Road Car Park	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Good	Average	Average	Good
227	Barrie Road	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Very good	Good	Good	Very poor
228	Waterside Park	Hinckley	Developer / HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor
229	Long Meadow Drive	Hinckley	Developer / HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Poor	Average	Poor	Very poor
243	Preston Road	Hinckley	HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
269	Ashby Road	Hinckley	Private	7	Allotments and Community Gardens	Average	Average	Good	Very poor
271	Hollycroft / Clives way	Hinckley	HBBC	7	Allotments and Community Gardens				
272	Langdale Road	Hinckley	HBBC	7	Allotments and Community Gardens	Good	Good	Good	Very poor

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
273	Wykin Park Allotments	Hinckley	HBBC	7	Allotments and Community Gardens	Good	Average	Good	Good
274	Middlefield Lane	Hinckley	HBBC	7	Allotments and Community Gardens	Good	Good	Good	Very poor
296	Ashby Road Cemetery	Hinckley	HBBC	8	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Good	Average	Average	Good
297	Unitarian Chapel	Hinckley	HBBC	8	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Good	Good	Average	Average
306	St Mary's Churchyard	Hinckley	HBBC	8	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Good	Good	Good	Average
342	North Works College Playing Field	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Average	Average	Good	Average
346	Battling Brook School Playing Field	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	Average	Average

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
347	Mount Grace high School Playing Fields	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	Good	Average
348	John Cleveland College Playing Fields	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Very good	Good	Good
349	Westfield School	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Average	Good	Average
350	Redmoor High School	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	Average	Average
368	Hinckley Golf Club	Hinckley	Private	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Very good	Good	Very good	Very good
384	Ashby Road Sports Club	Hinckley	Private	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Average	Average	Good	Average
385	North Warwickshire & Hinckley College	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Average	Average	Average	Average
390	Hinckley Football Cricket Rugby Clubs	Hinckley	Private	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities				

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
400	Hammond's Sports Pitch	Hinckley	Private	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	Good	Average
407	Richmond Primary School	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Average	Average	Average	Average
409	St Peter's Catholic PS	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	Average	Average
422	Hollycroft Park Bowling Green	Hinckley	HBBC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Very good	Good	Very good	Good
423	Hollycroft Park Tennis Courts	Hinckley	HBBC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Very good	Good	N/A	Good
424	Hollycroft Park Golf Course	Hinckley	HBBC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Very good	Good	Good	Good
425	Clarendon Park Sports Pitches	Hinckley	HBBC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Average	Average	Good	Average
426	Langdale Park Sports Pitch	Hinckley	HBBC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	Good	Good
427	Swallows Green Football Pitch	Hinckley	HBBC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	Good	Average

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
428	Richmond Park Football Pitch	Hinckley	HBBC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Average	Average	Average	Good
450	Waterside Park Play Area	Hinckley	Developer / HBBC	6	Children	Very good	Good	N/A	Good
462	Middlefield Inn	Hinckley	Private (site now demolished)	5	Amenity Green Space	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor
463	Clarendon Park MUGA	Hinckley	HBBC	10	Young People	Good	Average	N/A	Average
464	Clarendon Park Play Area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Good	Good	Good	Good
465	Granville Road Rec Ground & Play area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Good	Good	N/A	Good
466	Queens Park Play Area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Average	Average	N/A	Average
467	Wykin Park MUGA	Hinckley	HBBC	10	Young People	Average	Average	N/A	Good
468	Wykin Park Play Area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Good	Good	Good	Very good
469	Langdale Park BMX Track	Hinckley	HBBC	10	Young People	Average	Average	N/A	Average

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
470	Langdale Park Ball Court	Hinckley	HBBC	10	Young People	Good	Very good	N/A	Good
471	Langdale Park Play Area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Good	Good	N/A	Good
472	Richmond Park MUGA	Hinckley	HBBC	10	Young People	Good	Good	N/A	Good
474	Wykin Park BMX Track	Hinckley	HBBC	10	Young People	Good	Average	Good	Good
475	Swallows Green Play Area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Good	Good	N/A	Good
476	Swallows Green Play Area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Average	Good	Average	Good
477	Swallows Green MUGA	Hinckley	HBBC	10	Young People	Good	Good	N/A	Very poor
478	Preston Road Play Area	Hinckley	HBBC	6	Children	Very poor	Very poor	N/A	Poor
522	Sweet Pea bowling club	Hinckley	Private	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities				
705	Waterside Park	Hinckley	Developer / HBBC	5	Amenity Green Space	Average	Average	Average	Very poor

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
706	Redmoor High School	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Very good	N/A	Good
707	Hinckley Boys Club/Tom Towers FC	Hinckley	Private (Hinckley centre for young people)	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	N/A	Very poor
713	John Cleveland college tennis courts	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities				
714	Battling Brook School STP	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	N/A	Average
720	Hinckley Football Cricket Rugby Clubs STP	Hinckley	Private	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	N/A	Good
721	Hinckley Football Cricket Rugby club's tennis courts	Hinckley	Private	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good	Good	N/A	Good
723	Ashby rd NSN	Hinckley	Private	2	Natural and Semi Natural				
724	Clarendon Park Nature Walk	Hinckley	HBBC	2	Natural and Semi Natural	Average	Good	Good	Average

Site ID	Site Name	Settlement	Ownership	Type of Open Space	Open Space Name	"Cleanliness and maintenance"	"Security and safety"	"Vegetation"	"Ancillary Accommodation"
726	John Cleveland college stp	Hinckley	LCC	4	Outdoor Sports Facilities				

Appendix 10 Management of New Public Open Space

Guidance for the Management of New Public Open Space within Hinckley & Bosworth

This guidance establishes the principles for the management of new Public Open Spaces within the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth.

The mechanism for calculating commuted sums from developers is derived from the Play and Open Space Guide Supplementary Planning Document, which provides guidance for planning permission applicants on what level of financial contribution they will be required to pay for the provision of play facilities and/or open spaces.

New Open Spaces, Ownership/Management /Delivery

This Council's preferred option is for developers to transfer the ownership and management of the new open space to either HBBC or the relevant Parish Council within the Borough. Within parished areas open spaces will always be transferred to the relevant parish council in the first instance. Where a Parish council is unable to adopt the land then HBBC will (if practical) adopt the land. A commuted sum for grounds maintenance should be agreed in line with the Councils Play & Open Space Guide.

The benefits of this are that it is tried and tested, and that the open space is fully accessible to the general public. That a good standard of grounds maintenance will be delivered and that the site will continue to be developed in line with the community requirements.

There are several other options of management for new open space which includes charitable trust, management companies, partnerships and other organisations such as Wildlife Trust etc. All of the options have advantages and disadvantages. For any of these to be considered by the authority, the developer / landowner should enter into negotiations with the authority's Planning, Green Spaces and Legal Teams. These negotiations will seek to establish parameters concerning ownership and management of the new public open space. Some of the items that would need to be agreed are detailed below:-

Charitable Trusts

- Establish who will own the site.
- Which partnerships are to be involved.
- Identify funding opportunities, grants etc.
- Establishment of a parks office/ community building and the process of appointment for staff to develop and maintain site.
- How the Trust will involve the local community.
- Clear remit – aims and objectives for the site.

Management Company

- The levels of local community involvement and long term ownership of the open space.
- Any future costs for residents.
- The status of the land whether it is permissive rather than public open space.
- A Legal agreement ensuring full public rights of access in perpetuity.
- Establish a long term view of the open space by developer/management company.
- A legal agreement to set out specifications for expected levels of site grounds maintenance.

- Agree what happens if the developer/management company fail to maintain the green spaces to a satisfactory standard or they go out of business? Legal agreement and bond so that if there is a default the local authority can take over responsibility.
- The type of management company:-
 1. A Resident management company where residents run a company to manage the open space.
 2. Management company employed by a landowner, where the landowner or developer retains ownership of the open space.
 3. Management company owning the land, where ownership is passed to a management company who are responsible for the green space. The company may be a non- profit making company working across the country (e.g. the Green Belt Group).

Partnerships

- Which organisation are partners.
- Members of the Management Committee.
- Who retain ownership of the land?
- Service agreements
- Finance and funding

Other Organisations

- Conservation and other organisations enter into agreements with the local authority, developer or land owner to manage the open space where there is a particular conservation interest.

Summary

The authority with the above options only seeks to secure and establish a legacy that all public open spaces within the borough of Hinckley & Bosworth are managed and maintained for the benefits of its residents and visitors.

Appendix 11. Themes and Priorities for the Delivery Plan

The following are the key themes and priorities for the Green Space Delivery Plan. This section sets out how these link to the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)17 document, (which deals with sport and recreation provision and the provision and safeguarding of open space which has recreation value), the long term aims under each key theme and the priorities for delivering these themes.

1. Green Space Quality

Continue to improve the quality of green space provision, with an emphasis on improving amenity green space and those sites identified within the PPG 17 assessment.

PPG17 Policies linking to this theme which the delivery plan will focus on delivering:

Parks and Gardens (PG)1 – enhance the quality of formal parks

Natural and Semi-natural (NSN)1, 2 – enhance quality of country parks and areas of natural and semi natural open space

Amenity Green Space (AGS)1, 2, 6 – enhance the quality of amenity green space prioritising lower quality sites, and allocate new amenity green space in areas lacking in provision (East of Hinckley town centre and west Hinckley).

Children and young People (CYP) 1,3,4 – enhance the quality of children’s play areas and facilities for young people and upgrade traditional play facilities with those which are challenging and exciting and may include natural play. (Improvements to cleanliness, maintenance, security and safety key within young peoples facilities)

Allotments (ALLOT)1 – enhance quality of allotments

Cemetery’s and Churchyards (CC)2 – improve the quality of cemeteries and churchyards

Green Corridors (GC)4 – enhance quality of green corridors for recreational use focusing on priorities within the Leicestershire Public Rights of way improvement Plan (PROWIP).

Green space strategy long term aims which link to this theme are:

GS7 – Encourage positive use of green space, tackling antisocial behaviour and reducing levels of littering and dog fouling

GS1 – develop and maintain high quality and accessible parks and open spaces

GS2 – provide safe, clean and interesting play areas within a 15 minute walk of every child’s home

GS3 – develop a variety of outdoor leisure facilities specifically for young people

GS10 – provide a high quality cemetery and bereavement service

GS8 – Improve and maintain green space to support regeneration and tourism and make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- Ensure the Clean Neighbourhood strategy is followed on green spaces including promoting responsible dog ownership, reducing dog fouling and littering, removing all abandoned vehicles and fly tipping within 24 hours of being reported, respond to vandalism within 48 hours of reporting.
- Through Project Endeavour seeking to improve people’s feelings of personal safety in green spaces, and address antisocial behavior issues as they arise.
- Seeking developer contributions to develop and enhance existing green spaces (all PPG17 types) in Hinckley (PPG17 quality audit and policies have been used to identify improvements listed in Appendix 10). Improvements will be subject to consultation as per appendix 7.
- Ensure new residential developments provide on site open space where they are large enough to enable them to do so.
- Develop and enhance the variety, quality and accessibility of children and young peoples play
- Encourage use of the Parish and Community Initiative fund by Parish Councils to improve green spaces.
- Assess access to green spaces by public transport and if necessary seek to increase this.
- Improve the quality of amenity green space in Hinckley through landscaping and ancillary facilities.
- Achieving Green flag standard at Council maintained green spaces

- On going commitment to improving the quality of grounds and tree maintenance by Council staff
- In partnership with funeral directors and memorial masons seek to improve the cemetery service, and ensure the safety of visitors

2. Health & Activity

Encourage active and healthy lifestyles.

PPG17 Policies linking to this theme which the delivery plan will focus on delivering:

Outdoor Sports Facilities (OSF)4 – negotiate formal community agreements for use for outdoor sports facilities at schools

GC5 – promote opportunities to increase use of green corridors (awareness and partnership with Primary Care Trust and others)

ALLOT 3, 5 – promote effective use of allotment sites, work with providers to ensure full use and allocate new allotments in Hinckley

Green space strategy long term aims which link to this theme are:

GS4 – encourage active healthy lifestyles increasing participation in sport and physical recreation by ensuring the provision of high quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities

Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- **Improve the quality of council owned outdoor sports facilities**
- **Seek community access to schools sports facilities**
- **Seek to support and co-ordinate all partners and providers of outdoor sports facilities to ensure a co-coordinated approach to provision**
- **Improving the quality of allotments**
- **Seek to provide additional allotments, and maximize occupancy and utilization of the allotment land available**
- **Seek to develop alternatives to traditional allotment provision e.g. garden share, community growing.**
- **Improve opportunities to use green corridors for activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding**

4. Green Infrastructure

Support the Green Infrastructure Interventions proposed in the Hinckley & Bosworth Green Infrastructure Strategy in order to help ensure that there is a network of adaptable and multifunctional green spaces across the Borough.

PPG17 Policies linking to this theme which the delivery plan will focus on delivering:

PG8 – increase access to formal parks through development of new and enhancement of existing green infrastructure

NSN6 – increase access to NSN through developing the GI network by providing foot and cycle paths

OSF3 – increase access to outdoor sports facilities through developing the GI network and links to public transport

PG7 – provide natural or semi natural open space within existing formal parks to alleviate deficiencies

NSN5 – Create new accessible natural and semi natural open space by creating new spaces, incorporating natural areas into parks and improving access to sites which are currently inaccessible.

CYP9 – facilitate the development of the GI network between large residential neighbourhoods, play facilities and other green spaces.

GC3 – support parish councils (through guidance and advice on the provision of localized routes to meet local deficiencies

Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- **Development of GI network**
- **Contribute to increasing the multifunctional nature of existing green space by increasing natural and semi natural green space through management and maintenance changes (see biodiversity priorities below). This will include providing semi natural green space within all formal parks except Argents Mead, and green corridors**
- **Seek to negotiate and improve access to sites which are currently inaccessible.**
- **Work with LCC PROW team**
- **Work with other organizations to help facilitate the strategic interventions proposed as part of the development of the strategic GI network.**

4. Biodiversity

Change management and maintenance of sites to increase biodiversity.

The following PPG17 policies relate to biodiversity which also contribute to the GI outcome:

PG3 – incorporate sustainable management techniques to promote biodiversity and create a healthy ecosystem at parks

NSN1,2 – practice sympathetic management techniques at wildlife sites, and sites of importance for conservation and biodiversity

ALLOT2 – ensure that management, maintenance and future planning of allotments considers biodiversity.

GC6 – ensure maintenance regimes at green corridors is sympathetic to biodiversity and nature conservation.

CC3 – promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop a greater awareness of ecological management of these sites.

Green space strategy long term aims which link to this theme are:

GS6 – Manage and maintain green space to ensure the sustainability and diversity of wildlife habitats

Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- **Management of council owned natural and semi natural green space to enhance biodiversity and nature conservation**
- **Management of other green space types to increase biodiversity e.g. closed churchyards and cemeteries, allotments, green corridors and formal parks**
- **Changes to grounds maintenance to reduce the environmental impact of our operations (ongoing reduction in use of herbicides, acquisition of machinery for meadow management etc)**
- **Maintain partnerships with conservation groups such as The Conservation Volunteers and Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.**

Cross cutting themes

1. Community Involvement, Awareness & Events

Engage with and empower local communities to become actively involved in the management of local green spaces, supporting the Government's Big Society initiative. Ensure that green spaces provide a variety of leisure, recreation and play opportunities for people of all ages and raise awareness of green spaces and environmental issues through promotion, education and lifelong learning.

PPG17 Policies linking to this theme which the delivery plan will focus on delivering:

PG2 – support existing and create new friends groups

Green space strategy long term aims which link to this theme are:

GS 9 – raise awareness of environmental issues through educational and life long learning programmes at green spaces. To ensure delivery is focused on achieving this aim a strategy has been developed which is shown in Appendix 8.

GS5 – create opportunities for people to enjoy and take part in the arts and entertainment through a programme of outdoor events and activities.

The initial green space strategy included policies (9&10) which related to consultation and local delivery which are still very relevant to this delivery plan and therefore the following will also be included within this theme: - consulting with local communities when making decisions about local green spaces (see appendix 7 for details of the strategy developed) and supporting parish councils to develop their own delivery plans.

Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- **Consulting with local communities when making key decisions about green spaces, following the guidance within the community engagement and involvement strategy in appendix 7**

- **Working with local communities and other providers to manage, develop and promote green spaces**
- **Support existing and encourage new friends groups, volunteer groups and other mechanisms which transfer delivery to local communities.**
- **Work with parish councils to enable them to develop their own green space delivery plans**
- **Provide a varied programme of events and activities which comply with the green space events strategy in appendix 8**

Promote and increase awareness of ALL green spaces in the Borough

2. Funding

Given the current economic climate, seek to identify new mechanisms for funding open space improvements.

Priorities within this theme will therefore be:

- **Maximising external funding for green spaces**
- **Identifying income sources which do not deter use of green spaces**
- **Where capacity exists within the service, seek to generate income to support the service delivery, and reduce the cost of the service.**
- **Maximising use of the s106 developer contributions available for green space improvements.**