



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council	28 November 2023
Hinckley Area Committee	TBA

Wards affected: Primarily Hinckley

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### Green Space Strategy & Delivery Plan 2023 to 2033

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Report of Director (Corporate and Street scene Services)

#### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To seek Council's approval to adopt and implement the Green Space Strategy & Delivery Plan 2023 - 33.

#### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 That Council adopt the Green Space Strategy and Delivery Plan.

2.2 Members agree the capital investment and budget requirements for schemes over the term of the plan, as detailed in section 5.

2.3 That Council delegate delivery of the Strategy and Delivery Plan to the Head of Street Scene Services and Executive Member for Parks, Open Spaces and Neighbourhood Services.

#### **3. Background to the report**

3.1 This Green Space Strategy (Appendix 1) and Green Space Delivery Plan (Appendix 2) seeks to build on the improvements delivered by Green Space Delivery Plan 2014 - 18 and determines the priorities for improvements to HBBC-owned green spaces for the next ten years. They are underpinned by a Technical Supporting Document (Appendix 3).

Through this strategy, the Council, working in conjunction with key green space partners and stakeholders, will work towards meeting the following vision statement.

“To enhance and enrich the lives of our residents and visitors to the Borough via the delivery of quality green space through partnership engagement with our communities”.

## The Key Themes

For this vision to be achieved, it is important that there are set of guiding themes underpinning the Strategy and as such 4 themes have been identified.

1. Protect, increase, maintain and celebrate our green spaces
2. Increase biodiversity and reduce environmental impact
3. Increase and improve green infrastructure
4. Encourage active and healthy lifestyles

## Influencing Factors

Within each of these four themes, this strategy identifies key actions that need to be addressed, taking due regard of relevant strategies at national and local levels.

- 3.2 Key capital projects and improvements listed within the Delivery Plan may change depending upon the resources available. The plan will be updated annually to reflect the funding available, and to deliver the non-capital priorities within the plan. Dependent on the Council’s financial position projects will only proceed if there are sufficient s106 receipts, external funding, or internal finance.

Should funding not be available through s106 receipts then these shortfalls will be considered on a project-by-project basis through the annual budget setting process.

## 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 This report can be heard in public session.

## 5. Financial implications IB

- 5.1 The estimated costs are summarised in the table below. Budgets will require Council approval in line with financial procedure rules. Schemes will only take place when relevant funding has been secured.

Theme	Developer Conts	Grant	HAC	HBBC	S106	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
1	5.64	5	2.25	14.52	451.35	<b>478.76</b>
2	0	0	21.5	12.5	23.62	<b>57.62</b>
3	6	205	48.5	37	5.67	<b>302.17</b>
4	5	0	28.25	31.5	135.8	<b>200.55</b>
	<b>16.64</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100.5</b>	<b>100.52</b>	<b>616.44</b>	<b>1039.1</b>

5.2 Growth bids will be requested for the forthcoming years as part of the budgeting setting process for bids where funding is either secured or is in the process of being secured.

## 6. Legal implications MR

6.1 The law in relation to parks and open spaces is contained in a number of statutory provisions extending over many years beginning with the Public Health Act 1875 as amended, allowed the purchase, lay out, plant improvement and maintenance of land for use as public walks and pleasure grounds. The Open Spaces Act 1906 defined open space and contained provisions for open spaces to be transferred to the Council's management. The Public Health Amendment Act 1907 allowed for the enclosure of areas within parks for organised games, the supply of apparatus for such and charging for the use of the apparatus. The Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937 redefined the duties in the Public Health Acts by empowering local authorities to provide and equip playing fields and provide the first open spaces intended purely for the playing of games. The Local Government Act 1972 contained provision for entertainment in parks and The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 conferred general powers to provide recreational facilities.

## 7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 This Green Space Strategy & Delivery Plan meets the Councils Corporate plan aims to Protect and improve our parks and open spaces for everyone across the borough.

- Help people to stay healthy be active and feel well.
- Give children and young people the best start in life and offer them the opportunity to thrive in their communities.

## 8. Consultation

8.1 The Green Space Strategy and Delivery Plan was open for public consultation for a four week period from 26<sup>th</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> July via the Council web page, "Have your say" page.

The responses received were overwhelming in support of the strategy and the delivery plan. The results are summarised in the below table showing the percentage of respondents who agree with the strategy themes and delivery plan actions.

<b>Green Space Strategy (4 Themes and Delivery Plan Actions):-</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Theme 1: Protect, increase, maintain and celebrate our Green Spaces</b>	97.73%
Improve and refurbish equipped play areas	83.33%
Retain and increase Green Flag status on our green spaces	88.46%
Improve signage to all of major green spaces	71.79%

Install recycling bins to all major green spaces	89.74%
Promotion of our green spaces and the network of green corridors and cycle ways to encourage walking and cycling between our sites.	87.18%
Ensure that all major green spaces have a site management plan and are reviewed on a ten-year basis	92.31%
Develop a Crematorium Service	58.97%
Adoption of new green spaces	93.59%
<b>Theme 2: Increase biodiversity and sustainability - reducing climate change/environmental impact</b>	90.91%
Increase the number of areas of native wildflowers and bulbs	92.31%
Install bird and bat boxes around our green spaces	92.31%
Enhance ponds and water courses within our green spaces	89.74%
Consider different approaches to maintaining green spaces (Review ground maintenance standards / specifications and consider introducing maintenance practices that have greater benefit to the biodiversity and the ecology of our sites)	87.18%
Upgrade lighting to our green spaces to LED	76.92%
Soft landscaping schemes - evaluate shrub planting to all major green spaces, incorporate native planting schemes to existing beds	84.62%
<b>Theme 3: Increase and improve Green Infrastructure</b>	94.32%
To increase tree canopy cover	84.62%
Plant more trees (standards and whips) in our sites across the borough	89.74%
Install new or refurbish all green spaces seating, consider relocating some to shaded areas	79.49%
To replace fencing with hedges consisting of native species	84.62%
Explore the installation of electric car charging points to our green space parking areas	52.56%
Support volunteer involvement to provide a clear environmental benefit to our green spaces	91.03%
<b>Theme 4: Encourage active and healthy lifestyles</b>	86.36%
Install outdoor gym facilities / trim trails	62.82%
Increase publicity of our green spaces, including events, wildlife sighting, volunteer activities and supply regular project and site news updates	83.33%
Install cycle racking to all major green spaces	71.79%
Improve access across our green spaces	87.18%
Boost the spaces available for meeting and socialising to enable people to enjoy our green spaces with family and friends	76.92%
Develop sporting facilities within our green spaces	55.13%

## 9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 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.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with these report / decisions were identified from this assessment: Management of significant (Net Red) risks

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Funding shortfalls to projects	Maximise utilisation of S106 funds for projects. Annual review of projects and priorities. Maximise use of external grants. Develop partnerships to increase funding opportunities.	Green Space Manager
Non delivery of projects as per the 10 year delivery plan	Project management	Green Space Manager & Senior Green Space Officer (Development & Community)
Failure to change maintenance practices to respond to changing climate	Staff training on biodiversity management where necessary. Purchase new equipment where necessary. Increase site drainage where necessary	Senior Green Space Officer,(Operations)
Failure to maximise tree planting opportunities risks non delivery of climate emergency net zero by 2030 ambition	Seek corporate and external funding	Green Space Manager

## 10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

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

## 11. Climate implications

11.1 The adoption of the Green Space Strategy will conserve and enhance greenspaces for the benefit of residents and visitors of the Borough.

11.2 Projects and improvements detailed within the Delivery plan will contribute to objectives and initiatives in the emerging Climate Change & Biodiversity Strategy, in particular the action to utilise council land to draw down carbon and increasing the biodiversity across our sites.

## 12. Corporate implications

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

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

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Background papers: Appendix 1 Green Space Strategy 2023 to 2033  
Appendix 2 Technical Supporting Document  
Appendix 3 Delivery Plan

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