

plymouth's green space strategy 2008-2023

City of Plymouth

plymouth city council
parks services
april 2009

Foreword

Plymouth has some superb green spaces that everyone can be proud of. Plymouth's green spaces are places where people can relax, enjoy nature, take children to play or take part in sport or recreation. They are essential for the health and well-being of the City. However, there is more that can be done to improve the quality of Plymouth's green spaces so that more people can visit and enjoy them.

This Green Space Strategy is a key step towards protecting and improving Plymouth's green spaces. It provides a vision and objectives for how we would like to see green spaces planned and managed. It will help to secure attractive, safe and easily accessible spaces for all to enjoy.

The Green Space Strategy sets out proposals for how existing green spaces can be improved to be safer, cleaner, more accessible, and more sustainable. It also includes exciting proposals for two new parks to be created at Derriford and North Plymstock. The Green Space Strategy has been developed through detailed research into the existing provision and quality of green spaces and research into how people in Plymouth view green space. The public consultation on the draft Green Space Strategy last summer showed a high level of support for the vision and objectives.

Some of the improvements proposed in this strategy will take time which is why this is a 15 year strategy. Improving Plymouth's green spaces will also require the support and commitment of the whole community – there are many ways in which everyone can help to improve our green spaces. I hope that you will play your part in enabling us to achieve our vision.

Vivien Pengelly



Councillor Vivien Pengelly

Leader of the Council

April 2009

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1. Introduction

1.1 Green spaces are integral to the life of the city – they provide breathing space and are crucial to the successful functioning of urban communities. Green spaces are places to relax and enjoy the natural environment away from the stresses of everyday life, to take children to play, and for sport and recreation. Green spaces are the most widely used facility provided by a local authority. Green spaces are also important for people's health and well-being and for reducing the negative effects of climate change.

1.2 Plymouth has some superb spaces and much to be proud of and we would like more people to be able to enjoy them. A long-term lack of funding and investment has led to a decline in green space, in a way that has become progressively apparent to green space users. This is a national problem, not just in Plymouth.

1.3 This strategy identifies what Plymouth City Council and its partners need to do to reverse this trend and ensure that Plymouth is provided with the quantity and quality of accessible green space that meets the needs of a sustainable city.

1.4 To help us fund and deliver the improvements our communities want, we need the following:

- a Green Space Strategy and Action Plan linked to Plymouth's Local Development Framework, the Sustainable Community Strategy and other corporate strategies
- a strategy that has the support and commitment of local people and their elected representatives.

The purpose of the Green Space Strategy

1.5 This strategy is a key step towards protecting and improving Plymouth's accessible green space and play space.

1.6 It provides a vision, aims, a robust evidence base and a set of objectives that, together, provide a strategic framework for the planning and management of accessible green space, play space and allotments.

1.7 The strategy aims to coordinate and improve decision-making in relation to the planning and management of green space. It will guide and amplify the Local Development Framework policy on green space and provide a strategic framework to guide and inform investment and management of green space by the City Council and other green space stakeholders over the period until 2023. While the focus is on green space in Plymouth, there is also reference to cross-border green space planning with neighbouring authorities.

1.8 The strategy identifies ways in which green spaces and play spaces can be improved. The strategy sets out to balance accessible green space provision with community needs and aspirations. Applying this strategy will allow us to coordinate our efforts and resources to improve the quantity, quality, use and appreciation of green spaces. Its implementation will help to secure attractive, safe, and easily accessible spaces for all to enjoy.

1.9 The strategy will reinforce and promote the key role green space plays in supporting our health and well being, providing access to nature, responding to climate change, and providing an educational resource.

1.10 The strategy includes a Green Space Action Plan that sets out how the objectives will be implemented and how progress will be measured. The Green Space Action Plan will be updated every three years, and will provide an opportunity to monitor and review progress.

Links to Local Development Framework Green Space Policy

1.11 Local Development Framework Policy CS18 (Plymouth's Green Space) and Policy CS30 (Sport, Recreation and Children's Play Facilities) are the key planning policies to which this document relates.

Policy CS18 – Plymouth's Green Space

The Council will protect and support a diverse and multi-functional network of green space and waterscape, through:

- Identifying in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and Area Action Plans a network of strategically and locally important Greenscape Areas. Development on or adjacent to these Greenscape Areas will not be permitted where it would result in unacceptable conflict with the function(s) or characteristics of that area.
- Requiring development proposals to improve the quality and quantity of accessible green space, where appropriate.
- Requiring development proposals to address local deficiencies in accessible green space, where appropriate.
- Using its planning powers to safeguard important trees and hedgerows, and to secure provision for soft landscaping where appropriate as part of development.

1.12 This Green Space Strategy, together with its evidence base, will inform the identification of strategically and locally important accessible green spaces in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan Document and Area Action Plans. It will inform the requirement for development proposals to improve the quality and quantity of accessible green space and to address local deficiencies in accessible green space.

Policy CS30 – Sport, Recreation and Children's Play Facilities

To enhance the city's sport and recreation facilities by delivering major new facilities at the following locations:

- Central Park Life Centre – which will be an outstanding venue for sport, active recreation, health, arts, education and the environment.
- Manadon – continuing improvements to football and cricket pitch facilities.
- Devonport Brickfields – new rugby, athletics and community sports facilities.
- New residential development will be required to make appropriate provision for sport, recreation, open space and children's play to meet the needs of the development.

Development proposals for new sport, recreation and children's play facilities, or for the enhancement/ replacement of existing facilities, will be permitted provided that:

- There is no demonstrable harm from noise, lighting, transport or environmental impacts.
- The development contributes to meeting identified shortfalls in provision or to enhancing the quality of provision of sport/leisure facilities.
- The development is accessible by sustainable transport modes.
- Where appropriate, the development contributes to wider open space objectives.

There will be a presumption against any development that involves the loss of a sport, recreation or play facility except where it can be demonstrated that there is currently an excess of provision, or where alternative facilities of equal or better quality will be provided as part of the development.

1.13 This Green Space Strategy will inform the requirement for the provision of new, or the enhancement of existing, green space and children's play space. It will inform the identification of shortfalls in provision and sets out the wider aims and objectives for green space and play space.

1.14 The Green Space Strategy will also inform Policy CS19 (Wildlife) and the Core Strategy Area Vision statements relating to green space for Derriford and Seaton, North Plymstock and Central Park.

1.15 The green space standards set out in this strategy have been incorporated into the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document and will be applied to new development in Plymouth in the form of a development tariff. A Supplementary Planning Document for green space will also be prepared, informed by the Green Space Strategy evidence base.

What does this Green Space Strategy cover?

1.16 The focus of this strategy is on green space within the city that is freely available to the public for informal recreation activities such as walking, playing and relaxing. It is concerned with all green spaces that are available to the public for informal recreation, allotment sites for food growing and the play spaces that are managed by Plymouth City Council. It includes green spaces that are managed specifically for recreation, such as the city's parks, and other green spaces which are more informally managed or are managed for wildlife. It does not include green spaces that are closed to the public.

1.17 The city's playing pitches were audited separately for the Plymouth Playing Pitch Strategy that was adopted by the City Council in December 2007.

1.18 A Green Space Background Report has been produced alongside this strategy which sets out the other policy documents to which this strategy relates, the methods used to collect and analyse green space data and an analysis of the current state of green space in Plymouth, all of which have informed the development of this strategy.

Plymouth's Green Spaces

1.19 The character of Plymouth's green spaces reflects the historic development of the City. The city centre and waterfront evolved initially as three separate settlements which later coalesced and expanded, creating a dense urban area south of the A38 with little green space. The area north of the A38 and east of the River Plym was largely undeveloped until after the Second World War, and these areas were developed in a more planned way, allowing more generous provision of green space.

1.20 The character also reflects Plymouth's location and topography. The Rivers Tamar and Plym and valleys are key features as are the coast and hills – offering fantastic views across Plymouth Sound and out over the surrounding countryside. Plymouth benefits from its location adjacent to nationally recognised landscapes including Dartmoor National Park, South Devon and Tamar Valley Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

1.21 Within the City there are many sites that are nationally and internationally recognised for their biodiversity value. Plymouth Sound and Estuaries is recognised as a European Marine Site. Our green spaces currently include nine areas recognised as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, seven Local Nature Reserves and 24 County Wildlife Sites. Plymouth also has six parks that have been registered as historic parks and gardens by English Heritage in recognition of their heritage value.

1.22 Plymouth has a number of destination parks that are regionally and nationally recognised. Central Park in the South of the City is shortly to benefit from major investment, including the Life Centre. The Hoe is internationally famous for the views over Plymouth Sound and its heritage and its quality has been recognised by being awarded the nationally-recognised Green Flag Award in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Saltram Park and Mt Edgcumbe Country Park on Plymouth's urban fringe are both high quality attractions for visitors from a wide area. Mt Edgcumbe hosts the National Camellia collection amongst its formal gardens and won The Royal Horticultural Society's Best Park award in 2007/08.

1.23 In addition, Plymouth has a wealth of smaller parks and green spaces that are used on a more local basis for relaxation, play and exercise, and that contribute to the sustainability of neighbourhoods.

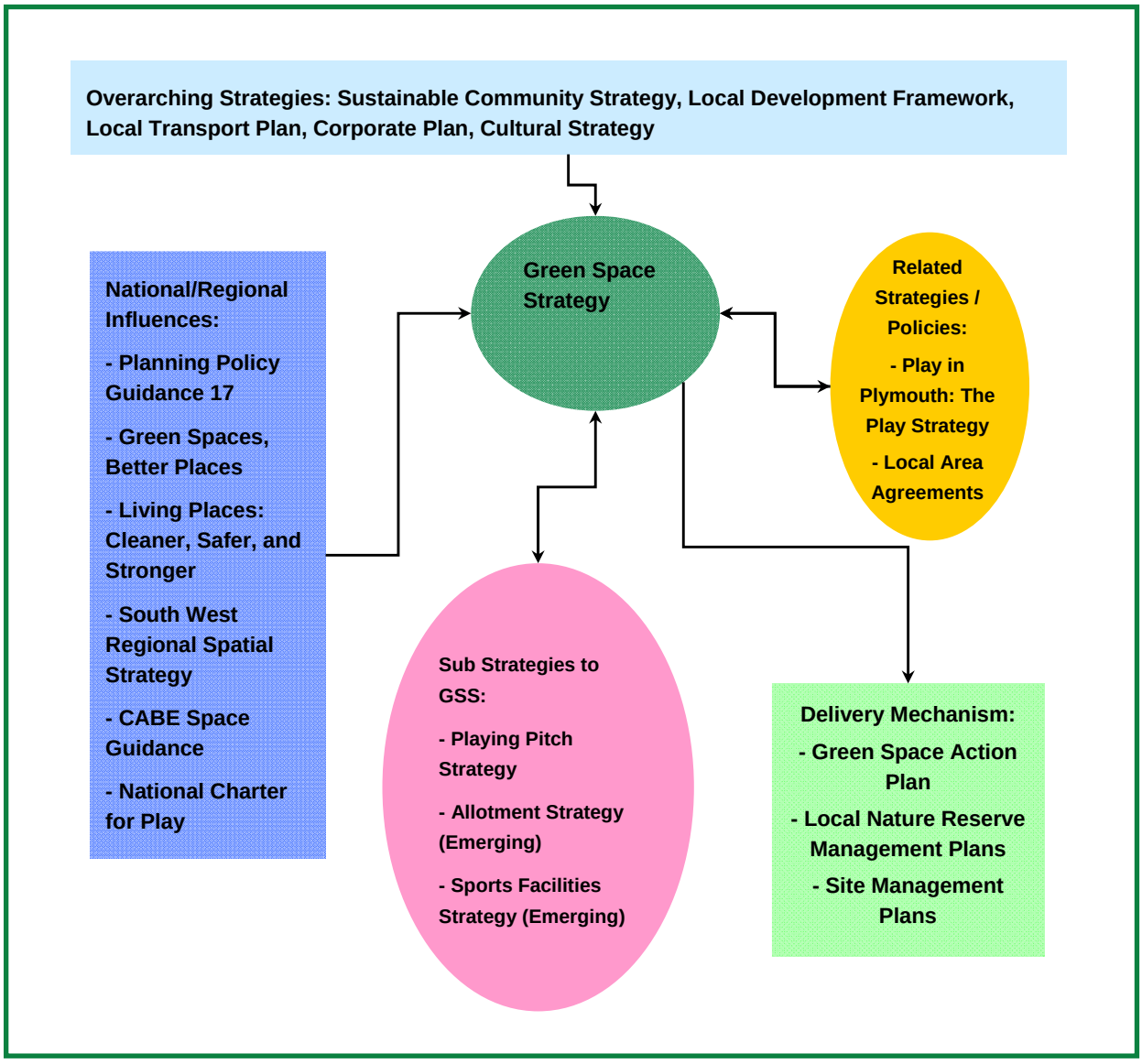
The Challenge Ahead

1.24 Plymouth has seen a decline in the quality of many of its green spaces and has a shortage of green space in some parts of the city. The City's Local Development Framework sets out to focus new development within the urban boundary so as to build sustainable linked communities. While most new development will be on brownfield land, it will create new demands on the city's green spaces. It is all the more important, therefore, that the Green Space Strategy sets out a clear strategy for protecting and enhancing green spaces that support the urban form and raise people's quality of life.

1.25 In addition, Plymouth faces a challenge in reducing its carbon emissions and preparing for the effects that climate change will have on temperatures, rainfall and winds. Green space will play an increasingly important role in both these tasks by capturing carbon, reducing local temperatures, reducing surface water runoff and improving local air quality.

How does the Green Space Strategy fit with other Strategies and Policies?

Figure 01 – Links to other strategies and policies



2. Green Space Vision and Aims





2.1 A vision statement and aims have been agreed for Plymouth's green spaces. They reflect the important and varied roles that green space plays within Plymouth and the importance of protecting and enhancing green space for the city's health, wealth and well-being.

Plymouth's Vision for Green Space

'Plymouth's Green Spaces - actively improving the lives of our community where the many and varied functions and benefits of green space are recognised, protected and supported'

Aims

2.2 In order to achieve this vision, the following aims are proposed:

- Aim 1 – To establish minimum standards of green space provision to ensure that Plymouth has the right amount and type of green spaces and play spaces to meet the existing and future needs of its residents, workers and visitors.
- Aim 2 – To ensure that everyone living, working and visiting in Plymouth has easy access to good quality green spaces and play spaces.
- Aim 3 – To achieve high quality green spaces across Plymouth, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.
- Aim 4 – To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city's health, well-being and biodiversity.
- Aim 5 – To support community involvement in the stewardship of green spaces.
- Aim 6 – To deliver a high quality network of recreational and accessible green and blue spaces linking Plymouth to its surrounding countryside.

2.3 The key outcomes that will be achieved as a result of this strategy are:

- Two new large, high quality, accessible green spaces will be delivered at Derriford and North Plymstock by 2021.
- At least six green spaces will be managed to Green Flag Award standards by 2012.
- Central Park will have a regionally significant Life Centre for sport and recreation, and the park's facilities and amenities will be significantly improved by 2021.

- Over 100 hectares of green space will be designated as new Local Nature Reserves by 2016.
- All green spaces across the city will be at least 'good' according to an adopted city-wide quality standard by 2023.
- All new or enhanced green spaces will be designed to be accessible so that all in the community can enjoy them.
- All green spaces will be more welcoming, safer, cleaner and more sustainable by 2023.
- The number of neighbourhoods in the city where there is currently a deficiency of green space or play space will be reduced by 2023.
- Play provision for all age groups will be enhanced, and play areas will be better integrated with green spaces.
- New and enhanced green spaces and play spaces will be provided alongside new developments in line with local quantity, quality and accessibility standards as set out in this strategy and the Local Development Framework. They will be designed according to the design standards set out in this strategy.

2.4 Overall, Plymouth will have a green space asset fit for the 21st century, where the multifunctional role of green space is recognised and fostered and where the management of green space meets the highest levels of sustainability.

2.5 Some of the key elements of the vision are shown on the Green Space Strategy Diagram (overleaf). This diagram shows the location of the proposed new strategic 'City' parks, the proposed local nature reserves, proposed green flag parks and play hubs; the main cross-border green space links and the city's priority neighbourhoods, which have the greatest levels of social and economic difficulties in Plymouth. The green spaces shown on this diagram are identified in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. All of the accessible green spaces have been surveyed for this strategy.

2.6 The definitive green space boundaries will be identified in the Local Development Framework Area Action Plans and the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan Document. The objectives to support the elements shown in the diagram are set out in the following chapters of this strategy.

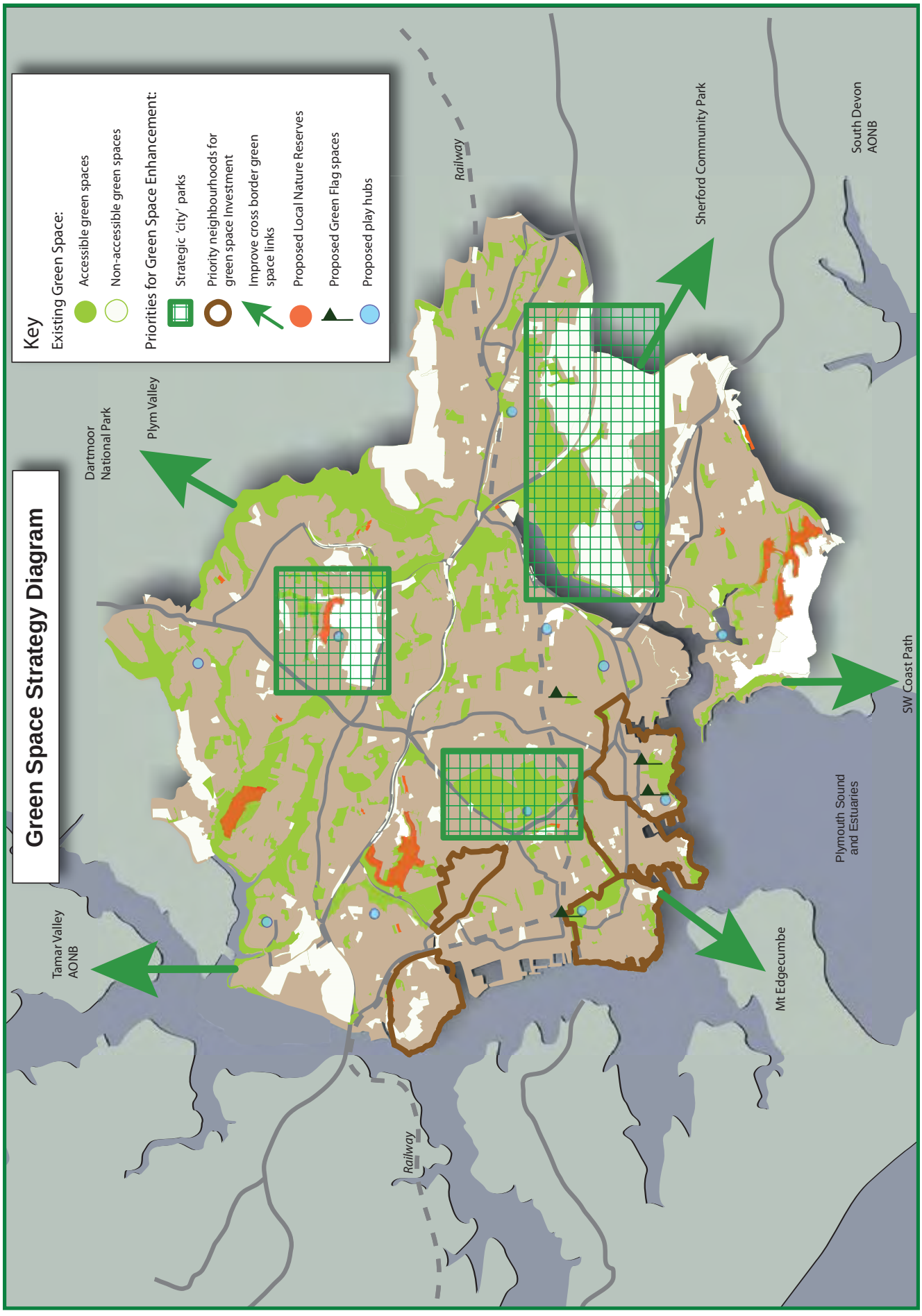


Figure 02 – Green Space Strategy Diagram

3. Plymouth's Local Quantity Standards

Aim 1 – To establish standards of green space provision to ensure that Plymouth has the right amount and type of green spaces and play spaces to meet the existing and future needs of its residents, workers and visitors.

3.1 This strategy sets out Plymouth's green space standards for quantity, distance and quality. Together, the standards are designed to ensure that all people in Plymouth have easy access to a range of good quality spaces, and to ensure that adequate provision for green space is made to meet the needs generated by new development. The standards proposed are for minimum levels of provision (i.e. provision should not drop below this standard).

3.2 There are three specific standards for green space that are set out in this strategy:

- Quantity standard – how much green space of different types there should be. This is set out in this chapter.
- Distance standard – how far people should have to travel to their nearest green space. This is set out in Chapter 4.
- Quality standard – a level of quality which all spaces should attain. This is set out in Chapter 5.

3.3 The standards have been developed following detailed consideration of:

- survey work on current provision levels of accessible green space in Plymouth
- analysis of local need, including the findings of local consultation
- national guidance
- feasibility considerations

3.4 The following objectives will support the delivery of the quantity standard (Aim 1):

- Objective GSS01: Plymouth's accessible green space standard
- Objective GSS02: Plymouth's play space standards
- Objective GSS03: Plymouth's playing pitch standard
- Objective GSS04: Plymouth's allotment standard
- Objective GSS05: New 'City' green spaces

Accessible Green Space Standard



3.5 Based on the analysis of existing green space provision and of local needs, the following standard has been established as Plymouth's quantity standard.

Objective GSS01: Plymouth's Accessible Green Space Standard

To achieve the provision of 5.09 hectares of accessible green space per 1000 population so that:

- Plymouth has good provision of accessible green space
- the provision of accessible green space is increased as Plymouth's population grows
- Plymouth has a good balance of different types of accessible green space including green spaces serving local and city needs.

3.6 This standard can be sub-divided for different types of green space:

Table 01 – Green Space Quantity Standards

Green Space Standards by Type	Hectares per 1000 population
Informal Green Space	1.44
Parks and Gardens	1.15
Local Nature Reserves	1.0
Natural Green Space	1.5
Total accessible green space	5.09

3.7 The Plymouth quantity standard reflects existing city-wide green space provision in Plymouth in relation to the current population size. It is broken down into standards for different types of green space to ensure that a balance of provision is maintained. The standard relates to the primary function or character of a green space, but recognises that in practice many green spaces are multifunctional in that they contain additional or secondary functions (e.g. an area of formal parkland can contain areas of natural green space). It also recognises the fact that green spaces vary in terms of their size, range of amenities and facilities and therefore the size of their catchment populations. Some green spaces cater mainly to local recreation needs ('local' green spaces), while others attract visitors from a wide area ('city' green spaces).

3.8 This standard excludes land set aside for play areas, playing pitches and allotments as these specialist functions have their own standards set out in objectives GSS03, GSS04 and GSS05.

How this Standard will be Applied

3.9 The standard will be applied in two ways:

- To inform decisions about the quantity of accessible green space required for proposed new development and the level of tariff that will be required to resource this. This detail is set out in the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- To identify parts of the city that are currently deficient in accessible green space. This will help to inform proposals to improve green space in different parts of the city. For example, it will inform proposals in the Local Development Framework Area Action Plans and the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan Document.

3.10 The following paragraphs give more detail about each green space type.

Informal Green Space

3.11 Informal green spaces are informal in layout and character and their primary function is for informal recreation. They generally have few or no additional facilities.

3.12 Plymouth currently has about 400 hectares of informal green space, much of which is small in size and serves mainly local green space needs.

3.13 The quantity standard has been set at 1.44 hectares for every 1000 population, or 14.4 m^2 per person. This will ensure that informal green space is provided in line with city growth, in recognition of the importance of informal green space for local recreation needs and for the sustainability of neighbourhoods.

Natural Green Space

3.14 Natural green space includes woodland, natural grassland, wetlands and cliffs/shoreline, where people can experience nature. They range from small local spaces to larger, biodiverse spaces.

3.15 Plymouth has a wealth of natural green space, especially in the north of the city. There are about 500 hectares of accessible natural green space. This works out at 2.01 hectares per 1000 population or 20.1 m^2 per person.

3.16 The quantity standard has been set below existing provision at 1.5 hectares per 1000 population or 15 m^2 per person in recognition of the fact that Plymouth is well provided with this type of green space. The priority should be to enhance these spaces for wildlife and recreation.

Parks and Gardens

3.17 Parks and gardens include urban parks, country parks and formal gardens that have been landscaped and offer a range of amenities for recreation. For this reason, parks and gardens often attract visitors from a wide area and are generally designated as ‘city’ green spaces although they also serve local needs.

3.18 Plymouth currently has about 300 hectares of parks and gardens, most of which are in the south and east of the city.

3.19 The standard has been set at 1.15 hectares per 1000 population, or 11.5 m^2 per person, to reflect the importance of parks and gardens for recreation. This will ensure that the provision of parks is increased as the city grows. There are two major new parks proposed – one in Plymouth's eastern corridor and one at Derriford. These will include existing areas of natural green space. Proposal maps for these parks are shown in Appendix 1.

Local Nature Reserves

3.20 Local Nature Reserves are accessible natural green spaces managed for people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. For this reason they are classified as 'city' green spaces.

3.21 There are currently seven designated Local Nature Reserves in Plymouth covering about 150 hectares. About 100 hectares of new Local Nature Reserve have been identified and will be designated over the Green Space Strategy period. The new Local Nature Reserves will be designated from existing natural green space within the city.

3.22 The tariff raised from new development will be invested in the development of these new Local Nature Reserves as well as the enhancement of existing Local Nature Reserves.

Plymouth's Play Space Standard

3.23 Based on the analysis of existing play provision and of local needs, the following objective has been established for new play provision.



Objective GSS02: Plymouth's Play Space Standard

To achieve a standard for equipped play provision of at least 0.08 hectares per 1000 population and to require new play spaces to meet the following requirements:

- Be located within, or adjacent to, accessible green space
- Be a minimum size of 400m^2 for play spaces catering to children up to 10 years old
- To promote the development of a city-wide network of Play Hubs, with a minimum size of 1,000m^2, catering for young people up to 18 years old.

3.24 This standard will be applied to new residential development so that, as Plymouth's population grows, the provision of play space is increased accordingly.

Table 02 – Play Space Provision

Play Space Standard	Hectares per 1000 population
Equipped Children's Play Space	0.08

3.25 The purpose of this objective is to ensure good provision of play space in Plymouth and to ensure that, as Plymouth grows, so new play space is provided. The play standard is based on existing

provision (0.05 hectares/1000) but is set at a slightly higher level to reflect the need to develop more provision for young people up to 18.

3.26 It is the City Council's policy to provide play areas for mixed aged groups and to avoid providing Local Areas for Play on their own because of the limited opportunities for play that they offer and their relatively high maintenance costs. New play provision should therefore be a minimum size of 400m^2.

3.27 New play spaces should be located within or adjacent to accessible green space, both to reduce the impact of the play space on neighbouring properties and to provide opportunities for children to combine free and static play.

3.28 Plymouth plans to develop a city-wide network of 'Play Hubs' with a minimum size of 1,000m^2. Play hubs will cater for young people up to 18 and will include at least one of the following: a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), skate park, BMX track or other sports facility as well as play equipment. Play hubs are proposed for Central Park, Devonport Park, Tothill Park, Mount Gould Park, Kit Hill Open Space, Ernesettle, Plympton, Plymstock Quarry, Derriford, Southway, Efford and Hooe.

Plymouth's Playing Pitch Standard

3.29 This objective sets out the playing pitch standard adopted in Plymouth's Playing Pitch Strategy 2007 – 2016, based on the analysis of existing playing pitch provision and of local needs.

Objective GSS03: Plymouth's Playing Pitch Standard

To achieve the playing pitch standards as set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy 2007–2016.

Table 03 – Playing Pitch Provision

Playing Pitch Standard	Hectares per 1000 population
Playing Pitches - Plymouth North	0.61
Playing Pitches – Plymouth South	0.63
Playing Pitches – Plymouth East	1.01

3.30 The local playing pitch standards have been calculated in the Playing Pitch Strategy based on analysis of the existing stock of playing pitches, current levels of demand, current deficits and predicted demand and deficits for 2016 based on expected population growth. They therefore not only reflect existing provision but also existing and predicted deficits in provision.



3.31 Separate standards for the three sub-areas of the city have been calculated to reflect differing levels of supply and demand as well as the feasibility of new provision. The strategy and policies for implementing the playing pitch standard are set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy 2007 – 2016.

Plymouth's Allotment Standard

3.32 Based on analysis of existing allotment provision and local need the following objective has been established. Plymouth's Allotment Strategy will be revised and updated to supplement this objective.

Objective GSS04: Plymouth's Allotment Standard

To achieve a standard for allotment provision of at least 0.12 hectares per 1000 population and to require new allotment spaces to be sited on or near accessible green space

3.33 This standard will be applied to new residential developments so that, as Plymouth's population grows, the provision of allotments is increased accordingly.

Table 04 – Allotment Provision

Allotment Standard	Hectares per 1000 population
Allotments	0.12

3.34 Plymouth's current provision of allotments is 0.12 hectares/1000 population as reflected in Table 4. Although there is a need to revise Plymouth's Allotment Strategy it is important to document what is currently available. Plymouth currently experiences waiting lists on all allotment sites suggesting that there is unmet demand. However, there is a continuous needs-based monitoring system in place to ensure that allotment waiting times are kept to a minimum. Therefore it is important to ensure that new allotment sites are provided as the population grows in line with the current standard as shown in Table 4. Opportunities to create new allotment provision will need careful consideration and need to be tied in with the wider mapping of all green space and allotment provision.



New 'City' Green Spaces

3.35 'City' green spaces attract visitors from beyond the immediate vicinity because of their size and/or range of attractions. They include parks and gardens, Local Nature Reserves and some informal and natural green spaces. It is important that, as the city grows, so new green spaces of 'City' importance are created or enhanced. Plymouth's Local Development Framework includes proposals to create new 'City' green spaces in line with planned new residential developments (see Appendix 1 for illustrative maps).

Objective GSS05: New 'City' Green Spaces

To increase the number, quality and accessibility of 'City' green spaces in Plymouth by:

- creating a major new accessible green space in Eastern Plymouth
- creating a major new accessible green space in Northern Plymouth
- enhancing existing 'Local' green spaces to 'City' status where opportunities arise
- developing safe walking/cycling links between existing green spaces to increase their amenity value
- developing the waterfront walkway as a linked green/blue space
- ensuring that all 'City' green spaces are accessible by public transport

3.36 The adopted North Plymstock Area Action Plan proposes a new network of accessible, high quality, multi-functional green spaces with Saltram Park at their heart. This countryside park will incorporate the historic Saltram Estate and a wider area of land under different management regimes and land ownerships. This proposal will be sensitive to the area's unique historic value and will seek to protect this resource in the context of the increasing recreational demand arising from new development in the area. The park will seek to deliver new areas of accessible green space alongside strategic recreational links, providing opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to move between the local neighbourhoods and the surrounding countryside.

3.37 The emerging Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan proposes the creation of a new Community Park in the Seaton Valley on what is currently inaccessible farmland. It is proposed to create approximately 70 hectares of new accessible green space and link with the existing Local Nature Reserves. In order to maximise access benefits it is important that safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists are provided across the A386.

3.38 There are opportunities to invest in existing 'Local' green spaces to bring them up to 'City' green space standard. Efford Valley green space has been identified as one example where this type of enhancement can take place. This can help to address areas that are deficient in 'City' green space. This option is dependant on the local green space being of sufficient size to support a range of functions.

3.39 Further to this it is proposed to create a series of linked green spaces in other parts of the city to further enhance the experience of residents that do not have access to larger green spaces and where opportunities to develop new green spaces of 'City' importance are limited. Linked green spaces will provide the opportunity for people to travel safely on foot or bicycle between adjacent green spaces, thereby raising their amenity value for residents and visitors. One example of a potential linked green space is the 'green arc' proposal in the Devonport Area Action Plan to link Devonport Park, the Brickfields and Mount Wise with a series of safe walking and cycling routes. Another example is the waterfront walkway which runs from Stonehouse Creek (with a ferry link to Mount Edgcumbe) to Jennycliffe (and beyond to South Hams). This links several waterfront green spaces and the foreshore, and is included within the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. There may be opportunities to develop further linkages between coastal green spaces and blue spaces as these play a major part in the city's heritage and attraction.

3.40 The objective of having all 'city' green spaces served by public transport is important for improving the accessibility of green spaces by sustainable transport modes.

4. Improving Access to Green Space

Aim 2 – To ensure that everyone living, working and visiting in Plymouth has easy access to good quality green spaces and play spaces.

4.1 This chapter sets out Plymouth's local distance standard for green space. Having easy access to green space and play space is crucial to our quality of life. This aim seeks to remove existing deficiencies in access to green space and play space and to ensure that new development encompasses good access. The purpose of this aim is to ensure that people do not have to walk more than 400m to their nearest green space and not more than 600m to their nearest play space. These standards represent the maximum distance that people should be expected to walk.

4.2 Access is also addressed by Aim 3 and Aim 4 of this strategy. For example, Objective GSS10 seeks to ensure that new and enhanced green spaces are designed to have good internal access with clear entrances, good signage and clearly defined paths. Objective GSS17 seeks to develop links between green spaces and the surrounding neighbourhoods to encourage people to undertake more local journeys on foot or bicycle.

4.3 Aim 2 is applied through the following objectives:

- Objective GSS06: Improving local access to green space
- Objective GSS07: Improving access to play space

Access Standard for Green Space

4.4 Having easy access to a 'Local' green space is important for people's health and well-being. In areas of the city where people currently live more than 400m from their nearest accessible green space a sequential approach should be used to address green space deficiency.

Objective GSS06: Improving local access to green space

To ensure everyone living and working in Plymouth has an accessible green space within 400m of where they live or work which is easy and safe to reach. This standard will be applied to all new developments as well as to existing residential areas.

Where a deficiency in access to green space is identified then the following sequential approach will be applied:

- where deficiency is due to severance factors such as a lack of pedestrian crossings over main roads, then seek to address this by providing safe crossing points and consider creating new access points to the green space. This would be subject to a consideration of traffic impacts
- look at opportunities to utilise suitable existing inaccessible green space by opening it up for public access
- seek opportunities to create new accessible green space
- where neither of the above three options are feasible, enhance the quality of existing accessible green space provision and access to it

4.5 The aim of the local access standard is to maximise opportunities for people to walk or travel to their nearest green space (this includes 'Local' and 'City' green spaces of all primary functions). 400m has been adopted as Plymouth's local access standard – as the maximum distance that people should have to walk or travel to their nearest green space. This standard should apply to new development as well as to existing neighbourhoods.

4.6 The access standard is based on survey data which shows how far Plymouth's residents currently travel to their preferred green space (which in 60% of cases is their local green space). The data shows that 45% of people take less than 5 minutes to reach their preferred green space while 26% take 5 – 10 minutes and 18% take 10 – 15 minutes. Very few people travel more than 15 minutes to visit green space. The majority of people will walk up to five minutes to access a green space but fewer will walk if a green space is more than a five minute walk away.

4.7 In the case of new developments, GSS01 will be applied first to determine whether new green space should be provided on site or whether it should be provided off-site.

4.8 In some cases deficiency arises because a main road or rail track acts as a barrier to pedestrian access. The provision of a safe crossing would improve access and therefore reduce deficiency.

4.9 In order to encourage people to walk or cycle to their local green space it is important that safe road crossings and easy access points are provided as busy roads can act as barriers, thereby reducing access for nearby residents. Where there are few access points to a green space (for example, where users may have to walk around the boundary to find an access point), the provision of additional access points would reduce deficiency.

4.10 Some deficiency areas may contain green spaces that are currently inaccessible to the public but would be suited for informal recreation. Where opportunities allow, the preferred option should be to seek public access to these green spaces for recreation.

4.11 Where there is no suitable green space available, then the next option is to develop new accessible green space. Where there are no suitable sites for new green space provision, then existing green spaces (which will be located beyond the 400m distance target) should be enhanced and access to them improved.

4.12 In some areas of the city, particularly within identified local, district or city centres, it may not be feasible to address deficiency through any of the above options. In this case, the emphasis should be to 'green' the public realm to create attractive landscaped areas that can offer many of the amenities of green space.

4.13 Local strategies will be needed to address deficiencies in provision that have been identified as circumstances and opportunities will vary from one neighbourhood to another. Reducing deficiencies will also take time until suitable sites and/or funding become available. It is important that a joined-up approach is adopted by the City Council so that all sections of the Council work towards the objective of making green spaces accessible to all.

Access Standard for Play

4.14 Having easy access to a play space is important for children's health and well-being. The following objective is based on analysis of existing accessibility of play spaces and the identification of deficiency areas.

Objective GSS07: Improving Access to Play Space

To address deficiencies in play areas so that there is a play area within 600m of every home in Plymouth and to phase out small, poorly located or badly maintained play spaces, so long as there is satisfactory alternative play provision nearby.

4.15 A 600m maximum walking distance standard (which equates approximately to a 10 minute walk) will be adopted for provision of equipped play space. The proposed standard reflects the need to ensure equity in provision but also to ensure that the play spaces that are provided are well maintained and fit for purpose. This distance standard means that every child will be able to access an equipped play space within 600m or less of where they live.

4.16 In areas which are over-provided with play space, where there are several play areas within the maximum walking distance, then the action should be to remove play areas that are poorly located or poorly maintained and to invest in improving the quality of the remaining play areas, without adversely affecting people's access to play space. Decisions relating to individual play spaces will refer to local circumstances and needs, as set out in this Green Space Strategy and Background Report and the Play Strategy for Plymouth.

5. Promoting High Quality Green Spaces





Aim 3 – To achieve high quality green spaces across Plymouth, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.

5.1 This chapter sets out Plymouth's quality standard for green space. This aim seeks to raise the quality of green spaces in Plymouth so as to improve people's enjoyment of and satisfaction with green spaces and to promote Plymouth's premier green spaces both nationally and internationally. It seeks to ensure that new green spaces are well designed and take account of best practice. The quality audit described in the Background Report has identified a number of aspects where green spaces currently do not meet their potential. The customer survey also identified that people are concerned about quality issues.

5.2 This aim will be applied through the following objectives:

- Objective GSS08: The Local Quality Standard: improving the quality of Plymouth's green spaces
- Objective GSS9: Promoting Excellent Green Spaces
- Objective GSS10: High Quality Design
- Objective GSS11: Management and Cleanliness
- Objective GSS12: Creating a Skilled Workforce
- Objective GSS13: Enhancing the Experience of Play

The Local Quality Standard

5.3 The quality standard for green space is concerned with improving people's day to day enjoyment of green spaces and therefore raising user satisfaction levels. It is based on a number of quality themes, as outlined in the Green Space Strategy Background Report. The following objective will ensure that all 'local' green spaces are at least 'good' quality as measured by the City Council's green space quality audit (set out in the Background Report).

Objective GSS08: The Local Quality Standard: improving the quality of Plymouth's green spaces

To increase the standard of all 'Local' green spaces to achieve a quality audit score that falls within at least the 'good' bracket by 2023.

5.4 The green space quality audit that was carried out on all of Plymouth's accessible green spaces showed that a small number currently fall considerably below their potential. Many of these are informal 'local' spaces that historically have received little investment, and where a small investment could achieve major improvements in quality.

5.5 While the standard aims to bring all green spaces up to 'good' this does not mean that Plymouth should not aim to have 'excellent' green spaces or allow those already achieving this standard to slip.

5.6 Achieving this standard will be dependent on sufficient funding becoming available.

Promoting Excellent Green Spaces

5.7 Many of Plymouth's green spaces have the potential to become nationally or internationally recognised for their quality. This objective seeks to improve green space quality in a manner that is constructive and that enables the concentration of resources to achieve a nationally recognised standard. Typically, this means achieving quality audit scores that fall within the 'excellent' bracket.

Objective GSS09: Promoting Excellent Green Spaces

To increase the number of Plymouth's green spaces that achieve nationally recognised quality standards.

5.8 It is proposed initially to bring four 'City' parks (The Hoe, Devonport Park, Freedom Fields and West Hoe Park) and two Local Nature Reserves up to Green Flag award standard by 2012 .

5.9 The Central Park Area Action Plan (part of Plymouth's Local Development Framework) sets out proposals to enhance the park's role as a regional destination. As well as investing in built sport and leisure facilities in the form of the Life Centre, the Area Action Plan also sets out proposals to enhance the park's facilities and amenities for visitors. It proposes to improve pedestrian access to the park with better connections to surrounding areas, which will help to reduce local deficiency nearby. These improvements will support Central Park in achieving Green Flag status in the future.

5.10 Over the past few years there has been a steady increase in local people wishing to play a greater part in the development of their local green space. Plymouth City Council will continue to support these groups and to further their aspirations by the promotion of the Green Pennant Award. Three 'Local' green spaces and two allotments will be brought up to Green Pennant award status by 2012. Potential Green Pennant award candidates are Penlee Eco Park, Moor View, Patna Place, Routeways Allotments and Embankment Road Allotments.

High Quality Design

5.11 The quality of many of Plymouth's green spaces, especially informal green spaces, has suffered from poor or unimaginative design. The quality of green spaces can be improved significantly with more attention to design. Good design can help to achieve many of the objectives in this strategy.

Objective GSS10: High Quality Design

To ensure that all of Plymouth's green spaces are designed according to the following principles

Green spaces are:

- safe and accessible to all, with clearly marked entrances and internal paths including provision for pedestrians and cyclists
- welcoming, with well maintained entrances, signage and information
- promoted and marketed through interpretation, signage and information, both on and off-site
- designed to enhance informal surveillance
- clean and suitably maintained
- designed to be adaptable to climate change
- places to relax, with shelter and shade
- clearly laid out and easy to navigate
- well integrated with the surrounding area

5.12 These design principles follow CABE Space design guidelines and Green Flag criteria, and their importance has been highlighted by customer research. Performance on these criteria will be measured through a rolling programme of site quality audits during the lifetime of this strategy.

5.13 Improvements in site design will do much to raise quality, accessibility, attractiveness and security. It is important for green spaces to reflect the needs of local users through community involvement.

Management and Maintenance

5.14 It is essential that the management and maintenance of Plymouth's green spaces continues to improve. Although the pressures of maintaining green space to a high standard still remain, high maintenance standards must be achieved to create a welcoming and safe environment that the community can use and enjoy.

Objective GSS11: Management and Cleanliness

To ensure that all of Plymouth's green spaces are well managed with measures in place to reduce littering, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.

5.15 Concerns over the lack of cleanliness and safety of some green spaces featured strongly in the customer survey. Litter, dog-fouling, vandalism and perceived lack of informal surveillance are all issues of concern. Improvements in cleanliness and safety through changes in site management will do much to raise quality, attractiveness and security. It is important for green spaces to reflect the needs of local users through community involvement. The introduction of site-based staff is a key service provision that will enable better efficiency in dealing with persistent problems and increase the safety of our green spaces. In order to address these concerns it is also important to develop site management plans and to work with other agencies and services that have a role in tackling anti-social behaviour.

Objective GSS12: Creating a Skilled Workforce

To provide the Parks workforce with the necessary horticultural and professional skills to manage greenspace for the 21st century.

This is to be done by:

- development of apprenticeship schemes
- workforce training programme

5.16 Providing a quality service also requires a workforce that has the range of skills to meet the changing needs of users and this includes site based staff. Horticultural management of our green spaces needs to be improved. A skills gap has been identified in core horticultural skills and across green space management nationally. Training will be focused on providing the necessary skills to manage and care for our green spaces through relevant nationally recognised programmes with the overall aim of reducing the reliance on untrained casual staff. The management of parks and green spaces is about both long term and day to day management with the overall aim of improving maintenance and management to ensure that optimum conditions for wildlife are found alongside attractive, welcoming and easily accessible green spaces for people to enjoy.

Creating High Quality Play Spaces

5.17 Research shows that the amount of time children play outdoors has decreased due to the increase in urban traffic and the resultant fears of parents and carers about allowing children to walk to green spaces on their own. Parents, carers and children are also concerned about danger within green spaces, including concerns about dog mess and broken glass but also about threatening behaviour. It is important that play spaces are designed to be as safe and inclusive as possible to access and use.

5.18 The consultation carried out for the Plymouth Play Strategy revealed that children, young people and parents were particularly interested in local 'Play in the Park' opportunities, parent and toddler facilities and city-wide Play Rangers. Play Rangers provide supervised opportunities for children to play in local parks, both to increase the feeling of safety and to facilitate opportunities for challenging activities. Although children can play without the involvement of adults, the consultation confirmed the benefit of a passive presence such as a Play Ranger, particularly for younger age groups.

5.19 The Play Strategy seeks to develop and extend Play Ranger services to more areas of the city over the next three years. The introduction of site-based staff (as proposed in GSS11) will also help to improve security in parks and thereby encourage more children and adults to visit green spaces.

Objective GSS13: Enhancing the Experience of Play

To apply the following principles to the location and design of play space:

- play spaces should be located where there is good natural surveillance from the street and neighbouring houses
- play spaces should be located on accessible green space where feasible and include elements of natural and free play
- a buffer zone should be provided around play areas
- all play areas should be designed to be inclusive for children and young people with disabilities
- play spaces should be designed using the 10 principles for designing successful play spaces as set out by Play England in their guidance manual 'Design for Play'

5.20 Good natural surveillance helps to promote safer play space. Many play areas are located within accessible green spaces, but some are located within residential or shopping areas which restrict the range of play activities and can cause conflict with local residents/shoppers. In future, the preferred option is to locate play areas within accessible green space, where this is feasible, to encourage children to engage in both static and free play.

5.21 Traditionally, children's play has been equated with formal equipped play areas. Recently, a more holistic view of play has emerged which recognises the importance of informal/free as well as formal/static play opportunities. Green spaces play a vital role in helping children and young people to learn a variety of skills through play and social interaction. Exploring the wider environment, particularly wilder spaces such as woodlands, streams and wildlife areas, provides the freedom to choose what they do and where they go, stimulating the imagination and testing boundaries.

5.22 It is important that a buffer zone is provided around the perimeter of an equipped play area, both for the safety of children and for the amenity of nearby residents. The width of a buffer zone should be at least 20m between the perimeter of the play area and the nearest residential dwelling or commercial building for a play area of 400m^2 and at least 30m for larger play areas, MUGAs or other active play spaces catering to young people. Locating play areas on green space where feasible will make this requirement easier to achieve.

5.23 The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requires service or facility providers to consider the needs of people with disabilities and to make reasonable adjustments to overcome barriers to access. The DDA has a five point scale of accessibility ranging from totally accessible to totally inaccessible. All of Plymouth's equipped play areas have been audited for DDA compliancy. There are some showcase accessible play spaces (e.g. West Hoe) and some sites that cannot be made accessible for any reasonable cost. As a result of the DDA audit there is now a list of recommendations for each of the council-owned play spaces in Plymouth and a schedule for improvements. The guidance booklet Developing Accessible Play Space – a Good practice Guide (ODPM, 2003) sets out guidelines for making play areas as inclusive as possible.

5.24 In addition, the Play Strategy includes a proposal for an inclusive Play in the Park programme which will be delivered in the following areas of the city over the next 3 years: Barne Barton, North Prospect, Honicknowle, Efford, Lipson and Laira, Devonport, Ernesettle, East End, Chaddlewood, Plymstock, Southway, Estover and Morice Town.

5.25 The Play England manual 'Design for Play' identifies the following principles for designing successful play spaces:

- are 'bespoke'
- are well located
- make use of natural elements
- provide a wide range of play experiences
- are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
- meet community needs
- allow children of different ages to play together
- build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
- are sustainable and appropriately maintained
- allow for change and evolution.

5.26 Adopting these principles in the design of new play space will support the creation of high quality, inclusive play spaces.

6. Contribution of Green Space to Health, Well-being and Biodiversity





Aim 4 - To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city's health, well-being and biodiversity.

6.1 A key aspect of health and well-being is the quality of the environment. It is increasingly recognised that green space can make a major contribution to improving health and well-being and improving the local environment.

6.2 This aim will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Objective GSS14: Promoting sustainability within the Parks Service
- Objective GSS15: Adapting to climate change
- Objective GSS16: Access to nature
- Objective GSS17: Promoting links between green spaces and their surrounding neighbourhoods
- Objective GSS18: Promoting the health benefits of green space
- Objective GSS19: The educational benefits of green space

6.3 Climate change is already occurring and further change is now accepted as inevitable. In Plymouth, summers will be warmer and drier and winters milder and wetter, but there will also be more extreme weather events such as heat-waves, droughts, intense rainfall and storms.

Improving Sustainability and Reduction of Carbon Footprint

6.4 Green spaces will be directly affected by the changing climate but also have a vital role to play in reducing the effects of climate change on people and wildlife. Increasing temperatures are likely to result in greater, more intense use of public green spaces for longer periods of the year. An extended growing season will require changes in management, such as more grass cutting, and potentially increased costs. Decisions need to be taken about designing green spaces for the future, for example in the choice of trees to withstand more extreme weather conditions, and in water storage, recycling and efficiency measures. As part of the City Council's carbon management programme the Parks Service is producing a service plan which looks at ways of reducing the service's carbon footprint. This is a contribution to reducing the footprint of the city as a whole.

Objective GSS14: Promoting Sustainability within the Parks Service

To proactively adopt and promote practices that contribute to the sustainable management of green spaces and to reducing the city's carbon footprint. These will include:

- embedding carbon reduction strategies into the Council's Parks Service
- ensuring carbon footprint mitigation measures are considered in the review of all green space management plans
- ensuring biodiversity enhancement measures are considered in the review of all green space management plans
- reducing the amount of pesticide and herbicide use
- minimising water usage for seasonal planting

6.5 This objective links to a wider City Council initiative to provide a city-wide action plan to reduce carbon emissions. Plymouth's green spaces have a significant role to play in supporting this initiative.

6.6 The Parks Service has been identified to take part in a trial project that will assist in embedding carbon management into the central planning processes of the Council's annual improvement cycle.

6.7 In 2008/09 the Parks Service will review its service management practices to consider how measures to reduce emissions can be embedded into day to day working, and to look at alternatives to traditional management procedures, including the potential to provide biomass (as wood chippings) from an increased amount of coppicing across the Council's estate. Effective measures will be identified to enhance our capacity to mitigate, adapt to and take advantage of the consequences of climate change.

Adapting to and Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change

6.8 Green spaces will be central to the way the city adapts to climate change through their role in flood prevention, in cooling the city, in moderating the impact of high temperatures and in providing spaces for wildlife to adapt.

Objective GSS15: Adapting to Climate Change

To adopt and promote practices that recognise the key role that Plymouth's green spaces can play in the city's adaptation to climate change, particularly in relation to mitigating the impacts of flooding, the urban heat island effect and adapting to changes in biodiversity. In planning for green space at both a strategic and site level we need to recognise the changing role of our accessible green space in terms of:

- providing cooling effects, shading and places of relief from high temperatures
- reducing surface water run-off and flood risk
- providing space for biodiversity to adapt to climate change

6.9 These measures will include:

- introducing drought tolerant plants to tower planters, barrier boxes and formal planting beds within the city. This will help to reduce water consumption during dry conditions and reduce yearly plant wastage
- promoting greater tree coverage to provide shade and relief from high temperatures, promote localised cooling to combat the heat island effect and to help to reduce surface runoff whilst improving air quality
- managing green spaces to enhance the city's biodiversity
- adapting green spaces to cope with extreme weather events including heavy downpours. Vegetation helps to absorb surface runoff and prevent localised flooding. Providing wetland habitats acts as an area for sustainable urban drainage. This is particularly important for reducing flood risk in areas that have been identified as 'at risk' in Plymouth's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Improving Access to Nature

6.10 All green spaces have the potential to act as important wildlife refuges and to provide the local community with the opportunity for contact with nature.

6.11 Plymouth is extremely fortunate that its high quality natural surroundings provide a wealth of opportunities for accessing nature. There are many sites nationally and internationally recognised for their biodiversity value. Plymouth Sound and Estuaries is recognised as a European Marine Site and our green spaces currently include nine areas recognised as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, seven Local Nature Reserves and 24 County Wildlife sites. Plymouth's 'Biodiversity Network' is a network of sites that have been identified for their importance in facilitating the movement of wildlife across the City. The network consists of sites that act as wildlife corridors, stepping stones between network features, and buffers around important wildlife sites.

6.12 However, biodiversity is still threatened by inappropriate land management, habitat fragmentation, development pressure and climate change. We must make more effort to protect and enhance the biodiversity within our green spaces, and provide more opportunities for people to have access to, and understand, nature.

Objective GSS16: Access to Nature

To provide, protect and promote biodiversity within Plymouth's accessible green spaces by:

- designating 100 hectares of new Local Nature Reserve by 2016, and an additional 50 hectares by 2021
- working with partners to ensure Local Nature Reserves and natural green space areas are promoted as places for high quality access to nature, and as a focus for community involvement in green space management
- managing existing Local Nature Reserves in accordance with adopted management plans and reviewing all Local Nature Reserve Management Plans every 10 years
- working in partnership with the voluntary sector to develop a skilled and dedicated workforce specialising in management of the city's natural areas
- ensuring all green space management plans address opportunities for biodiversity protection and enhancement and consider opportunities to enhance the city's Biodiversity Network
- restoring a minimum of 100 hectares of species rich grassland and 5 km of hedgerow as part of the planned new 'City' green spaces and the proposed enhancements to Central Park
- planting at least 30 hectares of native woodland on accessible green space
- ensuring that green space and blue space (the rivers and estuary) are managed in an integrated way to maximise benefits to terrestrial and marine wildlife

6.13 This objective will help Plymouth to take advantage of the full potential of its accessible green space to protect and enhance existing biodiversity assets and to create more opportunities for the public to enjoy nature.

Promoting Green Spaces for Walking and Cycling

6.14 Walking and cycling offer both health benefits through exercise and environmental benefits through reducing car journeys, especially for short journeys, thereby contributing to the creation of sustainable, linked communities.

Objective GSS17: Promoting Links between Green Spaces and their Surrounding Neighbourhoods

To work with transport planners to identify opportunities to increase the number of safe walking and cycling routes linking green spaces to local services and amenities.

6.15 There are already examples of popular walking and/or cycling routes using green spaces, such as the Waterfront Walkway, the West Devon Way and the Cooperative Way. The city also has a public rights of way network and the City Council is developing a number of strategic cycle routes, both of which can connect green spaces.

6.16 On a more local scale, improving walking and cycling routes through green spaces can provide short, direct and safe links within neighbourhoods.

Promoting the Health Benefits of Green Space

6.17 The health benefits of green spaces and play are well documented. Regular exercise, including walking, has been proved to improve physical and mental health significantly. These benefits apply to children and adults. Increasingly, GPs are prescribing exercise to people with mild to moderate depression or obesity, and walking in green space is popular because it is free, easy to access and beneficial. Play is a key element in increasing the fitness of children and adults. The range of green spaces and play spaces within Plymouth provides opportunities to meet a large range of different interests – it is not just about sport but a wider interpretation of leisure and activity such as growing food, walking, play and accessing nature.

6.18 Easily accessible play and recreation opportunities:

- enable children, young people and adults to connect with the world around them
- help children set their imagination free
- are essential for healthy and inclusive communities
- provide opportunities for safe social interaction

Objective GSS18: Promoting the Health Benefits of Green Space

To work with health partners to investigate, assess and promote new and existing ways in which green spaces can be used to improve the health and well-being of Plymouth's communities.

This objective links to a wider City Council initiative to improve the health of city residents. Plymouth's green spaces have a significant role to play in supporting this initiative.

6.19 Green space and public health practitioners should work together to provide safe and attractive opportunities for healthy activity, including walking, cycling, play, sport and other physical activity such as green gyms and outdoor fitness stations. There are other health issues that green space can also help target such as healthy eating. Providing space and guidance for people to grow their own food gives residents the opportunity not only to grow their own healthy food but also for socialisation, to tackle isolation and physical activity.

The Educational Benefits of Green Space

6.20 Plymouth's green spaces have an important role to play in providing a setting for children and adults to learn through play and social interaction. Additionally, they also provide an outdoor learning environment for local schools and for higher education. Plymouth's green spaces are a significant resource for formal and informal curriculum-based and life-long learning.

Objective GSS19: The Educational Benefits of Green Space

To enhance and develop new programmes of environmental based education with external and internal partners within Plymouth and the wider region.

6.21 The City Council currently works on an informal basis with educational institutions and a range of other partners across the city. A framework needs to be developed to improve educational opportunities for school children and Plymouth's residents and visitors. This would promote understanding and awareness of nature, biodiversity and environmental issues amongst the wider population and encourage greater and better use of green space within the city.

7. Community Involvement

Aim 5 – To support community involvement in the stewardship of green spaces.



7.1 Communities play a unique role in creating better local environments. Some of the most successful spaces are created and cared for by the people who use them most. There are a number of excellent examples in Plymouth already of community-led green spaces. These include Devonport Park, Tothill Park and Freedom Fields Park. Local communities should be asked what they like and dislike about their green spaces and what could be improved. They should also be supported to take a more direct role in the management of green spaces. This is important in realising the potential of Plymouth's green spaces by making green spaces safer and cleaner places to be and encouraging greater community use.

7.2 It is important to establish a framework for community involvement in decision-making relating to green space. It needs to relate to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and to corporate priorities. This aim will be applied through the following objective:

- Objective GSS20: Community Involvement



Community Involvement

7.3 Community involvement in the management and development of green spaces is vital and, in order to achieve the long-term aims and objectives of this strategy, community support and interest will need to be maintained over the years ahead. Community involvement is also important so that green spaces serve the needs of all in the community and are valued by the community.

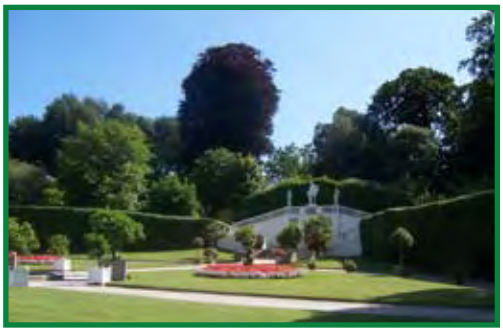
Objective GSS20: Community Involvement

To support wider community involvement in the design, management, enhancement and interpretation of green spaces.

7.4 To achieve this it is important that the City Council remains focused on the tasks set and consideration needs to be given to the establishment of a cross departmental Green Space Development Team.

7.5 The Plymouth Play Strategy highlights the need for greater community involvement in the design and building of play areas and open spaces for young people. This includes consulting children and young people about future play provision. The public consultation revealed that children and young people want to be fully involved before a service is offered. The Play Strategy seeks to increase the involvement of the local community and young people in designing, planning and running play spaces in seven green spaces across the city in 2008/09 through Friends of the Parks groups and links with local schools.

8. Realising the Potential of Plymouth's Urban Fringe


Aim 6 – To deliver a high quality network of recreational and accessible green and blue spaces linking Plymouth to its surrounding countryside.

Cross-Border Green Space Planning

8.1 Users of green space pay no heed to administrative boundaries and it is therefore crucial that green space planners and managers from neighbouring authorities cooperate to deliver a shared vision for access, as part of a joined-up approach to sub-regional green infrastructure.

Objective GSS21: Cross-Border Green Space Planning

To enhance green and blue space links between Plymouth and its surrounding countryside through an integrated approach to the planning and management of accessible green space and coast in the Plymouth sub-region.

8.2 Plymouth's urban fringe and surrounding countryside contains a wealth of natural assets, including Dartmoor National Park, two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site, National Trust estates at Wembury, the Plym Valley and Saltram Park and Mount Edgcumbe Country Park. This high quality green and blue infrastructure needs to play a key role in the city's sustainable development and regeneration. To achieve this we need to work closely with our neighbours to ensure it becomes a place where the many demands for access and recreation placed upon it complement each other.

8.3 With a large section of Plymouth's residential growth to be concentrated on its borders with other neighbouring Local Authorities, there is a need for a co-ordinated approach to managing the urban fringe's natural and historic assets in the context of the increased pressures and opportunities this growth will bring.

9. Delivering the Strategy

9.1 The Green Space Strategy and supporting evidence base will support and augment the implementation of Local Development Framework green space policy. It will also guide investment in new and existing green spaces by identifying priorities for investment.

9.2 Delivering the strategy will take a collaborative and dedicated effort by the City Council and a wide range of partners including Plymouth Primary Care Trust, Local Area Agreement partners, community groups and other green space stakeholders. Partner organisations are hugely important to the process as they can help to access funding, promote the use of green space, develop and harness the dedication of volunteers and contribute to the management of green space within the city. In many cases organisations already carry out activities that contribute to green space development in Plymouth. The development and delivery of the Green Space Strategy for Plymouth is therefore an opportunity to encourage and manage the activities of all partner organisations in a coordinated way.

9.3 Plymouth's standards for green space provision adopted in this strategy will be applied to new development through the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document. This Supplementary Planning Document incorporates the Green Space Strategy quantity and distance standards and applies them as part of Plymouth's Development Tariff, a standard charge to secure contributions in a clear, efficient and transparent way. The Green Space Strategy and supporting evidence base will help to establish whether provision for new development through the tariff is in the form of new green space, enhancement to existing green space, or both. The Green Space Strategy will also be used to provide advice on green space related matters for planning applications.

9.4 The Green Space Strategy aims and objectives will be embedded in the emerging Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan Document and Area Action Plans. These planning documents will identify green space areas and bring forward proposals for development, including green space provision requirements. The Green Space Strategy can also inform the development of these documents by providing an evidence base that shows the extent of accessible green space, where deficiencies occur, where there is sufficient green space and where existing facilities and amenities need to be improved.

9.5 In order to achieve a joined-up corporate approach to green space management, it is important that the Green Space Strategy informs the preparation of other related corporate strategies.

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008-2011

9.6 The detailed actions necessary to deliver the vision, aims and objectives adopted in the strategy are set out in the Green Space Action Plan. This action plan is the key delivery mechanism for the strategy. For each objective, information is given on the implementation approach, targets, timescale for delivery and key delivery partners. The timescale shows the date by which each action should be completed. In many cases, actions will be delivered in advance of the deadline. Where relevant, links to the Local Development Framework and to other corporate documents are shown. The targets and actions identified in the Green Space Action Plan will be embedded in the Service Plans of the identified corporate services and other partner organisations. Actions have been allocated as either priority 1 or 2. Priority 1 actions address some of the major shortfalls in quality identified and contribute to the delivery of excellent green spaces. The priority 1 actions will help to:

- bring green spaces that did not achieve 'good' in the quality audit up to at least a 'good' standard.
- Improve the quality of green space in the city's priority neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods are priorities for investment for the city as a whole and it is important that they have high quality green spaces.
- Deliver new and enhanced green space. This will include the proposed new 'City' green spaces in eastern Plymouth and Northern Plymouth.
- Bring the green spaces that have been identified as candidates for Green Flag or Green Pennant awards up to the required quality standards.
- Address the priorities that have been highlighted by customer research – in particular improving the cleanliness, safety, welcoming and marketing of green spaces.

9.7 The Green Space Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every three years until the end of the strategy period. This provides flexibility to react to changes such as political or organisational change and new funding opportunities, without losing sight of the overall green space vision and aims. Monitoring of progress made in delivering the objectives will be carried out as part of updating and reviewing the Action Plan.

Table 05 – Green Space Action Plan 2008-2012

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
Aim 1 - To set standards of green space provision to ensure that Plymouth has the right amount, type and quality of green spaces and play spaces to meet the existing and future needs of its residents, workers and visitors.					
GSS01 – Plymouth's accessible green space standard	The Plymouth standard is set out in the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD. This will be applied to new development. The Plymouth standard will inform the preparation of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD and the AAP's. These documents will identify green space areas and set out proposals for development, including requirements for green space.	Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD adopted Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD adopted City Centre, Derriford/Seaton, Hoe and East End AAPs adopted. 100 Hectares of new LNR designated 50 Hectares of new LNR designated	By 2009 By 2011 By 2011 By 2016 By 2021	1 1 1 1 1	Planning Services
GSS02 – Plymouth's play space standards	Inclusion in Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD as in GSS01 Decisions about the location of play space will also be informed by local circumstances and needs Delivery of Play Hubs	Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD adopted Play hubs delivered at Central Park, Devonport Park, Kit Hill Open Space, Efford, Ernesettle and Tothill Park Play hubs delivered at Mount Gould Park, Plympton, Plymstock Quarry, Derriford, Southway and Hooe	By 2009 By 2012 By 2023	1 2 2	Planning Services Parks Services Children's Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS03 – Plymouth's Playing Pitch Standard	Inclusion in Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD as in GSS01. Decisions about the location of playing pitches will also be informed by local circumstances and needs, as evidenced by the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Plymouth standard will inform the preparation of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD and the AAPs. These documents will identify playing pitches and set out proposals for development including requirements for playing pitches.	Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD adopted Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD adopted City Centre, Derriford/Seaton, Hoe and East End AAPs adopted	By 2009 By 2011 By 2011	1 1 1	Planning Services Leisure Services
GSS04 – Plymouth's Allotment Standard	Inclusion in Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD as in GSS01. The Plymouth standard will inform the preparation of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD and the AAPs. These documents will identify allotment areas and set out proposals for development including requirements for allotments. Decisions about the location of allotments will also be informed by local circumstances and needs and areas of opportunity. To revise the existing Allotment Strategy for the City.	Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD adopted Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD adopted City Centre, Derriford/Seaton, Hoe and East End AAPs adopted Revised Allotment Strategy adopted	By 2009 By 2011 By 2011 By 2012	1 1 1 2	Planning Services Parks Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS05 – New 'City' green spaces	The new 'City' green space proposals will be brought forward through the Local Development Framework Area Action Plans for Derriford / Seaton and North Plymstock.	City Centre, Derriford/Seaton, Hoe and East End AAPs adopted	By 2011	1	Planning Services Parks Services Transport Services.
	Delivery through site specific partnership projects to deliver management plans for these new ventures.	New 'City' green spaces created at Derriford / Seaton and North Plymstock	By 2021	1	
	Proposals to deliver 'linked' green spaces and enhanced 'Local' green spaces will be brought forward through the Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD.	Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan Document adopted	By 2011	1	
	Work with Transport Services to publicise and promote sustainable transport links to green space.	Efford Valley upgraded to 'city' status	By 2016	2	
		All 'city' green spaces accessible by public transport	By 2016	2	

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
Aim 2 - To ensure that everyone living, working and visiting in Plymouth has easy access to good quality green spaces and play spaces.					
GSS06 – Improving local access to green space	Through the application of this standard to new development. The local accessibility standard is contained in the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD.	Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document adopted	By 2009	1	Planning Services Parks Services Transport Services
	The access standard will inform the preparation of the Sustainable Neighbourhood DPD and the AAPs. These documents will identify deficiency areas and set out proposals for development including requirements for tackling deficiency.	Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD adopted	By 2011	1	
		City Centre, Derriford/Seaton, Hoe and East End AAPs adopted	By 2011	1	
	Through working with the Transport, Infrastructure and Engineering Service to identify 'severance' factors that hinder access to green space and to reduce these.	Deficiencies will no longer exist in the priority neighbourhoods (Barne Barton, City Centre, Devonport, North Prospect and Stonehouse) and the Area Action Plan areas	By 2023	1	

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS07 – Improving access to play space	Through the application of this standard to new development. The local accessibility standard is contained in the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD. The access standard will inform the preparation of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD and the AAPs. These documents will identify deficiency areas and set out proposals for development including requirements for tackling deficiency. Through working with the Transport, Infrastructure and Engineering Service to identify 'severance' factors that hinder access to play space and to reduce these.	Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document adopted Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD adopted City Centre, Derriford/Seaton, Hoe and East End AAPs adopted Deficiencies will no longer exist in the priority neighbourhoods (Barne Barton, City Centre, Devonport, North Prospect and Stonehouse) and the Area Action Plan areas	By 2009 By 2011 By 2011 By 2023	1 1 1 1	Planning Services Parks Services Transport Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
Aim 3 – To achieve high quality green spaces across Plymouth, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.					
GSS08 – Plymouth's Local Quality Standard	Through external funding sources for individual park/ green space improvements. This standard will be applied to new development and existing green spaces, to ensure that new and enhanced green space meets at least this minimum standard. It will be necessary to produce a site management plan for each green space that has not been assessed as 'good'.	Tothill Park and Efford Marsh Local Nature Reserve, Devonport Park and 'Play Builder' sites improved All green spaces will score 'good' or above	By 2012 By 2023	1 1	Planning Services Parks Services
GSS09 – Promoting excellent green spaces	Through site management plans and external funding for the identified Green Flag award candidate sites. Through the Central Park Area Action Plan which sets out priorities for investment in Central Park to 2021. Through delivery of green space proposals in the Derriford/Seaton Area Action Plan and the North Plymstock Area Action Plan.	The Hoe, West Hoe Park, Freedom Fields Park, Devonport Park awarded Green Flag status Two Local Nature Reserves awarded Green Flag status Central Park improvement proposals implemented New 'City' green spaces created at Derriford / Seaton and North Plymstock	By 2012 By 2012 By 2021 By 2021	1 1 2 1	Planning Services Parks Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS10 – High Quality Design	Through the application of these design principles to new and enhanced green space provision. Through site management plans and external funding for individual green spaces.	Play Builder sites improved New 'City' green spaces created at Derriford / Seaton and North Plymstock All green spaces will be scored 'good' or above	By 2012 By 2021 By 2023	2 1 1	Planning Services Parks Services Children's Services
GSS11 – Management and Cleanliness	Create a code of conduct for park users to be promoted across the city. Develop site management plans for all 'City' green spaces owned or managed by Plymouth City Council. Work with Environmental Services to enforce dog control orders and littering with fixed penalty notices. Introduce site-based staff at key green space locations throughout the city.	Code of conduct for park users published Public satisfaction rates with parks have increased and are sustained Park Ranger service introduced	By 2012 Satisfaction rates to increase to 85% by 2016. By 2016	1 1 1	Parks Services Environmental Protection Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS12 – Creating a skilled workforce	Review of workforce skills and a creation of training database. Rolling programme of formal training for staff to ensure continued enhancement of workforce performance. Introduce site-based staff at key green space locations throughout the city.	Rolling training programme established for workforce Park Ranger service introduced	By 2012 By 2016	2 1	Parks Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS13 – Enhancing the experience of play	Through the application of these guidelines to new or enhanced play space. All new and enhanced play space to comply with DDA guidelines and good practice. All new and enhanced play space to be designed using the 10 principles for play as set out by Play England in the 'Design for Play' manual.	Play hubs delivered at Central Park, Devonport Park, Ernesettle, Efford, Tothill Park and Kit Hill Open Space 21 play areas enhanced with Playbuilder funding Increase in customer satisfaction rates for play Play hubs delivered at Mount Gould Park, Plympton, Plymstock Quarry, Derriford, Southway and Hooe	By 2012 By 2012 By 2016 By 2016	2 2 1 2	Children's Services Community Services Parks Services Planning Services Plymouth PCT

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
Aim 4 - To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city's health, well-being and biodiversity.					
GSS14 – Promoting sustainability within the Parks Service	A review of the Parks Services carbon emissions as part of the 2008/09 Parks Service management review.	Targets to be developed as part of the Parks Service Management Review Measures introduced to reduce carbon emissions including a review of fuel use, staff travel, energy consumption and levels of grass cutting Site management plans developed to embed low carbon practices into the day to day delivery of green space management.	By 2012 By 2012 By 2016	2 2 2	Parks Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS15 – Adapting to climate change	Through the Central Park Area Action Plan which sets out priorities for investment in Central Park to 2021. Through delivery of green space proposals in the Derriford/Seaton Area Action Plan and the North Plymstock Area Action Plan. Requiring that new and enhanced green spaces include adaptation measures for climate change in line with best practice. Promoting adaptation measures for climate change as part of green space enhancement, in line with the city's Biodiversity Network. Ensuring the Sustainable Community Strategy recognises the role that green spaces can play in mitigating the effects of Climate Change so that the potential benefits of green space for the city as a whole are maximised.	Central Park improvement proposals implemented New 'City' green spaces created at Derriford / Seaton and North Plymstock All new and enhanced green space will have adaptation measures included in design	By 2021 By 2021 50 new or enhanced green space sites by 2023	2 1 2	Planning Services Parks Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS16 – Access to Nature	New Local Nature Reserves are proposed to be designated at Cann Woods (20 Ha), Plymstock Woods (38 Ha), Ham Woods (35 Ha) and for Bircham Valley Local Nature Reserve to be extended by 8 Ha.	Achieving the 1 Hectare of LNR per 1000 people by designating a minimum of 100 ha of new Local Nature Reserve by 2016 and additional 50 ha by 2021	By 2016 By 2021	1 1	Planning Services Parks Services
	Through delivery of green space proposals in the Derriford/Seaton Area Action Plan and the North Plymstock Area Action Plan.	New 'City' green spaces created at Derriford / Seaton and North Plymstock	By 2021	1	
	Delivery of links in Biodiversity Network through sensitive management of green space and 'Linked Green Space'.	Delivery of links in biodiversity network through sensitive management of green space	By 2021	2	
	Partnership working with the voluntary sector and community groups.	Management Plans prepared for new LNRs and reviewed for existing ones	By 2016	2	
GSS17 – Promoting Green Spaces for Walking and cycling	Include options for linked green spaces within the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan Document.	Cycling Strategy published	By 2009	2	Planning Services Transport Services
		Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan Document adopted	By 2010	1	
		Public Rights of Way Network completed	By 2016	2	

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
GSS18 – Promoting the health benefits of green spaces	Through the Allotment Strategy and the application of Plymouth's allotment standard. Develop links with Plymouth PCT and local GP practices and other health partners to promote physical activity within the city such as healthy walks and trim trails. Through delivery of green space proposals in the Derriford/Seaton Area Action Plan and the North Plymstock Area Action Plan.	Revised Allotment Strategy adopted Healthy walks created at Green Flag candidate parks and at Central Park New healthy walks created in the new green spaces at Derriford and North Plymstock	By 2012 By 2012 By 2021	2 2 2	Planning Services Parks Services Leisure Services Plymouth PCT
GSS19 – The educational benefits of green space	Establish an Outdoor education centre in conjunction with external partners for schools and residents to use. Working with partners to promote knowledge and understanding of Plymouth's green space. Working with Children's Services to promote the use of green space as outdoor classrooms.	Establishment of outdoor education centre at Radford Establish a framework for green space education	By 2012 By 2016	2 2	Parks Services Children's Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
Aim 5 - To support community involvement in the stewardship of green spaces.					
GSS20 – Community Involvement	Establish City-wide Green Space Forum. Promote the work of Friends Groups to other internal and external agencies. Promoting stewardship of green space through support for the Green Pennant Award for community groups and develop new friends groups where possible. Increase community awareness by promoting the work of the Parks Services Department across the city. Involve the local community in decision making around major improvement projects and in the design of new green spaces. Working with and supporting the voluntary sector to provide green space management skills. Promote and support the work of the Plymouth in Bloom group.	Building capacity for the Green Space Forum Green flag awarded to candidate parks Winning Gold in Britain in Bloom	By 2010 By 2012 By 2010	2 1 2	Parks Services

Plymouth's Green Space Action Plan 2008 - 2011					
What do we want to achieve?	How are we going to do it?	How will we know we have been successful?	Timescale for action	Priority	Responsibility for delivery
Aim 6 - To deliver a high quality network of recreational and accessible green and blue spaces linking Plymouth to its surrounding countryside.					
GSS21 – Cross-Border green space planning	Promoting, supporting and engaging in green space partnerships with government agencies, neighbouring authorities and the private and voluntary sector, such as participating in the regional green space forum for the South West. Support the delivery of the Tamar Estuaries Management Plan for interpreting the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site. Work with partners to promote and sustainably manage key green space sites, key sustainable transport links and key priorities relating to green space within the urban fringe. To work with partners and neighbouring authorities towards the adoption of a Green Infrastructure Plan for the Plymouth sub-region. Promote the work of the Green Space South West Steering Group.	Plymouth Urban Fringe Development Plan Document adopted Sub regional strategy for green infrastructure published Develop research into green space training skills across the sector Promote the South west Forum's network for the exchange of expertise, experience and information	By 2011 By 2016 By 2012 By 2012	1 2 2 2	Planning Services Parks Services

10. Glossary

AAP – Area Action Plan. A Development Plan Document that will be used to provide a planning framework for areas of significant change or conservation.

Blue Space – The surrounding water ways and coastal zones of the city.

'City' green space – Green Spaces that attract visitors from beyond the immediate vicinity because of their size, multifunctional character and/or range of attractions.

DDA – The Disability Discrimination Act.

Eastern Corridor – Land between the A38 and A379, covering Saltram, Chelson Meadow and farmland beyond.

Green Flag Award – The national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales.

Green Pennant Award – A national award that recognises high quality green spaces that are managed by voluntary and community groups.

LDF – Local Development Framework. This is the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for Plymouth. It includes Area Action Plans, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.

LDS – Local Development Scheme. This is the timetable for delivering Local Development Framework documents.

LAP – Local Area for Play – a small play area designed for young children (up to school age) and their carers.

LEAP – Local Equipped Area for Play – designed to cater for children up to 8 years old. LEAPs are generally about 400m^2 in size.

Linked green space – Adjacent green spaces that can be linked by providing the opportunity for people to travel safely on foot or bicycle between them.

'Local' green space – Green spaces that mainly serve the local population. They are generally small in size.

MUGA – Multi Use Games Area – is normally constructed to a recognised specification (information on this can be obtained from Sport England). A standard 40m x 18m (720 m^2) MUGA can accommodate tennis, mini-tennis, netball, basketball and 5-a-side football. Smaller games areas can be provided (known as multi-ball courts) for kickabout areas and more informal games.

NEAP – Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play – caters for children up to 14 years old. NEAPs include a variety of play equipment and can be up to 1,000 m^2 in size.

Northern Corridor – Land to the east of the A386. Covers areas known locally as Derriford and Seaton.

Primary function – The main function or character of a green space.

Play Hub – Area of play space designed to cater for children and young people and will include at least one of the following: a MUGA, skate park, BMX track or other sports facility as well as play equipment.

SPD – Supplementary Planning Document. This provides guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in Development Plan Documents.

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