



# **Open Spaces Strategy**

**2018 – 2036**

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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

This is a strategy for the management of open spaces in the borough of Charnwood. It provides a review of the 2013 Open Spaces Strategy and a current Action Plan based on an up to date assessment of provision, user consultation and local needs analysis. It aims to provide a clear framework for practical action to protect and improve open spaces. It will guide prioritisation, management and resource allocation for the improvement of open spaces, and will deliver good practice in all aspects of provision. It will also exploit opportunities to increase the provision of open space, and support bids for funding to improve the network of open spaces to meet current and future needs.

The Strategy will ensure the Council's commitment to high quality open spaces is fully integrated into its strategies, plans and programmes, by influencing and informing policy development and implementation across the Council's activities.

## Purpose

The Open Spaces Strategy will provide:-

- A framework for the management, development and maintenance of open space owned by Charnwood Borough Council.
- An Action Plan for the future delivery of open space to meet identified deficiencies.
- Guidance and support for the delivery of open space through the Local Plan.
- Leadership advice and support for alternative open space delivery partners.
- Information to the communities of Charnwood on the provision of open space.

## Background

The Council's existing Open Space Strategy was adopted in 2013. In line with national guidance and existing strategic recommendations the key policies, evidence base and recommendations require regular review to ensure they continue to reflect local needs and priorities. A new evidence base and recommendations have been completed (Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2018), replacing the Open Spaces Recreation Study 2010. In addition, the Council is in the process of writing a new Local Plan and the Open Spaces Strategy will inform key policies within this document.

The Borough will see significant population growth during the Strategy period and ensuring good quality and accessible open spaces are provided as part of this growth is essential to creating sustainable communities in the future. The review of the Council's Open Space Strategy will ensure that policies remain relevant, based on the most up to date evidence, addressing existing deficiencies and meeting current and projected demand up to 2036.

## **Achievements to Date**

Since the adoption of the Open Spaces Strategy 2013, there have been a number of key achievements, including:

- The creation of a Community Park at Shortcliffe Park, including new skate facility and Multi-Games Area;
- Installation of Multi-Games Areas at Jubilee Park, Great Central Park, Radmoor Park and Bottle Acre Lane Open Space;
- Refurbished tennis courts at Park Road and Nanpantan;
- Provision of a new exercise trail at Jubilee Park;
- Creation of a new pocket park and community garden at the Bell Foundry;
- Improvements to security, drainage and access at Mountfields and Ingle Pingle Allotments;
- Installation of new parkour and outdoor gym at Southfield Park;
- Additional children's play equipment at Cumberland Road Park;
- A new path network at Dishley Pool and introduction of a Park Run at the site;
- Improved path network and new play trail at Kirkstone Park;
- Creation of a community garden at Maynard's Green;
- Establishment of a weekly Green Gym volunteer group;
- Introduction of visitor facilities at The Outwoods and new Masterplan for the site.

The Council has also successfully retained two Green Flag awards (The Outwoods and Queens Park, Loughborough) and attained a third Green Flag at Forest Road Green Belt, Loughborough. Charnwood continues to have success with its entry in the regional Britain In Bloom competitions, having won East Midlands In Bloom Small City Category Award for 8 consecutive years. Queens Park has also attained a prestigious BALI Award, winning the Grounds Maintenance Free Public Access category in 2017.

While the Council is continuing to perform well, it is clear that more needs to be done to ensure that deficiencies in quantity, quality and accessibility, identified in the Open Space Assessment Study (2017) and Playing Pitch Strategy (2018) are addressed.

## **Scope of the Open Spaces Strategy**

The Open Spaces Strategy recognises all available open space in Charnwood, categorising it into a range of land types. These 'typologies' are used to measure standards and identify deficiencies in provision across the Borough.

The Council's vision and objectives are set out for open space including a range of policies that will help guide future provision and management up to 2036, remedying some of the identified deficiencies. The strategy will also inform the Local Plan and will be used to guide future decision making by the Council. Successful delivery will require the engagement of key stakeholders including the support of a wide range of Council services, as well as other landowners, such as Leicestershire County Council, Town and Parish Councils, the community sector, businesses, developers and schools.

## **Key Drivers**

There are a number of key drivers for the new strategy, including the preparation of a new Local Plan, the Council's ambitious housing growth agenda, and the issues arising from the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2018. In addition, a range of local, regional and national strategies, frameworks and plans contribute to the need for an effective Open Spaces Strategy.

It is recognised that the next steps required will be very challenging. Budget constraints, increasing costs, and ensuring the needs of residents are identified and met will all present significant challenges.

## **Main Issues to be Addressed by the Open Spaces Strategy**

The Open Spaces Strategy aims to provide a framework for delivering the necessary additional open space needed as part of the Council's ambitious growth agenda identified in the emerging Local Plan.

This framework will include a set of Policy Statements that will guide the Council in its decision making process and allow for deficiencies in open space identified in the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 to be addressed in a prioritised manner.

In adopting an Open Spaces Strategy, Charnwood Borough Council has shown it has aspirations to make significant improvements in the provision of open space in Charnwood. A key part of achieving success with the Strategy will be working with a variety of partners and stakeholders. In this way we can ensure that all residents of the Borough can have suitable access to the right types of high quality open space.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1. The Definition of Open Space

- 2.1.1 ‘Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.’ (**Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2014**).
- 2.1.2 Parks, natural spaces and other types of open space do not exist in isolation but make up the green infrastructure of the Borough. Green infrastructure is the physical environment within and between urban areas. It is a network of multi-functional open spaces, including formal parks, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside.

### 2.2 The Vision for Open Spaces in Charnwood

- 2.2.1 The Council will work with our partners in improving the quantity, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport and recreational opportunities by providing sustainable open spaces. It will protect and enhance biodiversity and heritage, whilst meeting the community’s needs, maximising the use of facilities, and engendering pride in the local community.

### 2.3 The Aims and Objectives of the Strategy

- 2.3.1 The aim of this Strategy is to provide a clear framework for practical action to protect and improve open spaces in Charnwood.
- 2.3.2 The objectives of this Strategy are to:
- Develop a strategic framework, including Open Spaces Policy, to guide key prioritisation and resource allocation for the management and improvement of open spaces;
  - Understand and fulfil community expectations in providing open spaces in Charnwood;
  - Provide standards of public open space which are adopted within the Local Plan;
  - Deliver good practice in the management of new and existing open space;
  - Exploit opportunities to increase the provision of open space;
  - Support and enable bids for funding to improve the network of open spaces.

## 2.4 The Importance of Open Space

- 2.4.1 'Publicly accessible green space has been at the heart of urban planning, community building, and health policies in the UK for over a hundred years. The Victorians saw public parks as a way to improve the health of those living in crowded urban centres, while the Garden City Movement of the inter war period saw open green spaces and quality recreation and sports grounds as part of a wider belief that good urban design would lead to well-developed citizens and a well-functioning society. The belief that parks and green spaces provide benefits to individuals and society has not changed substantively in the intervening years. We now have a growing body of empirical evidence which confirms that they provide direct benefits to those who use them and, importantly, indirectly to those who don't.' (Fields in Trust, **Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces, 2018**).
- 2.4.2 In February 2017 the Communities and Local Government Committee (CLGC) published a report into the value of parks and green space in the UK. The report discussed the positive contributions that parks and green spaces provide to the everyday lives of communities, with recommendations around improving the provision of, and equality of access to, parks and green spaces linked to public health strategies.
- 2.4.3 Parks and open spaces have traditionally been viewed as financial liabilities for local authorities, however, they are central to the lives of their communities. They provide opportunities for leisure, relaxation and exercise and are also fundamental to community cohesion, physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and local economic growth. Quantifying the wider benefits of parks and open spaces is crucial to accessing new sources of funding and targeting investment in areas of greatest impact.
- 2.4.4 Table 1 below provides details of a number of wider benefits of open space:

**Table 1: Beneficial Outcomes of Open Spaces**

Beneficial Outcome	Description
Health and Wellbeing	<p>Wellbeing is a positive state of both mental and physical health. How interaction with open spaces is beneficial is well documented. It can be effective in a participatory or passive capacity, positively affect depression, and lower blood pressure and cholesterol, among many other positive interventions and preventions.</p> <p>Research undertaken in 2015 by Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association), found that 50 per cent of people said they would be less active without their local parks and green spaces, and 48 per cent said that using their local park made them feel healthier.</p>

Beneficial Outcome	Description
Biodiversity and Access to Nature	<p>Biodiversity is fundamental to the sustainability of our ecosystem. With the ever increasing pressures on agricultural practice and loss of habitat-rich gardens, public open space has increased its strategic importance. The benefits to biodiversity can be in habitat management, nature conservation, maintaining green corridors and targeting work towards protected species.</p> <p>The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) has highlighted that parks and green spaces “<i>support vital biodiversity, such as threatened pollinators, which are key to our food supply and vital to supporting our food economy</i>”.</p>
Climate Mitigation	<p>Open Spaces are likely to play an increasingly important role as part of our urban infrastructure, not least because of their potential to have a positive effect on climate change and pollution. Sustainable Urban Drainage systems mitigate against flash floods, filtrate polluted surface water and reduce demands on existing systems. Plants significantly cool and shade, and absorb CO<sub>2</sub>. Plants also act as filters for harmful airborne particles that can impact on air quality.</p> <p>Public Health England has highlighted the positive impact open spaces have on air quality, water quality, noise absorption, and flood risk mitigation.</p>
Social Cohesion	<p>Open spaces have a number of benefits on social cohesion from encouraging inter-generational engagement to fostering a sense of community ownership and reducing social isolation. Open spaces transcend culture and allow communities to meet in a neutral space.</p>
Heritage	<p>Open spaces have a number of heritage benefits: places where heritage features are found, natural and man-made, and places where memories are formed.</p>
Economy	<p>High quality open spaces have a positive impact on the local economy by attracting and retaining investments and jobs. The local work force is maintained through the provision of attractive environments which also benefit the health and wellbeing of communities.</p>
Learning	<p>Open spaces play a significant role in allowing children and young people to play, which is an integral part of their development. Open spaces also provide other opportunities to learn, from volunteering opportunities to skill-building apprenticeships.</p>

## **2.5 Issues Relating to Provision and Management of Open Spaces**

2.5.1 In addition to the deficiencies in quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces (identified in chapters 4 and 5) there are a number of other strategic and local issues that need to be taken into account in developing and delivering the Open Spaces Strategy for Charnwood. These include:-

- The ambitious housing growth agenda that the Council is responding to (ONS estimate the population of Charnwood to increase by 17.7% between 2017 and 2036, from 180,100 to 212,100 people).
- Lack of dedicated governing body within central Government for open spaces e.g. Sport England, Arts Council etc.
- The service is particularly vulnerable to financial pressures given the lack of statutory nature of open spaces.
- Community expectations are relatively high and therefore associated costs of service provision are equally relatively high.
- The service requires long term investment and the associated costs for maintenance and replacement of open spaces can be relatively high (both capital and revenue).
- Unless quality standards are maintained at a relatively high standard, open spaces rapidly attract anti-social behaviour and can start a spiral of decline.
- Service provision is high profile, customer focused and immediately apparent e.g. children play areas, street scene etc.
- There is a matrix of service providers for open space which makes co-ordination difficult and the potential for non-uniformity of standards across the Borough.
- Competing and conflicting needs and aspirations of open spaces from the different sectors of the community.

## **2.6 The Need for an Open Spaces Strategy**

2.6.1 The Open Spaces Strategy explains how open spaces will be provided and managed in to the future and sets out the Council's expectations for quantity, quality and accessibility. This strategic framework will be reflected in the Council's emerging Local Plan to ensure that open spaces are protected and new open spaces are secured as part of new developments.

2.6.2 Where there are deficiencies in the quality of existing open spaces, this Strategy will guide how those deficiencies will be addressed.

## **2.7 The Timescale Covered by the Strategy**

2.7.1 The Open Spaces Strategy covers the period to 2036. Whilst this represents a significant period of time it matches that of the emerging Local Plan and provides a reasonable timeframe for investment decisions and programmes to be delivered. It is recognised that a number of influencing factors can change during such a length of time, and so there will be regular formal reviews of the Strategy. In this way, the Strategy can remain a fluid, up-to-date and relevant document that reflects the needs and aspirations of the communities we serve.

## **2.8 The Scope of the Strategy**

- 2.8.1 This Open Spaces Strategy recognises all available open space in Charnwood and categorises each according to land typologies recommended by Government guidance.
- 2.8.2 The Strategy highlights areas within the Borough that are considered lacking in certain types of open space, together with priorities for future development opportunities. These issues are considered in a location specific context (i.e. Parish or Ward basis), as well as in certain circumstances a broader strategic context (e.g. sports pitches on a sub area or borough wide basis).
- 2.8.3 The strategy recognises that the Borough Council owns and manages a limited amount of open space within Charnwood and that a significant land ownership is placed with the County Council, Parish Councils, private land owners and private trustees.
- 2.8.4 To ensure the Open Spaces Strategy takes account of all open space facilities available to the communities within Charnwood, all areas are included within the scope of the Strategy. The full detail of other stakeholders land is included in the Open Spaces Assessment 2017 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2018.

## **2.9 Previous Strategy Recommendations**

- 2.9.1 The Open Spaces Strategy 2013 – 2028 provided the strategic framework for the management and improvement of open space provision in the Borough. It was based on a robust information base (Open Spaces Assessment 2010) and made recommendations for addressing identified shortfalls through the adoption of ‘standards’ for provision, a set of Policy Statements and a 5 year Action Plan (2013-2018).
- 2.9.2 The Open Space Action Plan (2013 – 2018) has successfully delivered many Strategy recommendations, from investment in facilities to ongoing changes to the management of open spaces and service delivery. The 2013 Open Spaces Strategy remains relevant in terms of its core vision, aims and policy framework. However, with population growth, new housing development, provision of new, and the wear and tear on existing facilities, there is a need to review and update information on a regular basis.
- 2.9.3 The Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) and PPS (2018) build on the knowledge and recommendations of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2010 and provide an up to date information base. As a result ‘standards’ for provision have been updated to reflect current needs and recommendations. Policy Statements have also been reviewed to ensure they continue to meet current local needs and priorities.
- 2.9.4 In updating the 2013 Open Space Strategy we recognise the achievements made to date, take forward ongoing recommendations that remain relevant and make new recommendations where the updated assessment of current supply and demand indicates improvements are required.

## **2.10 Availability of Funding**

- 2.10.1 Green spaces managed by Charnwood Borough Council are funded from a variety of sources, including a revenue budget of approximately £1.7m per annum, significant planning obligations secured by section 106 agreements, and grants from external funding bodies, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 2.10.2 Since 2010, fiscal measures have been introduced to minimise pressure on the public purse, resulting in the need to seek alternative sources of funding for non-essential services. Whilst not detracting from the importance of green space on issues such as the health and well-being agenda, social cohesion and biodiversity, there is a need to source sustainable long-term funding opportunities.
- 2.10.3 The Council recognises that with a growing population, there is increased pressure to develop land currently designated as open space. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been introduced by the government as an additional means to secure community benefits from new developments and support the established mechanism of agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act. Charnwood Borough Council is yet to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy but continues to secure provision through new developments through the use of Section 106 Agreements. Facilities or funding secured through Section 106 Agreements must meet three legal tests. The tests are:
- a. necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
  - b. directly related to the development; and
  - c. fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 2.10.4 The Council will continue to seek alternative funding mechanisms to minimise the long-term impact on the Council Tax payer.

## **2.11 Community Engagement in Developing the Strategy**

- 2.11.1 The Open Spaces Strategy has been developed using the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2018, which were prepared by independent consultants. These documents form the evidence base upon which the development of this Open Spaces Strategy is built. Existing open space within Charnwood has been fully audited and extensive consultation undertaken to determine local standards on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space.
- 2.11.2 The Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018 assess nine typologies of provision e.g. parks and gardens, allotments etc., to identify deficiencies in open space provision across the Borough. The Open Spaces Assessment 2017 proposes standards for Open Space (excluding outdoor sports provision). The Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 assesses the supply and demand for Playing Pitches and other outdoor sports provision in Charnwood

using Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (2013).

- 2.11.3 Consultation with the local community and key stakeholders e.g. Parish Councils, Sports Clubs and community groups was undertaken to identify local needs, areas falling short of standards and priorities for action. These community priorities have been used to inform the Council's priorities for rectifying shortfalls in open space provision and in the development of Open Spaces policies.
- 2.11.4 The Open Spaces Strategy and on-going Action Plans will therefore represent a robust framework for developing and managing open space in the future.

## **3. CONTEXT**

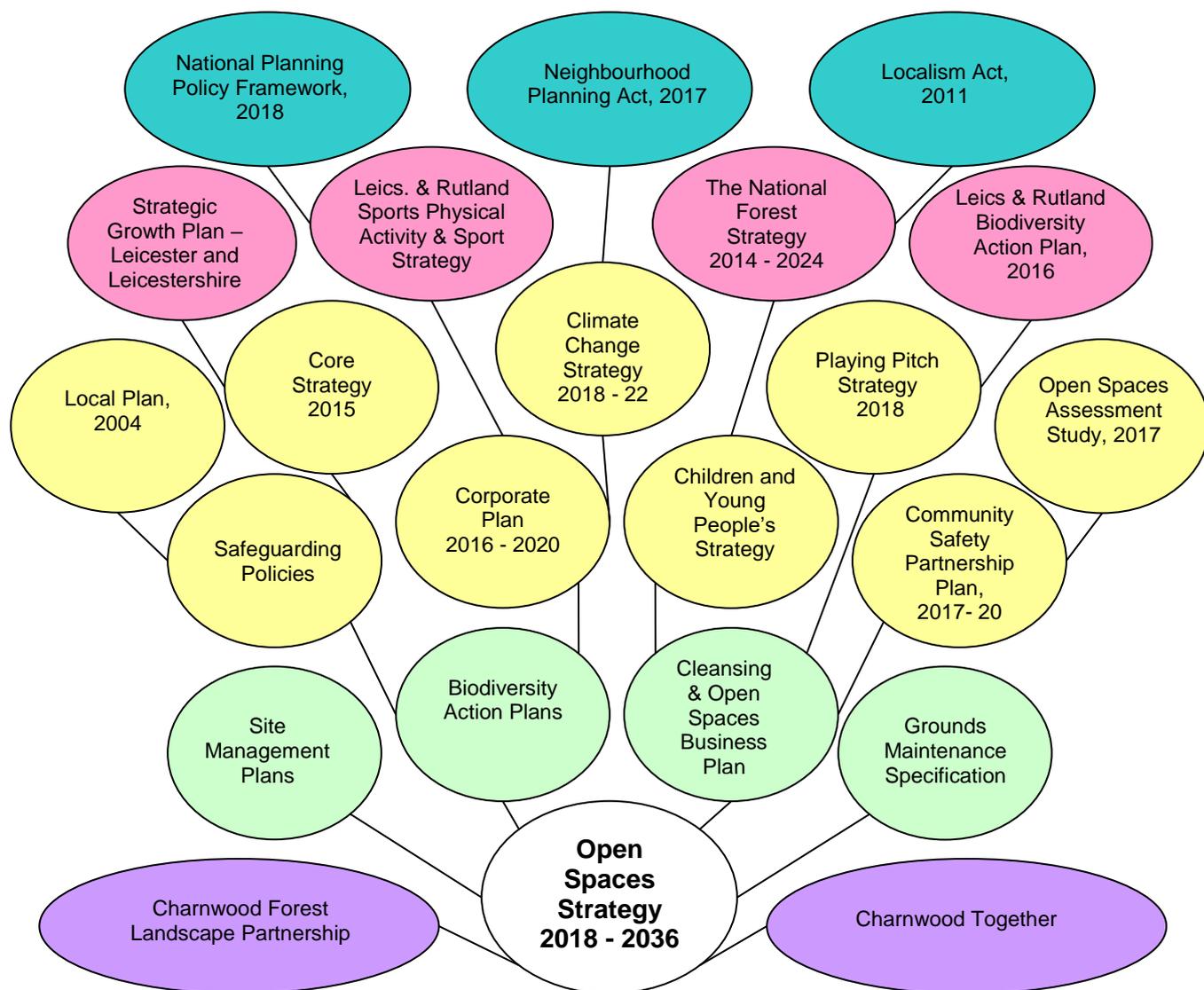
### **3.1. The Borough of Charnwood**

- 3.1.1 The Borough of Charnwood lies at the heart of the East Midlands, with the major cities of Nottingham and Derby to the north, and Leicester to the south. Loughborough is the main town, and has become a major centre for advanced technology, which is underpinned by one of the country's leading universities. One third of the population lives in the thriving university town of Loughborough. The remaining two thirds live in the villages and small towns of the Soar and Wreake valleys and on the edge of Leicester.

### **3.2. Overview**

- 3.2.1 This section reviews the legislative and strategic context and provides the national, regional and local perspectives which are relevant to public open space provision. Whilst this review is not exhaustive it provides outline background information on the context in which the Strategy sits, and which influences current provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough.
- 3.2.2 The Open Spaces Strategy is shaped and influenced by a number of inter-related strategies, policy documents and plans from national policy through to regional and local frameworks. Figure 1 below helps to provide an illustrative context on the links with other strategies, whilst the following text provides some further information.
- 3.2.3 Given the timescale of the Strategy the Council recognises the need to regularly review national, regional and local policy and continue to learn from examples of best practice. The Council is committed to providing excellent customer service and will maximise opportunities to improve its services, through knowledge sharing and partnership work.

**Figure 1: The Strategic Context of the Open Spaces Strategy**



### 3.3 National Policy

#### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2018

3.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (revised) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. It replaces previous guidance in Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes. At its heart is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which promotes development that improves economic, social and environmental outcomes. Paragraph 96 states that ‘access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Planning policies need to be based on robust and up to date assessments of the need for open spaces, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or

qualitative deficits or surpluses), and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision are needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate’.

- 3.3.2 The NPPF provides protection of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings including playing fields, with some specific policy exceptions. Provision is also made for the designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans. This allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.

### **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)**

- 3.3.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018 is underpinned by a suite of Planning Practice Guidance which is regularly updated, added to and amended. This information is designed to support the interpretation of NPPF policies.
- 3.3.4 National Planning Practice Guidance includes ***open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and the new Local Green Space designation***. This guidance (2014) contains the requirement for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. It recommends that authorities and developers refer to Sport England’s guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities and consult Local Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields.
- 3.3.5 Planning Practice Guidance on ***Health and Wellbeing*** (2017) outlines a range of issues that could be considered through the plan-making and decision-making processes, in respect of health and healthcare infrastructure. It includes the consideration of opportunities for healthy lifestyles e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity, and promotes access to healthier food, high quality open spaces, green infrastructure and opportunities for play, sport and recreation.
- 3.3.6 Planning Practice Guidance ***Natural Environment*** (2016) covers landscape, biodiversity and ecosystems, green infrastructure, brownfield land, soils and agricultural land. In relation to the Open Space Strategy the key sections relate to ecosystem services which form part the Open Space Assessment Study (2017) site assessments and green infrastructure networks.
- 3.3.7 There are many Regulations and Acts that specifically refer to the benefits that can be offered by public open space, such as the Public Health Acts and the Crime & Disorder Act. However, two, the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, have specifically focused on the need for a strategic approach to be taken.

### **Localism Act, 2011**

- 3.3.8 The Localism Act paved the way for planning powers to be passed down to local communities through the production of Neighbourhood Plans.
- 3.3.9 In relation to public open space provision, the Localism Act:
- Makes provision for the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies, and changes to the processes for publishing, examining and adopting development plan documents;
  - Provides for neighbourhood plans, which would be adopted by the council as part of the development plan if they receive 50% of the votes cast in a referendum;
  - Provides for Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs), which allow communities to approve development without requiring normal planning consent;
  - Amends the Community Infrastructure Levy, which allows councils to charge developers to pay for infrastructure on a tariff basis. Some of the revenue will be available for the local community;
  - Makes pre-application consultation compulsory for developments above certain thresholds.

### **Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017**

- 3.3.10 The Neighbourhood Planning Act (NPA) 2017 brings into force wide-ranging changes to neighbourhood planning, local development documents, compulsory purchase and planning conditions. It is intended to strengthen neighbourhood planning by ensuring that planning decision makers take account of well-advanced neighbourhood development plans and by giving these plans full legal effect at an earlier stage.
- 3.3.11 The NPA requires each local planning authority to set out policies to address the strategic land use priorities in their area
- 3.3.12 In addition to the above, the Council is mindful of other National guidance and good practice and its relevance to Open Space provision in Charnwood, including:
- HM Government Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation, 2015.
  - Sport England: Towards an Active Nation, Strategy 2016 – 2021.
  - Everybody Active, Every Day, Public Health England, 2014.
  - Active Design, Sport England 2015.
  - Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces, Play England, 2008.
  - Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play - Beyond the Six Acre Standard, Fields in Trust, 2015.
  - Biodiversity offsetting: Guidance for developers, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2012.

## **3.4 Regional Policy**

3.4.1 Charnwood Borough Council has signed up to a number of regional strategies to enable a coordinated approach to the management of public open space. These include, but are not limited to:

### **Strategic Growth Plan – Leicester and Leicestershire (2018)**

3.4.2 The Strategic Growth Plan has been developed by a partnership made up of Leicester City and Leicestershire County councils, the seven local borough and district authorities and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP). It puts forward proposals for future development, including housing provision that will be needed to support population change, meet housing needs and support economic growth from now until 2050.

3.4.3 The Strategic Growth Plan will be used to help shape the Local Plans that the city, borough and district councils are preparing or reviewing. It will also be used to support bids for Government funding to deliver the infrastructure needed to support growth.

### **The National Forest Strategy, 2014 – 2024**

3.4.4 The National Forest Strategy sets out the key objectives for the Forest. It prioritises making the most of the asset created and securing the forest's future, through:

- sensitive achievement of the landscape change, with increased targeting to get the greatest benefits;
- making the most of forest sites (woodlands and other habitats, attractions, connections and views);
- increasing engagement, enjoyment and well-being by the widest range of people effective partnerships taking the forest to the next stage;
- bringing in new income and investment the national exemplar role, research and being a centre of excellence;
- securing a sustainable lead body into the future based on a balanced funding model and the reputation of the National Forest Company (NFC).

## **3.5 Local Policy**

3.5.0 The Open Spaces Strategy is integral to the Council's overall policy framework and plays an important role in the policies of other local stakeholders. The following sets out key local policy information for Charnwood.

### **Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020**

3.5.1 The Borough Council's Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities and objectives until 2020. It sets out how the Council will make the borough a better place to live, work and visit. It has three key themes – People, Place and Service and contains pledges to make Charnwood:

- a safer, more secure and caring environment;
  - a borough with a strong, diverse economy;
  - and a place served by a Council which puts customers at the heart of everything it does.
- 3.5.2 Through the Corporate Plans aim of creating a strong and lasting economy the Council will ensure that growth in homes and infrastructure benefits residents through improved community facilities. It also supports action to protect the environment for future generations.
- 3.5.3 Through 'every resident matters' the Council will encourage healthy lifestyles through physical activity programmes and the provision of sports facilities and green spaces.
- 3.5.4 The Corporate Plan supports the Council's ambition to deliver excellent Services and listen and communicate with residents and act on concerns.

### **The Charnwood Local Plan, Core Strategy 2015**

- 3.5.5 The Council's Core Strategy is the primary document of the Charnwood Local Plan providing a strategy for delivering growth for Charnwood up to 2028.
- 3.5.6 The new Local Plan (up to 2036) will replace the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan 2004. The Core Strategy is the first of the new development plan documents that will make up the Charnwood Local Plan. It is supported by other documents as referred to in the Core Strategy and set out in the Local Development Scheme.
- 3.5.7 Until the whole new Local Plan has been prepared, the Core Strategy should be read alongside the saved policies from the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan (2004).
- 3.5.8 The Strategy provides the vision, objectives and strategic policies for delivering growth for Charnwood. It will help shape and consider major developments, deliver infrastructure, and influence economic investment decisions. It will play a significant part in delivering homes and jobs, regenerating the borough's towns and protecting the countryside, environment and heritage.
- 3.5.9 The Core Strategy reflects the Government's requirements as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Strategy has been developed within these requirements to support and deliver the Council's Corporate Plan and supporting strategies for Charnwood, particularly the Sustainable Community Strategy and Regeneration Strategy.
- 3.5.10 The Core Strategy provides policies for both the built and natural environment, including green infrastructure, biodiversity, open spaces, sport and recreation.
- 3.5.11 The Strategy notes that 'access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation contributes to the health, well-being and cohesion of our communities as well as civic pride. As our population increases, the pressure on

current provision will mount, and there will be a need to provide significant areas of open space and long term management arrangements.’

3.5.12 The Council’s Open Spaces Strategy forms an evidence base for the Core Strategy which adopts the standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

3.5.13 The Core Strategy will see major areas of new development accompanied by significant areas of open space. This will have a major impact on open space provision in the Borough, and this Open Spaces Strategy will address the management implications of these developments.

### **Charnwood Climate Change Strategy 2018 – 2022**

3.5.14 The Climate Change Strategy 2018-2022 sets out the Council’s aim of influencing and empowering residents, community groups, schools and businesses in the Borough to help them to mitigate climate change by reducing their carbon emissions and also aims to implement carbon reduction projects to reduce the carbon emissions of its own buildings.

3.5.15 The Strategy sets out how the Council will work to increase the resilience and capacity of the Council’s services to a changing climate and will support the residents and businesses of the Borough to adapt to climate change by helping them to prepare and increase their resilience to the possible impacts of climate change.

3.5.16 The Strategy recognises that specific actions are needed to address different climate change issues. The Climate Change Strategy is based around three themes:

- raising awareness
- reducing our impact on climate change
- resilience

3.5.17 The Strategy ensures that Council owned open spaces and habitat are well adapted to the changing climate.

3.5.18 When new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value the Council will ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures.

3.5.19 The Strategy supports tree planting across Charnwood to offset CO2 emissions, provide habitat for wildlife, enhance natural landscape and reduce flood risk.

### **Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan, 2016 – 2026**

3.5.20 In 2016 the Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Plan (LLRBAP) was updated. All the 19 Priority Habitat Summaries have been revised to include opportunities / conservation measures, an explanation of the link to Local Wildlife Site criteria, and to update the status of the habitat, where known.

- 3.5.21 The revised LLRBAP provides a summary of the current extent of habitats, including an assessment of the current trend in quality and extent for each, where evidence exists. The list of core LBAP species remains, but the definition of an LBAP species has been widened to include species listed in Local Red Data Books or identified as 'rare' in a County or VC55 checklist.
- 3.5.22 The 2016 LLRBAP includes a new Species Action Plan, for Swifts, Swallows and House Martins. The rest of the document is largely unaltered, apart from minor updates.

### **Links with Sport, Active Recreation and Neighbourhood Services**

#### **Children & Young People's Strategy 2015 – 2018**

- 3.5.23 The Children and young people's Strategy sets out the Councils' aims and objectives in regards to the well-being and safety of children and young people in the borough.
- 3.5.24 The strategy was developed in partnership with children, young people and their families, practitioners and voluntary and statutory partners.
- 3.5.25 The Strategy supports providing opportunities for children and young people to participate in shaping and influencing matters that affect them.
- 3.5.26 The Council is committed to actively involving children and young people in our services design and decision making by supporting groups like Charnwood Youth Council and through integration of the children and young people's participation toolkit in all Service Areas.

#### **Leicestershire and Rutland Physical Activity & Sport Strategy 2017 – 2021**

- 3.5.27 Charnwood Borough Council is committed to the Leicestershire and Rutland Physical Activity & Sport Strategy (LRS) 2017 – 2021. The Strategy provides a common framework across Leicestershire and Rutland to successfully increase participation levels and reduce health inequalities.
- 3.5.28 The LRS Strategy sets a long-term vision for physical activity and sport across LLR that encompasses everything from supporting the least active residents to build activity into their everyday lives, through to the development of future Olympians, Paralympians and World Champions.
- 3.5.29 The strategy provides a framework for action by partners working across LLR. It needs local authorities and Local Sport Alliances working closely with public sector bodies including health, sports clubs (professional and voluntary), National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and the education, voluntary and private sectors, working alongside communities across the sub region.

## **Charnwood Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 - 2020**

- 3.5.30 The Charnwood Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together a variety of statutory, non-statutory and voluntary organisations with a shared commitment to improving public confidence by reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour for our communities. The Partnership is one of the delivery groups of Charnwood Together.
- 3.5.31 The CSP has three key themes. These key themes are based on the priorities identified within the Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) and take on board the priorities of all the statutory partners, including The Police and Crime Plan, current trends, volumes of crime and ASB and future projections.
- 3.5.32 The three themes of the CSP for 2017 - 2020 are:
- Theme 1: Making Communities Safer
  - Theme 2: Protecting Vulnerable People
  - Theme 3: Improving Community, Confidence, Engagement and Cohesion
- 3.5.33 In addition, under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, the Council has a statutory duty to take account of the community safety dimension in all of its work. In recognition of this duty, the design of open spaces and facilities will consider how best this can be taken into account and play an integral part in the community safety agenda.

### **Safeguarding Policies**

- 3.5.34 Statutory agencies, including Charnwood Borough Council, have a corporate responsibility to safeguard children and young people - that is to protect them from harm and to promote their welfare.
- 3.5.35 Excellent design of open spaces and thoughtful selection and placement of equipment for these areas enhances our contribution to children's development and opportunities for them to use their creativity and sense of adventure.
- 3.5.36 Charnwood Borough Council's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, and the Adults in Need of Safeguarding Policy, are important guides for open spaces staff, and for those who deliver activities within them, in order to ensure that concerns and incidents are reported effectively.

## **3.6 Partnership Working**

- 3.6.1 In addition to the Borough Council, there are a variety of other organisations managing and maintaining open spaces in Charnwood. The Borough Council has a key role to play through the adoption of this Open Spaces Strategy to provide leadership and guidance to other partners in how open space provision can meet community expectations and need. The Council will work with others to help guide and advise partners in an attempt to fulfil shortfalls in certain typologies.

3.6.2 The Borough Council will continue to support existing and new strategic partnerships, including:

### **Charnwood Together**

3.6.3 Charnwood Together, the local strategic partnership for Charnwood is a voluntary, non-executive partnership.

3.6.4 Members of the partnership include: local councils, public service providers and statutory agencies, businesses, voluntary organisations and the local community, with the aim of improving public services and promoting the economic, social and environmental well-being of Charnwood.

3.6.5 The partnership is led by a board of representatives from local agencies and organisations with a forum whose role is to hold the board accountable for implementation of the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy and its regular review. The forum is open to all groups and organisations in the Borough.

3.6.6 Eight Delivery Groups help the Charnwood Together Board deliver the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The eight delivery groups are listed below, with identified priorities or actions that are relevant to the Open Spaces Strategy, and demonstrate the linkage and the integral part open spaces play in the community:

**i) Stronger Communities Group**

- Secure the provision of accessible facilities and services to meet local needs;
- To protect the historic environment and identity of the Borough;
- To create distinctive and quality places for local people by requiring high design and environmental standards.

**ii) Health and Wellbeing Partnership**

- Secure the provision of accessible facilities and services to meet local needs, having regard to the particular needs of the young, old and “hard to reach”;
- Promote health and wellbeing, for example by ensuring residents have access to local parks, greenspaces and natural environment, the countryside and facilities for sport and recreation.

**iii) Climate Change Group**

- Increase the use of walking, cycling and public transport;
- Reduce the risk to people and properties through flooding;
- Protect the special and distinctive qualities of all landscapes, and to pay special attention to impacts upon Charnwood Forest and its environs;
- To maintain and enhance the range of ecological sites.

**iv) Area Improvement Group**

- To reduce social exclusion and deprivation and increase educational attainment;

- Secure provision of accessible community facilities and services to meet local needs.

**v) Children and Young People Group**

- Reduce social exclusion;
- Secure provision of accessible facilities.

**vi) Partnership Development Group**

- To continue to improve partnership working with a view to achieving better outcomes for the Charnwood Together Vision.

**vii) Economic, Growth and Learning Group**

- Ensuring that the towns and villages offer a vibrant place to live and work, with attractive facilities including parks and leisure;
- Ensure a high quality environment through high standards of design;
- Developing relationships with exemplar agencies, such as the National Forest Company.

**viii) Community Safety Partnership**

- To reduce acquisitive and violent crime;
- To reduce anti-social behaviour;
- To reduce the fear of crime.

**Charnwood Forest Partnership**

3.6.7 The Council is committed to supporting the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership. After a successful Round 1 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid the Partnership is working on its two-year Development Phase, during which studies to provide key information and to work up the detail of how projects will be delivered will be undertaken.

3.6.8 The Charnwood Forest Landscape Scheme proposes to bring about a major change in how we protect, manage and celebrate the heritage of Charnwood Forest. It will celebrate the area's internationally important volcanic legacy, encouraging people to explore Charnwood Forest's rich landscape and diverse heritage.

3.6.9 The Outwoods, a SSSI ancient woodland managed by the Council lies within the Charnwood Forest area and is a key site within the scheme. Proposals include improved access and better linkages between this site and others within the Forest Area, connecting people to its history and securing its sustainable future.

**3.7 Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) and Playing Pitch Strategy (2018)**

3.7.1 In 2017 the Borough Council commissioned an update of the 2010 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study. Two reports have been produced – The Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) and the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018). These

documents update and build upon the 2010 Study, having regard to changes in national policy guidance and analysis of local needs and priorities.

3.7.2 The Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) assesses the provision of eight established typologies of Open Space, as follows:

- Parks & Garden;
- Amenity Green Space;
- Natural & Semi-natural Green Space;
- Children & Young People's Facilities;
- Allotments & Community Gardens;
- Green Corridors;
- Civic Spaces;
- Cemeteries, closed churchyards and other burial sites.

3.7.3 Key aims and objectives of the Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) were to:

- Provide a robust evidence base for Open Spaces Strategy development;
- Provide local standards for open space provision;
- Support the drafting of planning policy for the Charnwood Local Plan;
- Identify surpluses and deficiencies in open space and consider these against current needs and future growth;
- Determine future provision needs e.g. protection, enhancement, surplus to requirements;
- Inform the determination of planning applications;
- Prioritise Charnwood Borough Council's and its partners' capital and revenue investment;
- Help understanding of local priorities for open space needs to better inform the negotiation of Section 106 agreements.

3.7.4 In addition, the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been updated. This Strategy evaluates the adequacy of pitches for Football, Rugby, Cricket and Hockey along with the provision for Athletics, Bowls, Cycling, Golf, Outdoor Netball and Tennis in the Borough. The PPS provides an audit and set of recommendations for outdoor sports in line with Sport England (2013) *PPS Guidance – An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy*.

3.7.5 The Playing Pitch Strategy (2018) uses the Sport England methodology, which is broken down into 10 steps, from tailoring the study approach, through gathering supply and demand data, developing recommendations and delivering the strategy. A Project Steering Group with representation from Charnwood Borough Council, Sport England, County Sports Partnership and National Governing Bodies from each sport guided the Study from its commencement.

3.7.6 This Open Spaces Strategy uses the Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) and the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018) as the core evidence base for applying standards of provision across a range of typologies in Charnwood, taking account of any changes since the Study was complete, in order to identify shortfalls and surpluses. This also informs Policy formulation through a set of Policy Statements.

## 3.8 Open Spaces Service

3.8.1 The Borough Council's Cleansing and Open Spaces Service, partners and community groups, is responsible for managing and maintaining over 250 hectares of land at over 500 separate sites throughout the Borough, including:

- 190 hectares Grass cutting
- 228 Amenity Green Spaces (Housing Sites)
- 219 Garage Sites
- 356 Amenity Green Spaces (Non-Housing)
- 36 Parks (including pocket parks)
- 130 hectares of land designated for its wildlife value
- 53 ha of Woodland (of which 43ha is in Countryside Stewardship)
- 35.4 ha of wildflower meadow in Higher Level Stewardship
- 37 wildlife sites, including a SSSI, 3 Local Nature Reserves and a Regionally Important Geological Site
- 5 Sports Grounds including:
  - 3 Bowling Greens
  - 5 Cricket Squares
  - 15 Football pitches
  - 16 Tennis Courts (All-Weather)
  - 6 Changing Rooms
  - 1 Par 3 18-hole Pitch and Putt Golf Course
- 10 Allotment Sites (407 plots)
- A cemetery and 21 closed churchyards
- Over 250,000 trees
- 31 Playgrounds
- 14 Facilities for Young People including MUGAs, basketball hoops, youth shelters and skateparks

## 4. THE DEMAND FOR OPEN SPACE IN CHARNWOOD

- 4.0.1 This chapter assesses the current provision of open space against the features which local people demand.

### 4.1 Understanding Community Needs

- 4.1.1 Community consultation is essential to identify local attitudes to existing provision, and understand local expectations for additional or improved provision. The guidance relies less on the implementation of national standards and places increased emphasis on local needs.

- 4.1.2 Two significant recent studies have been used to understand community needs:

#### **Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017**

- 4.1.3 The Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 included extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. An online survey on the Council's website produced 258 responses. The survey asked the public their views on local open space provision and what was of particular importance. All Parish and Town Councils and Borough Council Ward members were also consulted on provision in their area and what is of particular importance to local communities.

- 4.1.4 The consultation identified that people see open space as an important part of their local environment. The findings show strong support for the Borough's Country Parks and natural greenspaces. There is demand for more parks and gardens, natural green space, amenity green space, allotments and children's play. There was also a call for improved maintenance. This consultation provides valuable data for local communities and councils, helping to identify shortfalls and guide future provision and investment priorities.

#### **Playing Pitch Strategy (2018)**

- 4.1.5 The Playing Pitch Methodology includes extensive consultation with a variety of stakeholders. All sports clubs, each sport's National Governing Body and facility owners/ providers, including education providers were consulted as part of the study. A Project Steering Group comprising representation from all of these stakeholders and Sport England ensured that data was verified and demand information assessed alongside the views of clubs and facility users.

- 4.1.6 The PPS 2018 provides a robust information base and detailed examination of current demand. In addition it provides a detailed analysis of future demand up to 2036 based on projected population growth, Team Generation Rates (TGR) and latent demand information.

## 4.2 Open Spaces in Charnwood

### Mapping of Open Spaces

- 4.2.1 The Open Spaces Assessment (2017) and PPS (2018) identify all the publicly accessible open spaces in Charnwood, regardless of ownership, updating the 2010 audit of provision in the borough. This will ensure that the Strategy takes into account all facilities currently available to the communities of Charnwood. The Council is mindful, however, that new open spaces created as part of new housing developments require constant review and the audit updating accordingly.
- 4.2.2 The data gathered is considered robust and comprehensive, however some areas have been excluded. For example, sites below 0.2 hectares which don't have a clear recreational function, new developments since the data was gathered, or where land owners didn't respond to a request for data.
- 4.2.3 This data was subsequently recorded digitally as a GIS mapping exercise. The data analysis and maps have been split into settlements. These settlements are equivalent to parish boundaries, except in Loughborough which has no parish boundary, and has been split into the ten wards. The analysis of Outdoor Sport provision has been provided on a sub-area basis to reflect the wider catchment of facilities.

### Categories of Open Space

- 4.2.4 The categories or 'typologies' used within this Strategy follow established guidance and include:

- **Parks and gardens**

These range from major parks to small memorial gardens – often used for informal recreation and community events. These may include paths, benches, footpaths, tree and shrub planting, formal gardens, close mown grass for ball games / picnics etc, play areas, facilities for young people, and toilets.

- **Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces**

These include publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. commons, meadows), wetlands and wastelands. Uses include wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

- **Amenity green space**

Most commonly found in housing areas. Includes informal recreational green spaces. Used for informal activities close to home or work, children's casual play, enhancement of the appearance of residential areas.

- **Provision for children and young people**

- Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below age 12, specifically designed as equipped play facilities
- Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people aged 12 and above, specifically designed for use by young people (e.g. youth shelters, skateboard parks etc).

- **Outdoor sports facilities**

Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned, used for formal sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields, outdoor sports pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, golf courses etc.

- **Allotments, community gardens and urban farms**

Sites laid out for people to grow their own vegetables, fruit and flowers as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

- **Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds**

Including closed churchyards or other burial grounds.

- **Green corridors**

Linear routes with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and include towpaths along canals and riverbanks.

- **Civic spaces**

Including civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians. The primary purpose of civic spaces is the provision of a setting for civic buildings and together with village greens also offer space for public demonstrations and community events etc and can often define the character of the local environment.

### **Audit of Existing Provision of Open Spaces**

4.2.5 In the audit of provision through the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018, all existing open space and outdoor sport facilities irrespective of ownership were identified, categorised and mapped.

4.2.6 Existing local standards and relevant National Standards were used as a benchmark for the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space across the Borough. The following evaluations were carried out:

- **Quantity:** sites were mapped to determine if there was sufficient open space serving the local community based upon existing and proposed standards;
- **Quality:** primary purpose classifications were allocated to each piece of land, and an assessment was made to determine if it met certain basic standards for its primary classification;
- **Accessibility:** open spaces were evaluated to assess the distance travelled by members of the community against their expectations.

4.2.7 Table 2 and 3 below show current levels of open space provision in the Borough.

**Table 2: Current Levels of Open Space by Typology**

Typology	Area (hectares)	Current level of provision (Ha per 1000 population)
Parks and Gardens	47.5	0.29
Amenity Green Space	167.9	1.01
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	937.9	5.65
Green Corridors	41.3	0.25
Allotments	36.2	0.22
Cemeteries & Churchyards	42.8	0.26
Civic Spaces	3.5	0.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,277.1</b>	<b>7.7</b>

**Table 3: Current Levels of Children's Play and Youth Provision**

Typology	Number of sites	Area (hectares)	Current level of provision (ha per 1000 population)
Children's Play Sites	99	9.8	0.06
Youth Provision	31	2.8	0.02

4.2.8 Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities were subject to assessment against the standards set out by the individual sport's National Governing Body.

### 4.3 Defining Community Expectations

4.3.1 As outlined above, consultation was carried out as part of the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018. The consultation was carried out in summer 2017, and involved a wide range of stakeholders, including the general public, children and young people, sports clubs and town and parish councils.

4.3.2 Consultation, together with the audit of existing provision and best practice from the evaluation of standards set elsewhere in the country, was used to review the local standards adopted through the 2013 Open Spaces Strategy. This has led to changes in the quantity and accessibility standards for several typologies of open space. A summary of the key changes is provided below. Full evidence

and justification for these changes is contained within the Open Spaces Assessment 2017 and PPS 2018 (Outdoor Sport).

### **Parks and Amenity Green Space – A Combined Standard**

- 4.3.3 Recognising that Parks also function as Amenity Green Space (but not vice versa), it was recommended that a combined standard for these typologies of Open Space is adopted. When combined the current provision in Charnwood for these typologies is 1.35 hectares per 1000 people. This is close to the Fields in Trust (FiT) standard of 1.4 hectares per 1000 when Parks and Amenity Green Space are combined (0.8 ha per 1000 from Parks and 0.6 ha per 1000 from Amenity Green Space). The Council's 2013 standards for Parks and Amenity Green Space (0.32 ha per 1000 for Parks and 0.46 ha per 1000 for Amenity Green Space) is significantly lower than current provision in the borough and the FiT recommendations. For this reason and the close relationship between the two classifications of open space a combined standard is proposed.
- 4.3.4 From a planning perspective, a combined standard for Parks and Amenity Green Space offers flexibility for development management to provide open spaces that are suited to the specific needs and requirement of the site.
- 4.3.5 A review of accessibility standards retains the 15 minute walk time for Parks. In line with FiT guidance, however, this equates to 1200 metres not 720 metres as per the 2013 Open Space recommendations. The accessibility standard for Amenity Green Space has decreased from 480 metres (2013 adopted standard) to 400 metres or 5 minute walk time, to reflect FiT guidance and local consultation.

### **Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space**

- 4.3.6 The existing quantitative standard of 2 ha of Natural or Semi-Natural Open Space per 1000 people for new development has been retained. However, the accessibility standard has increased from 480 metres to 800 metres. This simply reflects updated guidance on what constitutes a 10 minute walk.

### **Provision for Children and Young People**

- 4.3.7 The standards for the provision of facilities for Children and Young People have been updated to reflect FiT guidance and the findings of local consultation. A quantitative element has been introduced to provide a benchmark for existing provision and guide the provision of new facilities created through housing development. The accessibility of Children and Young People's facilities has been amended to reflect best practice guidance and local consultation findings.

### **Allotments**

- 4.3.8 The existing quantitative standard of 0.33 ha per 1000 people for Allotment provision has been carried forward. However, the accessibility standard for provision has increased from 720 metres to 1000 metres to reflect The National Allotment Society's guidance and local consultation findings.

## **Outdoor Sport**

- 4.3.9 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS 2018 complies with Sport England guidance. Sport England does not support quantitative 'standards' for Outdoor Sports provision, instead endorsing local assessments of supply and demand on a sport by sport basis.
- 4.3.10 The PPS 2018 recommends use of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) to determine the demand for provision within an area. The calculator provides information on pitch area requirements along with the capital and life cycle costs of new provision based on population and local information on demand (match equivalent sessions a week).
- 4.3.11 The PPS 2018 provides a clear decision-making process to determine the most appropriate way to meet estimated demand from new development through developer contribution project prioritisation. This process is illustrated by the flow diagram provided in Appendix 1.

## **Green Corridors, Civic Spaces and Burial Grounds**

- 4.3.12 Quantitative or Accessibility Standards have not been set for Green Corridors, Civic Spaces or Burial Grounds. In addition, within the quality standard, some elements are essential, whilst others are only desirable. Full details of quality assessments can be found in the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017.

## **4.4 Standards for Open Space in Charnwood**

- 4.4.1 Following assessment, consultation and review of the 2013 Standards for Open Space updated local standards for providing open space in the Borough have been set. These standards have been used as the basis for assessing current shortfalls in provision and will be used as the basis for open space provision as part of new developments. Table 4 below summarises these standards for Charnwood. Where no standards have been set, this is in line with guidance.

**Table 4: Open Space Standards for Charnwood**

Open space type	Standards for new developments		
	Quantity per 1,000 population	Accessibility	Quality
Parks and gardens	1.4ha per 1000 people	1200m in the Towns and Service Centres	<p>Adoption standard: A regularly mowed smooth surfaced grassland space with tree and shrub planting suitable for a variety of informal outdoor recreation activities. Including features such as public gardens, footpaths, play areas, young people’s facilities, seating and litter bins.</p> <p>Prepared in accordance with an agreed plan.</p> <p>Clean and litter free, appropriate planting and well kept grass. It is desirable to include toilets, seating, footpaths, nature features, litter bins and safety features.</p> <p>They should have a clear entrance, boundaries and lighting.</p>
Amenity Green Space		400m for either Amenity Green Space or Parks and Gardens in the Towns, Service Centres and Other Settlements	<p>Adoption standard: A regularly mowed smooth surfaced grassland space. Including features such as tree and shrub planting and footpaths. Prepared in accordance with an agreed plan.</p> <p>Clean and litter free, regularly maintained and with well kept grass and appropriate planting. Where possible, sites should also contain litter bins, dog bins and seating and be safe and secure.</p>

<p>Natural and Semi Natural Green Space</p>	<p>2.0ha per 1000 people <i>(to be applied to new development only)</i></p>	<p>800m</p>	<p>Adoption standard: An accessible space with wildlife habitats to improve biodiversity. These may be predominantly woodland, water, meadow or a combination. Prepared in accordance with an agreed management plan.</p> <p>Clean and litter free, nature features, safe footpaths and appropriate planting. It is also desirable for sites to include water features, parking, dog walking facilities, seating, information and toilets.</p>
<p>Children's Play and provision for young people</p>	<p>0.25 ha per 1,000 people of Designated Equipped Playing Space including teenage provision <i>(to be applied to new development only)</i></p>	<p>400m for LEAPs 1000m for NEAPs 1000m for teenage facilities</p> <p>Full network of NEAPs, LEAPs and Teenage facilities in the Towns and Service Centres</p> <p>Full network of LEAPs in the Other Settlements and Smaller Villages and Hamlets where the population is greater than 200 people and there is an identified local need.</p>	<p>Prepared in accordance with an agreed plan.</p> <p>Facilities should be appropriate and designed through consultation with children and young people.</p> <p>They should be clean and litter free, well maintained and should also contain seats, litter bins and be dog free (where appropriate). The site should be appropriately located and constructed to meet minimum LEAP/NEAP criteria set out in the FiT standards.</p>

Allotments	0.33ha per 1000 people	1000m	<p>Adoption standard: A high quality allotment site that is fit for purpose. Including the following features: Loam to a minimum depth of 400mm with few stones; no shading or root invasion by large trees; 2 metre perimeter palisade fencing and gates; water supply with taps or troughs at appropriate intervals; appropriate hard surfaced vehicle access throughout the site, waste container storage and parking; sheds provided adjacent to each plot; onsite toilet; plots laid out with plot markers with 500mm grass strips between plots. Plots ploughed to an agreed depth. Prepared in accordance with an agreed plan.</p> <p>Allotments should be clean, litter free and secure. It is desirable to provide appropriate parking, toilets, water supply and managed appropriate access routes.</p>
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<p>Outdoor Sports Facilities</p>	<p>To be calculated using the Sport England Pitch Calculator</p>	<p>10 minute drive time for formal provision, recognising that for some sports i.e. hockey and athletics the drive time will be greater.</p> <p>20 minute drive time for Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP).</p> <p>10 minute walk (800m) to informal outdoor sports provision i.e. grassed kick about areas.</p>	<p>Adoption standard: A high quality sports facility that is fit for purpose and prepared to the standards required by the National Governing Body (NGB) of sport e.g. Football Association, England Cricket Board (ECB) and/or Sport England. Pavilion/changing and parking facilities to meet Sport England standards. Sports fields to be provided to a specification agreed by the Sports Turf Research Institute or equivalent organisation.</p> <p>Facilities should be clean and litter free with well kept grass and safe playing surfaces with the pitch appropriately maintained. It is desirable to provide parking, seating facilities, changing facilities and toilets and be dog free.</p>
<p>Green Corridors</p>	<p>No standard set</p>	<p>No standard set</p>	<p>Adoption standard: An accessible linear space with wildlife habitats to improve biodiversity. These may be predominantly woodland, water, meadow or a combination. Prepared in accordance with an agreed management plan.</p> <p>Sites should be clean and litter free, with clearly defined footpaths and natural features. It is also desirable for sites to have an effective main entrance, litter and dog bins, appropriate planting, lighting and seating.</p>

Civic Spaces	No standard set	No standard set	<p>Adoption standard: An accessible high quality public space. Prepared in accordance with an agreed plan.</p> <p>Sites should be clean and litter free with well kept grass and seating. It is also desirable to have parking facilities, appropriately maintained footpaths and planting, litter and dog bins, and should be secure and safe.</p>
Cemeteries, closed churchyards and other burial sites	No standard set	No standard set	<p>Adoption standard for Cemeteries: A high quality site that is fit for purpose. Including the following features: 2 metre perimeter fencing and gates; water supply with taps at appropriate intervals; litter bins at appropriate intervals; appropriate tarmac vehicle access throughout the site, road markings and parking bays; street lighting; public toilet; cemetery buildings including office, staff quarters and equipment storage; Cemetery plots laid out with concrete beams and plot markers. Prepared in accordance with an agreed plan.</p> <p>Facilities should be clean and litter free, with well kept grass, appropriate planting and infrastructure, including bins. It is also desirable for sites to contain seating, appropriately maintained and safe footpaths, opportunities for biodiversity and wildlife, and toilets (where appropriate).</p>

## 5. PRIORITISING THE SHORTFALLS

5.0.1 Having agreed a set of standards from the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018, shortfalls can be measured with a view that these should form the basis upon which decisions are made on new open space provision and improvements to existing open spaces. Clearly, to meet all standards across the Borough (fulfil every shortfall) would require a significant investment of resources. The availability of these resources is currently uncertain, and therefore this Open Spaces Strategy needs to identify how to prioritise the shortfalls against standards.

### 5.1 Identifying the Shortfalls

5.1.1 By applying the local standards (identified in chapter 4) against the audit of existing provision the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 identifies shortfalls for each settlement across the range of typologies. In terms of Outdoor Sports, Sport England's methodology for developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy has been followed to develop a set of detailed recommendations and Action Plan.

5.1.2 Shortfalls in the quantity, quality and accessibility have been identified. The quality of each individual site has been assessed through site visit and recorded within a detailed database of provision.

5.1.3 Appendix 2 provides full details of current provision by settlement and the current shortfalls when the local standards are applied. Table 5 below provides a summary for larger settlements and is only indicative of the major shortfalls for those settlements. The quality shortfalls listed do not necessarily apply to all sites within the settlement; for instance a quality shortfall in parks and gardens may apply to just one site rather than all within the settlement.

5.1.4 It is also noted that no quantity or accessibility shortfalls were established for three of the typologies (Green Corridors, Civic Spaces and Burial Grounds), as a result of no standards being set in accordance with guidance.

5.1.5 The PPS 2018 follows Sport England's Methodology for assessing shortfalls in provision on a sport by sport basis. Table 6 below provides details of carrying capacity and peak time capacity for pitch sports and identifies existing shortfalls in provision.

5.1.6 The PPS 2018 provides analyses for six additional non-pitch sports – Tennis, Golf, Bowls, Cycling, Athletics and Netball. Quantitative shortfalls in tennis provision have been identified, together with quality shortfalls for Bowls and Netball facilities.

5.1.7 The PPS 2018 provides detailed recommendations and a costed Action Plan to address identified shortfalls and ensure provision meets current and future

needs in the Borough. The Council will use this Action Plan to prioritise investment, work with partners and guide improvements.

**Table 5: Summary of the Shortfalls in the Larger Settlements and Service Centres**

Settlement	Summary of shortfalls		
	Quantity	Accessibility	Quality
Anstey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Spaces</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>
Barrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>
Birstall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> </ul>
Hathern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> </ul>
Loughborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Provision for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for Young People</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Amenity Greenspace</li> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Green Corridors</li> </ul>
Mountsorrel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Spaces</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>
Queniborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> <li>• Facilities for Young People</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	

Settlement	Summary of shortfalls		
	Quantity	Accessibility	Quality
Quorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>
Rearsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>
Rothley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>
Shepshed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Green Corridors</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>
Sileby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>
Syston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural Open Space</li> </ul>
Thurmaston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Facilities for young people</li> <li>• Facilities for children</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural open space</li> <li>• Children's Play</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Green Space</li> <li>• Green Corridors</li> </ul>

**Table 6: Carrying and Peak-Time Capacity Balances by Sub-Area and Pitch Type**

SPORT	FOOTBALL (GRASS ONLY)									
PITCH TYPE	ADULT 11 v 11		YOUTH 11 v 11		YOUTH 9 v 9		MINI 7 v 7		MINI 5 v 5	
CAPACITY BALANCE	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS
CHARNWOOD FOREST	2	4	-1	8	0.5	8.5	6.5	21.5	-0.5	36.5
LOUGHBOROUGH	20	0	-7.5	1.5	-1	0.5	1.5	20.5	-0.5	34.5
RURAL SOUTH EAST	4	0	-1.5	0.5	-1.5	0	3.5	4.5	0	7
SHEPSHED-HATHERN	5.5	0	-2	0	-0.5	0	-0.5	13.5	0	27
SOAR VALLEY	30	0	1.5	16.5	14	13.5	45.5	66.5	-4	110
THE WOLDS	1.5	0.5	-0.5	1.5	0	1.5	0	4	0	6
CHARNWOOD	<b>63</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>130.5</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>221</b>

SPORT	CRICKET (GRASS ONLY)			RUGBY UNION		
PITCH TYPE	OVERALL	SNR	JNR	OVERALL	SNR	JNR/ LADIES
CAPACITY BALANCE	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS
CHARNWOOD FOREST	-10	0	14	0.75	0.5	1
LOUGHBOROUGH	114	8	6	-10	0.5	0
RURAL SOUTH EAST	-165	0	0	-1.5	0	0.5
SHEPSHED – HATHERN	-2	1	2	-4	0.5	1
SOAR VALLEY	124	5	17	0.75	3	1.5
THE WOLDS	34	1	4	0	0	0
CHARNWOOD	<b>95</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4</b>

SPORT	HOCKEY			RUGBY LEAGUE		
PITCH TYPE	MID-WEEK	SAT	SUN	OVERALL	SNR	JNR
CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	CARRYING CAPACITY BALANCE	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS	SPARE PEAK TIME SLOTS
CHARNWOOD FOREST	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOUGHBOROUGH	10.5	-2	5	0	0.5	0.5
RURAL SOUTH EAST	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHEPSHED-HATHERN	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOAR VALLEY	18	7	8	0	0	0
THE WOLDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARNWOOD	<b>28.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>

## 5.2 Identifying the Priorities

5.2.1 The 2013 Open Spaces Strategy provided a detailed framework to prioritise future investment and inform future requirements for developers in addressing shortfalls and raising sites to the local standards. It was based on prioritisation exercises to determine a hierarchy of open space typologies, assessed using the beneficial outcomes outlined in table 1 (chapter 2). These are:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Biodiversity
- Climate Mitigation
- Social Cohesion
- Heritage
- Economy
- Learning.

5.2.2 In order that the prioritisation process was completely without bias, an independent consultant was utilised to develop a robust mechanism which could be used to prioritise the shortfalls identified in the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study 2010. This mechanism was influenced by panels to establish a framework in which the shortfalls could be assessed and prioritised.

5.2.3 Three key groups were identified as the participants of the consultation process: elected members, members of the public, and officers of the Council. Participants were required to individually rate each of the typologies by their likely impact on each beneficial outcome.

5.2.4 The process of prioritisation using three groups (Members, Community and Professionals), resulted in each typology being ranked according to its beneficial outcomes. This resulted in a ranking for each typology, as demonstrated in table 7 below.

**Table 7: Weighted Rankings of Typologies**

Typology	Priority	Level
Parks and Gardens	1 <sup>st</sup>	High
Natural and Semi-natural Open Space	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Provision for Children and Young People	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Amenity Green Space	4 <sup>th</sup>	Medium
Outdoor Sports	5 <sup>th</sup>	
Green Corridors	6 <sup>th</sup>	
Allotments	7 <sup>th</sup>	Low
Civic Spaces	8 <sup>th</sup>	
Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds	9 <sup>th</sup>	

- 5.2.5 Whilst useful, the ranking of typologies only reflects the views of the stakeholder groups involved. This does not, however, take into account other factors such as the level of deficiency in any given area or funding criteria. Open Spaces offer different things to different people, depending on age, interests and circumstances. To prioritise one type of provision over another, therefore, risks devaluing certain user groups if not balanced with the wider picture of local supply, demand and beneficial outcomes.
- 5.2.6 The Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018 carried out extensive consultation with the public, Parish and Town Councils, Members, open space users and other stakeholders.
- 5.2.7 Consultation for the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 revealed the following ranking of importance:
1. Country Parks/Natural Green Space
  2. Parks & Gardens
  3. Children's Play
  4. Amenity Green Space
  5. Allotments
  6. Outdoor Sport
- 5.2.8 The findings of the 2017 consultation reveals that Natural Open Space, Parks and Gardens and Children's Play remain a high priority for residents.

### **5.3 Prioritising the Shortfalls**

- 5.3.1 The Open Spaces Assessment 2017 and PPS 2018 both provide in depth analysis of existing shortfalls and future shortfalls based on population projections up to 2036.
- 5.3.2 Prioritising shortfalls in provision will take into account a range of factors, including the priority of open space typology, local needs, beneficial outcomes, alternative provision available and the financial context i.e. availability of funding. A detailed five year Action Plan for addressing identified shortfalls is provided in Section 8 of the Strategy.
- 5.3.3 The PPS 2018 provides a detailed Action Plan for Outdoor Sports provision in the Borough with prioritisation depending on overall impact for sports participation (Appendix 3).
- 5.3.4 The Council will continue to work with our partners to prioritise improvements to provision outside the Council's ownership. An annual survey of Parish and Town Councils will continue to be used to identify priority projects in the parishes throughout the borough.

## 6. FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERY

### 6.1 Identifying Deficiencies

- 6.1.1 The Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018 reviews and updates existing standards for open space across quality, quantity and accessibility. This Open Spaces Strategy adopts these standards across the Borough.
- 6.1.2 A list of shortfalls in the provision of nine different ‘typologies’ of open space in Charnwood (gap analysis) has been identified. These deficiencies have been mapped to illustrate the extent to which provision fails to meet the standards identified and adopted in this Strategy across the Borough.
- 6.1.3 The extensive nature of the list of shortfalls in quantity, quality and accessibility for Charnwood residents across most settlements, suggests that bridging all the gaps in open space provision could not be met without substantial and long term investment. This level of investment exceeds that expected to be successfully delivered through the planning system (Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy, CIL) combined with any available revenue or grants/bids.
- 6.1.4 There a clear need to prioritise the delivery programme for the Open Spaces Strategy and to consider the key themes that can be identified from the recommendations in both the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018.

### 6.2 Key Themes

- 6.2.1 The Open Space Strategy considers nine major typologies of open space. Common themes across these typologies include:
- A need to create clear policies to protect and enhance open space.
  - Improving marketing of open space and exploit educational value of open space across the Borough including accessibility via public transport, cycling or walking.
  - Upgrading existing open space to make better use of or provide alternative uses for the open space e.g. change in typology.
  - Improve management practices to allow for more effective or efficient use of open space e.g. splitting allotments or over marking playing pitches.
  - Identify linking opportunities of open space, particularly throughout the Soar Valley and Charnwood Forest.
  - Act as critical friend to key partners and provide advice and support where possible.
  - Use best practice and make best use of other stakeholders e.g. access to educational establishments playing facilities and utilising children and young people in the design of facilities.
  - Ensuring new developments actively contribute towards the standards of open space, in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

- Consider disposal options on facilities that ‘overlap’ provision to ensure reinvestment is secured.
- In recognition of changing circumstances, continue to monitor and assess provision, need and demand to ensure accurate response by the Council.
- Ensure close links with and protection of conservation and biodiversity in all typologies in providing and managing open space.
- Ensure the areas of significant deficiency are addressed, in quality, quantity and accessibility across the six typologies.

### **6.3 Strategic Urban Extensions (SUEs)**

- 6.3.1 As part of the Council’s Development Strategy there are proposals to provide a number of Strategic Urban Extensions, or SUE’s which will address some of the shortfalls identified in the gap analysis referred to above.
- 6.3.2 Over the Strategy period SUEs will provide significant new open space and community facilities, including, large areas of natural and semi-natural open space, new outdoor sports facilities, play provision and allotments.
- 6.3.3 The relationship between SUEs and the remaining settlements in the Borough is clearly interlinked. Not only will SUEs help bridge some of the existing gaps identified in existing settlements, but new more strategic proposals may come forward as part of the detailed design process that will offer significant broader benefits to a wider community outside of SUE areas.
- 6.3.4 Delivery mechanisms for the SUEs will ensure that the quality of provision takes into account adopted Open Space standards, Policy Statements and other key corporate factors.

### **6.4 Open Space within other New Development**

- 6.4.1 The Open Space standards will be applied to new developments to ensure that growth does not adversely impact existing shortfalls. Residents needs will be met through provision on the development site or through improvements to existing provision to meet increased demand.
- 6.4.2 Provision for the long term management and maintenance of provision created as part of new developments will be subject to approval by the Council to ensure sustainable provision in perpetuity.
- 6.4.3 The Council will encourage quality design principles and application of Active Design guidance (Sport England, 2015) within new developments. A network of multifunctional open space should be created across all communities to support a range of activities including sport, recreation and play plus other landscape uses including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), woodland, wildlife habitat and productive landscapes (allotments, orchards).

## 6.5 Policy Framework

- 6.5.1 The evidence gathered during the development of this Strategy supports the need for a set of Open Spaces Policy Statements that reflect the community expectations for open space. These are summarised in Table 11 and detailed in Section 6.6 below.
- 6.5.2 In adopting these Policy Statements the Council will guide future development and improvements as well as embed these principles in the way the Council manages open space in the future. The Council will use the Policy Statements to help lead and guide stakeholders and delivery partners in the successful delivery of the Open Spaces Strategy during the period up to 2036.
- 6.5.3 Collectively, these policy statements provide a policy framework in which open spaces are protected, enhanced, improved, managed or provided in accordance with the Council's strategic aims and objectives (as laid out in the Open Spaces Strategy).

## 6.6 Detailed Policy Statements

**Table 8: List of Policy Statements**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Policy</b>
1	Open Space General
2	Parks & Gardens
3	Natural & Semi Natural Open Spaces
4	Amenity Green Space
5	Provision for Children & Young People
6	Outdoor Sports Facilities
7	Allotments, Community Gardens & Urban Farms
8	Cemeteries, Churchyards & Burial Grounds
9	Green Corridors
10	Civic Spaces
11	Trees & Hedgerows
12	Woodlands

## **POLICY STATEMENT 1 – OPEN SPACE GENERAL**

Policy Statement 1, Open Space General, covers all typologies and is overarching across all other Policy Statements.

### ***(1a) Protection of Open Spaces***

The Council wishes to protect and preserve public open space by:

- ensuring that assets are not transferred out of the Council's ownership (with the exception of lease arrangements) except in exceptional circumstances and where alternative open space provision shall be made;
- ensuring that where open space is lost through development alternative provision is secured to meet the standards set within the Open Spaces Strategy;
- ensuring that development proposals and local improvement works take all reasonable steps to avoid harm to the amenity, heritage, biodiversity or recreational value of existing open space;
- ensuring the identification and protection of playing fields through the Local Plan and consulting Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields.

### ***(1b) Standards for Open Space Provision***

The Open Spaces Strategy includes 'standards' for open space in Charnwood, including quality, quantity and accessibility in all settlements across most typologies. The Council will take all reasonable and practicable steps to achieve these standards across all settlements (existing and proposed new developments, including SUE's) and across all relevant typologies.

### ***(1c) Dealing with Surpluses and Deficiencies in Open Space***

- The Council will ensure that where surplus land exists (where typologies exceed the standards for local communities), modification to the land to address other typology shortfalls within the locality will be considered prior to consideration for disposal where practicable.
- The Council will seek to address deficiencies in open space (where typologies do not meet the standards for local communities) by identifying relevant funding sources, seeking funding applications and consideration of gain through the planning system.

### ***(1d) Adoption and Liability of New Open Spaces***

The Council will work with developers and third party organisations i.e. Parish or Town Councils to agree the adoption of open space created as part of new development in the Borough. The Management arrangements for all new public open space will be secured through Planning Agreements and be subject to approval and the appropriate safeguards to ensure long term sustainability and provision in perpetuity. Where the Council does accept the asset transfer appropriate levels of revenue funding (commuted sums) will be agreed in

advance. The quality standards identified in the Open Space Strategy should be met, where possible, prior to transfer.

**(1e) *Open Space Changes***

In recognition of changing circumstances, the Council will continue to monitor and assess provision, need and demand to ensure an effective response by the Council and to upgrade existing open space to make better use of, or provide alternative uses, e.g. change in typology.

**(1f) *Consultation***

We will consult with local residents, users and community groups, where reasonable, on proposals for development of or changes to open space, standards or policies to ensure community expectations are met in delivering and managing open space and in order to set good examples to other providers.

**(1g) *Partnership Working***

We will continue to work in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors including providing advice and support and acting as a critical friend in order to more effectively manage and enhance our open spaces across the Borough.

**(1h) *Management and Maintenance***

The Council recognises the importance of high quality management and maintenance of open spaces and will seek to ensure that the quality standards identified in the Open Spaces Strategy are met. The Council will continually review how it manages its open space to ensure it provides a high quality service that is sustainable and accessible. Specifications, procedures and protocols will be developed to supplement these policies in order to effectively manage open space.

**(1i) *Signage and Interpretation***

We will ensure that where there is an identified need appropriate marketing materials, signs and interpretation boards are in place for the Council's open spaces. Signage should be sufficient for purpose and positioned to avoid impairing amenity and creating visual clutter.

**(1j) *Marketing and Promotion.***

We will improve marketing of open space across the Borough including to fully exploit its value for education, health promotion, improved livability of neighbourhoods and accessibility via public transport, cycling or walking.

**(1k) *Investment in Open Spaces***

We will explore and co-ordinate all investment opportunities in our open spaces including Heritage Lottery Funding, Sport England, etc. We will continue, where

appropriate, to seek funding through the planning process e.g. Section 106, for open space provision in relation to new development.

**(1l) *Community Cohesion***

We will work with our partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and improve social cohesion on open spaces.

**(1m) *Quality Schemes***

We will encourage and support schemes that promote quality and sustainability, such as Loughborough in Bloom and Green Flag, to enhance the Council's Open Spaces.

**(1n) *Active Places***

We will encourage and support schemes that apply the ten principles of Active Design (Sport England, 2015), helping to create a network of multi-functional open spaces and promoting an environment that offers communities the greatest potential to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

**(1o) *Biodiversity***

The Council has an overarching duty to consider the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment in the exercise of all its functions. In the management, maintenance and development of open space biodiversity will be a priority.

**(1p) *Community Engagement and Volunteering***

The Council recognises the many valuable benefits that volunteering can bring to the individual, to society and to Charnwood's open spaces. The Council will continue to encourage and support volunteering in its many forms including Friends of Groups, Green Gym, Volunteer Warden Schemes or affiliation to nature conservation groups. In committing to providing and extending the range of volunteering opportunities within the open spaces work programme, the Council will provide technical support and advice to community and voluntary groups that are working on projects which support the delivery of the open spaces strategy.

**(1q) *Equality and Diversity***

The Council is committed to promoting equality and diversity in the provision and management of open space including improvements to open space facilities. This commitment recognises not only our legal requirements under legislation, but also our drive to ensure we make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that our facilities are accessible to all sectors of the community.

### **(1r) Regeneration**

The Council recognises the value of green space improvement in community and economic regeneration and will encourage and assist in initiatives to facilitate this work.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 2 – PARKS AND GARDENS**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where an ample provision of high quality parks and gardens ranging from pocket parks to town parks meets the needs of local communities and enhances the quality of life for all. These green spaces provide an excellent range of opportunities for spiritual reflection, informal leisure, active recreation and play. Local communities are encouraged to become involved in managing their local parks and the Borough Council recognises the importance and value they hold for residents and visitors alike.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that where parks and gardens are provided they meet standards set within the Open Spaces Strategy.
- ii) To protect the heritage and environmental context of the Council's parks and gardens.
- iii) To involve local communities and partners to help manage and promote parks and gardens.
- iv) To provide access for all communities to use, appreciate and to enjoy parks and gardens.

### ***Policies***

- (2a) To sustainably maintain and manage our parks and gardens.
- (2b) To promote the use of parks for community events and activities.
- (2c) To encourage a sense of community ownership, engagement and involvement in parks and gardens e.g. Friends of groups.
- (2d) To provide appropriate on-site supervision and monitoring of Parks.
- (2e) To seek to maintain and improve Queen's Park as a destination park and maintain its Green Flag status.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 3 – NATURAL & SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where the natural and semi-natural green spaces enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors and to protect biodiversity. These sites are protected and managed to provide high quality accessible green spaces for people to enjoy for spiritual

reflection, recreation, leisure and play and to experience and learn about nature close to where they live. They are managed as important wildlife habitats, in order to improve the biodiversity of the Borough.

### **Objectives**

- i) To ensure that where Natural & Semi-Natural Green Spaces are provided they meet standards set within the Open Spaces Strategy.
- ii) To recognise the contribution natural and semi-natural green spaces make to nature and wildlife conservation, enhancing and protecting biodiversity, and their heritage value.
- iii) To involve local communities and partners to help manage and promote natural and semi-natural green spaces.
- iv) To provide access for all for communities to use, appreciate and to enjoy these green spaces whilst safeguarding their biodiversity value.

### **Policies**

- (3a) To work with partners and local communities to improve access to, and quality of, natural and semi-natural green spaces and to manage them effectively
- (3b) To seek to protect natural and semi-natural green spaces including the use of statutory and non-statutory designation status (such as Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site) where appropriate.
- (3c) To actively encourage the involvement of volunteers in the effective management of these sites
- (3d) To raise awareness and increase appropriate recreational use to enable all sections of the community to use and enjoy these areas, commensurate to the retention of their biodiversity interest
- (3e) To adopt and keep up to date Management Plans for key Council sites.
- (3f) To continue to provide the Trumper Scheme at The Outwoods, supporting access for all.
- (3g) Seek to maintain Green Flag Status for The Outwoods
- (3h) Support the Charnwood Forest Partnership in a bid for funding through the HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 4 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

### **Vision**

A Borough where well-managed amenity green spaces contributes to the quality of life of local neighbourhoods. These sites are managed and developed to take opportunities to

provide more interesting and stimulating green spaces whilst maintaining amenity open space for its primary purposes of providing recreational space and visual enhancement of neighbourhoods.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that where Amenity Green Spaces are provided they meet standards set within the Open Spaces Strategy.
- ii) To recognise the contribution Amenity green spaces make to nature and wildlife conservation, enhancing and protecting biodiversity.
- iii) To involve local communities and partners to help manage and promote Amenity green spaces

### ***Policies***

- (4a) To identify and maximise opportunities to improve the recreational and ecological value of Amenity Open Space within the Borough to meet the needs of residents.
- (4b) To encourage high quality design of Amenity green spaces, recognising the contribution it makes to improving the built environment and providing opportunities for informal recreation close to where people live.
- (4c) To expand the use of alternative management techniques such as wildflower and meadowland marginal planting, community orchards etc on large areas of amenity green space to promote biodiversity and amenity value.
- (4b) To work with volunteer groups and local residents to identify opportunities to improve amenity green space for the local community.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 5 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where all children and young people have access to a range of high-quality, safe and well-managed play opportunities and where provision is stimulating and challenging to meet their needs in terms of high play value.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that the equipment on play spaces and facilities is inclusive, appropriate and stimulating for a range of age groups and abilities and, wherever reasonable, accessible to all.
- ii) To ensure that children and young people have a continuous involvement in the design of play spaces and teenage facilities.

- iii) To provide, where appropriate, high quality, safe local/neighbourhood play spaces and teenage facilities to encompass all needs within the local community.

### ***Policies***

- (5a) To ensure all proposed new play facilities are effectively appraised for play value and appropriate provision etc. prior to commissioning and installation.
- (5b) To involve children and young people in the design, and positioning of their local play area or teenage facility and take their views into account where possible.
- (5c) To ensure that all play facilities meet high quality standards in their design and construction prior to asset transfer.
- (5d) To consider the inclusion of natural play and opportunities for contact with nature and wildlife in designing new open spaces.
- (5e) To develop and implement a preventative maintenance, renewal and decommissioning procedure of play equipment.
- (5f) To identify suitable locations for play.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 6 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where there is an adequate supply of good quality facilities to accommodate a range of sports and physical activities in order to meet current and future levels of demand and to provide enhanced opportunities so as to increase the number of people participating in sport and physical activity.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To maintain and grow the regular amount of physical activity undertaken by individuals, and particularly by those who are currently inactive.
- ii) To develop additional provision where need is evidenced e.g. as a result of population growth.
- iii) To design flexibly and be multi-purpose in nature, reflecting changing participation trends and opportunities.
- iv) Encourage new individuals to start taking part in physical activity.
- v) Enable opportunities for participation to be provided in a wider range of places and spaces, and particularly at a very local level.
- vi) Facilitate the continued development of healthier lifestyles across Charnwood's communities.

- vii) Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities, and specifically reduced inactivity, across Charnwood.
- viii) Create active environments where the opportunity to be more physically active is an integral part of everyday life.

### ***Policies***

- (6a) To encourage school recreation facility provision, wherever feasible, to be made available to the community.
- (6b) To support and encourage the voluntary sector to meet the needs of local people and to increase participation across all communities including community management and asset transfer.
- (6c) To review the allocation and provision of sports provision to improve accessibility across the Borough and allow a full range of sports to be available to the communities in Charnwood.
- (6d) To provide quality, fit for purpose outdoor sports facilities which meet the requirements of the relevant sporting bodies. Where sites do not meet quality standards funding opportunities will be explored or decommissioning and/or change of use considered.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 7 – ALLOTMENTS, COMMUNITY GARDENS & URBAN FARMS**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where there is well-managed provision of high quality and fully productive allotment plots, community gardens and community orchards which are promoted to ensure high demand. Where appropriate sites will be secure and with good service provision.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To provide allotment sites that meet the standards set out in the Open Spaces Strategy.
- ii) To promote establishment of allotment associations to run Council owned allotment sites.
- iii) To identify opportunities to develop and establish new allotments, community gardens, community orchards and urban farms.
- iv) To maximise the use of available land to increase plot provision.

### ***Policies***

- (7a) To ensure that where new allotments are proposed the design takes account of the standards set out in the Open Spaces Strategy.

- (7b) To encourage community management of allotments through the establishment of allotment associations.
- (7c) To review the allocation and provision of allotment space and size of allotment plots to improve accessibility across the Borough.
- (7d) To explore potential new allotment sites, including the reclassification of existing open space, in areas identified as deficient in Allotment provision.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 8 – CEMETERIES, CLOSED CHURCHYARDS & BURIAL GROUNDS**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where cemeteries and closed churchyards are managed to ensure they are protected and developed as places for dignified burial services and spiritual reflection and for their importance for heritage, nature conservation and biodiversity.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that sufficient burial space is available to the community in the future.
- ii) To safeguard the cemeteries with regard to important wildlife habitats, heritage or archaeological features.
- iii) To ensure the Council complies with its duty to maintain closed churchyards in decent order.
- iv) To work with partners and local communities to manage burial grounds and to maintain and enhance their value including biodiversity and heritage.

### ***Policies***

- (8a) To provide a new Cemetery site within Loughborough to ensure a continued burial service to residents.
- (8b) To provide a small extension to Loughborough Cemetery for ashes burials.
- (8c) To work with Parish and Town Councils to assess and plan for future burial needs in the borough and identify suitable locations for additional provision.
- (8d) To review the safety of memorials and undertake remedial action where necessary.
- (8e) To work with partners and local communities to manage cemeteries and closed churchyards to obtain an appropriate balance between maintenance requirements and heritage, biodiversity and archaeology.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 9 – GREEN CORRIDORS**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where an extensive network of green corridors provides active recreational and leisure opportunities, whilst being maintained for their primary purposes as through routes and wildlife corridors which enhance habitat connectivity and visual amenity of neighbourhoods.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that where green corridors are provided they meet standards set within the Open Spaces Strategy.
- ii) To create green corridors that link existing wildlife habitats within the Borough.

### ***Policies***

- (9a) To work with volunteer groups, partners and local residents to identify opportunities to create and improve green corridors for the local community and to enhance their ecological function.
- (9b) Identify linking opportunities of open space, particularly throughout the Soar Valley and Charnwood Forest.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 10 – CIVIC SPACES**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where well-managed civic spaces contribute to the quality of life of local neighbourhoods and provide more interesting and stimulating public space whilst being maintained for its primary purposes of functional space.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that where civic spaces are provided they meet standards set within the Open Spaces Strategy.
- ii) To protect the heritage and environmental context of the Council's civic spaces.
- iii) To involve local communities and partners to help manage and promote those areas.
- iv) To provide access for all for communities to use, appreciate and to enjoy.

### ***Policies***

- (10a) To sustainably maintain and manage our civic spaces.
- (10b) To encourage and support Loughborough in Bloom to enhance the Council's civic spaces in Loughborough.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 11 – TREES & HEDGEROWS**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where trees and hedgerows are valued for the significant contribution they make to wellbeing and quality of life within the area. Trees and hedgerows are managed to promote biodiversity, climate mitigation, and visual amenity whilst being safe and healthy.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that the Council's tree stock is maintained in a safe and healthy condition and minimise associated health and safety risks.
- ii) To provide appropriate levels of information and advice to the public on the Council's tree stock.
- iii) To identify and ensure appropriate management of hedgerows which are important for biodiversity, as wildlife corridors or as landscape features.
- iv) To effectively manage the positive contribution made by trees and hedgerows to open spaces, habitat diversity and the landscape aesthetic.
- v) To identify opportunities to create new hedgerows and appropriate tree planting schemes including community orchards.

### ***Policies***

- (11a) Charnwood Borough Council will continue to carry out its rolling programme of tree inspections by independent experts together with an associated remedial programme of work.
- (11b) The Council will respond positively to tree matters involving safety and will remove dead (except where biodiversity issues prevail) and dangerous and unsafe trees and branches.
- (11c) Where it can be demonstrated that a tree is the primary cause of direct damage to property the Council will act to rectify the problem. In cases of damage to property it must be clearly demonstrated that the tree is the principal cause of the damage. (The effects of tree litter such as leaves, twigs, fruit etc will not be considered as direct damage).
- (11d) The Council will not routinely prune its tree stock to alleviate the obstruction of light or telecommunication signals or where branches overhang neighbouring properties. However, situations will be looked at on a case by case basis and works may be carried out at the council's discretion.
- (11e) The Council may carry out work on trees in response to its development priorities. Development priorities may include site or neighbourhood redesign, the redevelopment of parks, gardens and other green spaces, or woodland management schemes.
- (11f) The Council will consider accepting sponsorship for tree work only where this has been identified as good arboricultural practice.

- (11g) The Council will work with partners and community groups to identify opportunities to increase its tree stock through appropriate tree planting.
- (11h) There will be a presumption against removal of existing hedgerows and appropriate management systems will be put into place in order to protect and enhance the quality and condition of hedgerows.
- (11i) The Council will consider planting new, species rich, native hedgerows in appropriate locations to meet a variety of objectives, including habitat creation, the screening of unsightly development, provision of shelter and to improve the landscape aesthetic.
- (11j) In planting or adopting hedgerows or tree belts, the Council will be sensitive to the potential for damage or inconvenience, or impeding access as they mature caused by planting in close proximity to other structures. In addition, the Council will recognise and take positive action to prevent the potential conflict of interest where developments are proposed in close proximity to existing trees, tree belts and wooded areas.

## **POLICY STATEMENT 12 - WOODLANDS**

### ***Vision***

A Borough where woodlands are valued and sustainably managed in order to provide a multitude of functions including wildlife conservation, spiritual reflection, recreation, carbon sequestration, landscape enhancement and screening. Existing woodlands are protected and new woodlands are created for future generations to enjoy.

### ***Objectives***

- i) To ensure that the Council's woodlands are managed with nature conservation and biodiversity as the central objective with other uses not impacting detrimentally upon this.
- ii) To promote the development of new woodlands in order to meet a multitude of functions and to ensure that existing woodlands are sustainably managed in a way that maximises and reflects their individual character.
- iii) To involve local communities and partners in the management and promotion of woodlands.

### ***Policies***

- (12a) The Council will aim to ensure that each woodland/wooded area has an up-to-date management plan in place which will be reviewed on a regular basis. Management plans will reflect the complexity and sensitivity of the site.
- (12b) Non-native introductions will be gradually removed from ancient, semi-natural woodland sites and replaced with native species appropriate to the area. Where possible this will be achieved by natural regeneration or by planting stock of local provenance.

- (12c) The Council will encourage community involvement with Woodland Management through partnership working with nature conservation organisations, and where appropriate through the establishment of Friends Groups and volunteer schemes.
- (12d) The Council will encourage the creation of new woodlands in appropriate locations ensuring layout and selection of species reflects the local woodland character. New woodlands will be designed to minimise conflict with local residents and at all stages of the woods evolution.
- (12e) The Council will seek to realise any economic potential of woodland through the marketing of timber and other woodland products where this does not conflict with other priorities.

## **6.7 STRATEGIC DELIVERY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.7.1 The delivery of the Open Spaces Strategy is dependent upon a flexible but robust framework. This includes specific issues and methods for dealing with the needs and aspirations of the different communities in the Borough and especially those opportunities provided by the emerging SUE's. These will be managed using a toolbox of options available ranging from policies, management practices, master-planning and working with key stakeholders and engaging the community.
- 6.7.2 Other strategic objectives will also be taken into account as they emerge including key partner objectives such as those of Loughborough University, the Charnwood Forest Partnership or Sports and Recreational Development agencies. This delivery framework will therefore need to be flexible to meet opportunities that might arise but also respond to the demands of the communities they will ultimately serve. Community engagement is therefore key to the success of this delivery framework.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

7.0.1 The Open Spaces Strategy has been developed using a robust evidence base in the form of the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018. These used extensive consultation with key stakeholders to formulate a set of local standards leading to the identification of shortfalls in provision of several types of open space across the Borough.

### 7.1 Action Plan

7.1.1 Section 8 contains the Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan (2018 – 2023). This Action Plan includes a comprehensive assessment of the resources required to deliver the different elements, recognising that a number of projects have been identified as priorities for the Council. This Action Plan will be regularly reviewed in light of:

- Availability and ownership of land.
- Local knowledge of community needs.
- Appropriate methods of delivery of projects, such as community led.
- Community consultation on the acceptability of projects.
- Statutory obligations.
- Amount of funding required.
- Availability of suitable funding opportunities and any potential funding criteria.
- The development of new facilities near to the Borough boundary.
- Partnership working opportunities and the economic climate.

7.1.2 The Action Plan will be a ‘community owned’ tool, which given sufficient support and funding during the life of the Open Spaces Strategy will effectively deliver community expectations. It will encourage access to, and the use of, existing facilities, enabling seldom heard groups to recognise the benefits provided by open spaces.

7.1.3 The Action Plan and associated Open Spaces Strategy will encourage and maximise community use of open spaces through the development of programmes and events. This will include a full complement of sporting and recreational activities, made available to a broad range of the community.

7.1.4 The Action Plan will be guided by the community expectations and priorities, Open Space Policy Statements and consultation to ensure it remains relevant and up-to-date whilst maintaining the Council’s policy position on Open Spaces.

7.1.5 The use of key stakeholders will help engage key sectors of the community, such as user groups and ‘Friends of’ groups, in the delivery of projects. These groups may have a number of different roles, including:

- Assisting in bidding for funding (e.g. unlocking funding opportunities);

- Assisting in the delivery of projects;
- Acting as a sounding board for the feasibility of projects;
- Management of open spaces (e.g. transfer of responsibility to community groups).

## **7.2 Review Periods**

7.2.1 The Open Spaces Strategy is intended as a framework and guide for the delivery of priorities, and local circumstances will be used to inform its implementation. As these priorities will change over time there is clearly a need for regular reviews of the Action Plan to ensure local needs are being met as well as strategic priorities progressed. This short-term Action Plan will therefore be reviewed in 2022.

## **7.3 Partnership Working**

7.3.1 The consultations and research undertaken as part of the development of the Open Spaces Strategy highlight the following opportunities relating to the provision, management and maintenance of open spaces:

- Loughborough University is seen as a key driver of the character of the town. There are significant opportunities to capitalise further on the resources that the university has, as well as maximising the input that the University and its students can have in day to day community life. For example, students with expertise in sports may wish to provide volunteering at local sports clubs.
- There are many examples of effective partnership working across the Borough, including the Charnwood Forest Partnership and the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Sports Partnership. Such partnerships are key to helping deliver the Open Spaces Strategy.
- There are opportunities to increase the role that schools play in community life and to maximise use of the facilities that these sites have to offer outside of curricular hours.

7.3.2 In order to maximise the benefits that can be derived from the provision of open spaces, key stakeholders should be identified with a common aim of helping to realise the benefits of the partnership working opportunities e.g. sharing of knowledge and experience, joint funding applications, and proactively investigate the opportunities raised.

## **7.4 Measuring the success of the strategy**

7.4.1 The success of the strategy will be measured through a follow-up study to look at progress in addressing the deficiencies identified in the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 and PPS 2018. The Action Plan will also be used as a barometer of success in respect of key deliverables during the short-term. It is also proposed to review the delivery of the key objectives at least every five years.

## **7.5 Public Engagement and Communication**

- 7.5.1 Public engagement in open spaces is essential to reap the greatest benefits available to the wider community. The clear benefits have been identified in the development of this Open Spaces Strategy, ranging from health through social cohesion to biodiversity. Few other activities the Council is proactively involved in offer such a range of significant benefits to a wide cross section of the community.
- 7.5.2 The Council conducts regular consultation of the level of satisfaction with the services it provides as part the Corporate Plan. This survey shows that clean, tidy and safe open spaces are a key feature for residents and visitors alike in considering where to live and work. As a result the Council recognises the clear benefits that such open space can provide. Positive customer feedback is therefore significant in measuring how well the service is received. To date the Open Spaces service has seen continued improvements in satisfaction in recent years, reflecting the investment and support the Council has provided in quality open spaces provision across the Borough.
- 7.5.3 This Strategy will form the cornerstone for measuring this key corporate indicator and as such a comprehensive and robust public engagement process will be maintained throughout the Strategy period.
- 7.5.4 It is recognised that new developments are key to the delivery of additional public open space. Clearly the planning system will have an important role to play in managing community engagement either through the preparation of the Local Plan, community led neighbourhood plans or through the determination of planning applications.
- 7.5.5 Community engagement will range from specific sectors of the community being directly engaged in the design of open space e.g. children's and young people's play, through to engagement of sports or special interest groups in the identification and support for appropriate funding of open space, and direct consultation with whole communities on specific projects in settlements e.g. Parish or Town Councils.

## 8. ACTION PLAN

- 8.0.1 The Action Plan proposes a series of tasks and actions to maintain and improve open space management across Charnwood.
- 8.0.2 The Action Plan consists of 2 sections:
- 8.0.3 Section A, Delivery plan: The Open Spaces Action plan has been developed using the evidence base in the form of the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017. This has developed a series of themes which the Open Spaces Strategy develops into policy statements. **Actions within Section A of the Action Plan are directly based upon the themes and policy statements.**
- 8.0.4 Section B, Site Specific Improvement Plan: The second outcome of the Open Spaces Assessment Study 2017 was to review the quality, quantity and accessibility shortfalls of open space provision in Charnwood Borough, and to perform a process of prioritisation of the typologies and sites that did not meet the required standards. The action plan reviews the outcomes, updates the information and matches the priorities with available resources and current demand and opportunities.
- 8.0.5 This action plan turns the priorities identified within the Open Spaces Strategy into a set of projects for land which Charnwood Borough Council manages. The information for Charnwood Parish Councils has also been compiled, and will be available for review with our partners in the parishes.
- 8.0.6 The action plan identifies known existing funds through Council Capital and Section 106 agreements, and identifies other funding sources e.g. Lottery funding where possible. It must be recognised that where no funding is yet confirmed, and there is pressures on all money to be spent wisely and efficiently, this may affect the exact projects and improvements that are delivered and timings.
- 8.0.7 There are, however, a number of outstanding S106 contribution agreements for Charnwood relating to open space improvements. The Action Plan specifically enables mapping of priority opportunities to determine the best spend of these contributions.
- 8.0.8 There are a number of unconfirmed developments that may also provide further Section 106 contributions in the near future that will need considering within the lifetime of this action plan.

- 8.0.12 The progress of the actions within this plan will be monitored and reviewed by the Green Spaces Development Team and the development of an open spaces stakeholder group. The document will also be monitored within Charnwood Borough Council's monitoring framework.
- 8.0.13 The Action Plan should be considered a live document that will evolve as funding opportunities arise and community interests develop.

## Section A – Delivery Plan

The deliver plan is presented within the following themes for ease of use:

- 8.1 Planning and Development
- 8.2 Community and locality
- 8.3 Media and Promotions
- 8.4 Sports and Active recreation
- 8.5 Allotment Provision
- 8.6 Partnership Working
- 8.7 Site management and facilities
- 8.8 Environmental sustainability and protecting biodiversity

**Resources:** Resources have been identified where known. Much green space development work is opportunistic and reactive, as well as dependant on funding opportunities arising. This section will therefore continuously evolve as resources become available.

### **Delivery Teams:**

**COS:** Cleansing and Open Spaces Service, encompassing the following teams:

**P&D:** Policy and Development team (COS)

**CT:** Contracts Team (COS)

**BS:** Business Support (COS)

**Idverde:** The Council's green spaces contractor.

**Rangers:** The Ranger Service is a key part of the delivery mechanism on open spaces. The team forms part of Idverde, the Council's green spaces contractor.

**Links to OSS Policies:** Each action is linked to the relevant Open Space Strategy policy statements.

## 8.1 Planning and Development

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.1.1	Work with colleagues in Planning and Regeneration to develop detailed guidance on the implementation of open space standards for new and proposed developments which are set out in the Council's Core Strategy and Open Spaces Strategy.	Improved provision of green spaces in new developments.	Officer time	P&D	Ongoing	1a
8.1.2	Ensure all sites are visited prior to the adoption to review and ensure adequate and agreed standards are reached prior to provision.	Adoption of high quality, appropriately designed, open space only	Officer time	P&D, GS	Ongoing	1a, 5c
8.1.3	Planning Liaison Officer to act as a main of contact to all COS team to ensure all future management is considered within the design.	Improved maintenance after adoption due to consideration of maintenance issues within design.	Officer time	P&D GS,	Ongoing	1d, 1e
8.1.4	Consult with Parish Councils to review shortfalls in each area and identify future projects	Reviewed information for each parish in Charnwood	Officer time	P&D	Ongoing	1b, 1c, 1e, 1f
8.1.5	Liaise with planning team regarding suitable green spaces for each planning	All planning applications and amendments to receive comments from	Officer time	P&D	Ongoing	1b

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
	application, at all stages of development.	GS. Consistent approach and open space to address shortfalls in current provision across the Borough.				
8.1.6	Liaise with Parish Councils to commit and spend current S106 contributions for Open Space developments	Open Space developments across all of Charnwood that address shortfalls and meets community needs.	Officer time	P&D	Ongoing	1b,1e, 1f

## 8.2 Community

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.2.1	Continue community engagement work through MOS contract commitments, In Bloom, Ranger Service and Green Gym.		Officer time	P&D, Idverde	Ongoing	1o, 1p
8.2.2	Improve engagement and communications with stakeholders: Write 'Customer Charters' with, and for, key stakeholders (eg. Sports groups, allotments etc)	2 charters per year	Officer time	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1f

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.2.3	Continue user satisfaction surveys as part of MOS contract commitments.	2 user group surveys per year following charter	Officer time	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1f
8.2.4	Carry out visitor satisfaction surveys on key sites in order to identify user profile and management/development priorities.	Two visitor surveys per year	Officer time	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1f, 1h
8.2.5	Support green space user groups in becoming self-leading and representative.		Officer time	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1f
8.2.6	Create stakeholder group, representing site users and key partners to overview open space management and delivery of the Open Spaces strategy. This group should include partners within CBC and external site user representatives. The role of this group will be to oversee the implementation of the OSS and Action Plan against resources.	Increased use and ownership of open spaces Group to be formed with Terms of Reference in Yr 1.	Officer time Expenses	P&D	2019	1f, 1g, 9a.

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.2.7	Deliver regular volunteer conservation tasks	Minimum of Bi-weekly tasks with regular volunteers and 5 corporate task days per year.		P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1o, 3c
8.2.8	Expand volunteer opportunities alongside ranger service with a focus on health, skills development and social wellbeing			CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1o, 3c
8.2.9	Support Loughborough in Bloom Community Participation Group	Continuation of successful self-led Community Participation group.	Officer time	P&D	Ongoing	1o
8.2.10	Continue to organise on site cultural, recreation and education events that engage new and existing audiences	10 events per year, at a variety of open spaces	Events and communications budget	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1o
8.2.10	Provide advisory service for Friends of Groups and user groups to self-promote events and open spaces.	Increase events by 100% at a broader range of parks.	Support sourcing of sponsorship/grants. Communications budget.	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	2b

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.2.11	Provide an advisory service for horticultural improvements, habitat management and group development		Officer time	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	1o
8.2.12	Coordinate community tool lending scheme & tool bank	Increase in self-led volunteer activities	Maintenance and repair budget	P&D, Idverde	Ongoing	1o
8.2.13	Consult the Youth Forum on area-wide developments. Consult schools and local groups in site-specific developments.	Increase in number and variety of equipment in open spaces for older children and teenagers	Officer time	P&D	Ongoing	5b

### 8.3 Media and Promotions

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.3.1	Create a suite of template signs/interpretation boards reflecting key typology type.	All key open spaces to have appropriate level of signage and interpretation	Officer time. Funding/sponsorship for any installation/printing costs.  Communications budget	P&D	Ongoing	1i, 1j

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.3.2	Write open spaces branding and communication plan	Consistent, clear and accessible approach.	Communications budget	P&D, Comms, GS.	2019	1i, 1j
8.3.3	Review and update green spaces presence on CBC's website to actively promote all key open spaces and sports/recreational opportunities.	Increase in webpage users	Officer time	P&D, Comms.	2019	1j, (3d)
8.3.4	Continue active use of social media to promote activities in Charnwood's open spaces as per CBC's procedure	Increase in visitors to open space activities	Officer time	P&D, Comms.	Ongoing	2b
8.3.5	Increase localised sponsorship opportunities: Create scheme to encourage and facilitate new and existing, innovative sponsorship of green space features by local business and organisations.	Marketable scheme and 5 new sponsorships in Yrs. 1 and 2.	Extra officer/volunteer time.	P&D BS	Ongoing	1g, 1c, 1i, 1k
8.3.6	Maintain Green Flag representation in Charnwood: Continue to annually enter Queen's Park, The Outwoods & Forest Road Green Belt into the Green Flag scheme.	3 successful Green Flags each year	Application fee.	P&D, Idverde, CT	Annually	1m, 2e, 3e

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.3.7	Continue to designate Local Nature Reserves where appropriate throughout the Borough	Stonebow Washlands designated as an LNR. Continue work on designating Gorse Covert, Booth Wood, Pignut Spinney	Officer time	P&D, Idverde, CT	One LNR to be designated annually	1m, 2e, 3e
8.3.8	Promote the Boroughs unique wildlife and biodiversity.	Increase in knowledge for Charnwood's nature in residents and visitors.	Communications budget	P&D, Comms	Ongoing	1j
8.3.9	Promote open spaces alongside national/regional campaigns eg. Loughborough in Bloom, Love Parks Week	Increase in site users at key events	Communications budget	P&D	Ongoing	1j, 2b

#### 8.4 Sports Development

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.4.1	Network with schools and encourage scheme to enable use of school facilities to local community		Officer Time	P&D	Ongoing	6a
8.4.2	Develop projects with Sports and Active Recreation team to boost the use of parks for health and fitness, in traditional and non-traditional ways.		S106/seek specific grant funding	P&D, Neighbourhoods	2018	6b

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.4.3	Write management plans for all key sports facilities, identifying funding need, and implementing guidance from relevant sporting bodies.		Advice and surveys from relevant sporting bodies – may incur costs	P&D	2019	6c, 6d
8.4.4	Audit the use and demand of all outdoor sports provision	Overview of demand for sports in Loughborough/Charnwood	Officer time, expenses	P&D, Idverde, COS	Ongoing	6c, 6d
8.4.5	Review the layout of CBC managed sports pitches. Also review the current use and need for sports in the locality, and maximise variety and match design to demand.	More, appropriate and well used pitches		P&D, GS.	2019	6c, 6d
8.4.6	Undertake annual STRI/agronomist report into sports playing pitches to ensure high quality maintenance and provision.		Officer time	COS, Idverde	Ongoing	6c, 6d

## 8.5 Allotment Development

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.5.1	Manage expectations of Allotment holders – create Allotment Charter that identifies the roles and commitments from tenants, CBC & its Green spaces contractor Idverde	Allotment charter – clarity	National Allotment Society membership and advice	P&D, CT, Idverde	2019	7b
8.5.2	Review allotment tenancy agreement	New, current tenancy reflective of plot holders and service provision	Officer time, legal advice, consultation expenses	P&D	2019	7b
8.5.3	Promote variations of allotments associations and support tenants in setting up a formal group	Formal/formal allotment associations or groups at 3 allotment sites			2019	7b
8.5.4	Provide noticeboards for each allotment plot	Improved communication with and between tenants	Communications budget	P&D	2018	7b
8.5.5	Allow and encourage allotment tenants to hold a half plot per site for community use where the tenants are able to demonstrate a use for the good of the site, and will maintain it for this use themselves.	Increased ownership of site		Tenant-led, P&D support	Ongoing	7a, 7b

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.5.6	Let half plots as standard to provide an increased amount of lettings. No individual tenant to receive more than half a plot, though existing tenants can keep their existing tenancy.	Waiting list halved in 3 years (in conjunction with action 8.5.9)	Officer time	P&D	Ongoing	7c
8.5.7	Review waiting list – contact list to check and confirm remaining interest	Waiting list halved in 3 years (in conjunction with action 8.5.8)	Officer time, overheads	BS, P&D	Ongoing	7c
8.5.8	Seek opportunities to create allotment plots accessible for people with disabilities	2 plots on different sites	Suitable plots and funding – potential future S106 or corporate sponsorship	P&D, CT	Ongoing	7a
8.5.9	Programme of allotment improvements to ensure sites meet required standards e.g. surfaced access paths and appropriate security measures.		S106 or capital plan	P&D, CT	2020	7a

## 8.6 Partnership Working

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.6.1	Compile evidence and information for each parish re: open space shortfalls and opportunities. Compile existing information and aspirations of Charnwood's Open Spaces Strategy and share with all parish councils. Support Parish Councils in developing a project plan for their area.	Information for each parish area	Officer time	P&D, Parish councils	Live' document to be created and amended ongoing.	1b, 1c, 1e, 1f, 1g, 1h
8.6.2	Work with Neighbourhoods service to identify opportunities for health benefits, skills development and education.		Officer time	P&D CT Neighbourhoods service	Ongoing	1j
8.6.3	Work with Neighbourhoods service, identifying opportunities to develop open spaces to deter antisocial use and encourage positive use:	Reduction in anti-social behaviour on open spaces	Officer time. Funding for individual projects.	P&D Neighbourhoods	Ongoing	1l
8.6.4	Consult with Neighbourhoods team on all open space developments in Loughborough	Periodic meetings with Neighbourhoods team/officers to identify opportunities to work together on open spaces Increase community	Officer time.	P&D Neighbourhoods	Ongoing	1g, 1l, 1o

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
		ownership – increase in use of open spaces				
8.6.5	Support Neighbourhoods team to use open spaces for events and activities	Community activities across more sites	Officer time	CT, P&D, Idverde	Ongoing	1g, 1l
8.6.6	Continue to support Loughborough in Bloom as a key partner.	Success within awards and increased community involvement.	Application fee.	P&D	Ongoing	1m

### 8.7 Site management and facilities

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.7.1	Improve facilities for young people – create more diverse activities. Create portfolio of themed approach to new open spaces play equipment – especially in creating more varied youth and adult options. Seek feedback from young people via the youth forum.	Flagship youth equipment. Increased use of open spaces by young people. Reduced antisocial behaviour	Officer time Youth offers/prizes expenses	P&D Youth forum and other groups across the borough (uni and college)	Ongoing	5a, 5b
8.7.2	Develop natural play facilities Create portfolio of themed	3 natural play installations	Funding for equipment	P&D, Eng,	Ongoing	5d

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
	<p>approach to new open spaces play equipment – especially in creating natural play equipment.</p> <p>Seek creative opportunities to create natural play facilities where the option of traditional play equipment may be inappropriate:</p>		(potential S106 projects)	GS.		
8.7.3	<p>Develop systematic writing and review of management plan writing. This is to include the development of a template for park management briefs (a current gap), and identifying the level of detail needed for each park and open space.</p>	<p>All key sites to have management specification as minimum.</p> <p>Create templates based on scale and typology</p> <p>Complete list and rota for ongoing reviews.</p>	Officer time	P&D/GS	2019	4a
8.7.4	<p>When developing any aspect of open spaces (as funding arises), develop sites as a site-wide project – improving small features alongside main feature, in conjunction with community. Focus on taking the opportunity to improve the overall look and feel of the site</p>	<p>All projects that arise to be delivered in this cohesive way.</p>	S106 funding or similar.	GS, Rangers, P&D	Ongoing	2c

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
	such as new signs, paint fences etc).					
8.7.5	Each open space to be monitored for antisocial behaviour, maintenance, safety issues, (including life belts where appropriate), and infrastructure. All instances to be reported and compiled into future management plans.			CT, Idverde	Ongoing	2d
8.7.6	Continue robust monitoring procedure of play equipment. Feed findings into management plans as appropriate		Officer time	CT, Idverde	Ongoing	5a, 1h
8.7.7	Create comprehensive overview and long-term plan for rolling replacement of playground equipment to maintain standards	Consistent and robust replacement schedule	Funding for new equipment and maintenance budget.	P&D, CT, Idverde	Ongoing	5e, 1h
8.7.8	Write a management plan each year for key open space sites e.g. Loughborough Cemetery, Charnwood Water	Complete and comprehensive management plan	Officer time	P&D, GS	From 2019	4a, 8c

## 8.8 Environmental Sustainability

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
8.8.1	Compost all green waste – on site where possible, and where not, via green waste composting waste disposal	95% green waste composted		CT	Ongoing	2a
8.8.2	Use peat free compost and plant suppliers	100% peat free		CT	Ongoing	2a
8.8.3	Trial alternative watering techniques	10% lower water use by 2018.		CT	Ongoing	2a
8.8.4	Continue survey of Council tree stock according to industry best practice and record recommendations on specialist data base Update records in response to land adoption, tree planting and tree works.	Comprehensive record of tree stock	Officer time, contractor fees	CT, Idverde	Ongoing	11a
8.8.5	Maintain and monitor schemes in Higher Level Stewardship Scheme	All 5 sites to retain and succeed at designation.		P&D, Idverde	Ongoing	3b
8.8.6	Maximise knowledge of wildlife and heritage value of CBC land by carrying out biodiversity and heritage audits. Instigate project to identify biodiversity value of CBC land	Full list of CBC owned land wildlife features.	Funding for consultants, volunteer expenses/rewards and overheads	P&D	Commence 2019	1n

Ref.	Action	Targets	Resources	Teams	Timescale	Links to OSS policies
	holding in order to inform management. Following the biodiversity audit develop a wildlife action plan for CBC sites					3c
8.8.7	Participate in Charnwood/Leicestershire biodiversity and wildlife partners meetings		Officer time	BD, P&D	Ongoing	1n, 9b

## **Section B – Site Specific Improvement Plan**

Section B identifies ways to improve open space in Charnwood. A significant part of this is to address the shortfalls in Access, Quantity and Quality prioritised within the Open Spaces Strategy.

This section is considered an active document, for input from the appropriate management organisation and the local communities, as opportunities and needs develop.

The information from the Open Spaces Assessment Study has been compiled for each Parish alongside current developments planned and proposed for each area. Where CBC manages land (Loughborough), this has been developed into a project plan which is displayed as a table below.

For other areas, the information will be presented to Parish Councils to develop, with CBC support, a similar project plan as requested.

Where a new development is proposed and discussions arise regarding the type of open space to be provided, the projects presented here will be consulted.

## SECTION B: Addressing shortfalls in access, quantity & quality in Loughborough

### PRIORITY PROJECTS

Ref.	Ward	Project	Proposed Resources/ potential funding	Timescale	Links to OSS policies / Reason why this is a priority
8.9.1	All Wards	<p><b>Loughborough Playground Improvement Plan : Phase 1</b> For the refurbishment and enhancement of existing play facilities throughout Loughborough. This is the first phase as part of a rolling programme of works to address creeping obsolescence of playgrounds</p>	£50,000 (potential funding from capital plan, developer contributions or external grants. e.g. Landfill Tax.)	2020-2023	<p>Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents.</p> <p>Links to OSS objective 5a,5b,5e</p>
8.9.2	All Wards	<p><b>Loughborough Outdoor Gym project : Phase 1</b> Work to development of a suite of outdoor gym zones within key parks/open spaces within Loughborough. Phase 1 is to develop 2 gym zones at an approximate cost of £20,000 per zone. To compliment Southfields Park gym and the forthcoming Jubilee Park gym and to be followed by another phase subject to the availability of funds.</p>	£40,000 (potential funding from capital plan, developer contributions or external grants. e.g. Landfill Tax.)	2020-2023	<p>Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. Will help to address shortfalls in youth and adult provision in either priority or growing neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Links to OSS objective 6d</p>
8.9.3	All Wards	<p><b>Allotment Improvement Plan : Phase 1</b> Identify and secure new allotment site to Serve the Ashby, Dishley, Garendon and Nanpantan Wards.</p> <p>Undertake further improvement to key</p>	£25,000 (potential funding from capital plan and developer contributions)	2020-2023	<p>Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. To address identified shortfalls in quality.</p>

		allotment sites to provide safe and secure access and boundary infrastructure. This is the first phase of a rolling programme of works to address the shortfall in availability and the creeping			Links to OSS objective 7d
8.9.4	Hathern & Dishley, Outwoods, Shelthorpe	<p><b>Loughborough PPS/emerging FA Actions</b> To implement the combined PPS action plan and emerging recommendations from FA.</p> <p><b>Derby Road:</b> New FF compliant changing facilities. Improved cricket pavilion/changing facilities and upgraded football pitches/cricket outfield. Develop cricket practice facilities</p> <p><b>Lodge Farm Sports Ground:</b> Refurbish and secure changing facilities.</p> <p><b>Nanpantan Sports Ground:</b> Refurbishment of internal elements of ancillary facilities serving football, cricket &amp; tennis to bring up to recognised Standards.</p> <p><b>Park Road Sports Ground:</b> Installation of new floodlighting to two community courts. Possible additional work to support court booking may be considered along with security measures to combat anti-social behaviour and improvements to car parking</p>	Total project cost £1m. (£500k secured from Capital Plan. £500k match funding required from Football Foundation/Sport England)	2019-2024	<p>Identified shortfall in PPS</p> <p>Links to OSS objective 1l, 1n &amp; 6d</p>
8.9.5	Hastings	<p><b>Allsops Lane Country Park</b> Restoration of former landfill site and grazing land. Creation of major recreational area/country park on the eastern edge of Loughborough. Delivery of Phase 1 &amp; 2 estimated at £300k,</p>	Total project cost £ 300k. £180,000 (secured developer contributions); £120k required (potential Capital Plan & external funding)	2019-2024	<p>Required to serve the needs of residents and visitors to the Borough.</p> <p>Links to OSS objective 3a &amp; 1r</p>

8.9.6	Hastings	<b>Bell Foundry Pocket Park : Phase 2</b> Additional works to expand the play offer in a priority area where there is an indemnifiable need and an overwhelming level of local support.	£22,000 (secured developer contributions)	2019-2020	Required to serve the needs of residents and visitors to the Borough.  Links to OSS objective 3a & 1r
8.9.7	Lemyngton	<b>Loughborough Parish Green Project</b> Co-ordinated approach to refurbishment and restoration of heritage assets and open space to enhance the historic heart of the town centre. Brings together a cohesive strategy for the Rectory Museum and grounds, The Rectory Wildlife Garden, All Saints Church & churchyard and Fearon Hall.	Total project cost £250k. £8,000 (secured developer contribution towards Rectory Wildlife Garden); c£250,000 required from other sources including Capital Plan & external funding e.g. National Lottery.	2019-2024	Required to serve the needs of residents and visitors to the Town Centre and to provide a quality setting to the heritage quarter of the Town.  Links to OSS objective 1r, 10a & b
8.9.8	Outwoods	<b>Loughborough Burial Provision</b> Creation of new cemetery on land at Nanpantan. Overall masterplan to be produced to guide phased development of the site as appropriate.	£650,000 (secured Capital Plan)	2018-2022	The provision of a burial service is a priority service to Loughborough residents.  Links to OSS objective 8a
8.9.9	Outwoods	<b>The Outwoods Visitor Infrastructure Project</b> Installation of new natural play features, re-development of the former Ranger cottage as a key destination site for visitor centre/café facility, redesign of ranger base.	Total project cost £223k. £140,000 (secured European Structural Investment Fund; £183,000 secured Capital Plan)	2018-2020	Required to serve the needs of residents and visitors to the Borough. Links to the Charnwood Forest Regional Park  Links to OSS objective 1g, 1r & 8a

8.9.10	Southfields	<p><b>Queens Park Play improvement project : Phase 1</b></p> <p>As the main destination park for Loughborough, the current play facilities are becoming fatigued and in need of refreshment. This key project is required to refurbish and upgrade park facilities for children &amp; young people to ensure the park continues to provide recreation and play facilities at a high standard. Future phases will address the wider fabric and facilities of the park.</p>	£250,000 (potential Capital Plan Project)	2020-2021	<p>Required to ensure existing "destination park" for Loughborough continues to serve the needs and expectations of residents and visitors.</p> <p>Links to OSS objective 1r, 5a,b &amp; c)</p>
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#### MEDIUM PRIORITY PROJECTS

Ref.	Ward	Project	Proposed Resources/ potential funding	Timescale	Links to OSS policies / Reason why this is a priority
8.9.11	All Wards	<p><b>Loughborough Playground Improvement Plan : Phase 2</b></p> <p>Develop new implementation plan for the refurbishment and enhancement of existing play facilities throughout Loughborough. This is the proposed second phase of a rolling programme of works to address creeping obsolescence of playgrounds.</p>	£50,000 this phase (potential capital plan funding & external grant scheme e.g. Landfill Tax. Potential developer contribution).	At the earliest opportunity	<p>Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents.</p> <p>Links to OSS objective 5a,5b,5e</p>
8.9.12	All Wards	<p><b>Loughborough Outdoor Gym project : Phase 2</b></p> <p>Ongoing development of a suite of outdoor gym zones within key parks/open spaces</p>	£40,000 (Potential Capital plan project/developer contribution)	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. Will

		within Loughborough. Phase 2 is to develop 2 additional gym zones at an approximate cost of £20,000 per zone. To compliment Southfields Park gym and the forthcoming Jubilee Park gym and the proposed facilities in Phase 1.			help to address shortfalls in youth and adult provision in either priority or growing neighbourhoods  Links to OSS objective 1n
8.9.13	All Wards	<b>Allotment Improvement Plan : Phase 2</b> Identify and secure new allotment site to Serve the Ashby, Dishley, Garendon and Nanpantan Wards. Undertake further improvement to key allotment sites to provide safe and secure access and boundary infrastructure. This is the second phase of a rolling programme of works to address the shortfall in availability and the creeping obsolescence of existing allotment facilities.	£25,000 (potential Capital Plan & developer contributions Project)	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. To address identified shortfalls in quality.  Links to OSS objective 7d
8.9.14	All Wards	<b>Natural &amp; Semi Natural Open Space improvement</b> Improvements to the access and recreational value of key wildlife sites throughout Loughborough, including provision of new seating, footpath improvements and appropriate access furniture.	£60,000 (potential Capital Plan project)	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. To address identified shortfalls in quality.  Links to OSS objective 3a
8.9.15	All Wards	<b>Open Spaces welcoming signage</b> Provision of suitable welcoming signage to key open spaces.	£90,000 (potential Capital Plan project)	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. To address identified

					shortfalls in quality.  Links to OSS objective 1i,j
8.9.16	All Wards	<b>Environmental Enhancement Works:</b> <b>Including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truelovers walk</li> <li>• Westfield Road</li> <li>• Wheel tappers way</li> <li>• Nottingham Road</li> </ul>	100k (potential Capital Plan & developer contributions Project)	At the earliest opportunity	Addressing ongoing or deteriorating environmental issues and to improve gateways or high profile locations within the town.  Links to OSS objective 1g, 1l, 4a, 4b & 1n.
8.9.17	Ashby	<b>Garendon Green</b> Growing local momentum behind improving facilities in a local open space area with an identified shortfall.	£50,000 (potential Capital Plan project/developer contribution).	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents  Links to OSS objective 4a
8.9.18	Outwoods	<b>Outwoods &amp; Nanpantan play projects</b> A project to address play shortfall in Forest Road area of both Nanpantan or Outwoods wards:  Improvements to address shortfalls in these wards at site to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bramcote road</li> <li>• Moat Road;</li> <li>• Mardale;</li> <li>• Nanpantan playing fields;</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	£100k (Capital Programme, developer contributions and external funding.)	At the earliest opportunity	A project to address play shortfall in the Outwoods ward.  Links to OSS objective 1k

8.8.19	Shelthorpe	<b>Shelthorpe Golf Course</b> Improve the accessibility and use of the golf facility with refreshed facilities, infrastructure and additional recreational measures such as “foot-golf”.	£50,000 (potential developer contribution).	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. Identified Shortfalls in PPS  Links to OSS objective 6d
8.8.20	Shelthorpe	<b>Laurel Road play area</b> Potential new play area on Laurel Road open space to address shortfalls in LEAP/NEAP accessibility	£120,000 (Capital Programme, developer contributions and external funding.)	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents.  Links to OSS objective 5a & 5f.
8.8.21	Shelthorpe	<b>Allendale Road Recreation Ground</b> Provision of new play features and general improvements to open space function.	£82,800 (secured developer contributions). £50,000 (potential capital plan funding).	At the earliest opportunity	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. Developer contribution Secured through Grange Park development  Links to OSS objective 4a, 4b & 1e
8.8.22	Southfields	<b>Southfields ball court</b> Works to broaden appeal of a park, and deter anti-social behaviour.	£50 (Capital Programme and external funding.)	At the earliest opportunity	Links to OSS objective 11