

Name of meeting: Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel
Date: 12 December 2018
Title of report: Draft Greenspace Strategy

Purpose of report

To brief Members and gain guidance on the structure, content and intent of an outline draft of the greenspace delivery plan / strategy showing how the service activity and changes links into the wider corporate priorities and looks to support other areas both internally and externally as the manager of our spaces.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it signed off by Service Director Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Karl Battersby, Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure 30/11/18
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Naheed Mather – Communities and Environment

Electoral wards affected: All
Ward councillors consulted: None
Public or private: Public

Draft Greenspace Delivery Strategy

Introduction

The narrative below forms the intention of the greenspace delivery strategy, to demonstrate the links between the councils priorities and aspirations and the operational delivery of these. It also sets out the clear intention that the greenspaces service is part of a wider delivery mechanism, and will do all it can to support other areas programmes as its spaces are both a valuable asset in themselves, but also form the back drop and stage for other activities.

The delivery strategy itself is intended to be quite brief, with the main supporting actions as set out in the points below held in appendices that can be subject to review and revision on a more frequent basis as the projects are delivered.

This brevity is not intended to minimise the importance of the area or the need to deliver the content, rather it is meant to ensure that the salient points are clearly enunciated, and that the importance of co-vised and delivered work with partners and stakeholders is clear.

The paper itself is intended as a discussion document to ensure that officers are on the right course with it, both in intention, form and content, and that before significant investment in creating and formatting is invested there is the opportunity for review and changes to be made.

Background

- The Local plan has a vision for Kirklees in 2031 which includes green spaces and states that:

“The local character and distinctiveness of Kirklees and its places will be retained. The natural environment will be maintained and enhanced through high quality, inclusive design and safe environments, opportunities for play and sport, the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure, tree and woodland protection, opportunities for local food growing and the enhancement of biodiversity.”

- Part of Kirklees offer– quality of life, attracting visitors and enhancing resident’s lives
- The relevant Strategic Objectives of the Local Plan are to:
 - Protect and improve green infrastructure to support health and well-being, giving residents access to good quality open spaces, sport and recreation opportunities, and to support habitats, allowing wildlife to flourish;
 - Protect and enhance the characteristics of the built, natural and historic environment, and local distinctiveness which contribute to the character of Kirklees, including the South Pennine Moors, Moorland fringe and the area’s industrial heritage.

Priorities

1. **Healthy People** - Improved quality and function of green spaces to enhance their attractiveness to residents and provide more opportunities for increased sport, recreation and physical activity to support the health and the mental well-being of local communities.

Examples of headline outcomes and actions:

- Maintain existing Green Flag Award status and identify further opportunities
- Seek quality improvements to existing green spaces as part of new housing developments where off-site public open space provision is appropriate
- Allotment provision and improvement
- Amenity and play area improvements (links to the Play Strategy)
- Tackling inequalities in partnership with Public health and communities
- Promote smoking cessation

2. **Quality Places** - Provide new and maintain existing green spaces and green infrastructure to support future housing and economic growth and help create quality places, including the regeneration of our town centres and villages.

Examples of headline outcomes and actions:

- Future development to contribute to new or improved green spaces to help address deficiencies in the amount and quality of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.
- Introduce and increase street trees, particularly along main transport corridors.
- Knowledge driven changes to maintenance regimes
- Measuring quality (natural capital)
- Support Biodiversity networks
- Incorporate innovative design principals into green spaces
- Ongoing management of designated areas (Local wildlife sites, sites of special scientific interest, etc.)

3. **Safe, Accessible & Connected Green Spaces** - Improve existing green space to be safer and more accessible with sustainable connecting links (walking and cycling routes) to the wider green infrastructure network and our towns and villages and employment areas.

Examples of headline outcomes and actions:

- Improve connectivity between green spaces and places through new/improved walking and cycling routes (See Walking and Cycling Strategy)
- Accessibility; affordability, community access, barriers, intelligence-led etc
- Community Cohesion; better understanding of the community demand and existing 'offer'
- Enhancing school space and their capacity to influence behaviour
- Places for People (more info required on this)

4. Deliver Differently - Deliver new and improved green spaces differently to ensure efficient use of resources, support biodiversity and encourage communities to take ownership of green spaces where they live and their maintenance.

Examples of headline outcomes and actions:

- Encourage co-location of facilities so that a range of different types of facilities can be located next to each other (examples?)
- Adopt a sustainable and community led approach to the way public open spaces area managed and maintained
- Focus on Destination Play Areas rather than small play areas sites
- Local clubs to have greater maintenance responsibility
- Priority for natural play and through-age range facilities
- Encourage/support a growth in volunteering
- Financially viable
- Better collaboration with neighbouring landowners
- it sets out both how we will manage our land (both in-house and in conjunction with communities) and how we will encourage people to engage with the natural world and address barriers to this

The delivery priorities of our partners that Greenspaces can support are: Including, internal, external and third sector partners.

To be completed

- Public Health -
- Communities -
- Natural Kirklees -
- National Trust -

In order to deliver these the following work streams have been identified within the service – the details of these are within appendixes to this document.

1. Changes to grounds maintenance delivery and standards
 - Management for bio-diversity
 - Redesigning grass pitch sport offer
 - Enabling the work force to deliver in a more trust based flexible system
2. Rationalisation of the depot portfolio
3. Redirection of green arising from waste steams to biofuel production
4. The reforestation of areas to meet the white rose forest requirements
5. Integration of other services requirements within the greenspace delivery to meet overall council objectives

6. Integration of volunteer and third party activity within the delivery model
7. Robust recruitment and succession plan
8. Introduction of the playable spaces strategy
9. Placing local concerns and elected members within the core of the implementation and ongoing delivery programme.

Next Steps

- To advise if the format and intent of the strategy is acceptable, and to suggest any areas that need either removing, expanding or including.
- To make changes and complete document working with partners
- Take Strategy to Cabinet to decide if adopted.

Contact officer

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Strategic/Service Director responsible

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