

	<b>Environment Committee</b> <b>13 July 2017</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Implementation of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Strategic Director Environment</b>
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1: Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Progress Update; Appendix 2: Natural Capital Account for Barnet
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## Summary

This report updates the Environment Committee on progress with the implementation of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (POSS) adopted by the Committee in May 2016.

The report also proposes a number of additional initiatives which will contribute to the delivery of the POSS and the improvement and enhancement of the Council's parks and open spaces.

## Recommendations

1. That the Environment Committee notes progress to date on the Colindale Parks Improvement Scheme and delegates authority to the Strategic Director: Environment to procure appropriately qualified external design consultants and construction contractors relative to the development of detailed designs for and subsequent delivery of Colindale and Rushgrove Parks; in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

**2. That the Environment Committee agrees:-**

- that a master plan be developed for the West Hendon Playing Fields and associated sites so as to create a Sports Hub;
- that a master plan be developed for the Barnet Playing Fields and associated sites so as to create a Sports Hub;
- that blended funding streams are pursued for the development of these Sport Hubs in line with the agreed Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme and the Playing Pitch strategy for Barnet;

and delegates authority to the Strategic Director: Environment to procure appropriately qualified external support to develop the master plans for the sites in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

**3. That the Environment Committee agrees:-**

- that a master plan be developed for Victoria Park:
- to request the release of the ring fenced funding to support the development and improvement of Victoria Park in line with the agreed Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme.

and delegates authority to the Strategic Director: Environment to procure appropriately qualified external support to develop the master plan for the site in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

**4. That the Environment Committee supports the principle of the transfer, by a long lease, of the Darland Lake Nature Reserve to an alternative and appropriate organisation and refers the transfer to the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee for consideration.**

**5. That the Environment Committee agrees the principle of the transfer of the freehold of Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb back to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and refers the transfer to the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee for consideration.**

**6. That the Environment Committee agrees:-**

- that master plans be developed for the North West Greenbelt Sites (Barnet Gate Woods, Moat Mount Open Space, Scratchwood Open Space and Stoneyfield Park);
- that blended funding streams are pursued for the development of these sites in line with the agreed Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme;

and delegates authority to the Strategic Director: Environment to procure appropriately qualified external support to develop the master plans for the sites in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 The Environment Committee adopted the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (POSS) and Policies in May 2016. This report updates the Environment Committee on progress with the achievement of the POSS Action Plan.
- 1.2 The POSS progress update, is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. From the update, it will be seen that, despite the Greenspaces service undergoing a significant review during the past 12 months, progress on the various actions has been positive. Key achievements include
- (i) Completion and adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Barnet;
  - (ii) The development of the draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document in partnership with Planning;
  - (iii) Colindale Parks Improvement scheme progress - Silk Stream Valley Park redevelopment planning application submitted;
  - (iv) Development of Natural Capital Account for Barnet;
  - (v) Alternative Delivery Model for the Operation and Management of The Council's Parks and Open Spaces;
  - (vi) Progression of the Spots Hubs at Copthall, West Hendon Playing Fields, and Barnet Playing Fields
  - (vii) Investigation into alternative management by local groups for some Low Value – Low Quality Parks
  - (viii) Investment Areas – High Value Low Quality Parks and Open spaces;
  - (ix) Planting over 200 trees in streets and parks across the borough;
  - (x) The transfer of the Greenspace governance functions into the Environment Commissioning Group.
- 1.3 This report also proposes a number of further initiatives which can be funded from Section 106 contributions in line with the Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme supported and endorsed at the November 2016 meeting of the Committee.

### **Play Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document**

- 1.4 The completion and adoption of the PPS facilitates the development of individual sport, site and area based development proposals, in partnership with National Governing Bodies of Sport and Sport England, and this work has commenced. The existence of the PPS also increases the Council's likelihood of success in applications for external funding for such initiatives. It should be noted that both the POSS and PPS designate Copthall, Barnet Playing Fields and West Hendon Playing Fields as Sports Hubs; the successful development of which will depend on match funding.
- 1.5 Both the PPS and the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document are key to the development of the Council's Local Plan Review scheduled for later this year. They also secure the position of existing parks and open spaces in the future local plan and set the context for the pursuit of longer term POSS objectives; including the creation of a new district park and

13 new local parks.

### **Colindale Parks Improvement Scheme**

- 1.6 The improvement and enhancement of parks in Colindale is on track for completion before the target date of 2021; delivering significant support to the Council's regeneration initiatives in that area. Improvement and enhancement of the Brent Cross and West Hendon sites will provide further support to the regeneration of the Borough.
- 1.7 The application for planning consent for the Silkstream Valley Park project has been submitted and work has commenced on the development of proposals for improvements to Colindale and Rushgrove Parks, with regard to which funding is included in the Council's capital programme. The delivery of improvements will require the procurement of external consultants and contractors in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

### **Development of a Natural Capital Account for Barnet**

- 1.8 Historically, parks and open spaces have been regarded as cost items within local authorities' accounts. This approach fails to recognise the contribution that green spaces make to other strategic agendas such as health improvement and improvement to air quality.
- 1.9 Natural Capital Accounting is a technique which considers the benefits arising from green spaces and calculates the monetary values of those benefits. In the past the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) approach has been applied to individual sites, demonstrating the value of the contributions those sites make in the wider context but not on a whole authority basis.
- 1.10 The Council has recently completed a pilot in partnership with the Greater London Authority to develop the first authority wide NCA in London. The NCA for Barnet can be accessed at Open Barnet but, in summary, the value of the annual contributions that the Council's parks and open spaces deliver to the area have been calculated as:-

Activity/benefit	Numbers/year	Annual value
Recreational visits to parks and open spaces	10,500,000 visits	£41,000,000
Avoided health costs of physical inactivity by use of LBB parks and open spaces for exercise	100,000 individuals	£19,000,000
CO2 sequestered by LBB parks and woodlands	1,000 tonnes CO2 equivalent	£70,000
Total		£60,070,000

- 1.11 In addition, the existence of high quality parks and open spaces deliver property value premiums estimated at between 10% and 15% for residential and in the order of 3% commercial.
- 1.12 The NCA will be used to inform investment decisions relative to parks and open spaces and to support applications for funding for their development and maintenance.
- 1.13 The full NCA report is attached at Appendix 2.

### **Alternative Delivery Model of the Operation and Management of The Council's Parks and Open Spaces**

- 1.14 The separation of the Green Spaces Governance element of the Street Scene service from the Street Scene ADM was considered at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 15 March 2017. The Committee agreed that the Green Spaces Governance function would transfer to the Environment Commissioning Group. This will enable it to be re-structured and aligned to the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy; including looking at Alternative Delivery Models suitable for Parks and Open Spaces in Barnet.
- 1.15 The NCA for Barnet clearly quantifies the significant monetary values of the contribution that the Council's parks and open spaces make to the achievement of strategic outcomes in Barnet; such as health improvement. However, the NCA in itself does not provide the financial resources required for the continuing provision of the sites.
- 1.16 The Council will continue to face a challenging financial environment into the foreseeable future. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) will deliver reductions in the cost of parks and open spaces in the short term by driving efficiencies in their operation and management. However, reductions in operational and management costs alone will not deliver the longer term objective of reducing the cost of providing Barnet's parks and open spaces supporting the on-going development of these important facilities.

### **Sports Hubs: Copthall**

- 1.17 The Copthall site, assessed within the POSS as low quality/high value and consequently a priority for improvement, constitutes a significant resource which already delivers sports activities and opportunities for residents of and visitors to Barnet. The Council has commenced work on the provision of a new leisure centre and Greenspaces operational depot within the site and Saracens RFC have applied for planning consent to develop the West Stand at Allianz Park. In addition, both the POSS and PPS recommend Copthall for development into one of three Sports Hubs within the Borough.
- 1.18 Taken together, the developments at Copthall create a catalyst for a comprehensive review of the facilities and opportunities that the site provides, together with its supporting infrastructure and how, together with adjoining green spaces such as Arrandene Open Space, it can link into the All London

Green Grid and contribute to other POSS initiatives; including the creation of a new District Park.

- 1.19 Following an open tender exercise, external consultants have been appointed to undertake the review, undertake an appraisal of the options available to the Council for the future development and operation of the site and develop a master plan for the delivery of the preferred option. The final report of the study is targeted for submission to the January 2018 meeting of the Environment Committee.

### **Sports Hubs: West Hendon Playing Fields**

- 1.20 The regeneration of the West Hendon Estate will result in a number of Section 106 contributions for the delivery of off-site improvements to neighbouring parks to provide play and sports facilities. A contribution has been received from Hendon Football Club towards the cost of improvements to the West Hendon Playing Fields.

- 1.21 The Section 106 Agreement allows for the provision or enhancement of facilities within the Welsh Harp, Woodfield Park and/or the West Hendon. Paying Fields, assessed within the POSS as low quality/high value and consequently a priority for improvement. The Section 106 contributions are summarised:-

Site	Purpose	Amount (£)	Status
Hendon Football Club	Improvements to the sports pitches and changing facilities at West Hendon Playing Fields	185,000	Received
West Hendon Estate	Leisure and recreation contribution	350,000	Received
	Leisure and recreation contribution	50,000	Due Mar '18
	Leisure and recreation contribution	231,600	Due Mar '20
	Leisure and recreation contribution	127,380	Due Mar '22
	Leisure and recreation contribution	220,020	Due Mar '22
Total		1,164,000	

- 1.22 The regeneration of the estate includes the replacement of York Park and, currently the loss of a ball court. It is the intention to deliver a replacement ball park before the current provision is lost in 2018.

- 1.23 Agreed deliverables from the Section 106 funding include:-

- Play provision with a focus on the over 11's;
- Provision for wheeled sports;

- Provision of a multi-use games area;
- Improvements to sports facilities;
- Improved access to facilities.

1.24 The replacement of the ball park may be funded from this source.

1.25 There is also a requirement to develop a master plan for the wider site to respond to the agreed Section 106 contribution outcomes and the POSS and PPS recommendations for the establishment of a Sports Hub at West Hendon Playing Fields. The release of the section 106 funding to support the development and improvement of this Sports Hub, including the appointment of appropriately experienced and qualified external consultants, was considered by the 27 June meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. This proposed allocation of funds is in line with the agreed Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme.

### **Sports Hubs: Barnet Playing Fields**

1.26 A number of Section 106 contributions are to be received relative to the Dollis Valley Estate Regeneration and the land off High Road/Chandos Avenue N20 Brethren Meeting Hall and Wellgrove School:-

Site	Purpose	Amount
Dollis Valley	Upgrading and improvement of existing pitches at King George V and/or similar playing fields in the vicinity of the development	160,000
	Dollis valley Greenwalk Cycle and Pedestrian Route contribution	300,000
	Upgrading and improvement of existing pitches at King George V and/or similar playing fields in the vicinity of the development	170,000
	Play and recreation facilities contribution	150,000
	Design and specification for the rebuilding of the King George V Pavilion or such other multi-use pavilion at Barnet Playing Fields	20,000
	Construction of the King George V pavilion or such other multi-use pavilion at Barnet Playing Fields	280,000
	Play and recreation facilities contribution	150,000
Land off High Road/Chandos Avenue and Brethren Meeting Hall and Well Grove School	Improvement, maintenance and enhancement of recreational public amenity allocated as Public Open Space within the development for 25 years	250,000
	Improvement, maintenance and enhancement of recreational public amenity allocated as Public Open Space within the development for 25 years	450,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,930,000</b>

1.27 There is a requirement to develop a master plan to respond to the agreed Section 106 contribution sport related outcomes and the POSS and PPS recommendations for the establishment of a Sports Hub at Barnet Playing Fields, assessed within the POSS as low quality/high value and consequently a priority for improvement, and proposals for the High Road/Chandos Avenue Public Open Space provision. The release of the section 106 funding to support the development and improvement of this sports hub, including the appointment of appropriately experienced and qualified external consultants, was considered by the 27 June meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. This proposed allocation of funds is in line with the agreed Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme.

### **Victoria Park**

1.28 Victoria Park which is assessed within the POSS as high quality/high value, has a number of motivated stakeholders who have recently formed a Friends of Victoria Park Group. This group is looking to work with the Council on the development of proposals for the park Improvements which will utilise ring fenced funding. A request for the ring fenced funding to be released to support the development and improvement of Victoria Park, including the appointment of appropriately experienced and qualified external consultants, was considered by the 27 June meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. This proposed allocation of funds is in line with the agreed Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme.

### **Alternative management by local groups - Darlands Lake Nature Reserve Disposal**

1.29 The Darland Lakes Nature Reserve in Totteridge ward is assessed as low quality/low value within the POSS. As such it is appropriate to consider the site for alternative management arrangements.

1.30 The site includes a lake which is not currently maintained and there are potential liabilities from trees and pathways that require improvement.

1.31 It is understood that local residents would like to see the lake brought into use for educational visits but such will require improvements to the maintenance regime with regard to which the Council has no budget provision.

1.32 It is proposed to seek expressions of interest from an appropriately constituted body to take over the operation and management of the site on the basis of a long lease and the delivery of improvements to the site to:-

- Maintain the site as open to and for the benefit of the general public;
- Delivering investment to the site;
- Maintaining trees;
- Dredging and maintaining the lake;
- Improving access and pathways to the site.



- 1.36 The Greenspaces Board has considered and supports the initiative and Environment Committee is requested to agree the principle of the transfer of the operation and management of the Darlands Nature Reserve to an alternative and appropriate organisation and to refer the transfer to the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee for implementation.

### **Alternative management by local groups - Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb Disposal**

- 1.37 Central Square within the Hampstead Garden Suburb is assessed as low quality/low value within the POSS. As such it may be appropriate to be considered for alternative management arrangements. The freehold of Central Square within the Hampstead Garden Suburb was transferred to the then Borough of Hendon (predecessor Council to LB Barnet) from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and the Church Commissioners in 1950, since when the Council has managed and maintained it.
- 1.38 The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust has approached the Council, requesting that the freehold of the site, which is assessed as low quality/low value within the POSS, be transferred back to the Trust. The Greenspaces Board has considered and supports the request from the Trust and Environment Committee is request to agree the principle of the transfer of the freehold of Central Square back to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and to refer the transfer to the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee for implementation.

### **Investment Areas – High Value Low Quality Parks and Open spaces -North West Greenbelt Sites**

- 1.39 Barnet Gate Woods, Moat Mount Open Space, Scratchwood Open Space and Stoneyfield Park are four key sites within the North West Greenbelt. These sites which are adjacent to one another are all assessed as low quality/high value in the POSS and, as such, are priorities for investment. The requirement to improve the sites is emphasised by the levels of anti-social behaviour taking place in some of them and the poor condition of some infrastructure and facilities. Members will be aware of the recent adverse media coverage of inappropriate activities taking place in these sites.
- 1.40 The Greenspaces Investment Programme recognises the need to improve these sites and proposes the undertaking of a feasibility study/options appraisal exercise to identify improvement proposals following consultation with the public, stakeholders and partners. A key outcome of the study will be the development of a blended funding model relative to the delivery of the proposed improvements. It is anticipated that the feasibility work including public consultation can be delivered for £100,000. The release of Section 106 funding to support the feasibility study/options appraisal was considered by the 27 June meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. A blended funding model will be looked at the deliver the project during the feasibility

study/options appraisal. This requested allocation of funds is in line with the agreed Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **Recommendation 1** – It is recommended that the Environment Committee agrees that masterplans be developed for the West Hendon Playing Fields and associated sites and the Barnet Playing Fields and associated sites to contribute to the delivery of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces and Playing Pitch Strategies and the discharge of its Section 106 obligations as described in this report.
- 2.2 **Recommendation 2** – It is recommended that the Environment Committee agrees that a masterplan be developed for Victoria Park to contribute to the delivery of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy the discharge of its obligation to invest the capital receipt from the sale of the park lodge back into the site.
- 2.3 **Recommendation 3** – It is recommended that the Environment Committee agrees the principle of the transfer of the operation and management of the Darland Lakes Nature Reserve to an alternative organisation to contribute to the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
- 2.4 **Recommendation 4** - It is recommended that the Environment Committee agrees the principle of the transfer of the freehold of Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb back to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust to contribute to the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
- 2.5 **Recommendation 5** - It is recommended that the Environment Committee agrees to the undertaking of preliminary work on proposals for improvements to the North West Greenbelt Sites to contribute to the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and respond to concerns over anti-social and inappropriate behaviour in and uses of the sites.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 No alternative options have been considered as the above recommendations will contribute to the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy by bringing about improvements to a number of priority 1 sites assessed as low quality/high value in the Strategy.
- 3.2 They will also contribute to the delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy as well as discharging obligations arising from Section 106 agreements and the sale of the Victoria Park Lodge.
- 3.3 The application of the Section 106 contributions and capital receipt as recommended in the report will maximise the potential for external funding to maximise the improvements that can be made to the sites.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 If the Committee is minded to agree the above recommendations:-

- Recommendations 1,2,3 and 6 will be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for inclusion in the capital programme;
- Subject to the above, competitive tenders will be invited for the undertaking of the works so as to ensure value for money and access to the widest pool of talent;
- The completed masterplans and proposals for improvements will be reported to future meetings of the Environment Committee;
- Recommendations 4 and 5 will be referred to the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee for consideration;
- Subject to the above, a long lease will be entered into relative to the Darland Lake Nature Reserve and the freehold of Central Square will be transferred back to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan says:-

- Barnet's Parks and Greenspaces will be amongst the best in London;
- Resident feedback consistently shows that Barnet's Park and Greenspaces are amongst its biggest assets and a strong influence for people deciding to live here;
- The Council recognises this and will continue to ensure that the Borough's Parks and Greenspaces are looked after;
- The Council will develop more innovative ways of maintaining its Parks and Greenspaces; including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the Borough.

5.1.2 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy says:-

- Barnet is now the largest Borough in London by population (367,265 at the end of 2015) and is continuing to grow. The highest rates of population growth are forecast to occur around the planned development works in the west of the Borough; with over 113% growth in Golders Green and 56% in Colindale by 2030;
- Barnet Sport and Physical Activity Needs Assessment (2012) highlighted that whilst health behaviours and outcomes are more favourable in Barnet than in England as a whole, sport and physical activity rates and the use of outdoor spaces are below the national average;
- A breadth of evidence demonstrates that a more active lifestyle is essential for physical and mental wellbeing. Regular physical activity helps reduce the risk of stroke, type II diabetes, development of

dementia, incidences of heart disease, cancers and high blood pressure. Physical activity supports the prevention and management of long term conditions as well as being a component of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight;

- Physical inactivity currently costs the UK economy £7.2 billion. Additional costs are incurred via the wider economy through increased sickness absence, premature death of productive individuals and increased costs for individuals and their carers;
- Within Barnet the health costs of physical inactivity currently amount to £6.7 million. This is approximately £1.9 million per 100,000 of the Borough's population. However, as measured by the Sport England Active People Survey Data (APS9 Quarter 2) 43.8% of the Borough are currently inactive and would like to do more;
- The number of people with mental health conditions is predicted to increase as the population grows. In November 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board identified prevention of and early intervention in mental health problems as a priority. Mental health is our key priority in year one of the LHWB Strategy with partners coming together to make a positive impact for all of our residents;
- Maximise the potential of improvements to and changes in the management of open spaces where this could support improved mental wellbeing.

5.1.3 Local Plan Policy CS7 says the Council will create a greener Borough by:-

- Enhancing open spaces to provide improvements in overall quality and accessibility;
- Meeting increased demand for access to open space and opportunities for physical activity;
- By tackling deficiencies and underprovision.

5.1.4 Investment in and improvement of Barnet's greenspaces to support growth and wellbeing in Barnet will also result in the delivery of a range of outcomes linked to other Council strategies:-

- Growth Strategy: creating the environment for growth;
- Regeneration Strategy;
- Fit and Active Barnet Strategy;
- Community Safety Strategy;
- Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy.

5.1.5 The residents' perception survey for Barnet shows a decline in satisfaction parks and open spaces: from 70% in 2013 to 66% in 2016. Consultation with residents undertaken as part of the development of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy shows a decline in Barnet's parks and open spaces rated 'good' or 'excellent' from 28% to 14% from 2009 to 2015.

5.1.6 It is probable that failure to address the decline in residents' satisfaction with Parks and open spaces will result in a reduction in the numbers of individuals, families and groups that visit and use parks for informal physical activity

and/or organised sport. Such a reduction would have an adverse effect on the delivery of the Joint Health and wellbeing Strategy outcomes.

## **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 **Finance, Value for Money and Procurement** – The proposals in this report are compatible with the Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme agreed by Environment Committee at its November 2016 meeting and the majority of proposed expenditure will constitute Section 106 contributions already agreed with developers and the ring fenced capital receipt from the sale of the Victoria Park Lodge.

5.2.2 Agreement to the application of Section 106 funds and the funding ring fenced to Victoria Park will maximise the possibility of external funding to support the delivery of the schemes when developed and approved.

5.2.3 Value for money will be achieved by use of competitive tendering for the appointment of consultants to develop the masterplans and proposed improvements to the sites, in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

5.2.4 Once developed, the capital costs and revenue effects of the masterplans and proposed improvements will be considered by the Greenspaces Board and the appropriate Committee of the Council as part of the project approval process. It is intended that schemes, once completed, will be revenue neutral, taking alternative delivery and funding mechanisms into account.

5.2.5 **Staffing** – Delivery of the greenspaces investment programme will require appropriate capacity and capability in the organisation; including within the commissioning arrangements.

5.2.6 **IT** – None at this time

5.2.7 **Sustainability** – The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and associated initiatives detailed in this report seek to protect, improve and enhance the natural environment of Barnet. The individual projects to be delivered during implementation of the strategy will be developed and delivered in accordance with both environmental and financial sustainability and outcomes.

## **5.3 Social Value**

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The key themes within the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy are:-

- Social outcomes and benefits;
- Environmental Outcomes and Benefits;
- Economic Outcomes and Benefits.

## **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 Local authorities have a number of different statutory powers in relation to parks and open spaces, including the Public Health Act 1875 which permits the purchase and maintenance of public walks or pleasure grounds and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which gives wide powers to provide recreational facilities. The Open Spaces Act 1906 provides that local authorities shall hold and administer open space in trust to allow the enjoyment of it by the public and shall maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.

5.4.2 The Council's Constitution (Clause 15A: Responsibility for Functions, Annexe A) sets out the terms of reference for the Environment Committee. This includes:-

- Commissioning parks and open spaces, refuse and recycling, waste minimisation and street cleaning;
- Approve any non-statutory plan or strategy within the remit of the Committee that is not reserved to Full Council or Policy and Resources Committee;
- Approve fees and charges for those areas under the remit of the Committee.

5.4.3 Inclusion the allocations proposed in this report in the Council's Capital Programme is reserved to the Policy and Resources Committee and Full Council. The Constitution allocates the remaining issues dealt with in this report to the Environment Committee.

5.4.4 The procurements will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Constitution Section 22 Contract Procedure Rules, Appendix 1 Table A.

## **5.5 Risk Management**

5.5.1 The management of risk is undertaken on a continual basis and reported as part of the Council's Quarterly Performance regime and considered as part of the Performance and Contract Management Committee quarterly monitoring report.

5.5.2 Risks are managed through the project boards and are reviewed and revised at board meetings. The current key risk areas are:-

	Rating Criteria	1: Low	2: Medium	3: High
1.	Total investment required		X	
2.	Potential benefits	X		
3.	Return on investment	X		
4.	Level of risk	X		
5.	Political sensitivity	X		
6.	Fit with corporate objectives	X		
7.	Users/DU's impacted	X		

Total score	8
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## 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The Equalities and Diversity Act, 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act, 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people of different groups;
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.6.2 Relevant protected characteristics are:- age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

5.6.3 The purpose of the initiatives described in this report is to ensure that the broad diversity of Barnet's residents and communities continue to the benefits of these community assets and that their needs and aspirations are reflected in the provision that the Council makes.

5.6.4 Agreement by the Council to the inclusion in the capital programme of the allocations proposed in this report will put into place the resources required to allow individual project and site proposals to be developed. Equalities Impact Assessments will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis so as to ensure compliance with the requirements of the 2010 Act and that the needs of the communities and groups are fully taken into account in the development of schemes.

## 5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 Consultation and engagement with site users, no-users and stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the development of the masterplans and improvement proposals.

## 6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Environment Committee 12 May and 16 November 2016 Papers

6.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet: 2016 to 2026.

6.3 Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet

6.4 Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme

6.3 Open Barnet Data Portal