

	<h2>Environment Committee</h2> <h3>13 September 2018</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Implementation of the Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Strategy</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Environment Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
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<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>Members will recall that at its May 2016 meeting the Committee adopted the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (POSS) which sets a clear and ambitious vision and action plan for the future management and improvement of the approximately 200 green spaces owned and managed by the Council: including a set of priorities for investment in and alternative uses for sites, based on a social value/quality analysis:-</p> <p>“Barnet’s green spaces will be amongst the best in London and LBB is seen as a national leader in the provision of suburban parks. It is committed to ensuring that its green spaces deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits for all who live, work in or visit the Borough.”</p> <p>This is the second annual progress report on the implementation of the POSS. It reflects significant achievement and updates members of the Committee on initiatives already agreed for implementation, additional actions embarked upon to achieve MTFS savings requirements and demonstrates success in partnership working and attracting partnership funding.</p>

Recommendations

- 1. That the Environment Committee notes the progress made in 2017/2018 on the delivery of the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy.**
- 2. That the Committee agrees to explore the implementation of charging for the use of car parks in Greenspaces sites as proposed in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of this report and authorises the Strategic Director: Environment to develop and consult on proposals on an individual site basis and report the outcome of that work and detailed proposals to a future meeting of the Committee.**
- 3. That, with regard to the draft Copthall Sports Hub and Mill Hill Open Spaces masterplan, the Environment Committee:-**
 - notes the response to the public consultation;
 - agrees the amendments to the draft masterplan for the Copthall Sports Hub arising from the public consultation as described in paragraphs 3.2.iv to viii of this report; and that the amended masterplan is subject to further public consultation;
 - endorses the making of an application for CIL and/or Section 106 funding to fund necessary infrastructure works to enable the development of the Copthall Sports Hub (paragraph 3.2.xvi of this report refers);
 - authorises the Strategic Director: Environment to develop and submit a planning application for the development of the Copthall Sports Hub in accordance with the amended masterplan (paragraph 3.2.xvi of this report refers);
 - authorises the Strategic Director: Environment to develop and implement outline business cases for the delivery of the amended Copthall Sports Hub masterplan in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules; taking the outcome of the further public consultation into account (paragraphs 3.2.ix to xvi of this report refer);
 - notes that the Strategic Director: Environment will explore options for the use of facilities within the Copthall Sports Hub by the Hasmaneian School with representatives of the school (paragraphs 3.2 xvii to xxvi of this report refer).

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report updates members of the Committee on progress on the delivery of the POSS. Whilst the report relates principally to the delivery of agreed capital schemes, it should be noted that the Council's green spaces are being managed and maintained within the context of decreasing revenue funding required by the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the PSR processes.

2. GREENSPACES REVENUE POSITION

- 2.1 Revenue savings required by previous MTFS rounds are being delivered but it should be recognised that, if not appropriately managed, the delivery of the POSS may result in increased net revenue costs in the future; thus compromising the MTFS. To ensure future MTFS delivery, additional cost reductions are being delivered by:-
- reducing maintenance of low quality/low value sites pending the identification of alternative uses;
 - reducing floral bedding to a small number of key sites; including the Hendon Town Hall and memorials;
 - ceasing the overnight locking of parks, following consultation with the Community Safety Team
- 2.2 A review of opportunities to generate income and deliver parks improvements has been considered. This includes car park charging in parks and open spaces. Indicative modelling suggests a net revenue in the order of £150,000 per annum is achievable, commencing in 2019/2020.
- 2.3 A charging model currently applies at Hendon Park and it is proposed that this is extended, with statutory consultation conducted on an individual site basis. Implementation of a greenspaces car park charging programme will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for noting prior to being considered for adoption by the Policy and Resource Committee.
- 2.4 In addition Greenspaces Officers have identified and are exploring additional sources of income in the longer term from the use of the Borough's green spaces. These include:-
- Marketing and establishing suitable sites as venues for appropriate events on a commercial hire basis;
 - Use of appropriate sites for the generation of renewable energy and securing/smoothing existing electricity supplies;
 - Reviewing Greenspaces tenancies to ensure the maximisation of income from commercial uses.
- 2.5 A number of significant capital schemes have either been commenced or are proposed within the POSS. Given the MTFS and PSR requirements these schemes are being developed on the basis of their future operation and management, once completed, delivering, at worst, revenue cost neutrality and, wherever possible, delivering revenue surpluses. The Natural Capital Account for Barnet's Greenspaces developed and adopted in 2017 will be applied to prioritise and identify rates of return on investment in sites.
- 2.6 Taken together, these initiatives will result in further and sustainable reductions in the revenue cost of the Greenspaces Service and contribute to the delivery of MTFS and PSR savings targets.

3. INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVES

3.1 Progress to date on individual initiatives follows.

3.2 Cophall Sports Hub and Mill Hill Open Spaces Masterplan

- i. At the March 2018 meeting, the Committee agreed the draft masterplan as the long term vision for the site and agreed that it should be subject to public consultation. The masterplan is accessible at <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/cophall---mill-hill-open-space-masterplan?q=cophall>
- ii. Whilst the number of respondents to the consultation is relatively low at 40, the draft masterplan was developed following significant consultation with users of and stakeholders of the sites. In response to the consultation, many of these organisations confirmed their previous input to the masterplanning process rather than returning additional responses. This level of response may also be attributable to Cophall being regarded a purely a sports site; with little in its offer to attract non sports users.
- iii. The report on the outcome of the consultation which is broken down into individual site responses is accessible at <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/cophall---mill-hill-open-space-masterplan?q=cophall> ; from which it will be seen that 80.77% of responses were supportive of the proposal.
- iv. There have also been positive responses from key partners and stakeholders: National Governing Bodies of Sport, Middlesex University and Saracens RFC. These are also available at <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/cophall---mill-hill-open-space-masterplan?q=cophall>
- v. The response to the consultation validates the adoption of the draft masterplan as the longer term vision for the Cophall Sports Hub and Mill Hill Open Spaces to provide not only enhanced opportunities for sport but also wider leisure/recreational and nature conservation opportunities.
- vi. Taking the consultation responses and ongoing discussions with key stakeholders into account it is proposed to update the masterplan subject to a number of amendments:-
 - An explicit reference to be included in the draft masterplan to the continuing use of the Cophall site for Athletics; as requested by the Barnet and Shaftesbury Harriers Athletics Clubs;
 - The establishment within the Cophall site of an enhanced community cricket facility; as proposed by the England & Wales Cricket Board in partnership with the Middlesex County Cricket Club;
 - Deletion of the artificial grass pitch (AGP) for Rugby from the scheme at this stage to allow early development of the AGP's for Football within the Cophall, and further discussion between the RFU, the Council and the rugby clubs on the site regarding the future location of the artificial pitch;

- An explicit reference to be included in the draft masterplan to the Metro Golf facility within the Copthall site; together with updated usage figures;
 - Deletion of a specific location within the Copthall site for tennis courts at this stage to allow further discussion with the LTA and would be operators over the most appropriate location for the courts within the site.
- vii. An updated draft spatial masterplan for the Copthall Sports Hub, taking these changes into account, will be accessible at <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/copthall---mill-hill-open-space-masterplan?q=copthall> and the Committee is requested to endorse these changes.
- viii. It is not intended, at this stage, to update the proposals relative to the other Mill Hill Open Space sites other than Sunny Hill Park in the context of creating the link to Middlesex University Hendon campus.
- ix. The need to protect the natural environment and ensure that ecological and similar surveys will be undertaken with regard to any development, the need to improve transport, including public transport links and car parking are thematic issues of particular concern. These will be fully taken into account and responded to in the next stages of the delivery of the masterplan.
- ix. As regards the next stages of delivery of the draft masterplan, it is proposed to concentrate on the Copthall Sports Hub as this element is the most complex of the proposals, generates the greatest concern over traffic and access and nature conservation issues but has the greatest potential to contribute to the delivery of the MTFs and PSR processes. The remainder of this section of the report relates to the creation of the Copthall Sports Hub, including the creation of the link to the Middlesex University Hendon Campus through Sunny Hill Park, with proposals for the remaining sites being developed in the future.
- x. The above amendments (at paragraph 3.2.vi) to the revised draft masterplan for the Copthall Sports Hub will need to be subject to further public consultation, as will the detailed proposals for the hub's individual elements, with the outcome being taken into account in the next stage of implementation.
- xi. The estimated capital cost of delivering the masterplan which is a long term project which will take several years is in the order of £75M in total; with approximately £53M being required for the Copthall Sports Hub element. Whilst these estimated capital costs are significant, they are congruent with the Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme by the Environment Committee at its November 2016 meeting. The works required to take the masterplan to the next stage, as described in sub paragraphs xiv to xvi below are estimated to cost £150,000 with regard to which funds are included in the approved capital programme and are estimated to require 6 to 12 months to complete.. Early engagement with partners and funding bodies indicates that partnership funding may be forthcoming for elements of the masterplan. Potential funding partners include:-

- Transport for London;
 - National Governing Bodies of Sport;
 - Sport England;
 - Football Foundation;
 - Middlesex University;
 - Investors in individual facilities.
- xii. Initial financial modelling demonstrates that, subject to appropriate capital investment and partnership working, the draft masterplan proposals are capable of operational revenue cost neutrality, including ongoing maintenance costs, and, as the new facilities establish themselves, moving to generating an operating revenue surplus. This is clearly in line with the Council's wider financial strategy. In this context it is anticipated that the Council will adopt a 'facilities management' role relative to the operation of the site by providing the necessary infrastructure through CIL and/or future Section 106 contributions.
- xiii. Necessary site surveys are being undertaken and an application for planning consent is being developed to allow the early development of the artificial grass pitches (AGP's) in Copthall to contribute to the MTFs requirement to improve income from the hiring of pitches.
- xiv. Given its scale and complexity the draft masterplan for the Copthall Sports Hub has been broken down into individual packages for design development, outline business planning and capital funding package development work within the wider draft masterplan:-
- Enabling and preliminary infrastructure works;
 - Develop AGP's for Football;
 - Improve grass pitches for Cricket and Football;
 - Improve entrance routes to, and routes through, the site: including the link to Middlesex University Hendon Campus through Sunny Hill Park;
 - Create new and additional car parking;
 - Develop Central Hub;
 - Develop Community Cricket facility;
 - Create BMX trails and nature conservation areas;
 - Create Tennis facility.
- xv. Work will also be undertaken on the creation of a specific brand and identity for the Copthall site within the wider LBB identity and house style.
- xvi. The outcome of this further work will be reported to future meetings of the Environment Committee for approval. In the meantime, the Committee is requested to endorse:-
- the development and submission of an application for planning consent for the Copthall Sports Hub; and
 - bid for a CIL and/or Section 106 contribution towards the cost of infrastructure works at Copthall.

- xvii. The response to the public consultation from Planning Consultants acting on behalf of the Hasmonean School is included in the consultation response report.
- xviii. Members may recall that in 2017 the Hasmonean school applied for planning consent to build a new school and sports facilities on the western part of the Copthall site.
- xix. Following a resolution in favour of overturning the officers' recommendation and granting approval (by a margin of one vote) at the Council's Planning Committee application was referred to the Mayor of London who directed that the application be refused on the basis of:-
- inappropriate development on Green Belt Land; and
 - the loss of open space and lack of sustainable transport measures to support the development.
- xx. The Mayor however indicated that he would be "minded to withdraw the direction if the applicant were to submit revisions to the application that would:-
- propose to provide the new school within the curtilage of the existing Hasmonean girls school site;
 - minimise the impact on Green Belt; and
 - address concerns regarding the lack of sustainable transport measures"
- xxi. The Hasmomean school proposals have been updated to respond to the Mayor's direction to ensure the school buildings are kept within the curtilage of the existing girls school site, alongside staff car parking. The school however are still indicating an interest in taking control of two areas to the west of the Copthall site. These are designated in the masterplan proposals for nature conservation and circular routes to support the transformation of the site into a destination park. The school has an interest in these fields to provide recreation space and sports facilities for the school where community access would be granted outside school hours..
- xxii. The proposals would require repositioning of one of the artificial grass pitches for football, requiring a redesign of the central hub facility and repositioning of the second pitch. Agreement to these proposals would require a major revision to the masterplan, would not guarantee that the same outcomes could be met across the site and would incur costs and delays.
- xxiii. The outline masterplan proposals have been developed on the basis of the operation of the Copthall site being, at worst, revenue cost neutral and, as the facility establishes itself generating a revenue surplus in line with MTFs and PSR requirements. The inclusion of the two artificial grass pitches for football in the outline plan are key in delivering early MTFs savings as the financial

modelling assumes the Council taking a significant income from their operation.

- xxiv. The positioning of the two artificial grass pitches for football has been defined in consultation with the Middlesex Football Association and the Football Foundation. Subject to the Council making a successful application, the Foundation has included a significant allocation in their funding stream towards the creation of the artificial pitches. Any change to the artificial grass pitch proposals will constitute a real risk of the Football Foundation withdrawing its funding and the Council receiving a reduced income from their operation. There would also be an issue of damage to the Council's credibility and reputation.
- xxv. A key principle of the Copthall Sports Hub masterplan is to provide enhanced sport, recreational and nature conservation facilities and opportunities for all of Barnet's communities: whilst operating, in the longer term, at a surplus. In this context, it is clearly appropriate for schools to be able to use the facilities to be provided in the masterplan in the wider context of them being managed on the basis of access to all. The proposals from the school assume it will take control of parts of the site and this is considered to be incompatible with the principles underpinning the Copthall Sports Hub masterplan and the wider Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
- xxvi. Officers will meet representatives of the school to explore possible mechanisms for use of the facilities by the school in the context of the current masterplan proposals.

3.3 West Hendon Playing Fields Sports Hub Masterplan

- i. The development of this masterplan was agreed at the July 2017 meeting of the Committee.
- ii. An initial concept proposal has been developed following partner and stakeholder consultation. This proposal was subject to wider public consultation in August/September; with the outcome informing the development of the draft masterplan for the site.
- iii. The draft masterplan will be submitted to the January 2019 meeting of the Committee for approval.

3.4 Barnet Playing Fields and King George V Playing Field Sports Hub Masterplan

- i. The development of this masterplan was also agreed at the July 2017 meeting of the Committee.
- ii. An initial concept proposal has been developed following partner and stakeholder consultation. This proposal was subject to wider public consultation in August/September; with the outcome informing the development of the draft masterplan for the site.
- iii. The draft masterplan will be submitted to the January 2019 meeting of the Committee for approval.

3.5 Victoria Park Masterplan.

- i. Again, the development of this masterplan was agreed at the July 2017 meeting of the Committee.
- ii. A draft masterplan has been developed for the site and was subject to public consultation during the summer months.
- iii. The outcome of the public consultation will inform the final masterplan proposal which, together with the consultation outcome, will be reported to the November 2018 meeting of the Committee for adoption.

3.6 North West Green Belt Sites Masterplan

- i. This masterplanning exercise relates to the Scratchwood and Moat Mount Open Spaces, Barnet Woods and Stoneyfields Park. Its development was agreed at the July 2017 meeting of the Committee.
- ii. It was originally anticipated that the study would be undertaken in 2018 but the work has been deferred pending the completion of a review of Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land as part of the wider Local Plan review..
- iii. It is now anticipated that the masterplanning work will be undertaken in 2019, with the outcome being reported to a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

3.7 Colindale Parks Improvements Programme

- i. These three projects will create high quality green spaces to support the Colindale Regeneration Programme as the majority of the new housing being created has no private green space:-
 - A major refurbishment of Montrose Recreation Ground and Silkstream Park; linking the two sites to create a single new 'Silkstream Valley Park';
 - Refurbishment of Colindale Park;
 - Refurbishment of Rushgrove Park;
- ii. Contractors have been appointed, following an open tender process to undertake the landscaping works at Montrose/Silkstream Start on site is anticipated in late October/early November with an estimated 15 to 18 month contract period.
- iii. Detailed designs are being developed for a new park hub building, including a cafeteria, changing rooms and public toilets, which will be subject to a separate open tender exercise, subject to which, completion is anticipated in 2019/2020.
- iv. The estimated total cost of the refurbishment is £5M, with regard to which partnership funding of £324,000 and £80,000 has been confirmed by the Greater London Authority and Environment Agency respectively. The formal funding agreements relative to these awards are being finalised and applications will be made for these amounts to be added to the scheme budget. The outcome of further applications

for funding to the London Marathon Charitable Trust and the Football Foundation are awaited.

- v. An open tender exercise has been commenced for landscape architecture services to develop detailed designs for Colindale and Rushgrove Parks, support the construction tender process and oversee the contractors once appointed. Refurbishment works are scheduled for completion in 2020.

3.8 Heybourne Park Improvements

- i. Heybourne Park is a key green space within the Graham Park Regeneration Area which will be refurbished as part of the wider redevelopment scheme.
- ii. Whilst the wider scheme is currently under review, the Greenspaces Team has been closely involved in the development of a detailed design for the park to be included within the development following the review.

3.9 Parks Improvements

- i. In addition to the major refurbishment schemes described above, the Greenspaces Development Team has completed a number of site specific improvements and enhancements: typically funded from Section 106 contributions and Area Committee allocations:-
 - Play area improvements at Stonegrove Park, Watling Park, Swan Lane Open Space, Deansbrook Playground;
 - A new trim trail at Copthall;
 - Replacement surface to the play area at Hollickwood Park;
 - Design and installation of Active Trails at Friary Park and Oak Hill Park as the commencement of a wider programme funded by the Chipping Barnet Area Committee;
 - Design and installation of the Memorial Garden for Sir Nicholas Winton in Princes Park;
 - Design and implementation of sustainable shrub schemes and planting of over 140,000 spring bulbs.

3.10 Tree Policy

- i. In September 2017 the Committee approved Tree Policy and the Council agreed total investment of £2.25M with the target of planting 900 trees per year over the 5 year life of the policy as a response to the urban heat island effect and atmospheric pollution; in addition to supporting the POSS delivery.
- ii. Work has commenced on the planting of the first 900 trees. In addition, a review of baseline data has been undertaken to understand the Borough's tree canopy cover and inform the future development and implementation of the policy.
- iii. Greenspaces Officers are currently exploring an Urban Tree Research Programme linked to the Tree Policy in partnership with the University of Reading.

3.11 Policy Work

- i. Greenspaces Officers are working closely with Planning on the Greenbelt and Metropolitan Open Land Review as part of the evidence base for the forthcoming Local Plan Review to assist in delivering the POSS and associated strategies
- ii. Greenspaces Officers are also involved in the development of the Local Implementation Plan Review (LIP3) with specific reference to the and contribution that greenspaces can make to the development and delivery of a Borough wide network of cycleways and footpaths to contribute to a strategy for alternative means of travel to help reduce reliance on cars.

3.12 Former NIMR Site, Mill Hill

- i. The section 106 Agreement attached to the development of the former NIMR site includes a requirement for the freehold of the former sports field to the northwest of the wider site to be transferred to the Council at nil consideration.
- ii. The necessary conveyance work is being undertaken and, following completion, the site will be used to provide additional sports pitches in accordance with the Playing Pitch Strategy.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 **Recommendations 1 and 2** – to ensure appropriate delivery of the POSS on a financially sustainable basis.
- 4.2 **Recommendation 3** – to allow the development of the draft Copthall Sports Hub and Mill Hill Open Spaces masterplan to move to the next stage of planning and development.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 5.1 The above recommendations will contribute to the delivery of the previously approved Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, including the delivery of the agreed Copthall Sports Hub and Mill Hill Open Space masterplan.
- 5.2 The alternative option is not to proceed with exploring further charging in car parks and not to progress the delivery of the Copthall Sports Hub and Mill Hill Open Spaces masterplan proposals. These are not recommended as they will not contribute to the delivery of the previously approved Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

6. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

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

- The updated Copthall Sports Hub Masterplan will be subject to further public consultation;
- Appropriate additional resources will be engaged in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules relative to the design development, outline business planning and capital funding packages required for the next stages in the development of the Copthall Sports Hub Masterplan;
- Detailed proposals for Victoria Park and the West Hendon and Barnet/King George V Playing Field will be developed following public consultation and submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for approval;
- The Greenspaces Development Team will continue to work on strategies for net revenue cost reduction and alternative uses for low priority sites as described in this report;
- Regular progress reports on implementation of the wider POSS and the specific initiatives will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

7.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

7.1.1 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.

7.1.2 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.

7.1.3 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.

7.1.4 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.

7.1.5 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.

7.1.6 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.

7.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

7.2.1 **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 expenditure to date is funded by Section 106 contributions already agreed with developers, the ring fenced capital receipt from the sale of the Victoria Park Lodge and the approved Regeneration capital programme.

7.2.2 Financial resources required to fund the design, outline business case and Capital funding package development work to take implementation of the draft masterplan to the next stage; including applying for planning consent, as described in this report, are estimated to total £150,000 and are included in the Council's approved capital programme.

7.2.3 There is no funding place for the development of the Copthall Sports Hub. Blended capital funding packages will be developed as part of the next stage of development work described above, in conjunction with strategic partners and funding bodies: an example being the inclusion, by the Football Foundation, of an allocation in its current business plan towards the cost of the Football AGP's in Copthall. As part of this process a bid will be submitted for CIL/Section 106 funding towards the cost of the proposals. It is likely that implementation of the proposals will be undertaken on a phased basis as grants and match funds are identified.

7.2.4 Value for money will be achieved by use of competitive tendering for the appointment of consultants to develop the next stages of the masterplans as described in paragraph 7.2.2 above masterplans and proposed improvements to the sites, in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

7.2.5 Once developed, the capital costs and outline business cases for the masterplans and proposed improvements will be submitted by future meetings of the Committee for consideration and approval 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. The operation and management of the improved sites will be undertaken within approved revenue budgets.

7.2.6 **Staffing** – Delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy will require appropriate capacity and capability in the organisation; including within the

commissioning arrangements.

7.2.7 **IT** – None at this time

7.2.8 **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 measures and outcomes in mind.

7.3 **Social Value**

7.3.1 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.

7.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

7.4.1 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 (including parking spaces in connection thereto) and to levy charges upon users as it sees fit. 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.

7.4.2 The Council's Constitution (Article 7 – Committees, Forums and Partnerships) sets out the terms of reference for the Environment Committee :-

- “ 1) Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street-scene including parking, road safety, lighting, street cleaning, transport, waste, waterways, refuse, recycling, allotments, parks, trees, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health;
- 2) To submit to the Policy and Resources Committee proposals relating to the Committee's budget for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable;
- 3) To make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee on issues relating to the budget for the Committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget. No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the Committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by the Policy and Resources

Committee;

- 4) To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.”

7.4.3 The procurements will be undertaken in accordance with the Council’s Constitution (Article 18 - Contract Procedure Rules)

7.5 Risk Management

7.5.1 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.

7.5.2 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.	Planning		X	
5.	Political sensitivity	X		
6.	Fit with corporate objectives	X		
7.	Users/DU’s impacted	X		
	Total score	10		

7.6 Equalities and Diversity

7.6.1 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.

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

7.6.3 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.

7.6.4 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.

7.7 Consultation and Engagement

7.7.1 This report includes the outcome of consultation already undertaken. Further consultation and engagement with site users, no-users and stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the development of the next stages in the development of proposals.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Environment Committee 12 May and 16 November 2016 Papers

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

8.3 Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet

8.4 Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme

8.5 Open Barnet Data Portal