Date of meeting	**Wednesday, 19th October, 2016**
Time	**6.00 pm**
Venue	**Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG**
Contact	Geoff Durham

Cabinet

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

1   Apologies

2   MINUTES   **(Pages 3 - 6)**

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting.

3   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in the agenda.

**4   Draft Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategies -   (Pages 7 - 138)
        Consultation**

5   Draft Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy 2016   (Pages 139 - 182)

6   Stoke on Trent Bid for UK City of Culture 2021   (Pages 183 - 186)

7   Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) Service Contract Extension   (Pages 187 - 192)

8   Car Parking Charges   (Pages 193 - 202)

9   Newcastle under Lyme Local Lottery   (Pages 203 - 206)

10   URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

11   ATTENDANCE AT CABINET MEETINGS

Councillor attendance at Cabinet meetings:
  (1) The Chair or spokesperson of the Council's scrutiny committees and the mover of any motion referred to Cabinet shall be entitled to attend any formal public meeting of Cabinet to speak.

  (2) Other persons including non-executive members of the Council may speak at such meetings with the permission of the Chair of the Cabinet.

Public attendance at Cabinet meetings:
  (1) If a member of the public wishes to ask a question(s) at a meeting of Cabinet, they should serve two clear days' notice in writing of any such question(s) to the appropriate committee officer.
  (2) The Council Leader as Chair of Cabinet is given the discretion to waive the above deadline and assess the permissibility if the question(s). The Chair's decision will be final.
  (3) The maximum limit is three public questions at any one Cabinet meeting.
  (4) A maximum limit of three minutes is provided for each person to ask an initial question or make an initial statement to the Cabinet.
  (5) Any questions deemed to be repetitious or vexatious will be disallowed at the discretion of the Chair.

Members: Councillors Beech, Kearon, Turner (Vice-Chair), J Williams, Shenton (Chair), Rout and Robinson

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PLEASE NOTE: The Council Chamber and Committee Room 1 are fitted with a loop system. In addition, there is a volume button on the base of the microphones. A portable loop system is available for all other rooms. Should you require this service, please contact Member Services during the afternoon prior to the meeting.

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.

FIELD_TITLE

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

CABINET

Wednesday, 14th September, 2016
Time of Commencement: 6.00 pm

Present:-	Councillor Elizabeth Shenton – in the Chair
Councillors	Beech, Kearon, Turner, J Williams, Rout and Robinson
Officers	Kelvin Turner, David Adams, Neale Clifton, Geoff Durham, Phil Jones and John Sellgren
Apologies	Councillor(s)

1. **MINUTES**

   Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June, 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

   There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **COUNCIL PLAN 2016-2018**

   A report was submitted to Cabinet seeking approval and adoption of the Council Plan for the period 2016-2018. All Members had been asked for their comments for possible improvement on the draft plan and some had been received which would be taken into consideration.

   Resolved: That the Council Plan for 2016-18 be approved.

4. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

   A report was submitted to Cabinet regarding the financial strategy for the Council over the next five years. The Medium Term Financial Strategy had been scrutinised by the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee (FRAPS) on Thursday 8 September, 2016 and had submitted their comments, requesting that they be taken into account. A copy of the comments was circulated at the meeting.

   Resolved: (i) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan for 2017/18 to 2021/22 be approved.

   (ii) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan be submitted to Central Government for the purpose of securing a four-year funding settlement for Revenue Support Grant up to and including 2019/20.

   (iii) That the Executive Director (Resources and Support

services) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Finance, IT and Customer be authorised to approve any final amendments to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan between the Cabinet date and the date of submission to Central Government (14 October 2016).

5.   **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY**

A report was submitted to Cabinet seeking approval of the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates.

Resolved: That the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy be approved.

6.   **CORPORATE POSTAL SERVICES**

A report was submitted to Cabinet seeking approval for the provision of corporate postal services following the expiry of the current contract.

Resolved: That a new two year contract be awarded under the Stoke-on-Trent City Council procurement (Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council having been a named participant in this process) to UK mail who was the successful provider following the procurement process and the current incumbent service provider to NULBC, which would offer business/service continuity.

7.   **MINERS ESTATE - GALLEYS BANK, KIDSGROVE**

Minute relates to the report commencing at page 75 of the agenda NOT page 63.

A report was submitted to the Cabinet to review the consultation feedback and options for intervention on the Miners estate in order to address low housing demand and the issues arising therefrom.

Mr Gavin Dick of the National Landlords Association was in attendance at the meeting and had asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Elizabeth Shenton to read out a statement of support:

"the National Landlords Association supports the recommendation by the Council in relation to the Miners Estate, Galleys Bank, Kidsgrove and we look forward to working with the Council in delivering the objectives".

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Terry Turner proposed two additional recommendations to those included within the agenda report. These are included below as recommendations (v) and (vi). The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, Councillor Kyle Robinson advised the Cabinet that he was in total agreement with the additional recommendations.

Councillor Turner thanked the National landlords Association for their support and stated that they were welcome to be part of the partnership group.

Resolved: (i)   That the establishment of a pro-active multi-agency, co-operative approach be approved with immediate effect to build community capacity and maximise opportunities for external funding.

(ii)   That officers be authorised to re-prioritise existing staff resources, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders, in order that this initiative can be effectively co-ordinated and managed by the Partnerships Team. That a further report is submitted to Cabinet in October 2016 outlining the medium term resource implications to ensure future delivery can be sustained.

(iii)   That the Housing Team engage with the National Landlord Association and local landlords to join the voluntary accredited landlord scheme, information is widely promoted through to local residents on the housing standards they should expect and officers continue to benchmark with other Local Authorities who have delivered landlord licensing schemes to ensure that the Council can deliver a scheme if necessary.

(iv)   That officers establish monitoring and evaluation arrangements to enable the efficacy of this initiative to be assessed in the context of both this estate and on the basis that any learning can be used to address similar estate-based issues elsewhere in the Borough in future.

(v)   That officers write to the local Member of Parliament to lobby Government to find ways of investing in the unmodernised properties to bring them up to a mortgageable standard.

(vi)   That a partnership group is set up to meet on a regular, at least quarterly, basis which should include relevant statutory partners, local members, the residents association, neighbourhood watch, local neighbourhood Police and relevant officers.

8.   **KNUTTON RECREATION CENTRE**

A report was submitted to the Cabinet outlining the proposal to demolish the disused former Knutton Recreation Centre building.

The Deputy Leader stressed that the building needed to be demolished, secured and a decision made on the future of the site.

Throughout the process, the local community would be liaised with for their views and to keep them informed as to what was happening.

The Cabinet was advised that demolition works would cost up to £50,000. The council may need to borrow this funding in the short term but there would be cost savings in respect of maintenance etc in the region of £10,000 per year.

Members were made aware of a number of issues that could affect the developability of the site and the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development, Mr Neale

Clifton strongly recommended that the issued were resolved before proceeding with demolition.

Resolved: (i) That the demolition of the former Knutton Recreation Centre building, at a cost of up to £50,000, be approved.

(ii) That the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer be authorised to commission suitably qualified and experienced contractors to undertake the necessary demolition works.

(iii) That the cost be met from either borrowing, in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy or from capital receipts.

(iv) That consultation on the future disposal of the site in line with the Council's Asset Management Strategy 2015/16 – 2017/18 be approved, with the results of this being reported to a later meeting of Cabinet alongside an update on other issues relating to the former Knutton Recreation Centre site.

9. **STUBBS WALK CONSERVATION AREA**

A report was submitted to the Cabinet seeking approval to adopt the Stubbs Walk Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Resolved: That the Supplementary Planning Document relating to the Stubbs Walk Conservation Area and Management Plan be adopted.

10. **BUDGET PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

A report was submitted to the Cabinet providing members with the Financial and Performance Review Report for the first quarter of 2016-17. A copy of the Report was attached at page 103 of the agenda.

Resolved: That the contents of the Financial and Performance Review Report for the first quarter 2016/17, be noted.

11. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH SHENTON
Chair

Meeting concluded at 7.10 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT TO THE CABINET

D E C I S I O N

HEADING: Draft Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategies – Consultation

DATE: 19th October 2016

SUBMITTED BY: Head of Operations – Roger Tait

PORTFOLIO: Planning and Housing/Environment and Recycling

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose of the Report

- To approve the draft Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Strategies for consultation.

Recommendations

- **That the Cabinet receive the draft Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Strategies and approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders as detailed in this report.**

- **That as part of the planned consultation process, the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee receive a copy of the draft strategies for consideration and comment.**

- **That a report on the outcome of the consultation is brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet for consideration prior to adoption of the strategies.**

Reasons

- This report presents the first draft of the reviewed Open Spaces Strategy (formerly the Green Space Strategy) and the new Green Infrastructure Strategy. The strategies identify a range of strategic aims and objectives for open space requirements in the borough as well as green infrastructure planning, provision, management, maintenance and alternative use to ensure that these assets fulfil their potential to deliver a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. A number of key stakeholders – Locality Action Partnerships, parish council, local councils – have been involved in developing the documents. Once adopted, they will form part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan.

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1.   **BACKGROUND**

   1.1   On 10 December 2014, Cabinet resolved that, in order to ensure that the existing Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy remains a robust evidence base for the emerging Joint Local Plan, it should be reviewed to reflect changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local government finance and projected resources.

1.2 Cabinet considered a report on 16 September 2015 which provided a progress report on the delivery of the Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy and an update on the commissioning of a review of the strategy. The link between the Green Space Strategy and the Asset Management Plan was re-affirmed. This means green spaces which are identified as not required to deliver local standards for green space nor for operational purposes are included in the Asset Management Plan for consideration for alternative uses.

1.3 During the early stages of the review, it was identified that a Green Infrastructure Strategy was also required to complete the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan. This was commissioned and has been prepared at the same time as the review of the Green Space Strategy.

2. ISSUES

2.1 Consultants have now completed a review of the existing Green Space Strategy using the National Planning Policy Framework to give the review context. They have also produced a draft Open Space Strategy and a draft Green Infrastructure Strategy with associated Action Plans. The strategies cover the whole of the borough and include 553 sites - 326 in urban areas and 227 in rural areas. The sites are owned by a range of organisations or individuals, but most have some degree of public access. The draft strategies are appended to this report at Appendix one.

2.2 Discussions were held with a number of stakeholders as part of the preparation of the strategies. This included workshops with council officers and operational staff; elected members and representatives of Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs), parish councils and environmental organisations; representatives of Friends' Groups and residents. A "Great Outdoors Survey" was also carried out both online and manually to get the views of the community including young people. A summary of the consultation results can be seen in Appendix two.

2.3 The consultants also analysed the quantity and accessibility of the sites against national standards, as well as a "nearest neighbour" comparisons with the 16 councils that provide the closest match to the borough in terms of size, population and character.

2.4 All of the work outlined above has enabled the consultants to come up with a set of proposed local standards for open space and these are in Appendix three for consideration by Cabinet. The main difference from the previous local standards is the inclusion of a standard for allotment provision, reflecting the resurgence of popularity in allotment gardening and its associated health and well-being benefits, and the inclusion of a local standard for amenity green space, reflecting feedback from local people who place a value on having access to such spaces close to where they live for general recreational purposes. Standards for outdoor sport have been omitted from the Open Spaces Strategy as they are set out in the Council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy.

2.5 The consultants assessed the quality of open spaces as well as quantity and accessibility. Their assessment is that around four out of every five sites in the borough can be regarded as "good quality" sites.

2.6 The draft strategies outline the current position in relation to open space and green infrastructure and provide a framework for moving forward. They take into account reducing resource levels at the Council and limited capacity to develop opportunities for alternative delivery models. The strategies include draft Action Plans which prioritise projects to enable limited resources to be focused onto key objectives which will provide the greatest overall benefits for our communities. The Action Plan is attached to the report as Appendix four.

2.7 The draft Open Space Strategy outlines the requirements for high quality, accessible open space to ensure community needs across the borough are met. It also indicates where the use of open space can be increased by improving the range of purposes it is used for how this will, in turn, enable resources to be focused on a smaller number of higher quality and more accessible sites. The strategy also considers maintaining areas for biodiversity and encouraging links to other open space sites to improve green infrastructure and make it more resilient.

2.8 The Open Space Strategy discusses planning for open space and new open space in developments to ensure that quantity and accessibility standards are maintained in growth areas and that open space is provided in the most suitable places to meet the needs of our communities. The strategy also covers funding options for open space over the life of the strategy through the use of Section 106 Agreements and other   sources to maintain quality standards.

2.9 Cabinet is now being asked to consult on the draft strategies and for the documents to be available on the Council's website for an appropriate period to allow community comment and feedback. It is proposed that the documents and response questionnaire are also e-mailed to interested parties. All responses will be forwarded to the consultants for inclusion into the consultation report and this will be presented to Cabinet along with officer responses and any proposed amendments to the strategies early in 2017.

3.   OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 The options considered are to receive the draft strategies and approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders to ensure that a robust evidence base can be provided to support the emerging Joint Local Plan.

3.2 Not receive the draft strategies nor approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders and fail to provide sufficient evidence to support the emerging Joint Local Plan.

4.   PROPOSAL

4.1 It is proposed to receive the draft open space and green infrastructure strategies and approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders and for the outcome to be reported to Cabinet prior to adoption.

5.   REASONS FOR PROPOSAL

5.1 This report presents the first draft of the reviewed Open Spaces Strategy (formerly the Green Space Strategy) and the new Green Infrastructure Strategy. The strategies identify a range of strategic aims and objectives for future open space and green infrastructure planning, provision, management and maintenance to ensure that these assets fulfil their potential to deliver a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits.

6.   OUTCOMES LINKED TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6.1 Creating a clean, safe and sustainable borough.
6.2 Creating a healthy and active community.
6.3 A borough of opportunity.
6.4 Becoming a co-operative Council, delivering high-value, community-driven services.

7.   LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

7.2 The preparation of the Joint Local Plan is a statutory process and although the Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy are not statutory documents, they support and form part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 It is considered that there would be a positive impact on equality issues resulting from this project.

9. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct budget or resource implications associated with this report at the present time.

9.2 The future delivery of the strategies, if approved and adopted, will involve a number of providers and the financial implications will not rest solely with the Borough Council. The delivery and timescale of identified projects and actions will be dependent on funding being secured from appropriate sources.

9.3 The delivery of the strategies will have an impact on the Council's Asset Management Plan and the ability to fund future capital programmes.

9.4 The development of the strategies has been funded from within approved revenue budgets for the delivery of the Joint Local Plan.

10. MAJOR RISKS

10.1 Major Risks
 - Failure to provide robust evidence base for the emerging joint Local Plan.
- Failure to meet the timetable for the preparation and adoption of the Joint Local Plan.
- Failure to transparently engage and consult with stakeholders on strategy development.

11. SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 It is considered that the project will have a positive impact on sustainability and climate change by identifying greater opportunities for open space and green infrastructure as part of the strategic level planning for the borough.

12. KEY DECISION INFORMATION

12.1 It impacts directly all wards of the borough, and is included in the Forward Plan.

13. EARLIER CABINET/COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

13.1 Cabinet 10th December 2014   Item 5
Cabinet 16th September 2016

14. LIST OF APPENDICES

14.1 Appendix 1 – draft Open Space Strategy and draft Green Infrastructure Strategy (available online)

14.2 Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation

14.3 Appendix 3 – draft Local Standards for Open Space

14.4 Appendix 4 – draft Action Plan and table of sites required to meet local standards

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Consultation Draft Open Space Strategy

'We all want quiet; we all want beauty for the refreshment of our souls.'

Octavia Hill
b.1838 – d.1912

Contents

Executive Summary

The Open Space Strategy is a review and future guide to how the Borough Council manages its open space asset base to ensure that the needs of the community are met in the most appropriate way. It seeks to ensure that high quality, accessible open space can continue to be provided at appropriate locations for residents and visitors to the Borough to enjoy. The strategy review also addresses how land outside of the Council's ownership is maintained, with the intention that it is managed in a complementary way with municipal land. Produced in parallel with the Open Space Strategy (and with a shared evidence base) is a Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy which considers open space at the 'landscape scale'.

The audit of existing open space includes the following types of open space; (i) Parks & gardens (ii) Amenity green spaces, (iii) Natural and semi-natural green spaces (iv) Designated play spaces for children and young people, (v) Allotments and (vi) Green corridors. Outdoor sports facilities are not part of the Open Space Strategy review as this is dealt with through the Sport England compliant Playing Pitch Strategy.

Research undertaken in preparing the Open Space Strategy review has shown that Borough of Newcastle under Lyme has a valued and well-distributed network of open space comprised of spaces of varying sizes that have historical, cultural, aesthetic and recreational significance – in a word the open space asset is 'diverse'. The research has also shown that the quality of open space in the Borough is generally good or very good. This finding does not extend to all of the buildings located in open space, some of which are clearly a challenge to maintain and their original purposes have long since passed. New methods are needed for managing these and where these challenges cannot be addressed removal may be the only remaining option.

There are great challenges going forward, especially with regards to municipally owned and managed open space. These challenges are greater than at any time in the last 70 years. The most significant of these is reduced staff and financial capacity to deliver open space services. A further notable challenge lies in the relationship between open space and new development; as the Borough Council needs to allocate more land for economic purposes; including housing and commercial.

It is certain that the model of municipal management that has been in-place for generations will have to change to reflect new realities and this will not be an easy process. However, change presents opportunities as well as threats; for example, it is clear that some open space areas can be more multifunctional and better connected to communities and any reduction in the area of open space can free resources to invest in improved facilities on other sites.

The single greatest challenge will be to bring the 'wider community' and 'users' along with changes. Loss of local amenity will almost certainly be met with resistance even when alternatives are made available. Good communication and transparency are prerequisites for addressing these issues but objections will occur wherever rationalisation is proposed. The Borough Council needs to have clear and well-articulated counter-arguments in support of rationalisation.

The Open Space Strategy review contains ten strategies which provide a road map for the duration of the new Joint Local Plan; encompassing quality, quantity, developer contributions and access among others.

1: Introduction and purpose

The review team and overall approach

1.1 In August 2015, Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council appointed a team led by MD2 Consulting Ltd to review and update an existing Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy and a separate Rural Green Space Strategy. The strategy review and project management were conducted by MD2 Consulting Ltd with mapping support, data production and GIS by The Mersey Forest project. Included in the review was the data, approaches and outcomes of previous studies. The resulting review documents and this strategy report form part of the supporting evidence base for the emerging Newcastle under Lyme/City of Stoke on Trent Joint Local Plan. The review has been prepared in a way that maintains a joined up approach between the two authorities with a view to ensuring that green space planning, management and maintenance, is underpinned by a strategic and operational framework that is:

a. solution orientated;
b. fully integrated with a suite of allied studies and planning documents and
c. realistic & achievable both in terms of delivery and maintenance and set within existing and future budgetary constraints.

The National Planning Policy framework

1.2 The methodology for the strategy review conforms to meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance on Open Space. The NPPF in paragraphs 73 and 74, identifies the need for high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation, as an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. It is further stated in the NPPF that planning policies need to be based on robust and up to date assessment of needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built upon unless it is shown to be surplus to requirements or can be replaced in a suitable location.

1.3 The NPPF also highlights the importance of maintaining and enhancing public rights of way and access by linking existing networks, planning for biodiversity and ensuring that local ecological networks are considered within planning policy. Paragraph 114 requires local planning authorities to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure within their Local Plans. In support of this the Council has appointed MD2 Consulting Ltd to prepare a

Image 1: above, Wolstanton Play Area

Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Borough which meets this requirement. The evidence base for both the Open Space Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy is shared.

Planning Practice Guidance

1.4 The Government has issued Planning Practice Guidance to local authorities on how open space should be accounted for in planning for new development and when considering proposals that may affect existing open space. They state that "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". The guidance also states that it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. They should also have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

1.5 Planning Practice Guidance replaces earlier Planning Policy Guidance and a companion guide[1] to the earlier Planning Policy Guidance (PPG17) is still highly regarded as good practice and has influenced the approach to the preparation of this Strategy update. Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council have decided to assess their open space requirements in a robust way this has involved a consultation exercise, an audit of sites, update of the North Staffordshire and Rural Green Space Strategy's and proposals to address management challenges in a resource limited environment.

1.6 It should be noted that the Open Space Strategy update addresses the open space network across the Borough, notably but not exclusively from a recreational perspective. Produced in parallel with the Open Space Strategy (and with a shared evidence base) is a Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy which considers open space at the 'landscape scale'. This pays particular regards to ecological networks, biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services to local people such as the ability of green areas to mitigate against climate change.

Image 2: above, Cotswold Avenue

1.7 An open space network may also contain designated local green space which is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. The Local Green Space designation is for use in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP). Designating a local green space needs to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the local green space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making. Because an area appears in this strategy update as open space does not mean it is automatically a designed local green space.

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[1] Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17.

The nature of the guidance

1.8 The Open Space
Strategy is intended to guide
how the Borough Council
manages its open space asset
base to ensure that the
needs of the community are
met in the most appropriate
way. However, the strategy
review also addresses land
outside of the Council's
ownership, with the
intention that it is managed

Image 3: above: Silverdale Cemetery

in a complementary way with municipal land. In the climate of reducing local authority resources, it has proven necessary to review how the Borough Council approaches it's role in the future and to explore different mechanisms for delivering open space services in line with projected capacity and resource reductions.

Open Space Strategy structure

1.9 The commission has led to the production of suite of documents:

- A **report** (this document) which updates the findings of previous studies and describes the findings. It is intentionally an extended summary report, brief and to the point and summarising the whole suite of documents produced which are listed below.
- A **spreadsheet** which is a working document for the Borough Council and which is the main output of the study covering over 500 sites across the entire Borough.
- A standalone document on how the **Open Space Standards** were determined and what the standards are (summarised in this document).
- **Framework plans** for three spatial subdivisions of the Borough, these being Newcastle under Lyme (Urban), Kidsgrove (Urban), Rural including smaller settlements.
- **Report of consultation**, notably recording the findings of the Great Outdoors Survey undertaken as part of the evidence gathering.
- An **Action Plan** of which key elements are summarised in this report.

Geographical scope

1.10 The geographical scope of the review is the whole of the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme. The Borough is broken down into three 'framework areas' to assist assessment and planning; these are Newcastle under Lyme (Urban), Kidsgrove (Urban), Rural including smaller settlements. The audit, community needs assessment and Open Space Strategy includes the following types of open space:

- **Parks & gardens** (this includes urban parks, country and formal gardens)
- **Amenity green spaces** (over 0.25ha) (includes informal recreation spaces, village greens, etc.)
- **Natural and semi-natural green spaces** (this includes woodland and scrub, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, bare rock habitats)
- **Designated play spaces** for children and young people.
- **Allotments** (this includes other forms of urban agriculture such as community orchards)
- **Green corridors** (this includes river and canals (including their banks), cycling routes, pedestrian paths etc.)

Outdoor sports facilities are not part of the study as this is dealt with through the Sport England compliant Playing Pitch Strategy.

Lifetime of the strategy review

1.11 The intended time span of the reviewed Open Space Strategy is for the life-time of the Joint Local Plan for Newcastle under Lyme and City of Stoke-on-Trent. It is anticipated that the Open Space Strategy will be refreshed mid-way during this period.

Legacy documents

1.12 As stated in paragraph 1.1 this report updates a North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy and a Newcastle under Lyme Rural Green Space Strategy. Both of these former strategies are superseded by this strategy report. However, these former strategy documents are not entirely redundant and should be considered as an extension of the evidence base for this updated Strategy; since they provide historical context and useful site information.

Image 4: above, Thomas Street Kidsgrove.

Open Space vs. Green Space

1.13 Previous reviews in Newcastle under Lyme have been headed as 'Green Space Strategies'. The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance makes preferential reference to 'Open Space'. It is clear that these term are interchangeable with regards to this strategy review but to be consistent with NPPF parlance the term 'Open Space' is now used.

A responsible approach

1.14 Preparing an Open Space Strategy is not a task to be undertaken lightly. Those involved shoulder significant responsibility in making recommendations that affect the quality of life of residents and visitors for the next generation and have the additional responsibility of fairly representing the intent and good-works of previous generations whose legacy they are dealing with. These points have not been forgotten

Image 5: above, Lyme Brook

when preparing the Open Space Strategy and for the most part irreversible actions have been avoided so that future decisions can be taken without prejudice.

2: Open Space within Newcastle under Lyme

Overview

2.1 The Borough of Newcastle under Lyme has a valued and well-distributed network of open space comprised of spaces of varying sizes that have historical, cultural, aesthetic and recreational significance – in a word the open space asset is 'diverse'. As with most other local authority areas, open space in Newcastle under Lyme is, to a large extent a 'public good' enjoyed by many and bringing benefits to individuals and whole communities. It is also a well-used resource and is inter-generational, serving the needs of the very young through to the very old. It is high in social equity too, as it is, in the most part, free to use at the point of delivery and is well spread throughout all areas. The privatisation of open space which has become a highly controversial issue in some parts of the country (notably in London), has not yet impacted on the Borough.

2.2 The Borough has distinct urban settlements in the towns of Newcastle under Lyme and Kisdgrove but also an extensive rural area, interspersed with smaller settlements and villages. The open space in the towns typically reflects the overall urban structure with town parks, amenity grassland and playing fields dominating the open space. Generally, access to these areas is good. In rural areas natural green space dominates open space, however access to natural green space is variable and this limits the

recreational potential in some instances.

Image 6: above, Allotments at Loggerheads

Quality and sensibility

2.3 Work undertaken in preparing the Open Space Strategy review has shown that the quality of open space in the Borough is generally good or very good. There are some areas that are deficient in quality and require improvement; however, in the opinion of the consultants these are fewer than might normally be expected in a review. Hence it is possible to say that the management of open space is at the time of the review good and

Image 7: above, The Wammy

that the sites are consequently of a good quality too. This does not extend to all buildings located in open space, some of which are clearly a challenge to maintain and their original purposes have long since passed. New methods are needed for managing these and where these challenges cannot be addressed removal may be the only remaining option.

2.4 The review has shown that in the urban areas there is a valuable history of traditional open space creation and management, exemplified by the 'Britain in Bloom' participation and formal bedding. This has led the consultants to the conclusion that there is a notable 'heritage sensibility' in

Newcastle under Lyme. This was not anticipated prior to the review and is more typical of tourist destinations such as Buxton, Harrogate or Shrewsbury. This discovery is to be welcomed and maintaining this sensibility is part of this Strategy.

Countryside sites

2.5 There are important countryside sites in the Borough of which Apedale Country Park, Silverdale Country Park and Keele University are notable examples. These sites have a particular value in providing 'close to nature' experiences and a more informal recreational experience. Access to these sites is such that a significant number of the visitors travel to these sites by car, bicycle and to an extent by public transport. Hence they can be regarded as excursion destinations. Keele University campus is the largest in England and has an exceptionally good landscape; however, it is thought that many residents are not aware that the campus is accessible to non-university users. Of particular note at Keele University are the lakes, parkland and arboretum.

Open Space and Green Infrastructure

2.6 Open space is a vital component of the Borough's overall 'Green Infrastructure'. It is also the most accessible Green Infrastructure. Accompanying the Open Space Strategy review is a new Green Infrastructure Strategy for Newcastle under Lyme. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is a separate document. In addition to the role o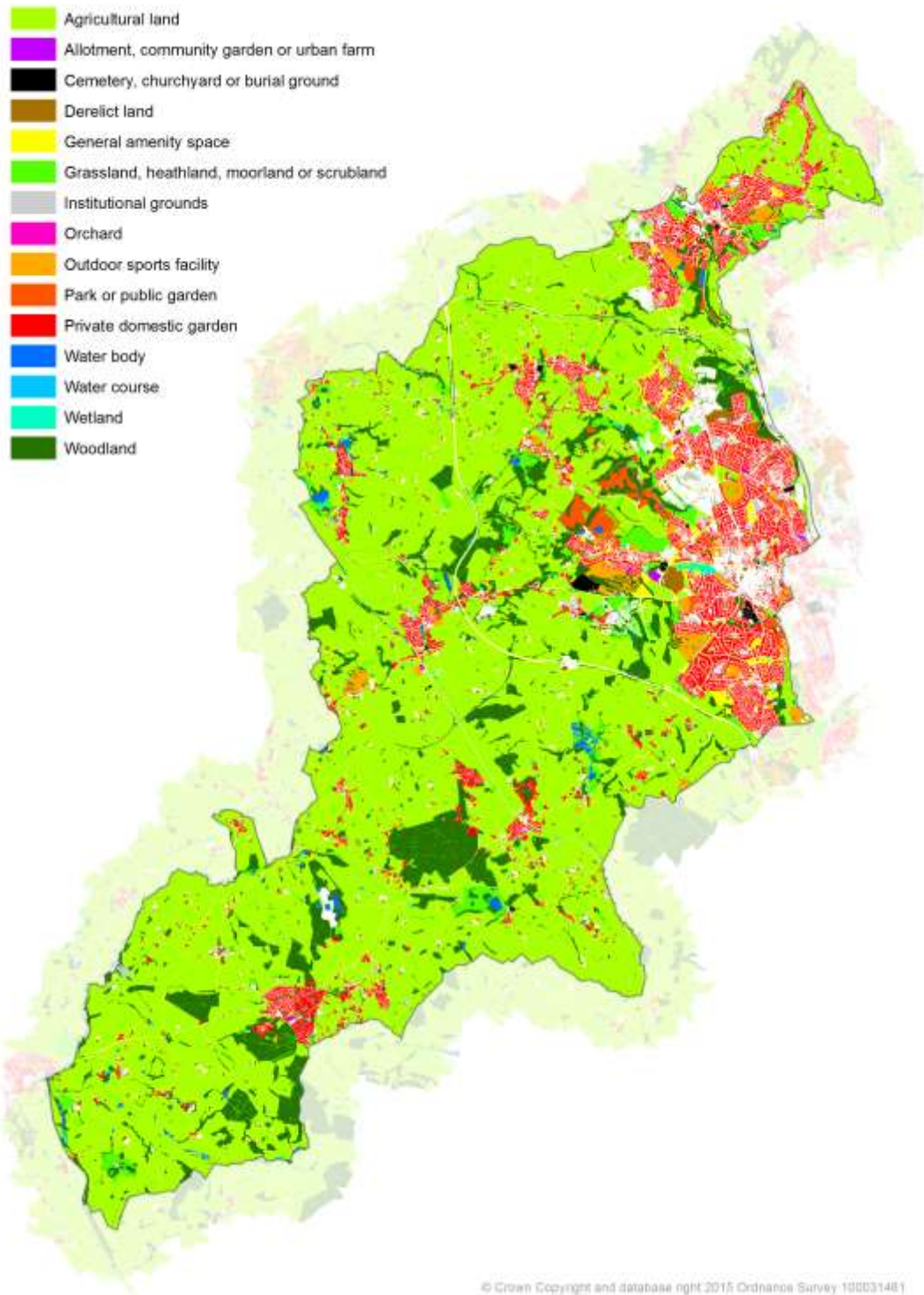f open space for recreation, play and its aesthetic value; it is as important to recognise the role of open space in terms of habitats for wildlife, as a multifunctional landscape, providing connectivity for people, and for the ecosystems services (life support system) it provides. In future open space will provide land for delivering nature based solutions, which help the locality to adapt to the extremes of global changes of which flooding is expected to be a major factor. Plan 1 shows a Green Infrastructure typology map for the Borough, of which the open space included in this Open Space Strategy review is included.

Image 8: above, Arnold Grove

Challenges going forward

2.7 There are great challenges going forward, especially with regards to municipally owned and managed open space. These challenges are greater than at any time in the last 70 years. The most significant of these is reduced staff and financial capacity to deliver Open Space services. A further notable challenge lies in the relationship between open space and new development; as the Borough Council needs to allocate more land for economic purposes; including housing and commercial. It is certain that the model of municipal management that has been in-place for generations will have to change to reflect new realities and this will not be an easy process. However, change presents opportunities as well as threats; for example it is clear that some open space areas can be more multifunctional and better connected to communities and any reduction in the area of open space can free resources to invest in improved facilities on other sites.

2.8 The single greatest challenge will be to bring the 'wider community' and 'users' along with changes. Loss of local amenity will almost certainly be met with resistance even when alternatives

are made available. Good communication and transparency are prerequisites for addressing these issues but objections will occur wherever rationalisation is proposed. The Borough Council needs to have clear and well-articulated counter-arguments in support of rationalisation.

Agricultural land
Allotment, community garden or urban farm
Cemetery, churchyard or burial ground
Derelict land
General amenity space
Grassland, heathland, moorland or scrubland
Institutional grounds
Orchard
Outdoor sports facility
Park or public garden
Private domestic garden
Water body
Water course
Wetland
Woodland

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Plan 1: above; A Green Infrastructure (GI) typology map for Newcastle under Lyme places 'open space' in a Borough–wide context. The GI typology is more extensive than that for open space as it includes all non-sealed surfaces. The map clearly shows that open space types are very important in terms of the Borough's overall Green Infrastructure.

3: Vision

3.1 Developing the vision statement was one of the key steps in preparing the Open Space Strategy. It is shown below along with a process diagram showing the stages of preparing the Open Space Strategy (see Figure 1).

> Our vision is to maintain the traditions and quality of the Borough's open space for the continued enjoyment, health and recreation of residents and visitors. We will do this by, prioritising quality over quantity, celebrating our green heritage, giving space to nature and seeking innovative ways to fund our work. We will know we have succeeded if we hand over the Borough's open spaces to the next generation and they are able to enjoy its benefits as we have.

Figure 1: above; the main stages of undertaking the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space review.

Image 9: above, accessible woodland is of high recreational value and important for biodiversity

4: Open Space Standards

4.1 A separate report details how the standards for open space were determined. The key processes involved included a bespoke consultation process – *The Newcastle Great Outdoors survey and a benchmarking comparison with similar local authorities' provision*. With the exception of the City of Stoke on Trent (included as this strategy update is part of the evidence based for a Joint Local Plan with them) all the local authorities were identified through use of the CIPFA Nearest Neighbour model and are listed below in order of their statistical nearness in descending order (i.e., No.1 – Amber Valley is the nearest):

> Standards are not the same as targets and the two terms should not be confused. In this Strategy review, 'standards' refers to (i) a measure that supports comparative evaluations and (ii) a measure of performance at the strategic (Borough-wide). level.

1. Amber Valley
2. Chorley
3. Wyre Forest
4. Erewash
5. Gedling
6. Broxtowe
7. Chesterfield
8. South Staffordshire
9. Cannock Chase
10. High Peak (inside and outside the National Park)
11. Newark and Sherwood
12. Fenland
13. Bassetlaw
14. South Ribble
15. Carlisle
- Stoke-on-Trent

4.2 In preparing the Standards reference was made to key guidelines of which the former Companion Guide to PPG17 (still regarded as good practice) and the Fields in Trust (FiT) 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' were influential. In respect of development the FiT recommended application of quantity benchmark guidelines for equipped/designated play space has been adopted for the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy review (Table 1).

Scale of Development	Local Area for Play (LAP)	Locally equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	Neighbourhood Area for Play (NEAP)	Multi-use games area (MUGA)
5 - 10 dwellings	√			
10 – 200 dwellings	√	√		Contribution
201 – 500 dwellings	√	√	Contribution	√
501+ dwellings	√	√	√	√

Table1: 'Fields in Trust' guidelines for equipped/designated play space have been adopted in this Open Space Strategy review and should be read in conjunction with Table 2. The tick next to an item refers to provision on-site as part of a development scheme rather than through developer contributions.

4.3 The Open Space Standards table is reproduced at Table 2. The column headed (AREA HA) is the total area in hectares calculated for each type of open space in the Borough. For reference, one hectare is approximately the size of a full-sized rugby pitch.

OPEN SPACE TYPES	COUNT	AREA (HA.)	CURRENT PROVISION (Hectares per 1,000 population based on 124,381 pop)	PREVIOUS STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line) URBAN		RURAL*
Parks and gardens	35	436.29	3.51	2.35	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
Amenity green space	112	128.31	1.03	No standard	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
Natural and semi-natural green space	181	1746.22	14.0	3.60	3.60	600m		
Designated play spaces for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41	0.76	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
Allotments	12	13.60	0.11	No standard in last audit	0.15	400m (5-10 min walk)		15 min* drive
Green Corridors	16	46.03	0.37	No standard	No standard	No standard		
Outdoor Sport Facilities	NO STANDARD							

Table 2: The Open Space Standards table for Newcastle under Lyme. A Playing Pitch Strategy addresses outdoor pitch sports facilities.

4.4 It can be seen from Table 2 that the Borough is relatively well provided for in terms of open space. Most notable is the amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace. Only the provision of allotments is below the set standard.   It should be noted that as the population of the Borough grows, localised deficits of open space will increase; hence there is a need for new open space to accompany new development, to ensure that open space provision keeps pace with population growth. The present distribution is shown in the three Framework Plans which accompany both the Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Image 10: above, Pool Dam Playing Fields

5: Open Space Strategy

Open Space Locations

5.1 Knowing where Open Space is located is essential to devising a Strategy. The Consultants team have produced a highly detailed spreadsheet to accompany the Open Space Strategy review. This spreadsheet provides Borough Council Officers with an analysis of recorded open space sites in the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme including their condition. Having recorded the Open Space sites, it is possible to devise an Open Space Strategy to accompany the new Joint Local Plan.

Quality Strategy

5.2 The quality of sites in Newcastle under Lyme is good to very good (see Table 3). This is a strong foundation for maintaining quality. There are good reasons to maintain high quality:

- Site usage, as measured by the number of visits and repeat visits, is higher when the site is of a good quality
- A greater mix of people use sites of good quality, hence there is less social exclusion
- It is a lower cost to maintain a site in a good condition than to let it decline and then have to invest a large amount of money to return it to a good quality
- Good quality sites are more likely to secure the interest and involvement of volunteers in its maintenance and in running events.
- Good quality sites are a tourism asset and hence contribute to the visitor economy
- Quality allows the Borough Council and its partners to seek recognition in the form of awards and grants. This in turn builds 'pride of place' in the community.

5.3 'Fields in Trust' have issued quality guidelines and these are recommended as the principles of quality management. The list below is an embellishment of these:

- Parks should be of 'Green Flag' standard or equivalent
- Open space should be appropriately landscaped
- There should be positive (as opposed to reactive) management in place
- Open space sites should include the provision of paths
- Fear of crime or harm should be designed out

Image 11: above, Church Lane

5.4 The 'Green Flag Award' standard or equivalent should be sought for all public-run open spaces, this requires annual renewal. A similar award, the Green Pennant, is available for community managed open space and participation is also encouraged. The checklist for 'Green Flag' ('Green Pennant' is similar except the marketing) and is recommended as an ongoing checklist of quality.

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure

- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

	Urban (no.)	% of urban	Rural (no.)	% of rural	Total (no.)	% Total
Total no. of sites	326		227		553	
Total no. of sites audited/scored	176		81		257	46.5
Score > 80%	104	59.1	8	9.81	112	43.5
70 – 80%	60	34.1	38	46.9	98	38.2
< 70%	12	6.8	35	43.2	47	18.3

Table 3: Open space results from 2015/16 site audits. Of the sites audited in 2015/16 only 18.3% fell below a quality score of 70%; overall this is a very strong performance.

Quality Strategy

The recommended strategic target for quality is 80%. Sites below a threshold of 70% are a priority for further assessment as follows:

Step 1: understand why the site is below target, this is a role for the land owner, planners and site managers. This step will generally involve a further site visit to check that the scoring is still correct (or has risen or deteriorated further)
Step 2: decide on a corrective course of action for example: (i) *Site requires investment – seek funding*, (ii) *Site has a number of limitations which need overcoming – resolve limitations*, (iii) *Site is not valued or in the wrong place – consider alternative use*
Step 3: Carry out courses of action
Step 4: Ensure that these sites are audited when an open space audit is next carried out.

'Green Flag' and 'Green Pennant' awards or equivalent should be sought for key open space sites. Key open spaces are those which are a major focus for visitors and include urban parks, country parks and equipped play areas.

Image 12: above, Ickey Pickey Teen Play

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Quantity Strategy

5.5 Table 2 indicates that with the exception of allotments the quantity of different open space types (referred to as the typology) is ahead of the standard. At first appearance this gives the Borough Council flexibility in terms of quantity across many open space types. However localised factors as shown in the Framework Plans provide a more detailed and nuanced understanding of distribution. In view of this the Borough Council is not free of constraints on what can or cannot be rationalised if this proves necessary. In practice any reduction in quantity has to be justified on a case-by-case basis and also be in general alignment with either extant legacy planning policies or the new Joint Local Plan when it is approved. In reality it is probable that there be some losses and some gains in terms of open space during the life of the new Local Plan. Losses are likely to take place in underused, wrongly located or uneconomic open space and gains made in open space required as part of new developments or because of the need to provide land for nature based solutions to combat global change (e.g. flood management etc.).

5.6 In line with most local authorities a standard has not been set for Green Corridors, however this is a typology where the evidence points to an increasing demand. Linear corridors are valuable as cycleways, habitats, walking & running routes and importantly for Green Infrastructure connectivity. Because of these uses green corridors make a particular contribution to health and wellbeing and also act as a transport alternative when they also function as cycleways.

5.7 The quantity of natural and semi-natural green space is greatly in excess of the standard; however, this quantity needs further interpretation. The majority of this open space type is not in Council ownership and hence subject to many variables especially in terms of access. Furthermore, some areas of natural and semi natural greenspace are subject to nature or economic management (e.g. woodland). In view of the importance now being given to Green Infrastructure it is the case that having a large area of natural and semi-natural green space is a strong-positive in terms of providing ecosystem services to the local population.

Quantity Strategy

Every effort should be made to maintain the quantity of open space at the highest level possible subject to:

(i) economic viability,
(ii) planning policy and
(ii) sustenance and improvement of the Borough's Green Infrastructure network.

Rationalisation, when considered, should be the subject of careful site planning and local consultation (including site master-planning notably where an existing open space may have the potential to accommodate other uses whilst maintaining its primary open space function).

Opportunities for new open space should be seized on the back of new development and a formula for assessing this adopted in the new Joint Local Plan.

The Borough Council's Development Control function should ensure that developers fully meet their agreements in practice.

Wherever possible opportunities to create new or upgrade existing green corridors should be taken.

The Strategy for allotment provision needs to be updated in the light of the Open Space Strategy review.

Access Strategy

5.8 The Newcastle under Lyme access standards apply equally to urban and rural areas with the exception of allotments. In this case the urban standard is set as a walking distance (400 metres) and in the rural area a driving time (15 minutes). These are within the range of other authorities and recognise that in rural areas it is not practical for pedestrian only provision. Distance standards are shown as a linear distance but when making planning decisions the route to an open space type should also be considered. In practice, very few routes follow straight lines and users will normally follow pavements, green corridors and cross busy roads at traffic lights.

5.9 The needs of different users also need to be factored both in terms of the distance standard but also in respect of internal circulation patterns. Path surfaces should be on the one hand as unobtrusive as possible but simultaneously as multi-purpose as possible and cost effective to maintain. Providing access for people that might not otherwise be able to use a site due, for example, due to to disability is a priority and guidelines are available on surfaces and access systems. Infrastructure is necessary at major sites for disabled parking.

5.10 Site entrances and exits are an important part of access. They function as gateways and should as far as possible be conveniently located subject to amenity constraints of nearby residents and safe ingress/egress to adjacent roads. Site entrances are also natural locations for site interpretation including circulation route maps showing how to access key features.

Image 13: above, Fitness Equipment at Clough Hall Park

5.11 During the lifetime of the Open Space Strategy it is expected that the use of 'smart' devices to navigate and measure distance travelled, calories expended, and market events and facilities etc. will continue to increase. The Borough Council is advised to keep new technology under review and coordinate access to open space with Apps & mobile mapping.

Access Strategy

Distance standards should be used as a target in future open space planning.

Full consideration should be given to how people access sites in practice (i.e. via pavements, major road crossings etc.) alongside the linear access figure when decision making is taking place.

The needs of special groups (such as those with disabilities, parents with buggies etc.) should be factored in when planning access to and within key sites.

The use of new technology should be kept under under review and appropriate provision made to promote access to open space with Apps & mobile mapping.

Diversity of Provision Strategy

5.12 Maintaining a diversity of provision is necessary if the needs of the whole community are to be met. This includes having some open space sites that can meet a wide range of minority interests. In many cases this requires little more than access to land, water or air without undue restrictions. It

may be beneficial to consider site provision under the NPPFs 'duty to cooperate' as suitable sites may exist close to the Borough boundary. Some types of open space are well understood and there are clear processes in place for identifying these and having appropriate management in place, for example in relation to play provision. However, this does not extend to hobby interests and a number of hobby-areas have been identified in Table 4, the list is not exhaustive:

Radio controlled models – boats, planes, drones	Kites	Non pitch sports such as orienteering and archery	Non pitch reactional activities/games such as boules, geocaching, drafts, chess.
Bouldering	Bird watching	Overnight camping and BBQs	Tai Chi
Extreme challenges and boot camps	Trim trails	Cloud watching	Dark skies/ astronomy
Pond dipping	Nature Watching	Fishing	Water based recreation

Table 4: Hobbies and other interests that make use of open space, the list is not exhaustive.

5.13 There is a need to create and maintain biodiverse areas. This clearly links with the Borough's Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Former industrial or housing areas may have developed valuable natural vegetation and should be protected from redevelopment whenever possible, even though they may be registered as brownfield land. Biodiverse areas provide food for wildlife and also support foraging. There is currently great interest in foraging to the extent that it has become a problem is some areas (e.g. Bristol). However, foraging for wild food and craft materials is to be applauded, hence the need for areas where people can gather without undue constraint. Setting aside areas of amenity green space for wildflower meadow management is increasingly popular and can create a positive image for the Borough and potentially save maintenance costs through reduced cutting.

5.14 The typology for youth provision is one of the most challenging as it is known to cause conflicts with other users notably through littering, graffiti and bad-language. However, problems are often over-inflated and the positive benefit to young people in terms of outdoor activity and avoiding anti-social behaviour is of great significance. Ideally street workers/volunteers should support activities on the ground. The types of provision include: Skateboarding, BMX, Table Tennis, Hang-out shelters and Basketball hoops.

Diversity of Provision Strategy

Maintain a wide diversity of open space types, plan for some minority interests on a regional or on a 'duty to co-operate' basis.

Cater for minority interests as these are often overlooked this includes ensuring an adequate provision for youth and support this through grass roots street workers etc.

Maximise biodiversity, especially to foster visual impact (e.g. wild flowers) and meet the demand for foraging. Place a high-value on established brownfield land as nature areas.

Existing Planning Policy and the New Joint Local Plan

5.15 The Borough Council has saved policies relevant to open space provision which remain extant beyond September 2007. These are drawn from the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) and remain in place until the new Joint Local Plan is formally adopted. These policies have both influence and relevance to the open space strategy review. The most relevant saved policies are to be

Image 14: above, Orme Road, Skate Park

found in Section 6 - Community Facilities and Section 7 – Natural Heritage, of the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003). There are further policies in other sections which are also relevant. The key legacy policies from the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) are summarised in table 4.

N2: Development and nature conservation – site surveys	N3: Development and nature conservation – protection and enhancement measures	N4: Development and nature conservation – use of local species	N8: Protection of key habitats	N9: Community woodland zones
N10: New woodland - considerations	N12: Development and the protection of trees	N13: Felling and pruning of trees	N14: Protection of landscape features of major importance to flora and fauna	N16: Protection of a green heritage network
N17: Landscape character – general considerations	N18: Area of active landscape conservation	N19: Landscape maintenance areas	N20: Area of landscape enhancement	N21: Area of landscape restoration
N22: Area of landscape regeneration	N24: Water based landscape features	S3: Development in the green belt	H1: Residential development: sustainable location and protection of the countryside	H7: Protection of areas of special character
E2: Chatterley Valley	E3: Lymedale Park extension	E5: Church Lane, Knutton	E8: Keele University and Keele Science Park	T12: M6 Corridor
T16: Development - general parking requirements	T20: Telecommunications development – required information	C2: Retention of allotment gardens	C3: Publically accessible open space, Poolfields, Newcastle	C4: Open space in new housing areas.
C8: Country Parks	C9: Countryside Parks	C11: New footpaths, horse routes and cycleways	C13: Additional facilities at Apedale Community Country Park	C17: Camping and caravan sites
C19: Burial ground Bradwell	C20: Madeley Village Hall	C21: White Rock – Apedale Road	B9: Protection of harm to conservation areas	B10: The requirement to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area
B13: Design and development in conservation areas	B14: Development in or adjoining the boundary of conservation areas	B15: Trees and landscape in conservation areas.	IM1: Provision of essential supporting infrastructure and community facilities	IM2: Compliance with policy concerns

Table 5: Saved policies from Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) relevant to open space. Each grouping is colour coded to show which part of the Plan the policy refers to.

5.16 The Newcastle under Lyme & Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy was adopted in October 2009 with the intention that it would serve the period from 2006 to 2026. Relevant policies within this document (see Table 6) also form part of the current development plan until the new Joint Local Plan is adopted. The Core Spatial Strategy has a strategic vision and aims and says that 'The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the City of Stoke-on-Trent will be a prosperous, vibrant, environmentally responsible and successful area of choice for businesses, visitors and residents in the period up to 2026.' It goes on to say that the outcomes of this transformation will be - population retention, rising income levels, strengthened housing markets, healthier people with a strong sense of well-being and an enhanced reputation. The vision is based upon strategic aims related to people, prosperity, place & image. All of these strategic aims are reflected in policy. Open space is highly relevant to the strategic aims by providing high quality living places for people; helping to create settings for development which fosters prosperity; and through enhanced image, civic pride and environmental resilience.

CSP1: Design Quality	CSP2: Historic Environment	CSP3: Sustainability and climate change
CSP4: Natural assets	CSP5: Open space/sport/recreation	CSP6: Affordable housing
CSP7: Gypsy and travellers		

Table 6: Relevant core strategic polices - those highlighted in green are strongly linked to open space. Those highlighted in orange are less strongly linked. Any not listed are not relevant or very marginally so.

5.17 The core spatial strategy has three key spatial principles; (i) Targeted Regeneration, (ii) Economic Development and (iii) Movement and Access. This is supplemented by area spatial policies for Newcastle Town Centre (ASP4), Newcastle and Kidsgrove urban neighbourhoods area (ASP5) and Rural area spatial policy (ASP6). There is a strong coalescence between the spatial areas and the Framework Plans produced for the Open Space Strategy review.

Existing Planning Policy and the New Joint Local Plan Strategy

Open Space is a cross cutting policy theme because it strongly influences quality of life and place shaping. However, to emphasise its importance it is recommended that the new Joint Local Plan should contain a specific policy on Open Space as well as a separate specific policy on Green Infrastructure. These should between them cover the issues of connectivity, multifunctionality, landscape, recreation, health & wellbeing and biodiversity.

The policies on Open Space and Green Infrastructure should also reflect the current focus on housing led growth and the need to accommodate new residential development within the urban area wherever practically possible.

There may be Open Spaces that can be rationalised and reallocated for development. However, strong recognition is also needed of the importance of Open Space and Green Infrastructure in respect of maintaining quality of life for new residents as well as existing residents and that housing development should not break 'green' connectivity which is essential in the delivery of ecosystem services and resilience to climate change impacts.

Development Strategy

5.18 Saved policy C4 of the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) is a detailed policy which endeavours to secure appropriate amounts of new open space in new <u>housing areas</u> as set out in Figure 1 below. Relevant policies designed to secure new open spaces within the joint Core Spatial Strategy are far less specific, since they are not designed to be overly prescriptive with regard to the facilitation, delivery and maintenance of new open space, which is instead covered

much more generally in policies CSP1-7 in table 5 above. The Council's intention was to address more detailed polices covering new open space provision in a new "Site Allocations and Policies DPD's" specifically relating to areas and topics covering not just housing (Newcastle Town Centre, Areas of Major Intervention, General Renewal Areas and Other Areas of Housing Intervention). Since these DPD's have never been produced and adopted; suitably robust, yet flexible planning policy designed to facilitate the required quality, quantity and typology and maintenance of new open spaces will be a requirement that will need to be addressed and included within the new Joint Local Plan.

POLICY C4: OPEN SPACE IN NEW HOUSING AREAS Appropriate amounts of publicly accessible open space must be provided in areas of new housing, and its maintenance must be secured. To this end, on sites with ten or more dwellings, or at least 0.4 hectares with fewer dwellings, taking a gross figure for all contiguous development areas, developers will be expected to provide for open space in accordance with the following: i) Publicly accessible open space must be provided pro rata at a scale of 0.1 hectares for each 50 houses. ii) Appropriate play equipment must be provided within new housing areas with 100 or more dwellings, taking a gross figure for all contiguous development areas. The amount of equipment required will be appropriate to the size of the development. iii) Where new play areas are provided within the development, each must be of at least 0.1 hectare and be located so that no child has to walk more than 0.4 km (0.25 mile) or cross a major road to reach such an area from home. iv) In the case of developments of fewer than 50 dwellings, areas of new housing development or in other situations where the Council considers that such a course of action would be more appropriate, developers will be invited to make some other contribution in accordance with a scale to be determined by the Council. v) The design and location of new play areas must take into account community safety issues.

Figure 1: Saved Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan Policy C4: Open Space in new Housing Areas.

5.19 In order to develop appropriate new Local Plan policies to be used in circumstances where new development is proposed, credence must be given to the pros, cons and overall effectiveness of legacy policy, which needs to be adapted, updated, redrafted and improved as necessary to reflect the aims and objectives of current national planning policy guidance. There are a number of current drivers intended to achieve sustainable development, notably the current national planning policy focus upon housing led regeneration, which may lead to new residential development on some open spaces. The opposite side of the coin is that budgets are declining quickly, such that new ways must be found to maintain new open spaces, which must also be recognised and reflected in new planning policy and associated planning agreements. Moreover, there is a need and requirement to facilitate delivery of new open spaces in all other types of new development. New open space provision must be integral to a development to add value to new developments and not provided as an afterthought or on left over pieces of land (cross ref to Quantity Policy). Credence must also be given to the potential connectivity between new open spaces and existing open spaces, when this proves practical and possible (cross ref to Green Infrastructure Strategy).

5.20 In circumstances where there are clear surpluses in open space provision, in terms of quantity relative to location and/or typology, it may be appropriate to consider reallocation of land for the provision of new development, in whole or in part. In particular, this will help the Borough Council to deliver its required housing numbers in order to meet its evidence based targets, although land may be given over to other non-residential uses when circumstances indicate or dictate there is a proven market need or demand.

5.21 Reallocation of land to hard end uses, particularly housing, when the evidence supports it, will help contribute towards the emerging spatial strategy in the new Joint Local Plan. There is an added advantage that cash from the sale of open space land for development, if an appropriate proportion can be ring-fenced, may be generated and utilised to provide new facilities on open spaces in the

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form of new capital projects to enhance their attractiveness, or otherwise generate maintenance budgets for their future management /improved management at a time when maintenance budgets are diminishing quickly. In addition, development on parts/areas of some sites may be set towards their ongoing viability when ongoing provision is threatened through lack of maintenance revenues, provided that monies are ring fenced for future maintenance.

5.22 There are some key provisos however:

- This approach may apply both to sites within development limits and for open space on the edges of settlement boundaries in accordance with an agreed spatial strategy, but care must be exercised in consideration of any potential development on open spaces in the open countryside well beyond settlement limits;
- Open spaces with development potential will have to be assessed, screened and analysed for development constraints that have potential to prevent or seriously compromise new development, unless suitable mitigation proves possible; and crucially;
- That a suitable communications strategy is developed and articulated which explains the need and logic of the approach, because removal of or development on open spaces can be highly sensitive. This has to be addressed through the political process in concert with Council Members.

Locate new development within open spaces that are underperforming or surplus to requirements.	For this strategy to be implemented a number of sequential steps should be followed: Step 1: Can evidence be provided that an open space is surplus to requirements relative to local availability/quantity of existing provision/typology. Step 2: Is its development or partial development consistent with all other relevant policies in the new Local Plan. Step 3: Consider whether any loss of amenity will be offset locally by improvements elsewhere. Step 4: Has the resultant loss of Green Infrastructure been satisfactorily addressed in plans for the redevelopment of the site. Step 5: Is a master-plan needed, or has one been prepared to address development constraints and opportunities that arise, including the creation of new open spaces. Step 6: Can remaining and newly created green areas be properly managed in the long term.

The Open Space Standards (see Table 2) are central to the future planning and provision of facilities

Figure 2: Procedure for Reallocation of Open Spaces to Alterative Uses

linked to development. The standards have been used to identify:

- areas of quantitative deficiency or surplus
- deficiencies in accessibility;
- quality deficiencies.

5.23 The quantity, quality and access standards described above should also be used to guide the level of developer contributions to ensure that adequate provision is made for green infrastructure as a consequence of development. Since opportunities to provide additional open space in the urban areas of the Borough are known to be limited, it will be necessary in some cases to substitute the provision of new green infrastructure with a financial contribution. In the first instance these financial contributions should be used to invest in existing open spaces to make them more useable, to increase the range of offerings within each open space, and to improve their capacity to support ecosystem services.

5.24 To secure financial contributions, the Council could use the complementary mechanisms of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or planning obligations (as authorised under the Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). If the Council uses a S106 based tariff system, its use will be severely restricted in taking further contributions because of 'Pooling Restrictions'. CIL is intended to be used for general infrastructure contributions whilst S106 obligations are for site specific mitigation. Decisions on CIL will be taken within the context of the scaling back of S106 obligations and the potential income streams for funding infrastructure. The CIL Regulations 2010 defined the circumstances where each can be used and where they are not appropriate. Subsequent changes in the regulations (amended 2011, 2012 and 2013) and experience in setting and using CIL have led to a clearer picture of how they can be best utilised. With respect to CIL, The Borough Council will need to prepare a charging schedule and this should support the development strategy of the new Joint Local Plan. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is also a material factor in this regards. Contributions secured by planning obligations will need to meet the statutory test set out in Regulation 122 of the CIL Regulations:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms,
- Directly related to the development, and
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale to the development.

Each individual case will need to be looked at carefully before seeking S106 tariff payments. If there is not sufficient evidence to meet the statutory tests the authority may risk challenge that the decision has been taken unlawfully. It will also be vulnerable at any planning appeal. To make optimum use of the CIL and S106 requires pro-active infrastructure planning and funding.

5.25 The Council's approach in deciding whether all or some of the contribution are secured via planning obligations or via CIL will therefore need to factor what can actually be secured in terms of new Green Infrastructure or open space development which is manageable and significant without pooling finance from more than one development (see Figure 3). This might be resolved by defining a range of 'strategic projects' drawing from the Green Infrastructure Strategy spatial strategy map. Alternatively, this might be considered on a type-by-type basis.

The Council may well find that Green Corridors, Parks and Gardens, Allotments, and Natural and Semi-natural Green Space might benefit from a strategic approach, based on pooling of contributions (i.e. CIL), while Children's Play Provision, Amenity Greenspace, and trees can be handled through Planning Obligations.

Figure 3: CIL vs Planning obligations by type

5.26 If the Council is minded to use CIL, interim requirements and procedures related to commuted sums might be required. This can be achieved through an SPD with pre and post CIL introduction provisions. All guidance relevant to on-site provision will remain applicable post CIL introduction. CIL offers greater flexibility than Section 106 Agreements: it can make it easier to mitigate the impact of development by using CIL funds to provide new as well as enhance existing open space. The CIL regulations do not cover change of use: CIL cannot be charged on development that involves a change of use from non-residential to residential. If the Council wishes to ensure a contribution can be secured under a change of use from non-residential to residential scenario, this should be explicitly captured in the Council's SPD. Even if a specific formula is agreed, it must not compromise development viability, otherwise decisions may be challenged at appeal.

5.27 Applying the standards also requires determining the type of development to which the standards apply. The selection of types of development the standards should apply to will need to be informed by the scale, location and range of new developments anticipated for the new Local Plan period. If the Council anticipates significant large commercial/business developments, it would be desirable to ensure such developments contribute to the Borough's overall green infrastructure by featuring an adequate canopy cover in their parking area, while contributing to other green infrastructure provision which might be used by their customers or employees (e.g. amenity green space and green corridors so that employees and customers can access the development by cycle).

5.28 If, however the Council only anticipates small scale commercial/business developments, an argument can be made in favour of concentrating on residential developments for the application of the standards through planning permission and build commercial and other development into CIL where the cumulative benefit could be directed to a significant new GI development defined by the authority. If the Council is aware of major non-residential sites or redevelopments, the open space requirement could also be secured through site specific allocation policies or development briefs.

5.29 Since Council budgets are declining rapidly, local authorities will have to address the prospect of having to maintain open spaces to agreed standards differently than is possible under current arrangements. New open spaces will no longer be able to be realistically maintained by the public purse since budgets will not likely be sufficient to even maintain existing open space resources in future. Since there is a drive towards housing based regeneration to promote economic recovery and to meet housing need, it will be necessary to introduce private maintenance agreements for new open space provided as part of new residential development schemes. This is effectively a supplementary tax payable by the owners/occupiers of new residential estates.

5.30 Private maintenance agreements from occupiers must be transferrable upon sale or transfer of a property and logically, Section 106 agreements are the logical mechanism to secure and implement them. These agreements will be secured from developers, who will be required to include appropriate provision within formal terms and conditions of plot sales. However, additional information should be provided to prospective and actual purchasers to make it crystal clear that this requirement is obligatory and necessary and will require a dedicated supplementary monthly, annual or term contribution to be paid, as may be agreed. If the Local Authority decides to adopt schemes for future maintenance, then cash contributions should be the minimum sought, but should be sufficient to cover a period of at least 20 years.

5.31 It will be important to ensure that robust means are needed to collect contributions (through direct debit) and agreement on who or what types of organisation will be responsible for undertaking the works. Ideally, contributions should be co-ordinated by a charitable trust or possibly by a dedicated residents' association with a formal legal charter. Maintenance needs to be delivered to a set standard which must be produced and agreed prior to formal completion of new open

spaces; works must be tendered to suitably qualified organisations or contractors; and regular independent inspections must be undertaken to ensure standards are being maintained, again paid for as part of the global agreement. This can include play area inspections, which require much more frequent inspection. Independent organisations undertaking and monitoring maintenance must provide evidence of their maintenance works/ inspection regime to the organisation responsible for organising maintenance.

5.32 An SPD is recommended as the optimum way to address the implementation of private maintenance agreements. This may, for example, set out the method for delivery or provision of new green areas, inspection of open spaces, as well as the standard to which they will be maintained. It is important to note that delivery and maintenance/inspection are likely to be two separate but related issues.

5.33 A cost model for off-site contributions was produced (see Table 7) by updating the cost-model from the 2007 "Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy". This is now based on the Standards set out in the in the "Newcastle Under Lyme Open Space Strategy." The model was cost indexed to account for inflation using the Bank of England RPI rates for 2007 – 2015, this remains a fair model to secure contributions. New Open Space Standards for amenity green space and allotments have been added. This creates a total contribution for new open space/improvement of existing open space of £4,439 per dwelling at current rates, which will need to be reviewed periodically or index linked to inflation. However, there are a range of important changes to be highlighted:

- In 2007 the cost contribution standard was set below the funding required per dwelling. This equated to 53% being met by the developer and 47% by the Borough Council or another public provider. At that time, it was reasonable to assume that the Borough Council or other public providers would 'make good' the shortfall. This is no longer considered the case as the Borough Council's budgets have been dramatically reduced. For that reason, developers are now normally expected to meet all of the costs. However, the impact is significant due to increased costs and the funding required per dwelling to the developer has risen from £1,791 to £4,427. If the Borough Council's offset is removed, then the rise is more modest from £3,391 to £4,427.
- The calculation now includes 'Allotments' for the first time which is benchmarked in cost terms as equivalent to 'Designated Play Space' or 'Outdoor Sports' in terms of the cost of management and maintenance. Amenity green space is included at the same rate as natural and semi-natural green space.
- The Outdoor Sports figure is included for benchmarking only and to avoid an unintentional absence. The Open Space Strategy review no longer considers 'Outdoor Sports' which is dealt with under the Newcastle under Lyme Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). If a separate contribution schedule is agreed by the Borough Council for 'Outdoor Sports', then this item can be removed and will hence reduce the overall open space contribution costs from £4,427 to £3,317. It should be noted however that the PPS does not deal with all 'Outdoor Sports' only those specified in the Sport England PPS methodology or those added to at the Borough Council's request.
- If the Council uses CIL then a new charging schedule will be required which will replace Table 6.

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Open Space Typology	Rate (£/m2)*	Rate (£/ha)*	Local Standard (ha/1,000 pop.)	Funding Required per Dwelling*	Contribution Standard (ha/1,000 pop.)	Funding Required per dwelling*
Parks and Gardens	£24	£239,112	3.10	£1,853	3.10	£1,853
Amenity green space	£6	£66,925	0.90	£151	0.90	£151
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	£6	£66,925	3.60	£602	3.60	£602
Designate play spaces for children and young people	£50	£499,333	0.41	£512	0.41	£512
Allotments	£50	£499,333	0.15	£187	0.15	£187
Outdoor Sports	£50	£498,705	0.90	£1,122	0.90	£1,122
Total				£4,427		£4,427

Table 7: Cost model for offsite contributions, updated from Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy 2007. Based on a figure of 2.5 people per dwelling

Development Strategy

In respect of on-site provision within new developments the following are recommended as good practice measures for Newcastle under Lyme:

- For residential; 0.004 hectares (0.01 acres) per dwelling of open space shall be provided for the total number of dwellings, irrespective of type or tenure; notwithstanding
- That such open space will be provided in areas of not less than 0.1 hectares (0.25 acres) regardless of development size;
- Roadside landscaping will not be counted as open space towards this requirement;
- In locating open spaces within new developments due consideration should be given to the incorporation of features of ecological interest, linkages with existing footpaths and open space networks and the need to avoid nuisance to neighbouring residential properties.

And that where appropriate, a satisfactory scheme for the provision of open space in an alternative location will be acceptable.

A cost model for off-site contributions will need to be agreed based on Table 7. The resulting cost schedule should be indexed to inflation and account for both capital and maintenance costs over a defined period. For on-site provision, cash contribution towards maintenance should be the minimum sought, unless private maintenance arrangements are proposed. Amongst other authorities investigated through desk study, the sums required to cover maintenance costs range from 10 to 20 years. Given the financial situation that local authorities face there is a strong argument in favour of seeking private maintenance contributions from occupiers which are transferrable upon sale. It will be important to ensure that robust means are needed to collect contributions (through direct debit) and agreement on who is responsible for undertaking the works.

An SPD is recommended as the optimum way to address the implementation of private maintenance agreements. This may, for example, set out the method for delivery or provision of new

greenspace, as well as the way that it will be maintained. It is important to note that delivery and maintenance are likely to be two separate but related issues.

Financial Strategy

5.34 Budget reductions are anticipated up to and beyond 2020. Since open space functions delivered by the Borough Council are mostly non-statutory; budget reductions are expected to exceed those of other service areas. Income generation potential is unlikely to wholly bridge the gap; although it should be part of the financial strategy.

5.35 In the short term budget reductions are inevitable and this will lead to reduced capacity and level of service. However, the precautionary principle can be applied here, so it is recommended that the Council avoids making irreversible decisions. Historically, the public sector economy has grown and shrunk in cycles and it would be deleterious to the community if the Council had closed off the opportunity for growth in capacity at a later stage.   An example of this is that workforce reductions may be necessary in the short term, but recruitment could recommence at a future date if the public sector is allocated more money. So whilst the loss of skills will be hard to replace and in the absence of recruitment a whole generation of workers may be excluded from open space management this situation may turn around in 10 – 15 years' time.

5.36 Given the reduction of both staff and financial capacity it is necessary to look towards a mixed economy of providers. Whilst the providers of services may be different the transfer of ownership is to be strongly resisted; to paraphrase "when its gone – its gone forever". Some of the opportunities in developing the mixed economy of open space management include:

- Requiring associate open space landholders/managers to take direct responsibility for open space management, this may include land held by educational establishments, highways, playing fields and developers.
- Clubs and leagues can be asked to accept the management responsibility for playing fields and contract the Council or an alternative provider to undertake the grass-cutting.
- As described in the development strategy; developers should be required to put in place schemes where residents pay directly for the open space created as part of the development, and, this should be transferrable to new householders through sale. Collection of funds from householders can be problematic so the Council should insist that the developer has a robust and automated collection system in place as a condition of planning approval.
- Transfer of land management responsibility to Parish and Town Councils. Parish and Town Councils can levy a precept on the local community to generate funds for management. The precept is collected by the Borough Council but allocated to the Parish or Town Council. It should be noted that at the time of the preparation of the Open Space Strategy that the precept is not capped, however this could change. Some Parish and Town Councils are reluctant to fully use their precept which is an issue for Council members and beyond the remit of the Open Space Strategy. Allied to this is the use of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) to create new open space in local communities. NDPs can also be used to designate local green space if approved by the examiner and voted for in a local referendum.

5.37 The Borough Council should use this Open Space Strategy review to address the overall open space asset base using the three Framework Plans, new Open Space Standards, Audit spreadsheet, Action Plan etc. A smaller asset base is the consequence but has the benefit of enabling reinvestment onto sites which provide a higher profile and greater public benefit. However, at this point, it is necessary to repeat that the transfer of ownership of open space, where it will remain as

open space, is to be strongly resisted. Where the open space in question is no longer to remain as open space but be subject to a change of use then guidance on this can be found in the development strategy above. Where disposal accompanied by a change of use is intended then a consultation process is required prior to is transfer to an asset management plan.

5.38 Increased commercialisation can go some way to offset budget reductions and may generate increased activities. There are numerous ways to achieve this. Some of the most popular and replicable are:

- Offering franchising opportunities in major open spaces (e.g. Country Parks and Urban Parks) such as (i) cafes and restaurants (ii) sport and active recreation minor retail outlets (of a scale suited to the sensibility to the space) – such as skate board, rock climbing and bouldering, BMX and mountain biking etc. (iii) paid for attractions (e.g. high ropes courses); (iv) markets such as street food, flea markets, art markets etc.; (v) music and theatre including promenade events and festivals.
- Sponsorship of open space by a Company who can then display their marketing information at key visual points and can also use the open space for corporate events ranging from entertaining business guests through to staff development. Sponsorship opportunities include parks, roundabouts and prominent amenity green space.

5.39 The Council may need to organise in a new way to meet future challenges with respect to its open space services. The characteristics of a smaller, leaner organisation are:

- Entrepreneurial in generation of income and creative in delivering services in new ways
- More commercial in making its services available to others and attracting money generating activities into its open space
- Significantly increasing its role as an enabler, facilitator and commissioner of services
- Adept at partnership working
- Strong on marketing and communications
- Dedicated to attracting grants and funds from outside the area, which are secured through competitive processes

5.40 The Council should fully understand all of the costs of providing its open space services and practice full cost recovery when offering services internally and externally. The full cost of an activity or output or project is the direct costs of the activity and the appropriate portion of all other costs of that service.

Financial Strategy

Address budget reductions and consequent reduction of services but seek to offset in part by increased commercial activity.

The Borough Council should have a good understanding of total cost and practice 'full cost recovery'.

Avoid irreversible decisions notably to allow for future expansion when the economic cycle changes. It is acceptable to transfer land management of open space to alterative providers but with the Borough Council retaining the ownership of sites (example is Parish and Town Councils who can use precepts to fund management works).

Organise the service department as an entrepreneurial enabler and facilitator.

Consider alternative use of sites no longer fit for purpose, noting the constraints found elsewhere in this Strategy, to reduce the asset size.

Consider reducing maintenance operations on sites which are not required to meet local standards or which have a lesser community value and use

Reinvest funds from rationalisation into open space improvements

Require developers to have mechanisms in place where residents pay directly for the open space created as part of the development and that this is transferable on sale. It is essential to have a robust and automated collection mechanism.

Image 15: left, Pool Dam Marshes

Investment Strategy

5.41 It is anticipated that resources for Open Space investment will remain severely limited until at least 2020 and possibly beyond. In a resource limited environment the potential for investment is highly limited but not impossible. Realistic instances of investment opportunities include:

- Funds released from rationalisation
- Funds generated through new development (planning agreements or S106), CIL
- Local authority invest-to-save funds
- Grants from external organisation including National Lottery funders.
- One-off grants from governmental sources
- Sponsorship from business

5.42 The investment strategy (Table 8) is a, listing-in-priority-order, of how investment funds should be deployed. It should be made clear that investment is an entirely different consideration to management funds or revenue associated with current staffing; these are dealt with under the financial strategy. The proposal to increase the staffing resource in support of increased volunteering (see Volunteer Strategy) is not included in the list as it is a revenue cost. It is assumed that existing management funds are sufficient to retain the standard of current open spaces above the 80% quality threshold.

Investment Strategy	
1	Sites which currently fall below the 80% quality standard which it is determined should be retained as open space.
2	Open space that provides (or could provide) enhanced open space connectivity including green corridors or improved multifunctionality.
3	Sites where a capital investment could significantly reduce ongoing revenue running costs and/or increase income earned from a site.
4	Sites where a funding opportunity presents itself (although this does not appear at the top of the list they should almost invariably be taken in a resource limited environment)

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5	Sites where investment would lead to improved ecosystem services or protection of neighbouring communities from climate change impacts (an example is the re-engineering of amenity grassland as flood retention areas)
6	Sites new/or existing which attract or retain significant new economic investment in the Borough, for example through attracting more tourists to stimulate the visitor economy.
7	Refreshment of facilities that are nearing their end of life e.g. play equipment
8	Improvements to open space path networks, parking, on-site interpretation, shelter, provision for youth.
9	Refurbishment or removal of time-expired built structures if these have not been dealt with under a higher listing.

Table 8: Investment strategy in priority order. 1 is highest and 9 is lowest.

Volunteer Strategy

5.43 Volunteers are already involved in open space within the Borough. They have a key role to play which extends beyond the obvious roles which lie in site care, events and general oversight. Volunteering also builds a 'sense of ownership', builds skills, enables a knowledge exchange between the young and the old (intergenerational), reduces isolation of individuals and provides health and well-being benefits; in other words, open space not only needs volunteers - volunteers also need open spaces. The most common form of volunteering is through groups such as 'friends of parks' etc. but there are various opportunities to extend this into conservation volunteering, woodland management, tree-wardens (see Tree Council for more information) and organising and supporting a larger number of events.

5.44 The Borough Council already has staff active in support of such activities and this is seen as a crucial service and one which should be expanded. Whilst additional revenue costs would be involved the positive gearing ratio is very considerable, both in terms of the financial offsets made and the opportunities created. Creativity is needed in delivering support to volunteers for instance; (i) in recruiting a wider range of participants especially from non-typical social milieu, (ii) finding new ways for volunteers to be involved, (iii) providing training support so that volunteers are competent in a wider range of tasks, (iv) providing insurance cover for volunteer activities (Linking to TCV could be useful here), (v) accessing college students such at those at Keele University. Whilst to some extent these activities may already be in place, as stated there is considerable opportunities for further development.

Volunteer Strategy

Volunteer involvement is critical to the successful management and development of the Borough's open space assets. Whilst the Borough Council is already successfully involved it is an area for further revenue/staffing investment with potentially large returns.

The strategy for volunteering should not be undertaken in isolation from the offer/support available through other organisations, of which TCV, Groundwork, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust are amongst those mentionable. However, there are a myriad of existing local volunteer organisations which can be used as a platform to connect with potential volunteers.

The approach to volunteering should also involve developing skills, supporting inter-generational activities, reducing social exclusion and supporting health and wellbeing. In respect of these linking with NHS service providers, GPs, offender rehabilitation and community & neighbourhood services are desirable attributes.

Targets should be set for the number of volunteers involved and expanded upon annually.

Events strategy

5.45 Key open space such as urban parks and country parks are highly suited as event venues. Events can deliver a wide range of benefits; these include:

- Introduce new users to sites which in turn may lead to independent repeat visits. There is some evidence in research that this can lead to increased participation from hard to reach groups.
- Perform an educational role especially in:
    o raising understanding of the facilities available in a given open space,
    o environmental education,
    o family and 'fun' events which deliver social cohesion,
    o demonstrating local crafts and the work of artisans,
    o music making introductory sessions on new activities that they can participate in.
    o growing plants, saplings and learning about planting and basic horticulture
    o venue for skills training especially manual dexterity, horticulture and urban forestry
- Lead to greater awareness of local authority services and support local studies
- Increase community pride in the Borough
- Attract visitors from outside of the Borough hence providing a 'show-casing' opportunity

5.46 The Borough has long participated in 'Britain in Bloom' and had considerable success. This is to be celebrated and should be continued. It is an evidential activity which reaches many citizens and apart from the physical results of attractive plantings and community participation it also raises awareness of open space management as a valued council service.

Events Strategy

Maintain events as a key feature of open space use whilst accepting that in a resource limited environment more efficient approaches will be required. This will be an ongoing activity and require continued creative thinking at the management level. In particular, the Borough Council should continue the existing trend by moving from being an 'organiser' to an 'enabler & facilitator'. Staffing should be used, as far as possible, to support events created and led by volunteers.

The Borough Council's main contribution is access to the open space, publicity support and the training and insuring of volunteers as required.

There may be exceptions to the 'enabler and facilitator' role created through activities requested through other service departments or events that are part of externally funded projects, in which case, full cost recovery should be sought.

Acronyms and other terms used in this document

Biodiverse/biodiversity:	The variety of natural life
BMX:	Bicycle motocross
Brownfield:	Previously developed land
CIL:	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA:	The Chartered Institute for Public Finance & Accountancy
Core Strategy:	Compulsory local development document
FiT:	Fields in Trust
Framework Plans:	Three technical appendices to the strategy review that apply the standards at a local level.
GPs:	General Practitioners
Great Outdoors Survey:	Public consultation undertaken between October and December 2015
Green Flag/Green Pennant:	Nationally recognised quality awards
Ha or HA:	Hectare
Local Plan:	Statutory document which sets out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area.
NDP:	Neighbourhood Development Plan(s)
NHS:	National Health Service
NPPF:	National Planning Policy Framework
S106:	Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
SPD:	Supplementary Planning Document
TCV:	Trust for Conservation Volunteers

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Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy

Cover picture: Woodland path at Arnold Grove.

Contents

Summary

Green Infrastructure is the network of multifunctional green open space, in urban and rural areas, that delivers a wide range of 'environmental' and 'quality of life' benefits to Newcastle under Lyme. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is the guide to planning and implementation of Green Infrastructure across the Borough.

Four challenges have been identified to be addressed through the Green Infrastructure Strategy these are; working with urban growth; meeting public demand; making Green Infrastructure central to the future economy and improving the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity.

Image 1: (above) Silverdale Country Park is centrally located in a Green Infrastructure node - the 'Newcastle West Green Gateway'. The landscape at Silverdale Country Park is immature but already exhibits many features strongly beneficial to Green Infrastructure. These functions will grow as the landscape matures.

To address these challenges four strategic objectives have been identified; securing quality of place and positive development; enabling healthier lives and stronger communities; capturing the benefits of Green Infrastructure for all and making the Borough more resilient and biodiverse.

Research has shown that in Newcastle under Lyme the services provided by the environment such as the provision of clean air and water are vulnerable to external factors such as climate change; that the opportunities to use natural solutions to environmental problems over civil 'built' infrastructure is currently low; that nature habitats are fragmented and this makes the Boroughs' wildlife vulnerable and that public access is limited in some areas meaning that the potential of the natural environment to contribute to the health and wellbeing of people is also limited. For the Strategy to make a difference specific objectives have been set to address these findings. The specific objectives range from addressing the uneven distribution of Green Infrastructure through to planning Green Infrastructure at all scales from the very local to the whole Borough scale. In particular, there is an emphasis on focusing on the basics first.

The Strategy is in two parts; a spatial strategy and a thematic strategy. The core elements of the Spatial Strategy are twofold; the nodal areas – *these are existing areas where Green Infrastructure is concentrated and/of notable value* and green corridors - *which provide various forms of connectivity, the most notable being ecological connectivity; recreational/access connectivity or landscape connectivity.* Five nodal areas have been identified and six green corridors. Interventions have been identified for these areas; those requiring conservation/preservation and those requiring new Green Infrastructure.

With respect to the thematic strategy, out of a potentially very long list, 12 themes have been identified which can help deliver the specific objectives of the Strategy. The themes include, among others; urban design, food security, biodiversity and landscape.

A delivery framework document accompanies the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy. Since Green Infrastructure crosses multiple land uses and ownerships no one organisation has sole responsibility for Green Infrastructure across the Borough. The core approach to delivery of Green Infrastructure in the Borough is through 'partnership'. The Borough Council has a key role as coordinator.

Section 1: Context setting

Green Infrastructure Vision

Our vision is that by working in partnerships we can manage and enhance the quality, connectivity and multifunctionality of the Borough's Green Infrastructure. This will enable our Green Infrastructure to support the needs of people and wildlife. We wish to contribute to halting the long term decline in the natural environment nationally and internationally not only in recognition of our collective responsibility but also in recognition of the value of the natural environment on maintaining and improving quality of life.

Justification and purpose

The evidence base for the new Joint Local Plan for Newcastle under Lyme (with the City of Stoke-on-Trent) requires an assessment to be made of existing and potential Green Infrastructure in the Borough in line with National Planning Policy Guidance within a framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is being delivered through the production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy which considers the distribution, quality, quantity of this resource in order to address deficiencies, surpluses and resilience.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy helps the local planning authority to understand where the Borough is now in terms of Green Infrastructure and where they should aim to be at the end of the Local Plan period. It is also a guide to how this can happen through planning and delivery processes. Examples of this include the shaping of new developments and how existing open space can be managed for multiple benefits. The environment, is under pressure as never before and human induced global change is acting out at the local level, through for example, flooding. The Green Infrastructure Strategy can help make Newcastle under Lyme more resilient as society gets closer to its environmental limits.

Understanding what Green Infrastructure (GI) is and how it is distinguished from traditional open space planning.

1.1 Green Infrastructure is the network of multifunctional green space, in urban and rural areas, that delivers a wide range of 'environmental' and 'quality of life' benefits to the community of Newcastle under Lyme. Green Infrastructure is not an alternative description for conventional 'green' or 'open' space in the Borough but it does include it. It describes the Borough's entire network of 'green' spaces. This includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, allotments and private gardens. It also includes the Borough's 'blue features' such as streams, canals and other water bodies as well as any 'green' architectural features such as green roofs and green walls. It includes land in public, private and other ownerships.

1.2 Green Infrastructure planning is supported by Government. The Department for Communties and Local Government (DCLG) believes that Green Infrastructure is important for the delivery of high quality sustainable development, alongside other forms of infrastructure such as transport, energy, waste and water. They believe that it provides multiple benefits, notably ecosystem services, at a range of scales, derived from natural systems and processes, for the individual, for society, the economy and the environment. To ensure that these benefits are delivered, Green Infrastructure must be well planned, designed and maintained. Hence

Government believes that Green Infrastructure should be a key consideration in both local plans and planning decisions where relevant (see table 1).

1	Building a strong, competitive economy
2	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
3	Requiring good design
4	Promoting healthy communities
5	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
6	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Table 1: DCLG has issued Planning Practice Guidance, 2016 to show how Green Infrastructure can help deliver planning policies. The six key issues in this table are the areas of planning where Green Infrastructure can make a significant impact in Newcastle under Lyme.

1.3 Green Infrastructure is also considered as a cost-effective alternative to, or complementary with, 'grey' (human-made engineered) infrastructure as it is the basis for developing and delivering *Nature Based Solutions* (NBS). These are solutions which tackle urban and environmental management challenges ranging from drainage, air quality through to public health.

1.4 The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy is a guide to planning and delivery processes. Examples include the shaping of new developments and how existing open space is managed for multiple benefits. Given that the environment is under pressure as never before and that human induced global change is acting out at the local level, through for example, flooding; the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy is not only necessary but also timely.

Image 2: (above) Keele University, a historic landscape with significant biodiversity and amenity values. The University campus is an important Green Infrastructure asset for the Borough.

The Geographical Scope of the Green Infrastructure Strategy

1.5 The geographical scope of the Green Infrastructure Strategy includes the whole of the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme. It also identifies key linkages with adjoining local authority areas, which is also important in respect of the duty to cooperate, as set out in the NPPF. The reason for highlighting these

linkages is that Green Infrastructure assets (for examples rivers or woodlands) do not end at municipal boundaries. To fully understand and plan for Green Infrastructure the Borough has been subdivided into three 'framework' plan areas covering:

- Newcastle Urban
- Kidsgrove Urban
- Borough-wide Rural

The geographical coverage of the three framework plans ties in with the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy (see Plan 1).
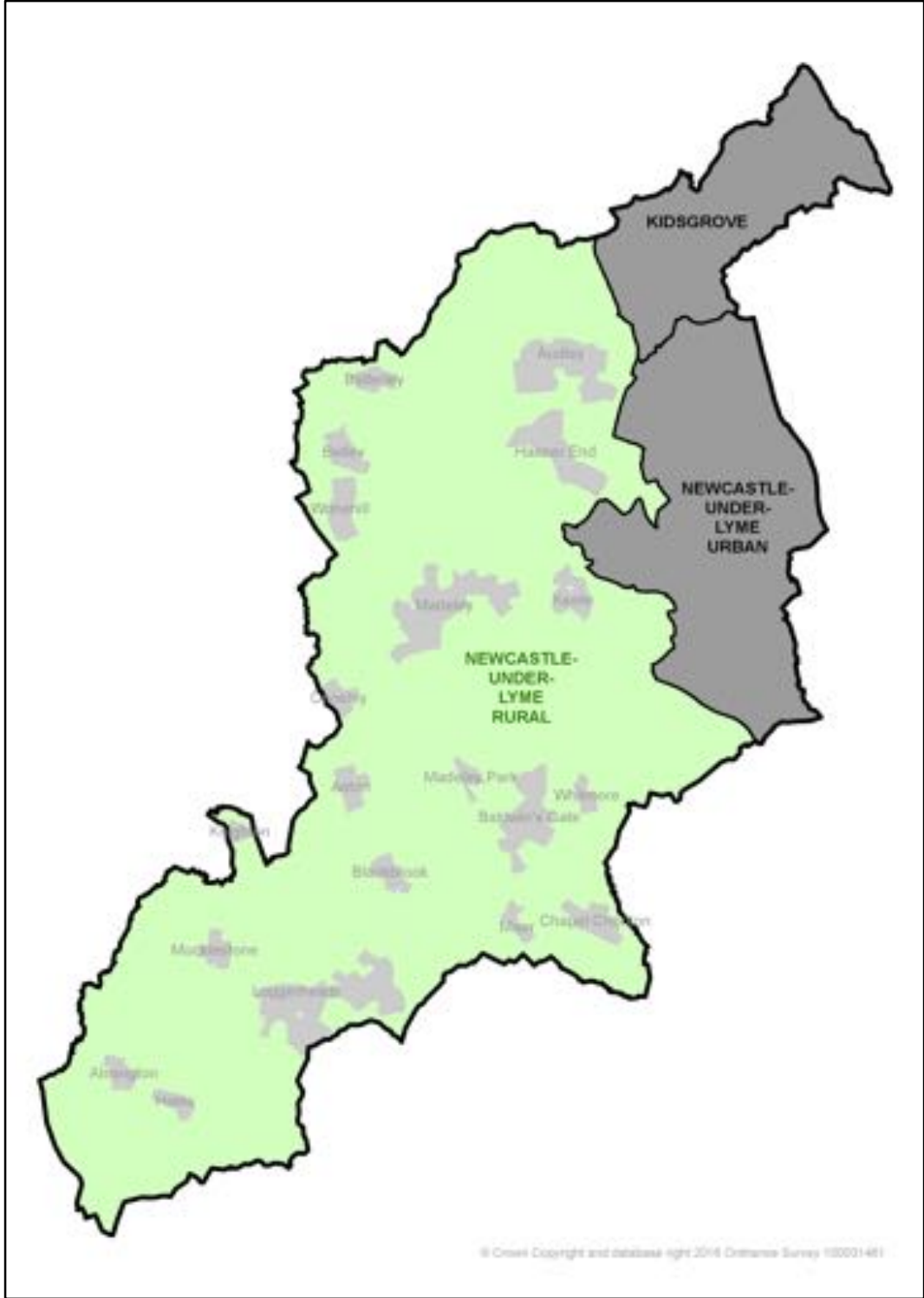
Plan 1: (left) the Green Infrastructure plan area, which shows both the geographical extent of the Borough (also the Strategy area) is broken down into three 'framework plan' areas. The framework plan boundaries are aligned to Borough Council ward boundaries. The three framework plans should be read in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

An evidence based approach

1.6 Preparation of this Strategy required the undertaking of an evidenced based study by specialists from MD2 Consulting Ltd who designed an approach to support the Council's requirements including preparation of the new Joint Local Plan.

1.7 Three complementary approaches to evidence gathering, analysis and priorities setting were employed. These are shown in Figure 1. Work on each of these three approaches was conducted between 2015 and 2016.
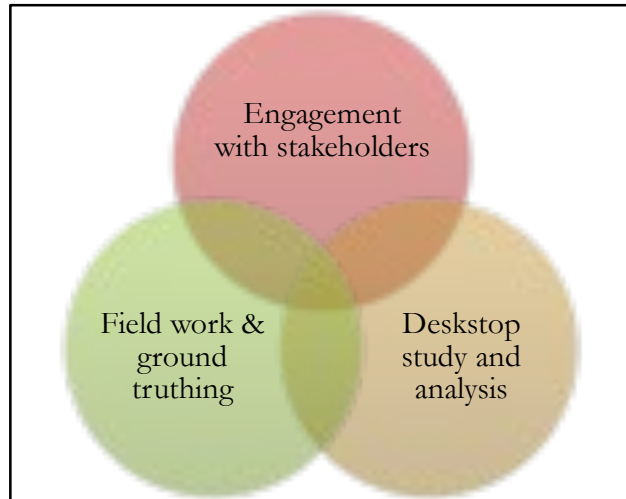
Figure 1: Infographic showing the three complementary approaches to evidence gathering.

1.8 The evidence base includes nine elements:

a. Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Audit and Open Space Strategy review undertaken concurrently with the Green Infrastructure Strategy
b. Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey (Adult)
c. Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey (Young People)
d. Stakeholder workshop
e. Local Authority workshop
f. Community/user group workshop
g. GIS[1] and desktop[2] analysis
h. Benchmarking exercise with other local authority areas with similar characteristics derived from ONS datasets
i. Meetings with and comments received from adjacent local authorities.

1.9 In addition to this Green Infrastructure Strategy report a series of outputs supporting the Green Infrastructure Strategy have been produced these include:

a. A delivery framework
b. Framework Plans which are shared with the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy
c. A technical appendix
d. GIS mapping held by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council.

Image 3: (left) Green Infrastructure operates at the local, as well as at the landscape scale. Informal access in urban fringe areas is important for active recreation such as jogging and dog-walking. Even small areas can provide communities with experience of nature and these small habitats are foraging grounds for birds and small mammals and also protect urban soils.

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[1] Geographical Information System (GIS)
[2] A study of peer-reviewed publications, case studies, internet articles, strategies and actions plans.

Section 2: Newcastle under Lyme's Green Infrastructure

2.1 This section describes the distribution of the Borough's Green Infrastructure and identifies the areas of greatest need. The distribution of Green Infrastructure forms the basis for the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Further information on the Borough's Green Infrastructure is provided in an accompanying technical appendix.

Types of Green Infrastructure found in Newcastle under Lyme

2.2 The existing network of Green Infrastructure in Newcastle under Lyme has been mapped. To ensure that user needs can be identified broad types (called the typology) of 'green spaces' has been prepared which includes all vegetation and surface water areas, in public and private ownership. The typology map (Plan 2) illustrates the distribution of the Borough's Green Infrastructure.

What we know about the Borough's Green Infrastructure typology:

- Green Infrastructure is not evenly distributed across the Borough
- Agriculture, built-urban and woodlands dominate the Borough's Green Infrastructure typology
- The area of water bodies and wetlands in the Borough is low
- In the urban areas, private gardens contribute significantly to the total area of urban Green Infrastructure
- Key designated nature sites are fragmented, however at the landscape scale there are some areas which have a nodal character and are hence important landscape and ecological resources
- National Grey/Built Infrastructure[3] greatly impacts on the Borough and disrupts local Green Infrastructure connectivity
- There are clusters of important post-industrial Green Infrastructure sites in the urban fringe
- Disused railway lines are important for connectivity between urban settlements and nearby nature.

Image 4: (above) The Village Pond, Madeley - as a Green Infrastructure type open water is low in the Borough, except in the area of Betley and Balterley.

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[3] M6 corridor, West Coast Mainline and the proposed route of HS2.

Legend:
- Agricultural land
- Allotment, community garden or urban farm
- Cemetery, churchyard or burial ground
- Derelict land
- General amenity space
- Grassland, heathland, moorland or scrubland
- Institutional grounds
- Orchard
- Outdoor sports facility
- Park or public garden
- Private domestic garden
- Water body
- Water course
- Wetland
- Woodland

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Plan 2: Existing Green Infrastructure Plan for the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme and a 1km buffer zone. The typology map is subdivided into 15 types. The map should be looked at this scale as its purpose is to provide a 'landscape scale overview'. Details on how this and other maps were prepared can be found in the technical appendix.

Landscape character

2.3 The Borough has a distinct and varied geography, with a mix of countryside, towns and villages. The main urban areas lie to the north and east of the Borough. Road and rail corridors are notably intrusions into the Borough's landscape. The Borough is split between two National Landscape Character Areas (LCA); the built up area including the whole of Newcastle under Lyme and Kidsgrove falls within the Potteries and Churnet Valley LCA No. 64 which coincides with the coal measures. The rural and larger part of the Borough falls within the Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain; LCA No. 61. This plain is an expanse of flat or gently undulating, lush, farmland. It's landscape character is a reflection of its glacial origins, which contains isolated lowland open water and peatland sites.

What we know about the Borough's landscape character:

- The Borough has two distinct Landscape Character Areas and a good degree of landscape diversity.
- The landscape has a predominately lowland character, rolling hills are important in the landscape and at vantage points provide good views.
- Within the Borough, the Potteries and Churnet Valley LCA, is dominated by urban and urban fringe landscapes.
- Some urban fringe areas may look unkempt but brownfield sites within them can be valuable for nature, recreation and play.
- The Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain LCA is dominated by agriculture, woodlands and small settlements, this landscape is attractive, especially when farmland and woodland coincide. Access to this landscape is principally through Rights of Way.
- Parklands and well-structured field boundaries can be found in the Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain and hedge boundaries are important for connectivity and foraging.
- Both of the Boroughs LCA's contain important ecological sites but this is more so in the Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain, notably ancient sites of glacial origin.
- There are large woodland blocks in the Borough, these are important landscape features.
- The urban landscape between the City of Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme is indistinct.
- Staffordshire County Council lead on landscape character and maintain information relating to landscape.

Ecology

2.4 With respect to biodiversity the Borough includes important national and international designated sites[4] spanning the urban and rural areas. In particular, the rural south-west and western parts of the Borough are characterised by a large number of small ancient woodlands and remnant heathland, grassland and meres and mosses sites, which act as ecological stepping-stones. The highest priority is given to Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites. Betley Mere and Black Firs and Cranberry Bog Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are Ramsar sites and are part of the internationally important West Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar designation. There are other SSSIs including Burnt Wood, Metallic Tileries and Maer Pool as well as Local Wildlife Sites, which are sites of biological importance selected by the Staffordshire Wildlife Sites Partnership. Equivalent to these for geodiversity are Local Geological Sites (LoGS) also known as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).

What we know about the Borough's ecology:

- There are internationally and nationally important wildlife sites in the Borough
- Coordination and management of the Borough's important ecology is already based on established partnerships
- The voluntary sector, such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, play a key role in ecological management
- Ecological connectivity is strongly influenced by the Borough's grey infrastructure of which road and rail corridors are the most significant

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[4] The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), Europe-wide network of sites tasked with the preservation of natural heritage (Natura 2000), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Sites (RIGS), Local Geological Sites, (LoGS)

- Urban fringe sites generally and the country parks in particular are important destinations where the local community can get close to nature
- HS2 is likely to further affect the Borough's ecological network. Amelioration measures such as green bridges are an appropriate response.

Public Rights of Way

2.5 Public Rights of Way are critical to allowing the public to access and enjoy the Borough's Green Infrastructure. The statutory duty to assert and protect the rights of the public belongs to Staffordshire County Council. To take account of budget reductions they have been steadily increasing their work with volunteers to assist with maintaining the path network. In the Borough, there is a single major long distance trail, The Newcastle Way, which is also part of the Staffordshire Way. It runs through the Borough at its northern end.

What we know about the Borough's Rights of Way

- Rights of Way are the principle means by which people can access the Borough's Green Infrastructure especially, but not exclusively, in rural areas
- Managing the 'Rights of Way' network is a challenge especially at a time when budgets have been cut.
- The Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey has shown that there is a demand for more linear access especially over longer distances
- The proposed route of HS2 will have an impact on public rights of way.
- The Borough's rights of way are more than access routes as they often follow ecological corridors and some have heritage significance.
- The Borough's rights of way, when they are close to where people live, are important to the health and well-being of the community as they are a venue for active recreation and stress reduction.

Public and Private Land

2.6 In Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure exists on both public and private land. No single organisation or individual controls it. Whilst it is a shared resource which benefits everyone, equally there is a shared responsibility to protect and conserve it. To maximise the benefits of Green Infrastructure a partnership approach has to be the basis for delivery.

What we know: Public and Private Land

- The majority of the Borough's Green Infrastructure is on private land. How private landowners manage their land is crucial to the maintenance of the entire Green Infrastructure network. This is especially so in respect of agriculture which is the largest land use but also in respect of private gardens which when considered as a whole, contribute significantly to the Borough's open space
- The role of the Borough Council in influencing the management of private land is limited; nevertheless, when determining planning applications, it can influence the quantum of open space, connectivity and typology
- The Borough Council has a key role in managing Green Infrastructure within its own ownership. There are significant areas of municipal land especially in the urban and urban fringe areas of the Borough
- Unsealed surfaces are under pressure from development. Unsealed surfaces help to protect urban soils, nutrient cycling and have a beneficial impact in respect of flood management
- Brownfield land has ecological and recreational importance especially in the urban fringe.

Standards

2.7 Both the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Open Space Strategy are based on common standards (see Table 2). It should be stressed that the standards are not targets but a planning tool to assist in decision-making. Whilst the standards are common to both strategies they are applied in fundamentally different ways. For the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the application is based on ecosystem

services[5] and ecological networks[6]. In the Open Space Strategy, the standards are used to determine public recreation needs, especially in respect of accessibility, quality and quantity. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) using the standards may be prepared to support the planning, design and management components of the Green Infrastructure and/or the Open Space Strategy.

OPEN SPACE TYPES	COUNT	AREA (HA.)	CURRENT PROVISION (Hectares per 1,000 population based on 124,381 pop)	PREVIOUS STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line) URBAN RURAL*		
Parks and gardens	35	436.29	3.51	2.35	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
Amenity green space	112	128.31	1.03	No standard	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
Natural and semi-natural green space	181	1746.22	14.0	3.60	3.60	600m		
Designated play spaces for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41	0.76	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
Allotments	12	13.60	0.11	No standard in last audit	0.15	400m (5-10 min walk)	15 min drive	
Green Corridors	16	46.03	0.37	No standard	No standard	No standard		
Outdoor Sport Facilities	NO STANDARD							

Table 2: The Open Space Standards are shared between the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Open Space Strategy but are applied in different ways. For the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the application is based on ecosystem services and ecological networks. The Borough Council has the option to produce supplementary planning documents (SPD) using the standards in support of the planning, design and management components of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

What we know about the Boroughs standards:

• The Borough's open space standards are generally on or above average when compared to other similar local authorities.
• The Borough is well provided for in respect of natural and semi-natural green space.
• There is growing interest in urban agriculture and cultivation and hence a demand for allotments that presently exceeds supply; the Borough Council is already addressing this finding.
• Research has shown that quality matters to the community as well as quantity.
• The standards should not be equated to ecosystem values since ecosystem valuation is a separate research based activity.
• Outdoor sport facilities are now considered through playing pitch strategies (PPSs) using a methodology developed by Sport England.

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[5] Ecosystem services are the benefits provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living.
[6] Ecological networks are intended to maintain environmental processes and to help to conserve biodiversity where remnants of semi-natural habitat have become fragmented and isolated.

Multifunctionality

2.8 Multifunctionality describes how Green Infrastructure can provide benefits concurrently on a given site. Hence, planning for multifunctionality is the pursuit of added value through the provision of many different functions on the same site e.g. biodiversity, recreation and amenity. However, conflicts can and do occur between different uses and user groups so there are practical limits to achieving multifunctionality. Nevertheless, the pursuit of multifunctionality is a desirable policy goal but within limits.

What we know about the Borough's Green Infrastructure multifunctionality:

- In Newcastle under Lyme most municipal owned and run open spaces are already managed for multifunctionality, for example urban parks provide for public recreation whilst concurrently nature is also encouraged
- There are perceived or actual conflicts between different users of Green Infrastructure and these require management, sometimes this is achieved by setting aside different areas for different interest or time sharing areas. Realistically not all conflicts can be resolved so sometimes land managers have to favour one user over another
- In the Borough, as elsewhere in lowland England, agricultural land is generally managed for a single purpose i.e. food production or industrial crops; however, appropriate management of field boundaries can make the agricultural landscape multifunctional. Considered as a whole the Borough has good field boundaries hence maintaining these in good condition is important to the landscape and rural biodiversity
- There are areas where multifunctionality is not a desirable goal however these occasions are very limited. An example is designated sites such as SSSI's, although even in these opportunities may exist for multiple uses such as conservation grazing.

Analysis of Needs

2.9 A geographical analysis was conducted to prepare the strategy (see technical appendix). It considered all of the different functions that Green Infrastructure can perform. The demand for each function was mapped to help identify areas where needs are/or are not met. Plan 3 shows the percentage of functions for which need exists and is currently met/not met in the Borough.

What we know about the Borough's analysis of needs

- Plan 2 shows the areas of the Borough where Green Infrastructure needs are and are not being met. The mapping shows an unequal distribution
- The areas where needs are most met are clustered together often coinciding with ease of access to important landscapes and features such as country parks and woodland
- Generally, the least needs met can be correlated to inaccessible agricultural land; this is not unique to the Borough and can be found in most lowland parts of England
- There is no discernible differences between rural and urban fringe areas, however, urban areas generally have fewer needs met
- The linear verges of transport infrastructure can be positively correlated to the meeting of needs but the relationship is not strong, however it is sufficient to indicate that verge management is important.
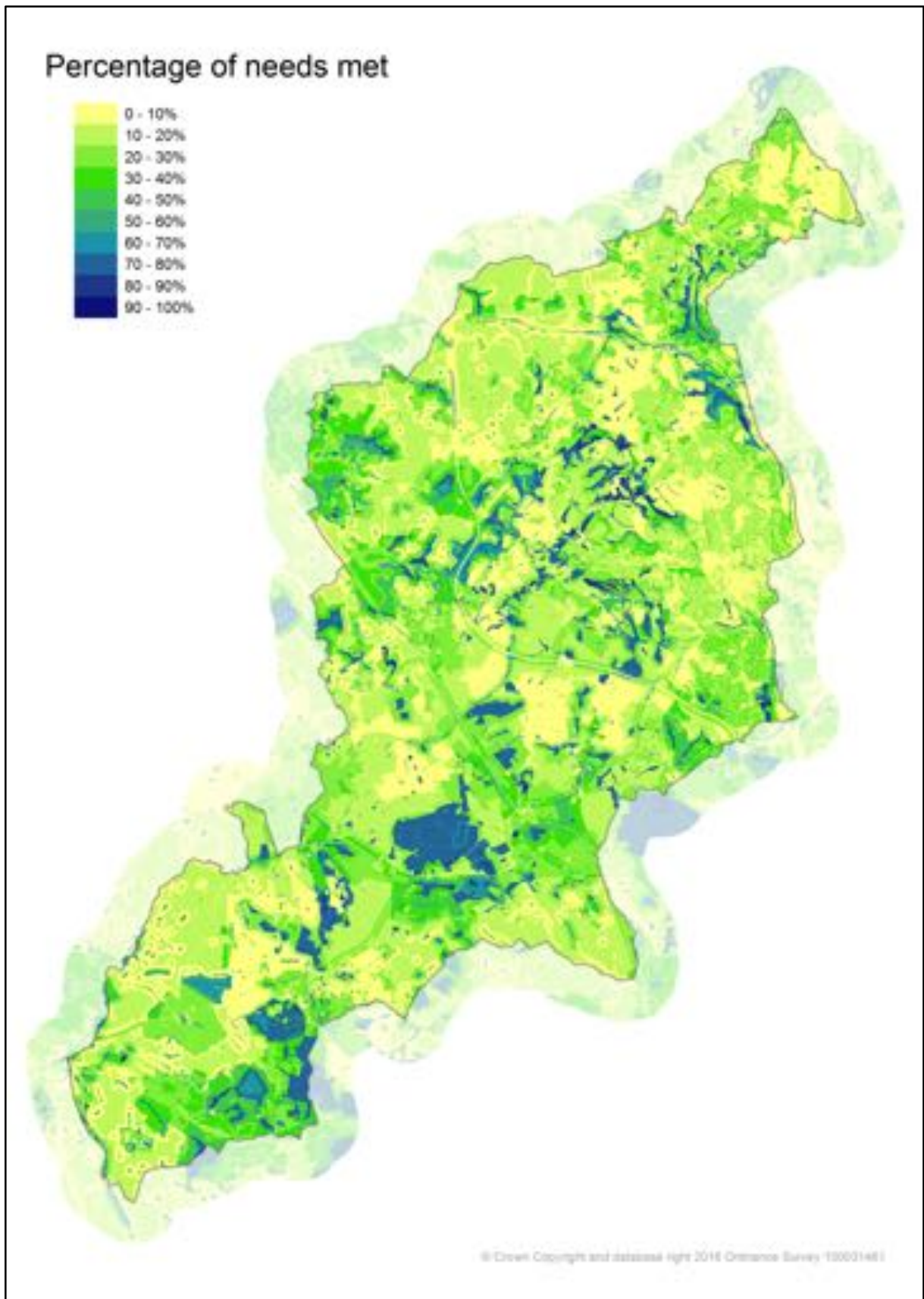
Plan 3: Green Infrastructure percentage of needs met map. This shows the percentage of functions for which need exists that is met in each location in the Borough.

Section 3: Challenges and opportunities

3.1 Green Infrastructure can help to address challenges and exploit new opportunities during the life of the new Joint Local Plan. An analysis of issues papers, historical documents, meetings and consultation on Green Infrastructure identified four particular areas of challenge and opportunity that Green Infrastructure can help address.

Working with urban growth

Challenge	Opportunity
Newcastle under Lyme is required by Government to accommodate substantial new physical growth and the new Joint Local Plan will provide the template for that growth. A substantial number of new homes and employment land will need to be developed. Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council and the City of Stoke-on-Trent have undertaken a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and an Employment Land Review as part of the Joint Local Plan Supporting Evidence. The SHMA has identified an objectively assessed housing need for between 1,177 and 1,504 new dwellings to be delivered across both Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent over the period 2013 to 2039, whilst the Employment Land Review has identified a need for between 190 and 334 hectares of employment land to be developed across both areas over the same period.	Green Infrastructure sensitive urban design should be used to minimise the built footprint of development. The Green Infrastructure palette includes green roofs and green walls, sustainable urban drainage systems, preference of non-sealed surfaces over sealed surfaces, new tree planting, creation of species rich grasslands and provision of recreational open space facilities in accordance with the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy standards. Brownfield land can contribute towards the supply of new housing land. However, care must be taken to avoid over-development on sites of ecological and landscape importance some of which are on former brownfield land.

Meeting public demand

Challenge	Opportunity
There is public demand for Green Infrastructure as seen through the results of the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey. For example, there is a demand for more green corridor and more tree planting in the right places. People also value the Green Infrastructure they already have. There is a cost to the management of Green Infrastructure and the money for management is getting tighter.	Public interest in Green Infrastructure should be harnessed by encouraging more voluntary effort in Green Infrastructure management and maintaining activities already in place. Voluntary involvement is not for free and requires coordination – a role for both the local authority and environmental NGOs. Creating new and managing existing Green Infrastructure can help the Borough manage climate change impacts by seeking Nature Based Solutions over grey infrastructure solutions. Three key area to focus on are (i) urban drainage, (ii) air pollution and (iii) sustainable transport routes e.g. greenways. Whilst the payback is not always obvious, avoidance of a single flood event can for example, save many £ millions.

Making Green Infrastructure central to the future economy

Challenge	Opportunity
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council recognises that there are barriers to investment (such as a poor environment or lack of infrastructure) and that there is a need to identify areas for regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement. There is also a need to increase the attraction of the area as a tourist destination based on its industrial heritage, existing and future magnets of tourism and leisure interest and the high quality environment in the Borough's rural area, as well as transforming the local image and perceptions. A challenge is to have in place policies that can turn the benefits that Green Infrastructure can provide into reality. Natural England has summarised these as (i) making a local area more attractive to business investors so attracting inward investment (ii) increasing visitor spend which makes a local area more attractive to service industries (iii) saving environmental costs, which improves air quality, reduces the urban heat island effect, filters diffuse pollution and helps to manage flood risk (iv) providing health benefits through improved air quality and surroundings which encourages activity and improves mental health and well-being (v) generating employment by attracting new businesses and residents to the area, increasing office occupancy rates and increasing the number of jobs in the area and (vi) promoting food production by enabling increased productivity in urban areas.	Green Infrastructure as an 'urban brand' is now rapidly developing both in the UK and internationally and there is no reason why this cannot happen in the Borough too. The Borough already has some outstanding assets such as its urban and country parks, although there is always a challenge to meet maintenance costs and link these sites to wider networks. There are also opportunities to improve access to Green Infrastructure which improves quality of life, health and wellbeing which has a positive spin in terms of reduced sickness and stress. This can be achieved, in part, by working with developers to design in local Green Infrastructure to new developments and including it with urban regeneration schemes. In respect of employment sites, those with little prospect of early development can be temporarily greened whilst those with realisable development potential can benefit from advanced structural landscaping. The timing of this Strategy which coincides with the production of a new Joint Local Plan enables the local authority to incorporate supportive policies.

Improving the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity

Challenge	Opportunity
A well-functioning Green Infrastructure network should have a high degree of connectivity between ecological nodes and a good spatial distribution of nodes and inter-connections. Whilst in practice this rarely occurs, in policy terms this is the desirable end result of planning and implementation processes. The Green Infrastructure network in Newcastle under Lyme is a significant resource but has weaknesses meaning that habitats are fragmented and the ecosystem services that Green Infrastructure already provides is vulnerable to externalities. The challenge is to improve ecosystem connectivity between nodal areas and to ensure that the ecosystem values of nodal areas is maintained and when possible improved.	By using a geographical information system, it has been possible to identify the areas of Newcastle under Lyme that are performing well in terms of their ecosystem performance. This is mapped in terms of needs met/not met (see Plan 2). Once core nodal areas have been identified, it is possible to determine a thematic and spatial strategy that will improve the connectivity, distribution and health of the Green Infrastructure network. Hence through a combination of a partnership approach, seeking funding, planning and policy making it is possible to identify which Green Infrastructure resource should be protected or conserved and where new Green Infrastructure creation is required.

Table 3: The challenges and opportunities that Green Infrastructure can help to address challenges and exploit new opportunities during the life of the new Joint Local Plan.

Examples of how Green Infrastructure acts as a Nature Based Solution.

Air Pollution

Air pollution can cause or intensify a range of health conditions notably respiratory and cardiovascular illness. Of notable concern are very fine particles called $PM_{2.5}$. These particles result from a variety of industrial processes, transportation and burning of fossil fuels. They are especially concerning because unlike larger particles they can pass straight into the blood-system. Scientific research has shown a positive correlation between the lowering of $PM_{2.5}$ and the density and distribution of Green Infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure is being proposed as a Nature Based Solution for localities with air pollution problems. Of particular value are large trees and woodlands which intercept $PM_{2.5}$ and remove them from the atmosphere by dry and wet deposition. The benefits are seasonal and are at their highest in spring, summer and autumn. To maximise the air filtration benefits trees and urban woodlands, should have the most 'edge-effect' (e.g. long and thin woodlands are to be preferred over large blocks), include coniferous as well as broadleaved species and be as local to known pollution sources as possible (e.g. close to major transport routes). Woodlands should not be too dense either as for wet deposition a degree of openness is required. The selection of trees should avoid those known to emit significant quantities of VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) as this can counter the benefits.

Other Examples

- A pilot study in Manchester has shown that trees, green space and vegetation can attenuate urban heat stress and reduce temperatures by up to 13°C compared to full sunlight
- In Germany, restoring 10% of drained peat-lands has been shown to avoid damages worth €22m/year from CO2 emissions
- In Amsterdam, it has been calculated that 10% more green space can reduce health care and sick leave costs by €400m/year per 10m inhabitants
- In North West England, recovering peat-lands is estimated to have achieved ~€3m/year of saved water supply and purification costs
- In Malmo, the city has invested in sustainable urban regeneration, and installed green roofs and an open storm water system; the result: -50% run-off; +50% biodiversity and -20% environmental impact.

Image 5: Green Bridge across a new high speed rail line near Brussels; this was constructed to allow movement of mammals and ecological connectivity across the railway between two nature hubs (woodland blocks) hence avoiding animal collisions, damage to rolling stock and line disruption. Such an approach should be advanced for HS2.

Section 4: Objectives and mechanisms

The Objectives

4.1 Based on the National Planning Policy Guidance, the Government's Planning Practice Guidance, examples from elsewhere in the UK and the latest international research, four strategic objectives[7] have been identified which are considered as especially relevant to the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme, these shown in Figure 2.

4.2 The strategic objectives, shown bulleted below, cover relevant social, environmental and economic considerations and can be cross referenced with the challenges and opportunities set out in the preceding chapter (Chapter 3). The strategic objectives are overarching and are the basis for the research undertaken to determine how the Borough is performing against each (see 4.3 below):
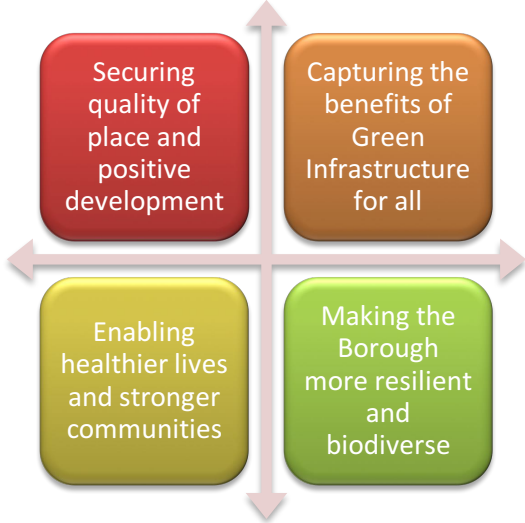
Figure 2: Infographic showing in abbreviated form the four strategic objectives have been identified which are considered as especially relevant to Newcastle under Lyme.

- Securing quality of place and positive development can help the Council and stakeholders to work with urban growth and contribute towards improving the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity.
- Enabling healthier lives and stronger communities can help the Council and stakeholders meet public demand.
- Capturing the benefits of Green Infrastructure for all can help the Council and stakeholders meet public demand, improve the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity and contribute to making Green Infrastructure central to the future economy.
- Making the Borough more resilient and biodiverse can help the Council and stakeholders improve the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity

4.3 The consultants research has shown that the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme has some geographical and functional deficiencies in terms of Green Infrastructure. The main implication of this is that:

Ecosystems services are sub-optimal.	The baseline for NBS is currently low.	Fragmentation leads to vulnerability.	There are hidden costs.
The Borough's Ecosystem services are sub-optimal and vulnerable to externalities, most notably in respect of a given ecosystems ability to cope and mitigate climate change impacts. In ecosystem terms the Borough has a lack of 'ecosystem resilience'.	The baseline for nature based solutions (NBS) is currently low and building this capacity requires determination and long term change. If it does not change the Borough will have to reply to a greater extent on 'built' grey infrastructure solutions than would otherwise be the case.	Some habitats and landscapes are fragmented and in these biodiversity and the landscape is vulnerable.	Public access to GI is limited in some areas hence the potential of the natural environment to contribute to public health and wellbeing is limited where this occurs. This places hidden costs on the NHS, social services and private healthcare providers.

Table 4: Research conducted by the Consultants team and based on the four strategic objectives has shown that there are functional deficiencies that require to be addressed through the Green Infrastructure Strategy. This has led to the setting of eight specific objectives.

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[7] The strategic objectives provide the over-arching framework to convert the vision statement (see section 1) into a Strategy.

4.3 Eight specific objectives[8] have been identified for the Borough to address the implications of the deficiencies in terms of Green Infrastructure.

Ref No.	Specific Green Infrastructure objective
1	**Increase the robustness of ecosystems** through long-term management planning, starting with those areas most at risk of further decline.
2	**Address spatial deficiencies in Green Infrastructure** as shown on the mapping.
3	**Build the 'capacity', which can support Green Infrastructure** notably by partnership building, increasing the input of volunteers and reducing the reliance on the local authority. However as a democratic organisation it remains necessary for the local authority to still be seen as the competent body for Green Infrastructure and offer leadership
4	**Ensure a suitably worded policy on Green Infrastructure is included in the Local Plan** and that clear guidance is available to those in development control on how to maximise Green Infrastructure through the development process.
5	**Seek nature-based solutions on all major developments and infrastructure projects** such as H2S, road improvements, housing and commercial development sites.
6	**Plan Green Infrastructure at all scales from the neighbourhood to the landscape scale**.
7	**Place Green Infrastructure as central to resilience planning** (notably in connection with climate change) and health and wellbeing planning (notably in connection with the cardio-vascular, obesity, mental health and children's development agendas)
8	**Focus on the basics first.** Namely focusing on nodes and improving connectivity & designing in multifunctionality.

Table 5: Specific Green Infrastructure Objectives for the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy

Image 6: Formal bedding and open space is as much part of Borough's Green Infrastructure as natural areas. In the urban parts of the Borough public open space provide porous surfaces, trees, 'breathing' spaces and maintain urban soils in good order.

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[8] The specific objectives describe the intended results from delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Mechanisms

4.5 The Green Infrastructure Strategy is a high-level plan to achieve the specific objectives. The necessary strategic mechanisms to be put in place are listed below. These can be considered as a toolkit for use by the Borough Council and stakeholders.

Strategic mechanism	Fulfils specific objective	Why	How
<u>Improve</u> the interconnection of green spaces	1, 2, 4, 6, 8	Biodiversity benefits Extend recreational opportunities Enhance the regulating services provided by ecosystems	Opportunities created/taken through planning agreements Embed in local plan policy Develop & deliver projects that join key green assets together through corridors Enhance existing green corridors
<u>Enhance</u> the multi-functionality of green spaces	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Improve the environmental performance of open space Opportunity to reduce management costs Biodiversity benefits Improved aesthetics e.g. flower meadow creation Enhance the regulating services provided by ecosystems Enhance the provisioning services provided by ecosystems	Review and then change land management regimes when appropriate Seek professional land management inputs and advice from multiple stakeholders Challenge landowners/land managers in a positive way and incentivise where possible
<u>Integrate</u> green space with other infrastructure and the built environment	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Resource efficiency Improved design Green Infrastructure improvements on the back of new development Enhance the cultural services provided by ecosystems	Promote co-design and co-delivery Embed green urban infrastructure in design guidelines Upskills development planning professional in Green Infrastructure. Empower/educate high level politicians and corporate management to understand how Green Infrastructure can be brought into major infrastructure projects through application of the principle of 'nature based solution' Engage with professional advisors operating in the area and promote Green Infrastructure through continuing professional development (CPD)
<u>Plan</u> Green Infrastructure at different scales	4, 6	Green Infrastructure exists at different scales, local action can bring Borough wide benefits Enhance the supporting services provided by ecosystems	Work across boundaries and between tiers of local government Work with landholder sectors through representative bodies such as the CLA and NFU Work with environmental regulators and key non-departmental public bodies including; Environment Agency, Natural England and Forestry Commission
<u>Pursue</u> a strategic and holistic approach to Green Infrastructure	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Cost effectiveness through sharing resources Added value over a fragmented approach Provides clear direction, milestones and destinations Provides clarity to funders that individual Green Infrastructure	Ensure that Green Infrastructure is a 'golden thread' at the centre of local planning. Seek nature based solutions first before adopting 'grey' engineered approaches

		projects fit within a 'bigger picture'	
Deliver through partnership	3	No one organisation can plan or deliver on its own Realistic in a resource limited economic environment Green Infrastructure requires the engagement of multiple stakeholders not least due to land ownership/management responsibilities	Embed the Green Infrastructure strategy within existing partnership forums Encourage existing organisations to see their role in terms of ecosystem services e.g. nature organisations, utility companies etc.
Provide equal access to the services Green Infrastructure provides	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	Social equity Supports biocultural diversity e.g. legacy landscapes that speak to sections of the community Health and wellbeing benefits and local pride.	Link Green Infrastructure strategy to NHS and health providers Link Green Infrastructure strategy to sports providers e.g. in how they maintain, manage and promote their green spaces Encourage intervention programmes to build confidence in communities not yet using Green Infrastructure to do so Better 'signposting' and materials

Table 6: Strategic mechanisms for the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy

Image 7: Lyme Valley Parkway - an important Green Corridor. See Spatial Strategy G5.

Section 5: Strategy

5.1 The Green Infrastructure Strategy is in two part. The first of these is the 'spatial strategy' and the second the 'thematic strategy'. The spatial strategy is based on identified localities within the Borough. The thematic strategy covers the whole Borough.

Spatial Strategy

The core elements of the Spatial Strategy are;

- **Nodal areas** – these are existing areas where Green Infrastructure is concentrated and/of notable value. These areas function at the 'landscape scale' rather than at the 'local scale', hence isolated Green Infrastructure assets are not included. Nodal areas can be likened to when jigsaw pieces of green spaces and their functions are joined together.
- **Green corridors**– these may be corridors that provide various forms of connectivity, the most notable being (i) ecological connectivity, (ii) recreational/access connectivity or (iii) landscape connectivity.

and Interventions:

- Areas requiring **conservation/preservation.**
- Areas requiring **new Green Infrastructure.**

The balance of the two interventions based on the consultant's research is shown in the pie chart. **Conservation/preservation** is shown green and **new Green Infrastructure** shown brown. It should be noted that Conservation/preservation does not imply that development within these areas is inappropriate. The Spatial Strategy is shown on Plan 4.
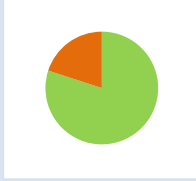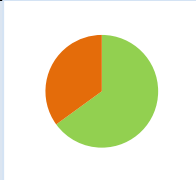
Image 8: Black Firs and Cranberry Bog SSSI, a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve is located in nodal area N3. This nodal area is especially important for its high value conservation sites.
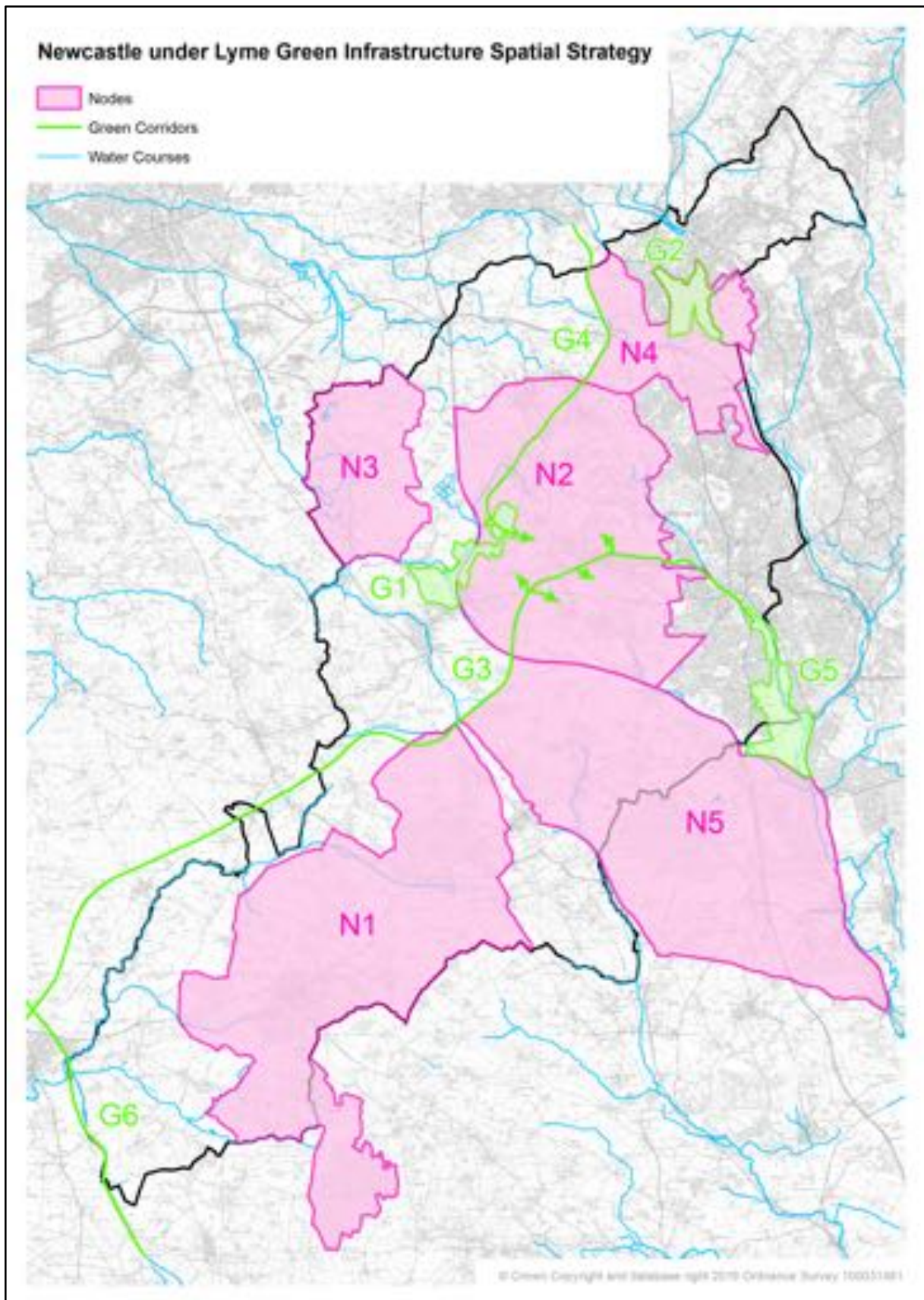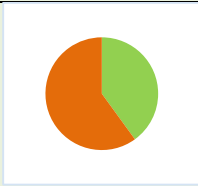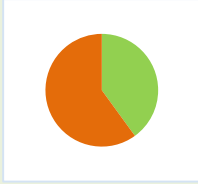
Plan 4: The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Spatial Strategy mapped. Note that the water courses refer to thematic strategy T3.

Ref No.	Name	Description	Strategy	Interventions balance
Nodal Areas				
N1	Bishops Wood to River Lea.	This is a predominantly landscape driven node with strong woodland cover within a rural rolling landform. Woodland cover and agriculture defines the character of this area. The node commences outside of the Borough at Bishops Wood and follows a matrix of woodland past Loggerheads (the only major settlement in the node) to the Maer Hills which has an active Landscape Protection Group, before finishing at the minor water course the River Lea. The West Coast Main line presently provides an abrupt end to this node.	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection but there also with opportunities for new Green Infrastructure. b. Protection of the wooded landscape is necessary and opportunities to create new woodland in this area should be sought. c. A special focus on proposals that would join existing woodlands physically together (such as shelterbelts and new broadleaved woodland) would benefit the overall Green Infrastructure network. d. Access to this area is likely to remain via 'rights of way' however new permissive access and improvements to existing rights of way should be sought. e. A key opportunity is to link this node with the former railway line that runs from the River Lea to Silverdale, to facilitate non-motorised access from the urban areas of the Borough (N2). f. Over development of this node should be resisted although 'key hole' and 'minor development' could release resources for interventions listed above. New development should be screened wherever possible by trees.	
N2	Newcastle West Green Gateway	This is an area with urban influence and includes former mining communities. It is more urban in the east and rural in the west and south. Included is Keele University Campus, Bateswood Nature Reserve and the Country Parks at Apedale and Silverdale. It is crossed by a number of transport corridors and these define the boundaries to the	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection but there also ample opportunities for new Green Infrastructure, especially to improve linkages between existing key sites. The proximity of this area to the urban centre of Newcastle under Lyme is a major asset to the Borough especially in given people access to nature. b. Existing 'key' sites, such as Silverdale Country Park, are	

		node; namely the A53, M6, B5500. The area is used for a variety of recreational purposes including golf and other sports. The landscape can be described as urban fringe, interspersed with settlements.	immature in term of landscape and need both time and management input to help them mature. A 'long-term' perspective is needed in respect of management planning. c. Keele University is major 'green' asset but not one fully used by the wider community, this is an opportunity for the Borough Council and the University to work together. d. Development of the former Keele Golf course would be an opportunity to create new off road access from Silverdale to the Campus. The landscape of the former Keele Golf course is good and should be incorporated in any development through masterplanning. e. The M6 is an abrupt boundary to the west and the separation of The Glading's from Walton's Wood is a notable break in ecological connectivity. This would be an ideal location for a green bridge which would extend the node Westwood towards Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill (N3) and towards Old Madeley Manor.	
N3	Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	This area features a number of high value conservation sites situated amongst a rolling landscape. Betley Mere is of considerable natural and heritage importance. The node is well served with 'rights of way' and the route from Cracow Moss to Bateswood Nature Reserve is of notable importance. The presence of surface water in this area is greater than elsewhere in the Borough, giving it a unique character.	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection, especially but not exclusively focused on water environments and associated woodland. Whilst the focus of this is Betley Mere the wide landscape includes numerous smaller water bodies of importance. b. This is a sensitive landscape and development needs to be handled with care for example in respect of avoiding any diffuse pollution. c. The footpath between Cracow Moss to Bateswood includes an on-road section at Adderley Green, off road	

			access should be created if possible. d. A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is currently awaiting a decision on designation. As an NDP proceeds it should reflect the importance of the designed area to the Borough's overall Green Infrastructure.	
N4	Newcastle and Kidsgrove Green Gateway	This is an urban fringe gateway giving access to both Newcastle under Lyme, Talke, Kidsgrove and north Stoke-on-Trent. It is traversed by the A500 and is a major Gateway to the 'Potteries'. The landform is undulating and has an urban fringe character and includes former extractive industry sites as well as notable areas of woodland and Bathpool Park. There are a number of commercial business centres and forward logistics in the area.	a. Landscape improvements can help reinforce this area as a welcoming approach to the Potteries. b. Key elements of Green Infrastructure are already in place especially on former industrial land and these should whenever possible be preserved. c. In this area Urban Forestry is a valuable technique to achieve landscape improvements with new structural plantings enabling the joining of existing woodland together and tree belts parallel to road corridors providing air filtration, noise attenuation and screening bland industrial structures. d. New development is unlikely to damage the Green Infrastructure of this node if offsetting actions are delivered. e. The area crosses into Stoke on Trent, hence the Green Infrastructure should be considered in parallel with the City Council.	
N5	Hanchurch Hills, Swynnerton Old Park and Trentham Gardens	These are long established recreational area with walks in a strong landscape setting with interesting heritage features, parkland and established woodland. The majority of the area falls with the City of Stoke-on-Trent but extends into the Borough. It is used by Borough residents and exhibits ecological connectivity. There is a notable link to the Lyme Valley Greenway.	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection. b. Extensive areas of woodland require ongoing woodland management, such as selective felling, new planting and habitat enhancements. c. Ongoing countryside management to address recreational pressures are needed at key locations. d. Rights of way are important for linking larger sites together.	

	Green corridors			
G1	Old Madeley Manor – The Glading's – Walton's Wood - Newcastle West Green Gateway	Old Madeley manor is an important heritage building and parkland landscape with nearby water bodies and set amongst well connected woodland – connectivity to the east is compromised by the M6 corridor. The Glading's and Walton's Woodlands are separated by the M6 motorway with the two sides otherwise well-connected into wider wooded landscapes. This is an ideal area for a Green Bridge project hence making connectivity between node N2 and areas to the west of the M6.	a. New Green Infrastructure in the form of a Green Bridge is advocated, such a major undertaking should appear as a long term objective and could likely be developed at the time of a major re-engineering project on the M6 as an adjunct project.	
G2	Bathpool Park and adjacent open spaces – woodland and open spaces.	Bathpool Park is an urban influenced open space and natural area with water features and an extensive network of adjacent urban woodland. These are important for ecological connectivity and recreation.	a. Maintain key open space resources and seek to improve connectivity, enhance biodiversity and maintain recreational potential.	
G3	Newcastle to Shropshire Union Canal Greenway	Based on a dismantled railway line which runs with gaps from the centre of Newcastle to the River Lea, and beyond in a less complete form to the Shropshire Union canal with crossings of the M6 and the West Coast Main line, this is a major opportunity for Green Infrastructure connectivity and links to Silverdale and Apedale Country parks. To some extent connectivity already exists but there are opportunities for enhancement. The greenway should be considered as a braided route (landscape corridor with access whenever possible) rather than solely linked to the former track bed. Beyond the River Lea towards Market Drayton the route is more	a. New Green Infrastructure can be used to to enhance the route and provide side branches. b. Wooded vegetation to be maintained and managed for biodiversity c. As far as possible surface to be suitable for cycling and walking. d. Opportunities for interpretation and signage to be taken and clear links make to rights of way. e. Create off road green route (cycle/pedestrian) through Former Keele Golf Course to Keele University as a project within G3(a).	
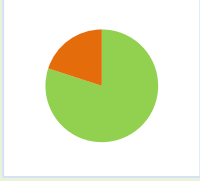
		conceptual but could be developed in partnership with Shropshire County Council.		
G4	Bateswood to Alsager Greenway	Based on a dismantled railway which runs from Alsager to Bateswood, this is a major opportunity for Green Infrastructure connectivity. The route is already in place. The greenway should be considered as a braided route (landscape corridor with access) rather than solely linked to the former track bed. A key opportunity is to link the Greenway with G3 hence creating wider network connectivity.	a. New Green Infrastructure can be used to to enhance the route and provide side branches. b. Linkage through Parrot's Drumble to Kidsgrove and seek further connectivity to G2. c. As far as possible surface to be suitable for cycling and walking. d. Opportunities for interpretation and signage to be taken and clear links make to rights of way. e. Create Bateswood Circular route as a project within G4(a) above f. Use existing PROW to link with G3, cost, agree land issues and seek funding for improvements.	
G5	Lyme Valley Parkway	Existing Green Infrastructure following the Lyme Brook links to River Trent and to G3 and N2. Strongly urban influenced, with some wooded areas, water features, open grassland and sports facilities.	a. Existing Green Infrastructure to be maintained b. Avoid further urban encroachment c. Use landscape planting to screen urban features. d. Enhance biodiversity through small scale interventions e. Enhance path surfaces, signage and increase interpretation.	
G6	Shropshire Union Canal	Existing green corridor following the Shropshire Union Canal.	a. Protect existing Green Infrastructure. b. Work in partnership with other stakeholders. c. Link to G3.	

Table 7: The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Spatial Strategy

Ref No.	Description	The Strategy
T1	Quality vs. quantity	**Where a decision needs to be taken between 'quality' and 'quantity', for instance in respect of public open space management, then quality will be preferred.** **MORE:** *Quality is not only a measure of public amenity since of equal value in Green Infrastructure are the ecosystem services the open space provides. Hence the decision will reflect the public benefit <u>and</u> the wider ecosystem benefit.*
T2	Urban design	**Development planning should require that developers include green design to the satisfaction of the local planning authority, in line with Council guidance.** **MORE:** *'Green design' no longer or very rarely entails significant additional costs that can affect the viability of new urban development. Green design principles, ranging from SUDS, green roofs through to incorporation of niche habitats on buildings are well understood by architects and landscape architects and other urban professions. Commercial/business locations should feature robust landscaping with preference given to indigenous planting and naturalistic landscapes. Whenever possible linkages should be made between new landscaping and neighbouring 'green areas'.*
T3	Green corridors	**Recognition is given that connectivity is an essential part of the Borough's Green Infrastructure approach. Hence wherever possible green spaces will be linked together, although this can only be determined on a case-by-case basis. Cross reference should be made with spatial strategy and synergies looked for.** **MORE:** *In urban areas street trees can provide 'bridges' between green spaces hence the street scene is seen as a connectivity management issue. Accessible green corridors also act as travel routes for pedestrians and cyclists, albeit this requires planning and design to be factored in. Green corridors are not just linear routes, boundaried corridors featuring verges, ditches and hedgerows are habitats too. Such corridors support foraging both by people and wildlife. The Borough's water courses are of importance as green corridors, especially so as the quantity of surface water is low in comparison with other areas (except in the area around Betley and Balterley). Water courses offer movement for wildlife and are often associated with public access especially across agricultural areas. For this reason, water courses are shown on the Spatial Strategy Plan.*
T4	Off-setting	**Losses in Green Infrastructure should normally be offset by commensurate increases in provision elsewhere in terms of overall environmental performance. Where financial contributions are involved these can be pooled to maximise the benefits.** **MORE:** *It is unrealistic to expect that all area of Green Infrastructure can be preserved; indeed, in some situations the loss of green spaces which are either poorly preforming, surplus to requirements or in the wrong place can actually lead to gains in terms of environmental performance through the process of off-setting. For example, through the creation of a new habitat rich area with good public access. Ecosystem values could require the application of an ecosystem valuation tool as part of determining the viability of off-setting a given development, this will normally be the responsibility of the applicant to the satisfaction of the local planning authority. There are numerous tools available and guidance is available at the Government's Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website.*
T5	Transportation and movement	**Civil engineering operations commissioned by the Borough Council and other public agencies working in the Borough; should normally utilise the regulatory services provided by Green Infrastructure to**

		offset their environmental impact in preference over grey infrastructure solutions. **MORE:** *Nature based solutions should be pursued in preference to hard 'grey' infrastructure. Where grey infrastructure is used then links to adjacent Green Infrastructure should be made. Civils' operations should seek to make access improvements for pedestrians and cyclists whilst respecting existing nature.*
T6	Food security	**Encouragement should be given to local food production, local food marketing, foraging, composting and waste recycling.** **MORE:** *Community food production (such as allotment gardening) is generally environmentally friendly and maintains urban soils. It is also contributing to health and well-being through physical activity and is known to improve mental health. The Council need to coordinate the provision of allotments and other food spaces in keeping with the Open Space Strategy. Temporary sites can be used for urban growing that can then be moved when a site is developed. Community food production is allied to recycling activities and can be co-promoted.*
T7	Economy and jobs	**Public Policy should encourage employment and training in land based industries and facilitate volunteer involvement in Green Infrastructure project delivery.** **MORE:** *Green Infrastructure makes a large impact in respect of employment. Land management is a relatively easy point of entry to the employment market especially for people with a low skills base and this can lead to progress in vocational training. Green Infrastructure is also a major reason why people visit an area and hence assists in the tourist and visitor economy. Volunteering is also a major contributor to Green Infrastructure management and the act of volunteering builds social cohesion.*
T8	Health and wellbeing, education & social cohesion	**Encouragement and when possible funding should be deployed to facilitate green exercise and other activities that strengthen well-being and social cohesion in open spaces; for example, through activity and event programmes that target those who currently do not use open space or are socially excluded from it.** **MORE:** *Peer reviewed research has shown that access to and use of Green Infrastructure is strongly beneficial to human health and well-being and can help bridge numerous areas of social exclusion and support lifelong learning. Especially strong results are found in terms of cardio-vascular condition and mental health such as stress reduction. Activity started in outdoor spaces is more likely to have been continued one-year hence than if exercise was taken in a Gym. Green Infrastructure is a venue for formal teaching, training and informal lifelong learning.*
T9	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	**Areas of high ecological value including designated sites should be protected from development. Advice should be sought from competent authorities where there is a question of potential development impacts. There is a need maintain the quality of sites to prevent or reduce the risk of habitat losses across all key sites.** **MORE:** *Biodiversity and geodiversity is a barometer of the overall health of the the local environment. The most important sites are designated and should always be protected from development. There is planning practice guidance issued by government. Competent authorities include Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Areas of high ecological value also contribute to the quality of the landscape of the Borough. There are a range of practical measures that the Borough Council can support these include; (i) the enhancement of existing ecological corridors for nature and access to allow for the movement and distribution of wildlife and public enjoyment of the natural environment, (ii) increasing the ecological diversity of amenity Open Space – e.g. by reseeding and management as meadows rather than amenity grassland, (iii) Working in partnership with other bodies to encourage whole farm planning for*

		nature improvements, (iv) look to hedgerow management and biomass planting and harvesting for small scale local energy production
T10	Trees	**Trees should normally be protected from the adverse impacts of development and veteran trees should only be removed in extremis (for example when they are a risk to human well-being). Whenever possible existing trees should be incorporated into new developments and protected during the building phase. Tree planting should normally be required on all development sites to the satisfaction of the local planning authority, in line with Council guidance. The Borough Council should seek manage trees using the principles of urban forestry. In Newcastle under Lyme, Kidsgrove and urbanised villages the Borough Council should seek opportunities to plant trees within the street scene to encourage ecosystem connectivity.** **MORE:** The Trees of the Borough are more than just landscape features as they regulate air quality, provide evaporate cooling and particulate filtering. Trees grouped into woodland as well as field and hedgerow trees are vital to the landscape of the Borough. It is highly desirable to create new urban and peri-urban woodland and manage trees in the urban areas as an 'urban green canopy' (urban forest) – this will enhance connectivity in urban areas.
T11	National and regional infrastructure	**National and regional infrastructure in the Borough should be audited with a view to agreeing with operator's/agencies long term objectives for enhanced Green Infrastructure performance and improved connectivity.** **MORE:** The Borough is greatly influenced by national and regional infrastructure most noticeably the M6, West Coast mainline, A500 and the proposed HS2. These all impact on the Borough's Green Infrastructure. In particular, they divide the landscape and impact on ecological connectivity. It is recognised that the Borough Council has limited responsibilities and resources to affect change, however the Council could audit the corridors and identify Green Infrastructure improvements as part of future infrastructure works. The priority is to seek opportunities for green bridges and wildlife underpasses and niche habitats with respect to HS2.
T12	Landscape	**The landscape of the Borough should be protected from degradation and enhanced whenever possible.** **MORE:** The Borough is fortunate in having a well structure landscape albeit one greatly influenced by national and regional infrastructure. However, the landscape is vulnerable to decline and can be negatively impacted by poorly sited developments. Landscape advice should be sought from the County Council where there is concern about the detrimental impact of a given development. Landscape enhancements should be sought through the Borough's involvement in partnership projects.
T13	Neigbourhoods Development Plans (NDPs)	**Designated bodies should be invited to include Green Infrastructure in their NDPs and cross reference to this Strategy.** **MORE:** NDP's are part of the statutory planning process and inclusion in them of supportive Green Infrastructure polices will benefit the delivery of this Strategy. NDPs are underway in Loggerheads; Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston and Whitmore. A neighbourhood area is also proposed covering the parish of Keele and another for Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill.

Table 8: The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Thematic Strategy.

Section 6: Delivery and the role of the Borough Council

The delivery framework

6.1 A delivery framework document accompanies the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy. Green Infrastructure crosses multiple land uses and ownerships so no one organisation has sole responsibility for Green Infrastructure across the Borough. The core approach to delivery of Green Infrastructure in the Borough is through 'partnership'. There are existing partnerships in place that can add Green Infrastructure to their remit. Having the appropriate 'tools' available to achieve the spatial and functional strategies is important.

The role of the Borough Council

6.2 The role of the Borough Council in delivery is:

Coordinate Green Infrastructure activities across the Borough in cooperation with Staffordshire County Council and as needed other adjacent local authorities. The relationship with the City of Stoke is notable as the new Joint Local Plan is being produced with the city. There is also a notable overlap with the City of Stoke in respect of Node N5.

Nominate a local authority officer as principle 'Green Infrastructure' advocate with the option to mirror this role at member level. Their role(s) is within the Council as well as externally.

Ensure that there are suitably worded planning policies that recognise the role of Green Infrastructure in the new joint Local Plan.

Manage the Council's land assets in a way that supports the Green Infrastructure Strategy, notably by using the Open Space standards to guide decision making and through the deployment of existing budgets.

Consider the Green Infrastructure Strategy as a consideration when determining planning applications.

Review the Green Infrastructure Strategy from time-to-time to take account of changes.

Ensure that there is awareness of Green Infrastructure and of the existence of the Green Infrastructure Strategy across all service areas.

That the Council's Senior Management and Member's are upskilled and knowledgeable about Green Infrastructure.

Raise awareness and interest in Green Infrastructure across the community through media activity such as the Council's website and twitter feed.

Figure 3: Infographic showing the role of the Borough Council in the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Funding

6.3 Funding for the Green Infrastructure will come from a number of sources both monetary and in-kind. It is not the responsibility of the Borough Council to provide the resources for Green Infrastructure delivery beyond their own land and securing funding through planning agreements; however, the Borough Council can facilitate access to external funds for delivery by supporting or leading external funding applications, for example to the National Lottery or Government Grants. Securing funding normally requires a partnership approach since funders require the involvement of many stakeholders and evidence of community support. The Borough Council should give full consideration to mounting a landscape partnership application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project based on the Strategy's nodal areas and green corridors.

Section 7: Abbreviations used in this report, acknowledgements, photographic credits.

Abbreviations and definitions used in this Strategy or referenced in allied literature

CO_2	Carbon Dioxide – the most common greenhouse gas.
GI	Green Infrastructure.
Green Corridor	Landscape corridors that provide various forms of connectivity, the most notable being (i) ecological connectivity, (ii) recreational/access connectivity or (iii) landscape connectivity.
HS2	High Speed 2 (HS2) is the planned high-speed railway linking London, Birmingham, the East Midlands, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester.
Joint Local Plan	The Joint Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme and the City of Stoke-on-Trent. A framework that guides the long term future growth of an area over a period of 15 to 20 years, including how much development there should be, where it should go, and how land should be used.
NHS	National Health Service.
Node (Nodal) Area	Existing areas where Green Infrastructure is concentrated and/of notable value. These areas function at the 'landscape scale' rather than at the 'local scale'.
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework.
Open Space Strategy	Accompanying Strategy to the Green Infrastructure Strategy with shared evidence base
$PM^{2.5}$	Microscopic particulates which can cause respiratory and other diseases. They can pass straight into the blood stream.
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance.
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UGI	Urban Green Infrastructure.

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Officers of adjacent authorities consulted in the course of the study.

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Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy

Appendix: Background Report on Recommended Standards

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Appendix: Background Report on Recommended Standards

Content:

1: Introduction

1.1 Green infrastructure and open space types covered

This appendix provides background explanations on the recommended open space[1] and green infrastructure standards for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. The standards are common to both the Open Space and Green Infrastructure strategies and cover the following types:

- Parks and gardens;
- Amenity green space;
- Accessible natural and semi-natural green spaces;
- Designated play spaces for children and young people;
- Allotments;
- Green corridors; and
- Outdoor sports facilities.

Standards for sports playing pitches no longer apply. A separate Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been produced for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. It should be noted that Sport England no longer supports local standards in its approved methodology (Sport England 2013).

1.2 National planning policy context

The key relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework are:

- Paragraph 114 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which requires that Local Planning Authorities "*set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.*"

- Paragraph 73 of the NPPF planning policies requires local authorities to have robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. "*Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.*"

As referred to in 1.1 above, playing pitches are now dealt with outside the open space audit framework, in line with Sport England guidance. Although sport pitches can still be considered as an open space typology, Sport England guidance does not deal with non-pitch sport users of informal open space (such as MUGAs [*multiuse games area*] and Green Corridors). These categories are considered in this study as active recreation/non sport pitch uses; other examples include equestrian activities, mountain biking and water sports.

1.3 Local context: Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Audit (Urban 2007, Rural 2011 and Combined 2015)

In September 2007, Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council produced the North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy (jointly with the City of Stoke on Trent). As part of this study, 132 urban sites were visited and audited within Newcastle under Lyme. In 2011, rural open space sites were audited as part of a fresh study, when a total of 65 sites were visited and audited.

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[1] It should be noted that sometimes the term 'green space' is used in place of 'open space' (e.g. NPPF para 73). In this study the terminology 'green space' and 'open space' are considered as interchangeable.

A critical review and data refresh was conducted by MD2 Consulting Ltd, (involving another set of site visits focusing on 'key' sites, many of which had been visited previously, some of which were visited in circumstances where investments and upgrades had taken place; and others which had not been visited before). The audits took place between August 2015 and February 2016 and a total of 179 sites were visited. In total, 26 new sites have been identified.

The Council now has an open space database identifying 553 sites. This currently comprises 326 urban sites and 227 rural sites (which includes 257 sites visited and audited). The resulting updated findings have provided the basis for understanding current levels of provision of open space and recreational facilities.

2: Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure (GI) and Open Space (OS) Quantity and Access Standards.

2.1 General approach and factors considered

The evidence base for the green infrastructure/open space quantity and access standards for Newcastle under Lyme is drawn from four major sources:

- Benchmarking with national guidance: sources consulted to identify national standards are listed in the notes on sources and methodology at the end of this appendix.
- Benchmarking with similar authorities: the methodology used to identify similar authorities and sources consulted on their green infrastructure standards are presented in the notes on sources and methodology at the end of the appendix.
- Reflecting existing provision: background information for the figures used below can be found in the North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy Final Report Version 02 – September 2007.
- Reflecting consultation results: a detailed presentation of the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoor Survey and other consultation activities undertaken to support and inform the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy, including the recommended standards, can be found in this appendix. The analysis below particularly draws from the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey, which included questions about appropriateness of current levels of provision, preferred methods of travel to each type of provision, and expected travel time. A total of 544 responses (81 adult and 463 young people (ages 5-16)) were received.
- Street Scene Survey (2015 – 2016): each year the Council undertake a Street Scene Survey and the results are compiled online, via face to face interviews and via the Reporter. The current results obtained are based on 242 respondents, 110 from face to face surveys, 35 from the Reporter surveys and 97 from our e-panel and surveys carried out by the Street Scene Team.

Throughout the exercise, the following factors and assumptions were used:

- When having to translate national standards expressed on a per household basis (e.g. National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners' standard for allotment) into a per person figure, the national average of 2.2 persons per household was used.
- Fields in Trust Guidelines - *Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard.* The 2015 guidance backed up by research retains the same headline rates of provision, but draws out new recommendations for accessibility, the application of standards and the minimum dimensions of formal outdoor space. The standards also no longer differentiate between urban and rural areas. Using this current guidance will help to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.

The Fields in Trust Guidelines - Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard recommends that Equipped/Designated Play Spaces be promoted in the form of:

- Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children;
- Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently; and
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children.

These can be complemented by other facilities including Multiuse Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks etc.

The insert table below sets out the Field in Trust Benchmark guidelines for open space and equipped play areas. These benchmarks reflect the findings of the survey of local standards for open space applied by local planning authorities. Note that just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used. As a result, the quantity standards recommended below are for minimum guidance levels of provision.

Accessibility guidelines are provided as walking distance from dwellings. Indicative walking distances can be determined from the accessibility guidelines as set out below.

- 250m = 2 – 3 minutes walk;
- 400m = 5 minutes walk;
- 800m = 10 minutes walk;
- 1,200m = 15 minutes walk;
- 1,600m = 20 minutes walk.

It should be recognised that when applying these benchmarks, local features and obstacles to pedestrian and cycle movement should be taken into account. In doing so, accessible and sustainable play and sport facilities will be maximised.

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	QUANTITY GUIDELINE (Hectares per 1,000 pop.)	WALKING GUIDELINE
Playing Pitches	1.20	1200m
All outdoor sports	1.60	1200m
Equipped/Designated Play Areas	0.25 (additional criteria for recommended minimum sizes)	LAP's – 100m LEAP's – 400m NEAP's – 1,000m
Other outdoor provision (MUGA & skateboard parks)	0.30	700m

With regards to outdoor sport pitches local standards are no longer accepted by Sport England so setting a new standard is meaningless and has been removed.

2.2 Overview of recommended quantity and access standards

The 2007 quantity and access standards covering open space types for Newcastle under Lyme are summarised in the table below.

OPEN SPACE TYPES	QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population unless indicated otherwise)	ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line)		
*Parks and gardens	2.35	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1200m
*Amenity green space	No standard	No standard		
*Natural and semi-natural green space	3.60	600m		
*Designated play spaces for children and young people	0.76	LAP 220m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 800m
*Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.90	1200m		
*Allotments	No standard	No standard		
*Green Corridors	No standard	No standard		
TOTAL open space* (sum from above)	7.61	N/A		N/A

The recommended quantity and access green infrastructure standards (2016) covering open space types for Newcastle under Lyme are summarised below and discussed in detail within this appendix:

OPEN SPACE TYPES	QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population unless indicated otherwise)	ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line)		
		URBAN		RURAL*
*Parks and gardens	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
*Amenity green space	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
*Natural and semi-natural green space	3.60	600m		
*Designated play spaces for children and young people	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
*Outdoor Sports Facilities	No standard	No standard		
*Allotments	0.15	400m (5- 10 min walk)		*15 min drive
Green Corridors	No standard	No standard		
TOTAL open space* (sum from above)	8.16	N/A		N/A

The current provision within Newcastle under Lyme is as follows:

Based on a population of 124,183 the current provision of open space per 1,000 head of poulation is as follows :			
Type	Count (no. of sites)	Area (ha.)	Current Provision (ha. per 1,000 population)
Accessible natural greenspace	181	1746.22	14.0
Allotments	12	13.60	0.11
Amenity greenspace	112	128.31	1.03
Green corridor	16	46.03	0.37
Park	35	436.29	3.51
Provision for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41

2.3 Nearest Neighbour Comparator Exercise

A total of 16 no. comparator local authorities have been included in benchmarking open space/green infrastructure provision. The authorities were identified through use of the CIPFA Nearest Neighbour (NN) model and are listed below:

• Amber Valley;
• Chorley;
• Wyre Forest;
• Erewash;
• Gedling;
• Broxtowe;
• Chesterfield;
• South Staffordshire;
• Cannock Chase;
• High Peak (inside and outside the National Park);
• Newark and Sherwood;
• Fenland;
• Bassetlaw;
• South Ribble;
• Carlisle;
• Stoke City (not in the NN exercise but included as the new Local Plan is joint with Stoke on Trent).

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2.4 Total Open Space standards

Newcastle under Lyme's total historic figure of 7.61 for total open space quantity per 1,000 population (2007) is third highest with the requirements adopted by comparator authorities, as shown on figure A1 below. This is above average and only bettered by Gedling and High Peak (inside the National Park) - (N.B. Four comparator authorities did not have a total figure for open space):

Fig. A1: Benchmarking against other local authorities – total quantity requirement for open space
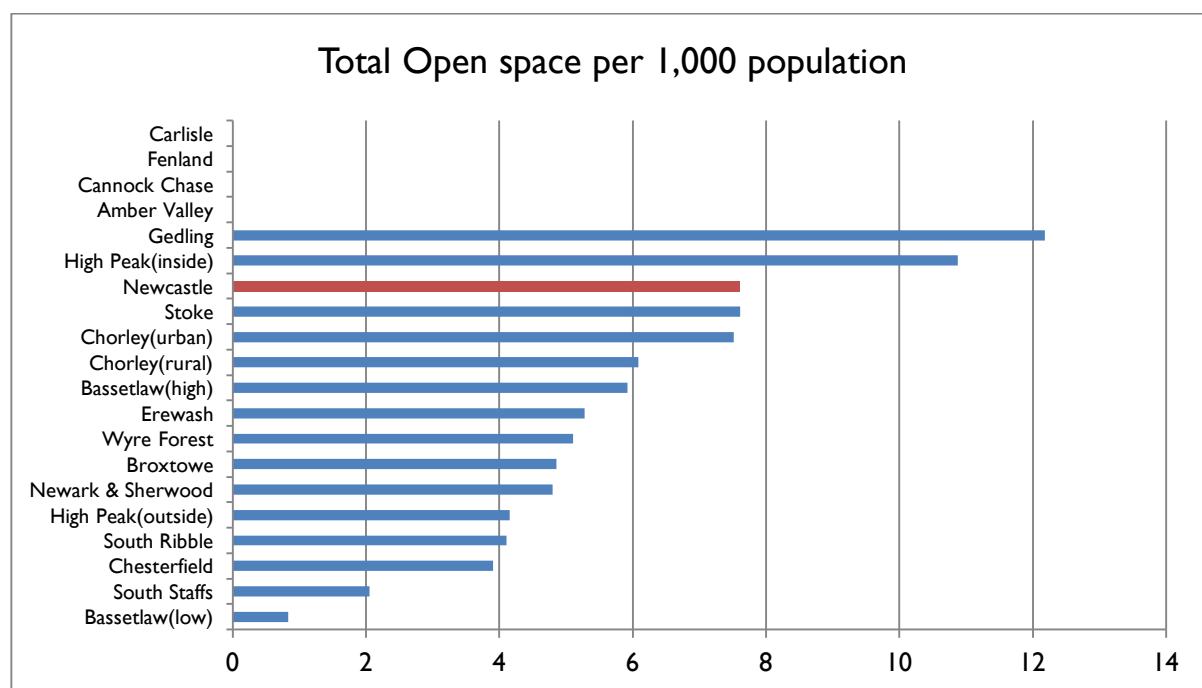
Note: The diagram above, as well other benchmarking charts below, only show standards figures when such figure exist for the typology considered and their format is conducive to comparisons. See the table at the rear of this appendix for further details on each comparator local authority's standards provision.

2.5 Parks and gardens

The recommended minimum quantity standard for parks and gardens in Newcastle under Lyme is 3.10 ha. per 1,000 people. The recommended associated access standard is 400 metres for a local park, 800 metres for a neighbourhood park and 1,200 metres for a district park.

National standards: none applicable. There is no national standard for benchmarking regarding this green infrastructure/open space type. Quantity standards used by 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities range from 0.11 to 4.15 ha.

Standards for parks and gardens in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.11 to 4.15 ha. per 1,000 people with some authorities distinguishing standards between local, neighbourhood or district parks. Newcastle under Lyme's current standard is 2.35 ha. and the recommended standard of 3.10 ha. per 1,000 residents also sits within this range and is equal second highest behind Gedling which has a high standard of 4.15 ha.

Fig. A2: Current Benchmarking against other local authorities – Parks and gardens quantity standards

Parks & Gardens (ha. per 1,000 population)

Authority	ha. per 1,000
South Staffs	
Carlisle	
Fenland	
High Peak(inside)	
Gedling	4.15
Newcastle under Lyme	2.35
Stoke City	2.35
Chorley	1.9
Bassetlaw(high)	1.6
High Peak(outside)	1.15
Broxtowe	1.0
Erewash	0.7
South Ribble	0.65
Newark & Sherwood	0.6
Chesterfield	0.5
Wyre Forest	0.25
Bassetlaw(low)	0.1
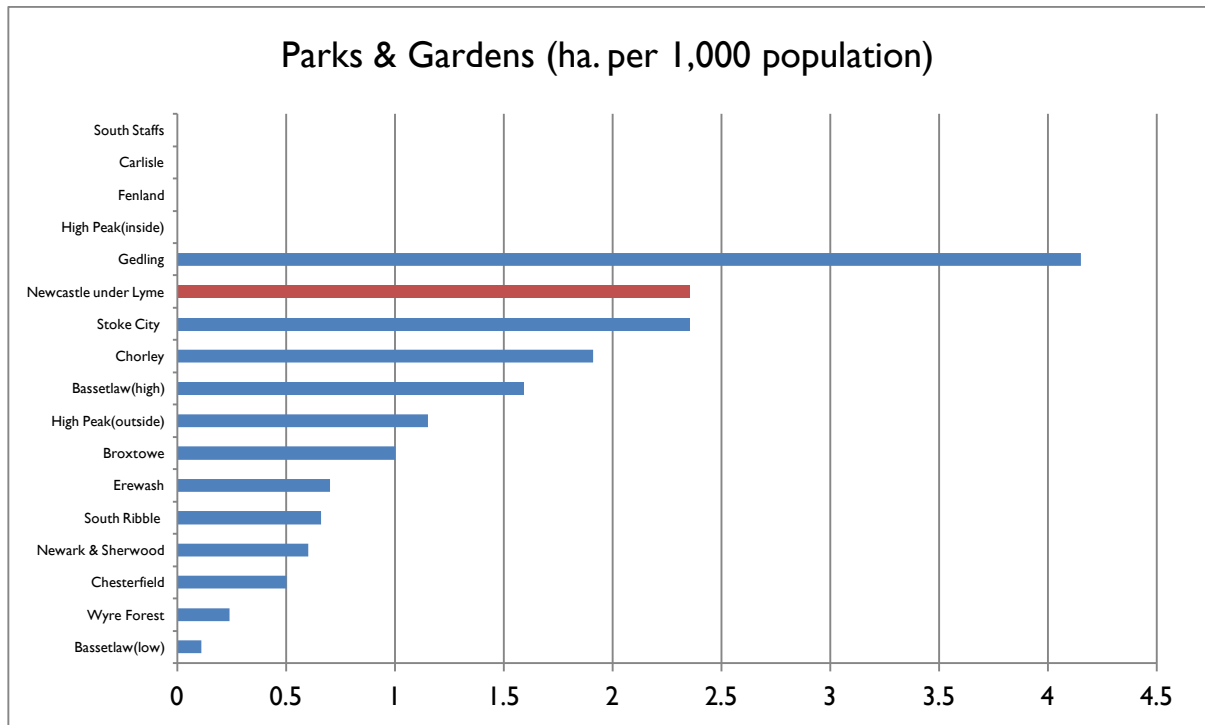
Existing provision: 3.51 hectare per 1,000 person

Newcastle under Lyme currently has 436.29 ha. of Parks and gardens (based on a population of 124,183) which represents 3.51 ha. per 1,000 head of population. Based on 81 adult and 463 young people (age range 5 – 16) respondents to The Newcastle under Lyme's Great Outdoors Survey 56% of adults and 69% of young people felt the provision was 'about right ' or 'more than enough'. 39% of adults and 40% of young people felt there was 'not enough'. Based on Streetscene Survey 80% of respondents were happy with the parks and felt they were safe and well maintained.

Fig. A3: % consultation result on quantity of parks and gardens in Newcastle under Lyme (Great Outdoors Survey)
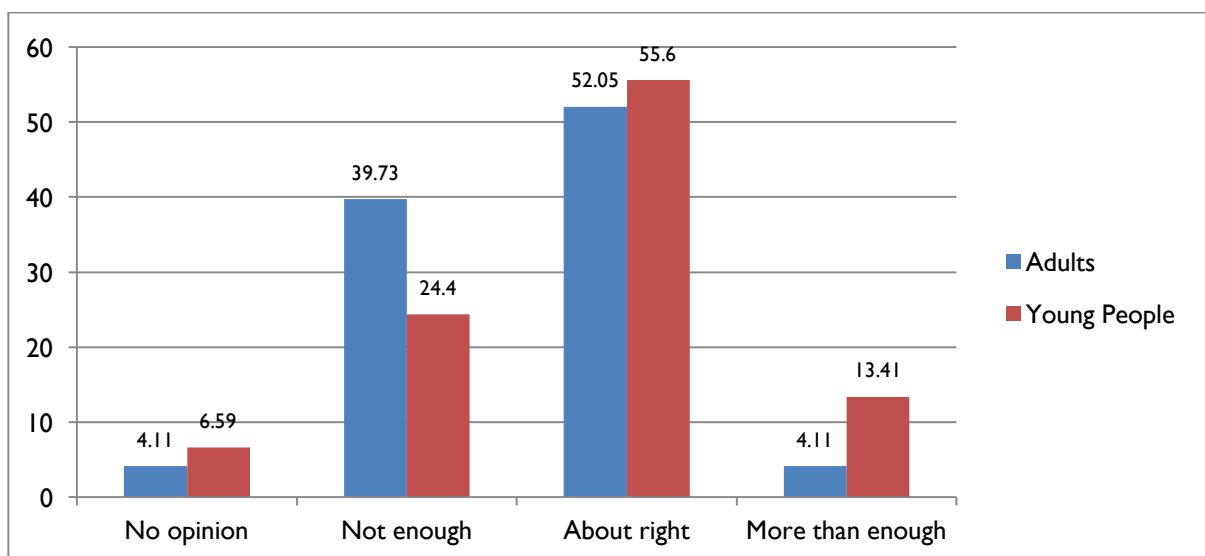
	No opinion	Not enough	About right	More than enough
Adults	4.11	39.73	52.05	4.11
Young People	6.59	24.4	55.6	13.41

The recommended minimum quantity standard for parks and gardens in Newcastle under Lyme is 3.10 ha. per 1,000 people. The current provision is 3.51 ha. per 1,000 people and 56% of adults and 69% of young people survey respondents believed this to be adequate and 80% of respondents from the Street Scene Survey felt the parks currently meet their expectations. This result shows that the provision is 'about right'.

Fig. A4: % consultation results on preferred travel mode (Great Outdoors Survey)
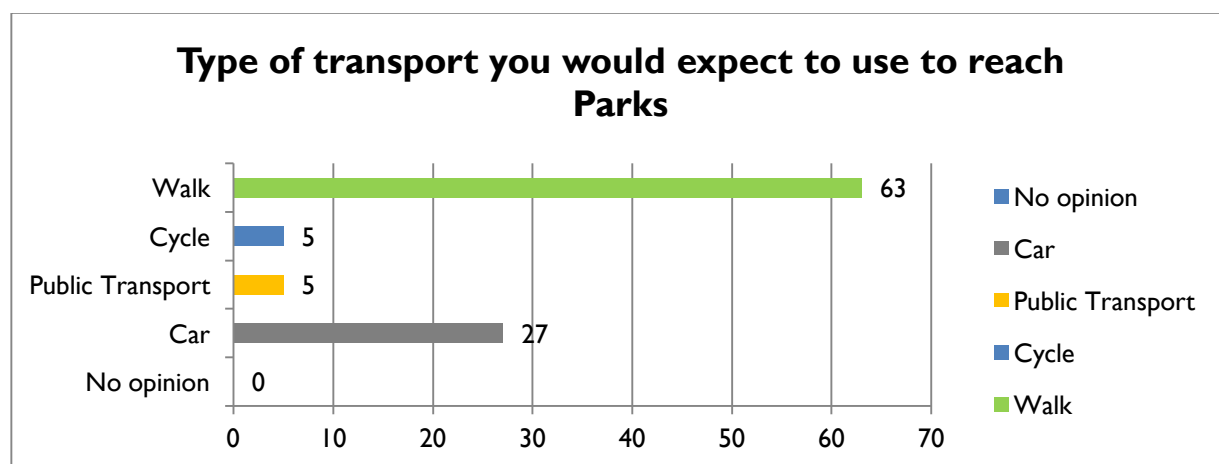
Length of time willing to travel to parks

Fig. A5: % adult consultation results on expected travel time to parks & gardens (Great Outdoors Survey)

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
51%	40%	6%	2%

62% of adult respondents to the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors survey indicated they expected to be able to get to parks and gardens by foot. The drop-off effect associated with travel time is only pronounced after 20 minutes: 51% of respondents expect to get there in 10 minutes or less, 40% in 20 minutes or less and 8% greater than 20 minutes.

Conclusions on standard justification

The recommended quantity standard (3.10 ha. per 1,000 population) for parks and gardens is in line with requirements adopted by comparator local authorities and slightly below the existing level of provision (3.51 ha. per 1,000 population), which a majority of people who took part in the consultation conducted to develop this standard are either satisfied with or consider it to be more than enough (56% of adults & 69% of young people) however it must be noted that 39% of adults and 40% of young people considered the current provision to be 'not enough'. In contrast 80% of respondents to the Street Scene Survey felt that the current provision of parks met their expectations.

The recommended accessibility standard is directly derived from the consultation results and based on an "effective catchment" approach – i.e. the distance that 75% of people are willing to travel to something. This is generally regarded as a realistic compromise between the minimum and maximum range people are prepared to travel to different types of provision. 400 metres is a 5-minute walk and 800m is a 10-minute walk. 51% of respondents expect to reach a park within 10 minutes therefore the accessibility standard is set as 400m for a local park, 800m for a neighbourhood park and 1,600m for a district park.

2.6 Amenity green space

The recommended minimum quantity standard for amenity green space in Newcastle under Lyme is 0.90 ha. per 1,000 people. The recommended associated access standard is 220 metres to an open green and 700m to a MUGA. Newcastle under Lyme has previously not had a standard for amenity green space.

National standard: Whilst there are no authoritative standards or guidelines for amenity green space categorisation can be difficult. Amenity green space may be incidental green space such as grassed verges, but can also include highly valuable spaces such as village greens. Standards used by similar local authorities range from 0.25 to 1.62 ha.

Standards for amenity green space in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.25 to 1.62 ha. per 1,000 people. Newcastle under Lyme's recommended standard of 0.90 ha. per 1,000 residents will sit midway within this range.

Fig. A6: Benchmarking against other local authorities – Amenity green space quantity standards (proposed standard included for Newcastle as currently no standard)
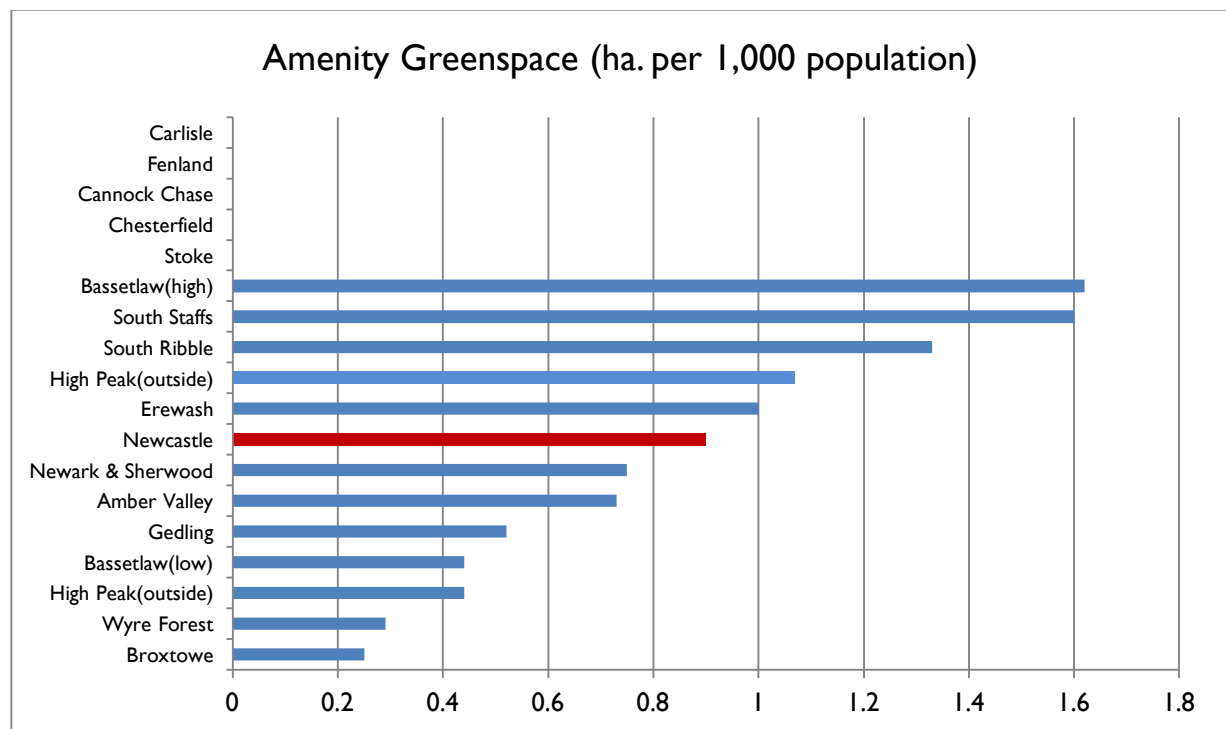
Current provision: 1.03 hectares per 1,000 people

Newcastle under Lyme currently has 128.31 ha. of amenity greenspace (based on a population of 124,183) this represents 1.03 ha. per 1,000 head of population.

The survey results identified a stark difference of opinion between adults and young people. 55% of adult repondents felt that the provision was 'not enough' and 30% felt it was 'about right' whilst 84% of young people felt the provision was 'about right' or 'more than enough'. In addition 80% of repondents to the Street scene survey felt the open space provision met their expectations.

Consultation results: 55% of adults are not satisfied with the existing provision whilst 84% of young people are satisfied.

Fig. A7: % consultation result on quantity of amenity green space in Newcastle under Lyme (Great Outdoors Survey)
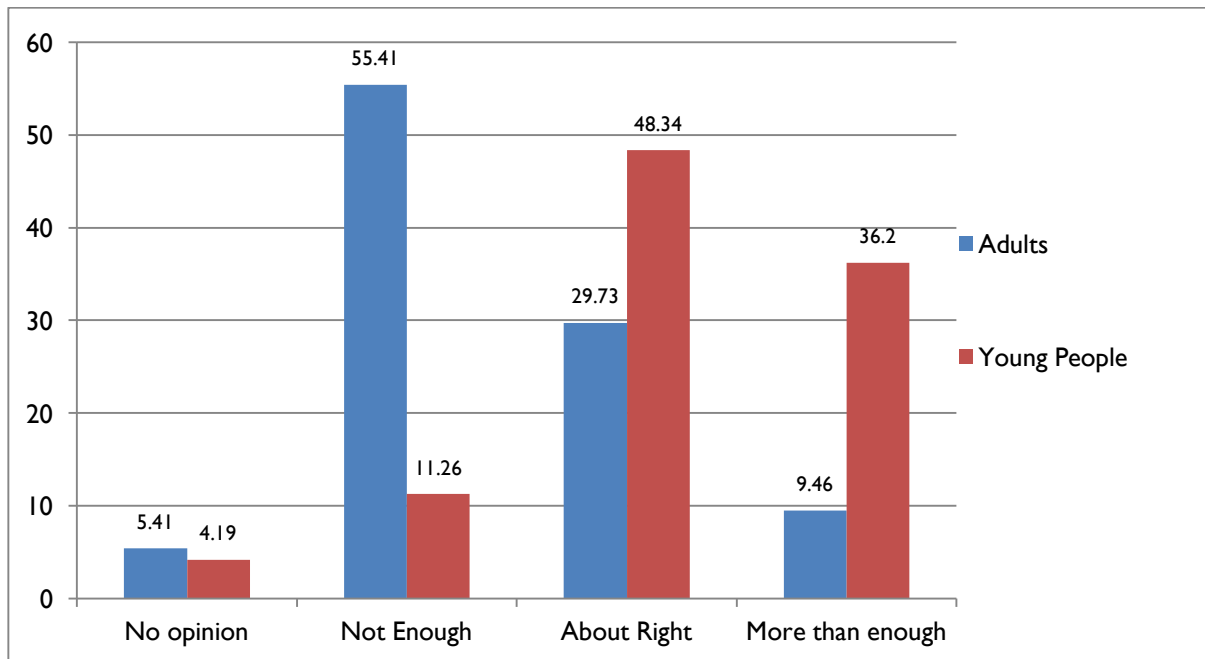
Fig A8: % adult consultation results on preferred travel mode (Great Outdoors Survey)
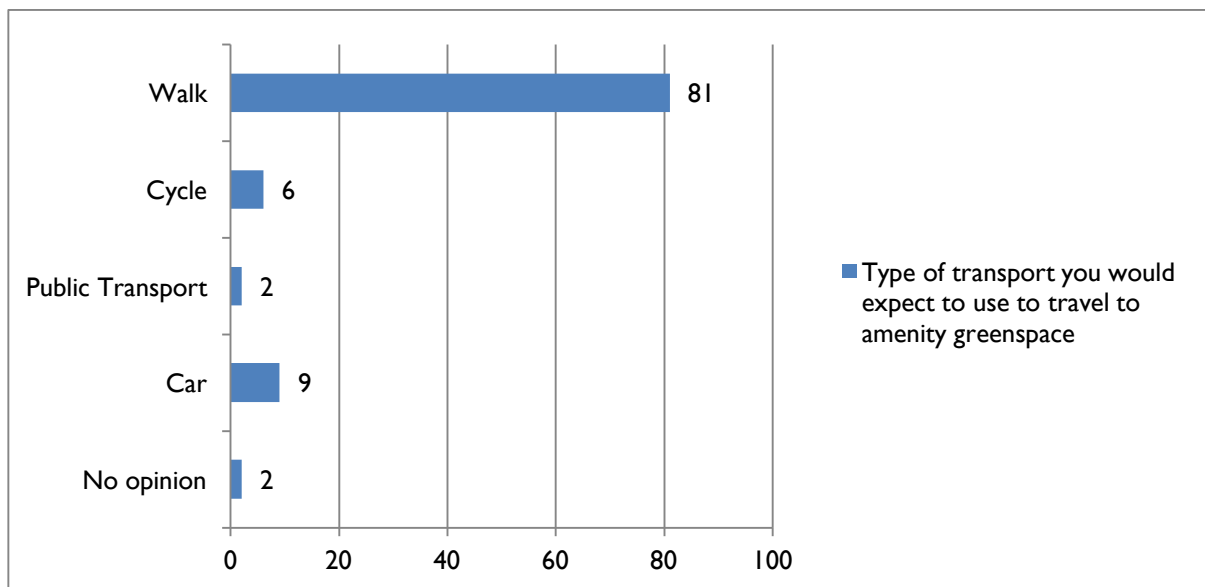
81% of adult respondents expect to walk to amenity green space.

Fig A9: % Length of time willling to travel to amenity green space: (Great Outdoors Survey)

0 -10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
71%	27%	2%	0%

Conclusions on standard justification

81% of adult respondents to the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors survey indicated they expected to be able to get to amenity greenspace by foot. The drop-off effect associated with travel time is pronounced after 10 minutes: 71% of respondents expect to get there in 10 minutes or less, 27% in 20 minutes or less and 2% greater than 20 minutes.

The current provision is 1.03 ha. per 1,000 people and 55% of the adult survey respondents believed this was not enough whilst 84% of young people felt the provision was 'about right' or 'more than enough'. However 80% of respondents to the Streetscene Survey felt the provision for open space met their expectations.

Newcastle under Lyme's recommended quantity standard for amenity green space (0.90 ha. per 1,000 people) is comparable to that adopted by neighbouring or other similar local authorities. Newcastle under Lyme's access standard for amenity green space of 220m is also aligned with the consultation results. It is designed to ensure all residents – both rural and urban – have access to a 'doorstep green' within a 5 – 10 minute walk.

2.7 Natural and semi-natural green spaces

The recommended minimum standard for natural and semi-natural green spaces in Newcastle under Lyme is 3.60 hectare per 1,000 people. The recommended access standard is 600m.

National standards: ANGSt and WASt. Two types of national guidance are of relevance regarding natural and semi-natural green space: Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) and the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard (WASt). Both standards are primarily driven by accessibility criteria.

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have:

- An accessible natural green space of at least 2 ha. in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home;
- At least one accessible 20-hectare natural green space site within two kilometres of home;
- One accessible 100 ha. natural green space site within five kilometres of home; and
- One accessible 500 ha. natural green space site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- One ha. of statutory Local Nature Reserve per thousand population.

WASt is based on a similar principle of accessibility as ANGSt:

- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 ha. in size;
- There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 ha. within 4 kilometres (8 km round-trip) of people's homes.

Standards used by similar local authorities

Standards for natural and semi-natural green space in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.02 to 8.05 ha. per 1,000 people. The higher figure is for High Peak inside the National Park therefore for the majority of authorities, the standard is between 1.00 and 4.86 ha. per 1,000 people. Newcastle under Lyme's recommended standard of 3.6 ha. per 1,000 residents falls to the higher end of this range.

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Fig. A10: Benchmarking against other local authorities – natural and semi-natural green space

Accessible Natural Greenspace (ha. per 1,000 population)
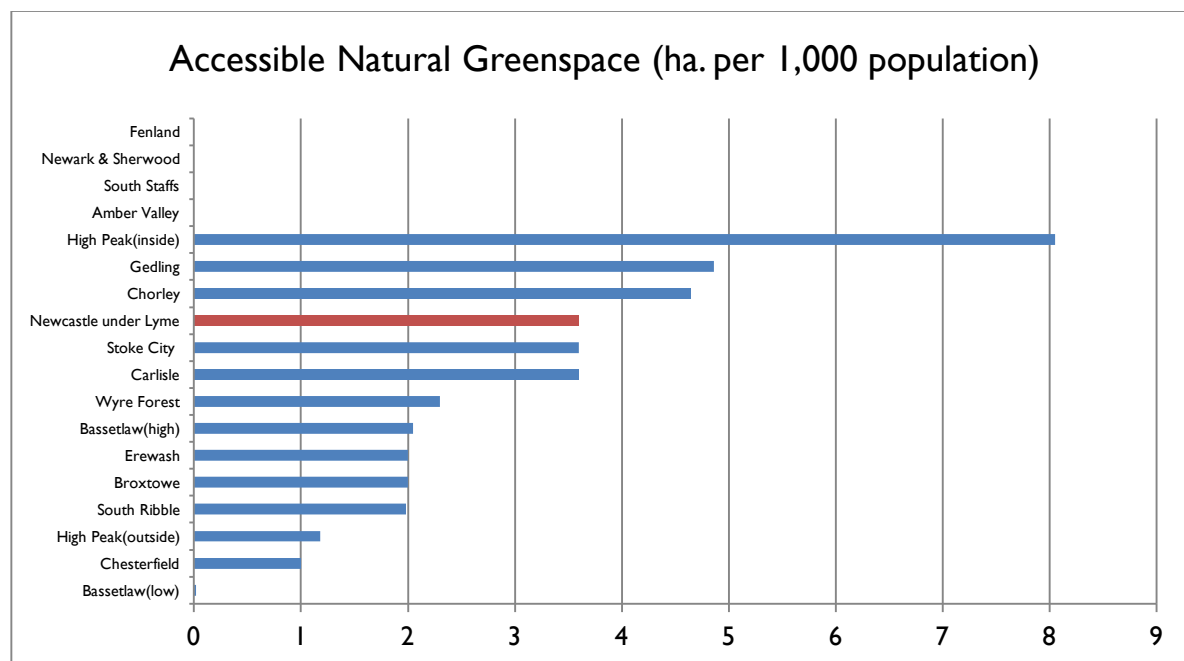
Existing provision: 14.0 ha. per 1,000

Newcastle under Lyme totals 1,746.22 ha. of natural and semi-natural green space, which translates to an average 14.0 ha. per 1,000 people.

Consultation results: 49% of respondents not satisfied with woodlands provision;

The Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoor Survey invited respondents to express their view on existing provision by differentiating between three broad categories of natural and semi-natural green space:

- Woodland
- Wetland (like marshes)
- Other natural green spaces (grasslands, moorland, heathland)

As shown in figures A11, A12 and A13 below:

Woodland

50% of adults and 46% of young people are not satisfied with current provision of woodland and 43% of adults and 38% of young people feel provision is about right or more than enough.

Wetlands

A difference of opinion between adults and young people 52% of adult respondents are not satisfied with current provision of wetlands whilst 58% of young people feel provision is about right or more than enough. 36% of adults and 26% of young people feel it is about right.

Natural Greenspace – like grasslands, moorlands

49% of adults and 47% of young people respondents are not satisfied with current provision of other natural greenspace like grasslands, moorlands and heathlands and 40% of adults and 29% of young people

feel provision is about right or more than. Overall around 50% of adult and 39% of young people respondents feel that there is not enough accessible natural greenspace.

Fig. A11: % consultation results on quantity of woodlands in Newcastle under Lyme
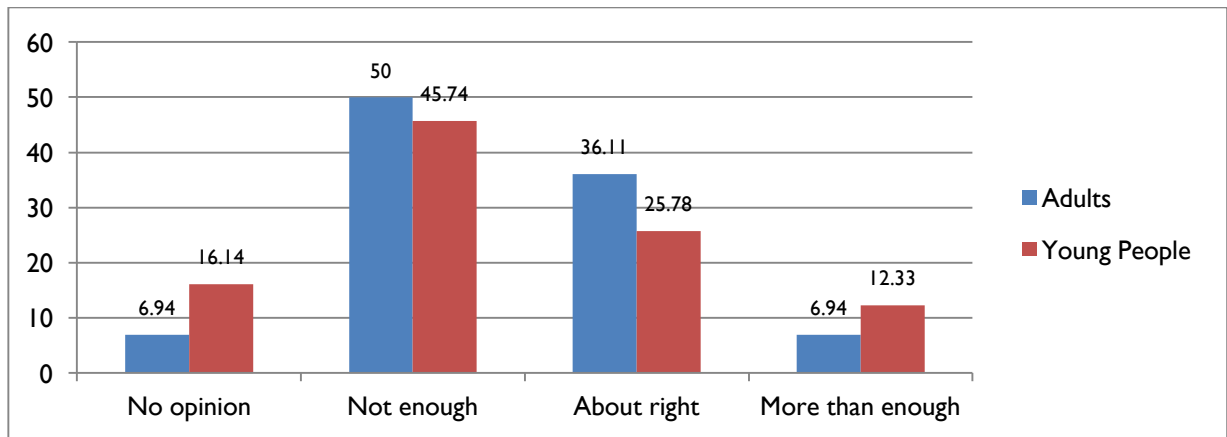
Fig. A12: % consultation results on quantity of wetland (like marshes) in Newcastle under Lyme
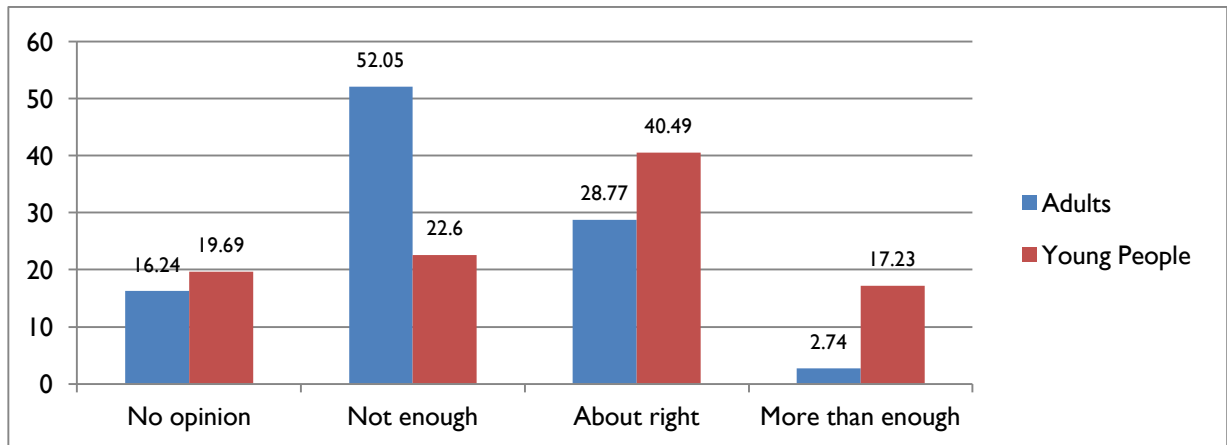
Fig. A13: % consultation results on quantity of other natural greenspaces in Newcastle under Lyme
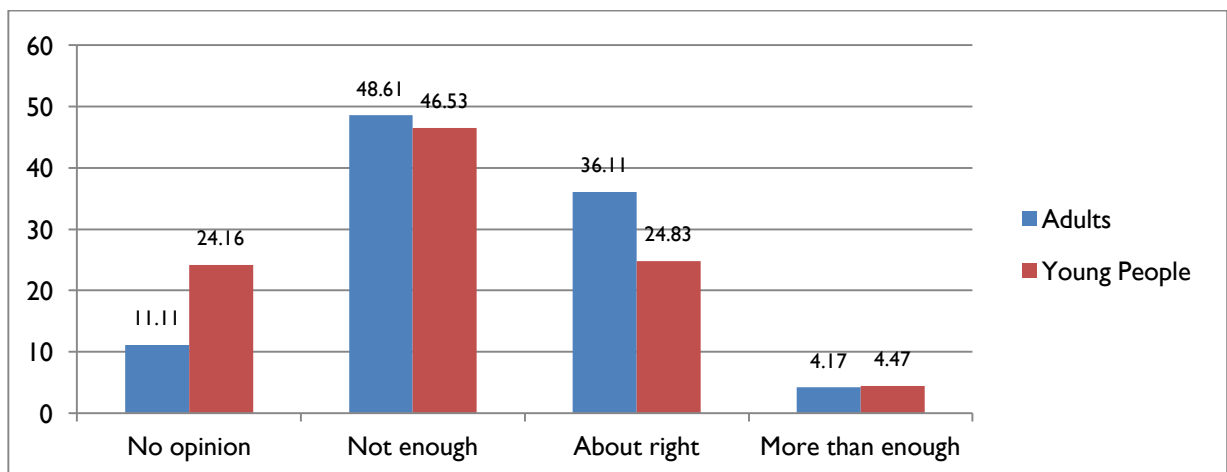
When adults were asked how they expected to be able to get to natural and semi-natural sites, 50% of the adults respondents to the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoor Survey indicated they were happy

to walk to woodland however 46% expected to travel by car to wetlands and 48% expected to travel by car other natural green space. Only 5% expected to use public transport to access other natural greenspace.

Fig A14: % consultation results on preferred travel mode to woodlands
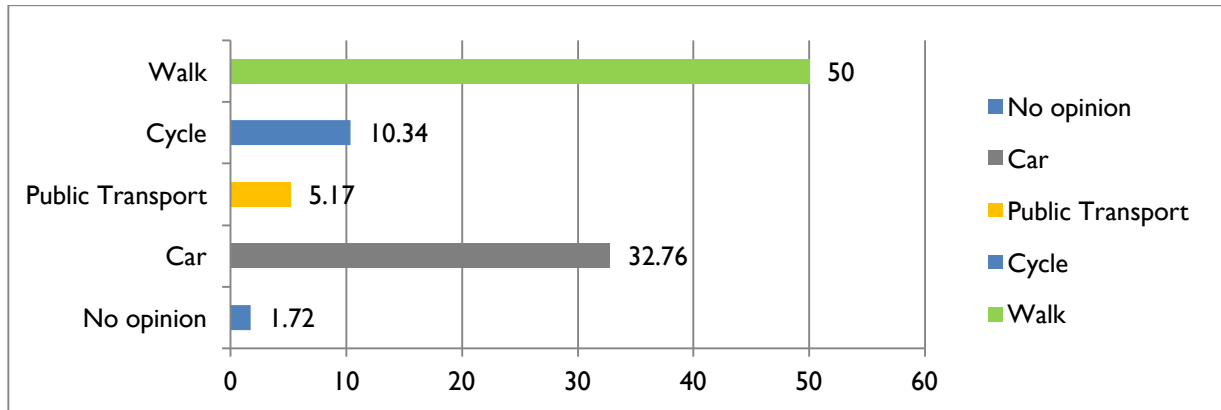
*Fig A15: % consultation results on **preferred travel mode to wetlands***
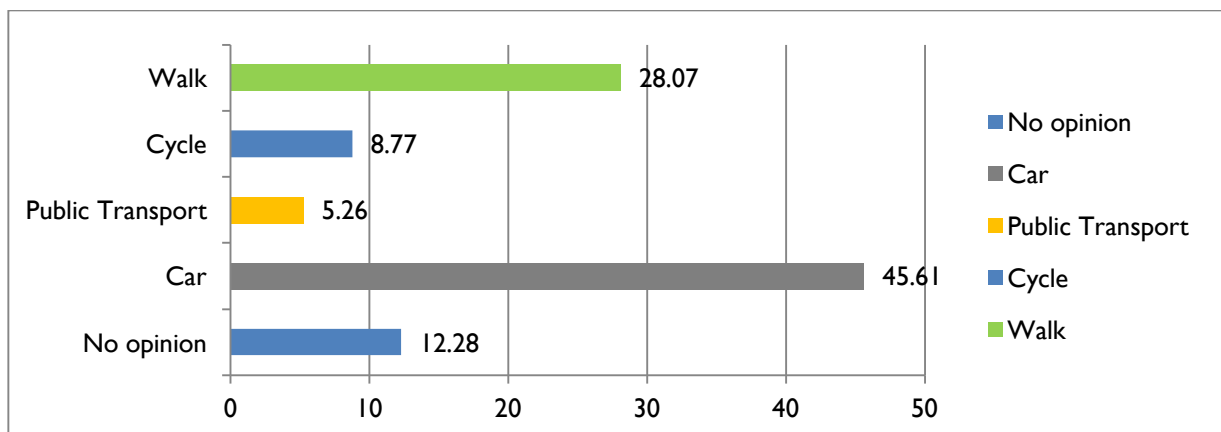
Fig A16: % consultation results on preferred travel mode to other natural greenspace

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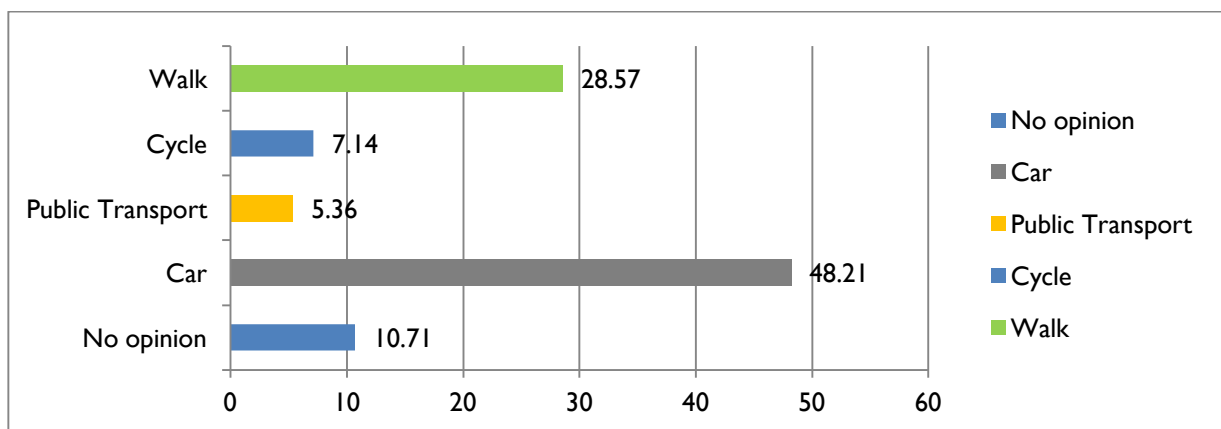
Length of time willling to travel to woodlands

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
32%	42%	13%	13%

Length of time willling to travel to wetlands

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
12%	40%	22%	13%

Length of time willling to travel to other natural greenspace

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
31%	33%	20%	16%

Overall the majority of people only expect to travel to accessible natural greenspaces within 20 minutes (74% to woodland within 20 minutes, 52% to wetland within 20 minutes and 64% to other natural greenspace within 20 minutes).

Conclusions on standard justification

Newcastle under Lyme's recommended quantity standard for natural and semi-natural green space (3.60 ha. per 1,000 population) is comparable to that adopted by other local authorities and actual current provision is 14.0 ha. per 1,000 population. It is above current average levels of provision. However, overall around 50% of respondents feel that there is not enough accessible natural greenspace; so given that the Borough already exceeds the standard any loss of natural green space is likely to lead to strong opposition. Furthermore, an excess of natural green space is beneficial to the Boroughs ecosystem services which are not presently valued in open space audits. The recommended distance standard of 600m reflects consultation results where overall the majority of people only expect to travel to accessible natural greenspaces within 20 minutes.

2.6 Designated play space for children and young people

The recommended minimum standard for designated play space for children and young people is 0.41 hectares per 1,000 people. The associated access standard is 100 metres for a Local Area for Play (LAP), 400m for a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) and 1,000m for a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP).

National standard: FIT's Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Sport and Play

The National Playing Fields Association (now Fields in Trust, 'FiT')'s six-acre standard (2.43 ha.) per 1,000 population has been superseded by FIT's Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard. The Standard recommends dedicating 1.20 Ha. for Playing Pitches, 1.60 Ha. for all outdoor sports (i.e. ha. per 1,000 population) and to children's play of which 0.25 ha. per 1,000 should be equipped space. 0.30 ha. is dedicated to other outdoor provision including MUGA's and skateboard parks.

Regarding accessibility, Beyond Six Acre Standard suggests that there should be a Local Area Play (LAP) within 100 metres of every home, Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) within 400 metres, and a Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) within 1,000 metres.

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Standards for designated play space for children and young people in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.03 to 1.21 hectares per 1,000 people. Newcastle's recommended standard of 0.41 hectares per 1,000 residents sits within this range.

Fig. A17: Benchmarking against other local authorities – designated play space for children and young people indicating proposed standard for Newcastle of 0.41
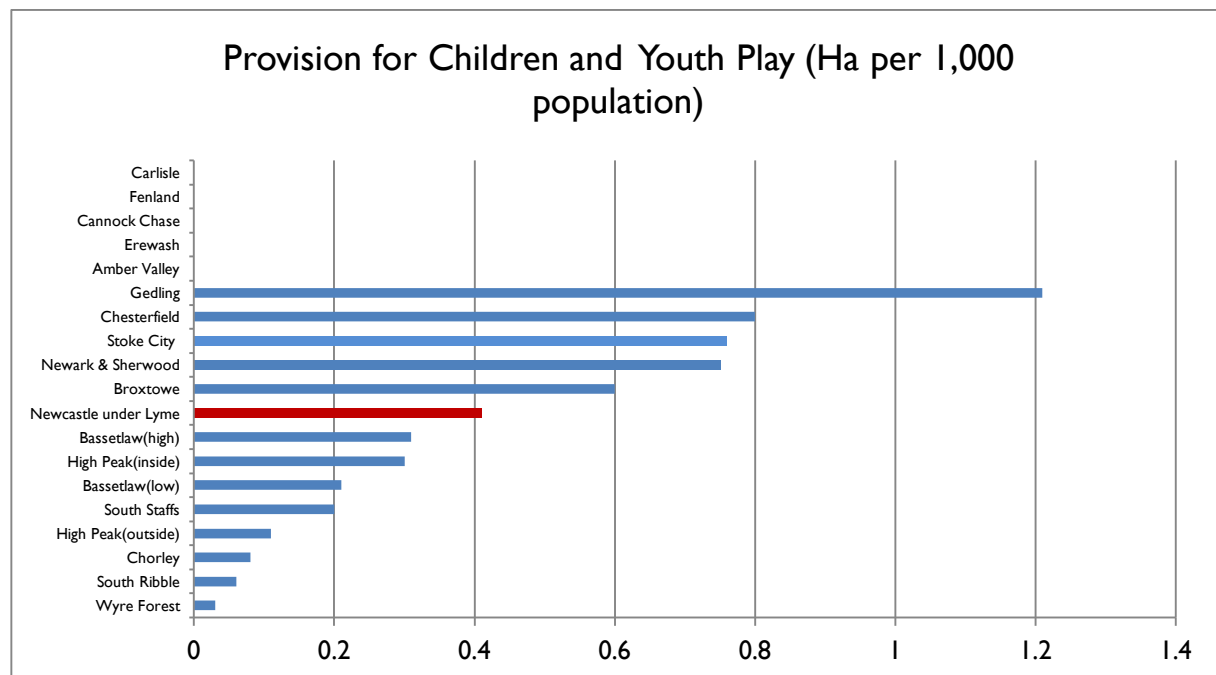
Existing provision: 0.41 hectare per 1,000 people

Newcastle under Lyme currently provides 51.35 hectares of designated play space, which translates to 0.41 hectares per 1,000 population.

Consultation results: 54% of adult respondents believe there is not enough Play space whilst 57% of young people are satisfied.

54% of adult and 36% of young people respondents believe there is not enough play space available. However, 57% of young people and 40% of adults felt the provision was 'about right' or 'more than enough'.

Fig. A18: % consultation results on quantity of designated play space for children and young people in Newcastle under Lyme
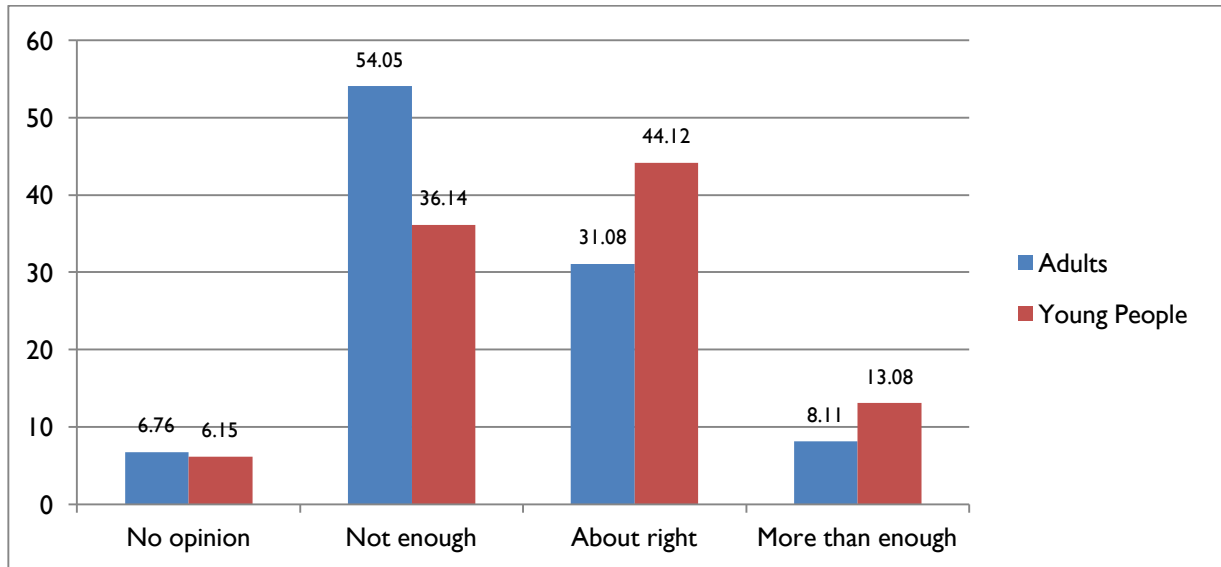
Regarding access, as with amenity green space, a very high proportion of adult respondents (66%) to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey indicated they expected to be able to get to designated play area by foot. 69 % also indicated they expected to travel no more than 10 minutes to get there.

Length of time willling to travel to play space

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
69%	20%	9%	2%

Fig A19: % adult consultation results on preferred travel mode

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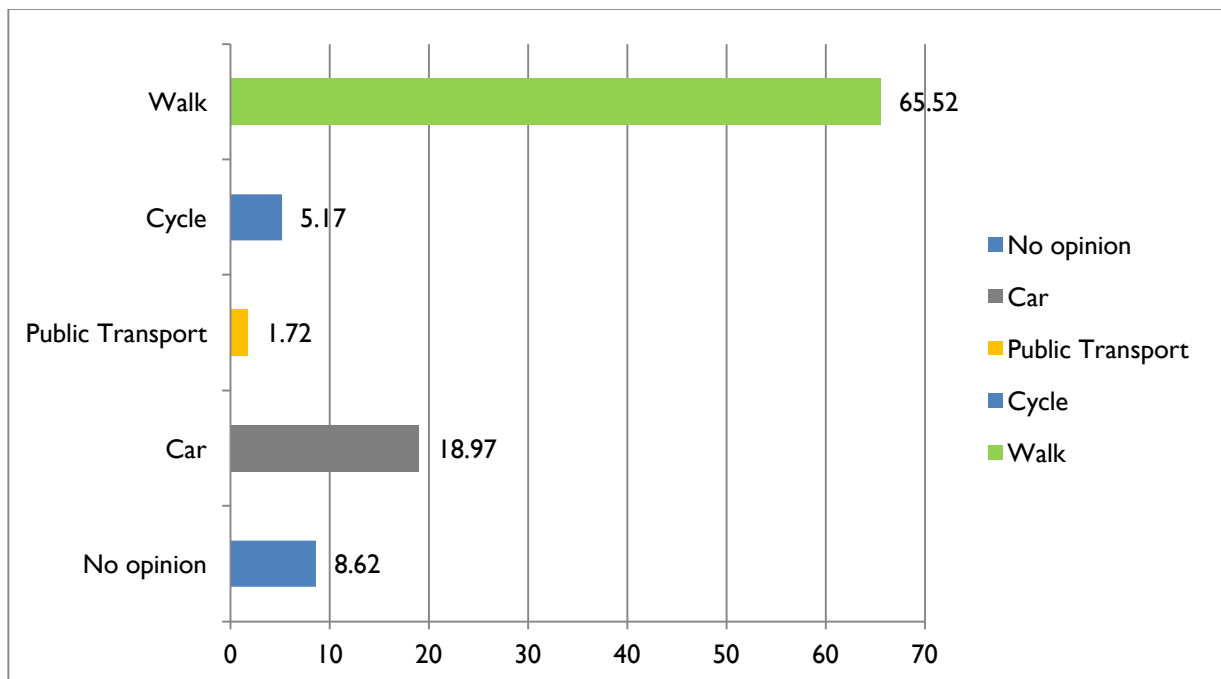
Conclusion on standard justification

Newcastle under Lyme's recommended standard for designated play space for children and young people (0.41 ha. per 1,000 population) is equal to the existing provision of 0.41 ha. per 1,000 population.

The adult consultation results show a large majority, 54%, believe that current provision is 'not enough', however 57% of young people feel the provision is 'about right' or 'more than enough'.

Many local authorities no longer put emphasis on providing LAPs so that better facilities with more to offer can be created and therefore improve opportunities for meaningful play spaces. This helps councils save time and money as the expenses of travelling to and maintaining many small sites with very limited equipment often far exceeds their benefits. However, there is an inbuilt contradiction as people clearly wish to be able to walk to play areas.

The associated access standard of 100 metres for a Local Area for Play (LAP), 400m for a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) and 1,000m for a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) reflect local expectations to be able to walk to play areas in approximately 10 minutes.

2.7 Allotments

Newcastle under Lyme's recommended minimum standard for allotments is 0.15 hectares per 1,000 population. The associated access standard is 400 metres (5 - 10-minute walk) in urban areas and a 15-minute drive in rural areas.

National standard: National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' standard

Newcastle under Lyme Allotment Strategy 2014 states:

'As there are no nationally agreed standards for the provision of allotments either in terms of quality or quantity it is difficult to judge how well the Borough compares nationally. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggest that there should be a minimum of 15 plots per thousand households (or 1 plot for every 65 households). For Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and other providers (Parish and Town Councils/voluntary and charitable organisations) there are 8.6 plots per thousand households. Other authorities compare the number of plots per thousand populations; this would give the Borough a figure of 3.9 plots per thousand population'.

It should be noted that the current standard equates to 0.0975 per thousand population and there is according to the allotment strategy a waiting list. Current levels are too low to meet demand and an increase is recommended. It is further recommended that for benchmarking purposes a switch should be made from considering plots/1,000 population to area/1,000 population which is a more common practice.

Standards used by similar local authorities

Standards for allotments in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle range from 0.07 to 0.31 hectares per 1,000 people. Two authorities have 20 and 21 plots per household.

Fig. A20: Benchmarking against other local authorities – allotments N.B. Gedling standard – 20 per 1,000 households in urban area, 30 per 1,000 households in rural area. Chesterfield standard – 21 per 1,000 households.

Provision for Allotments (ha. per 1,000 population)
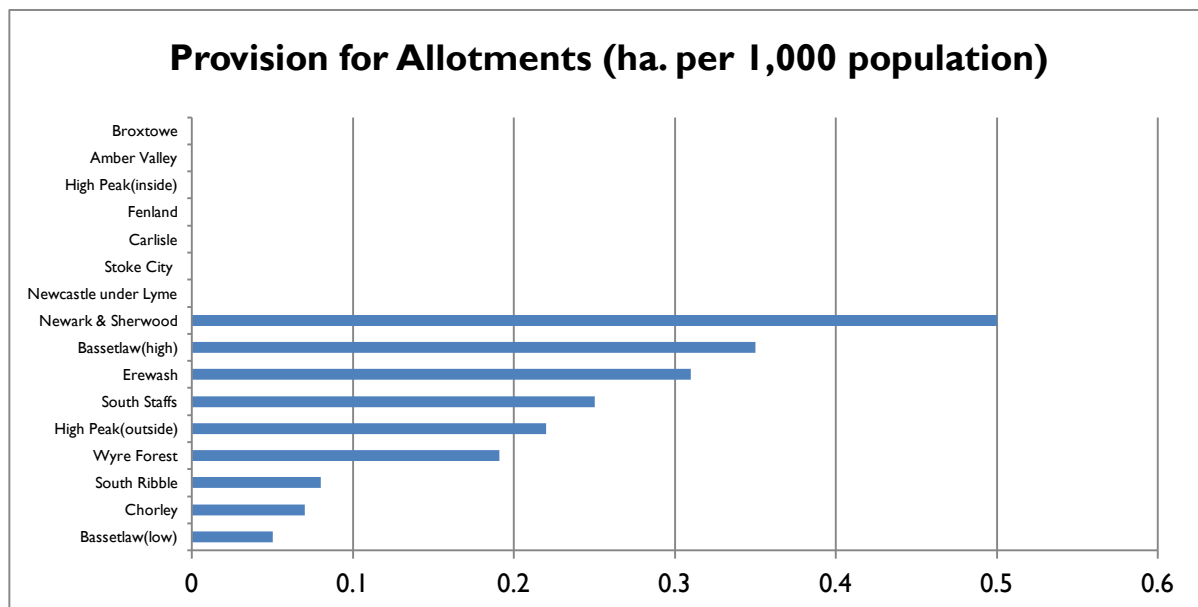
Existing provision:

For Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and other providers (Parish and Town Councils/voluntary and charitable organisations) there are 8.6 plots per thousand households. Other authorities compare the number of plots per thousand populations; this would give the Borough a figure of 3.9 plots per thousand population which a majority of respondents (44% of adults and 38% of young people) to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey felt is 'not enough' whilst 36% of adults and 25% of young people felt it was 'about right'. However, 31% of young people had 'no opinion'.

Consultation results: Average - 41% of respondents not satisfied; 31% about right

Fig A21. Consultation results on the quantity of allotments

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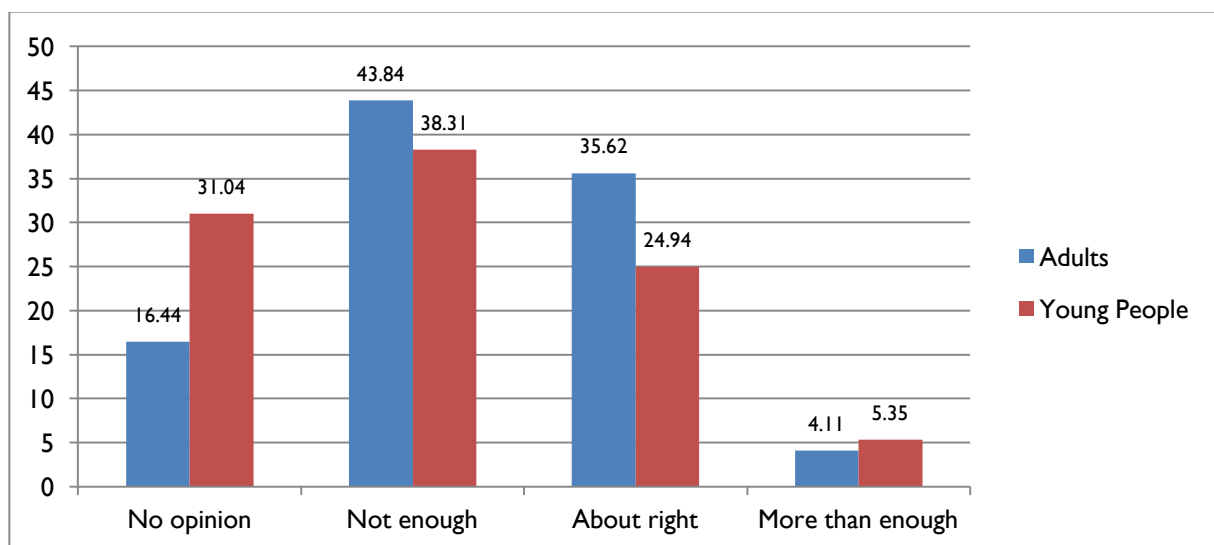
Concerning preferred mode of travel to get there, walking came first amongst adult responses (50%), followed by driving (36%). Given the need to transport equipment to and from sites it is accepted that users may often need to drive to the site. A travel time within 20 minutes is acceptable as expressed by 91% of respondents (50% within 10 minutes, 41% within 20 minutes).

Fig. A22: Consultation results on preferred travel mode to allotments
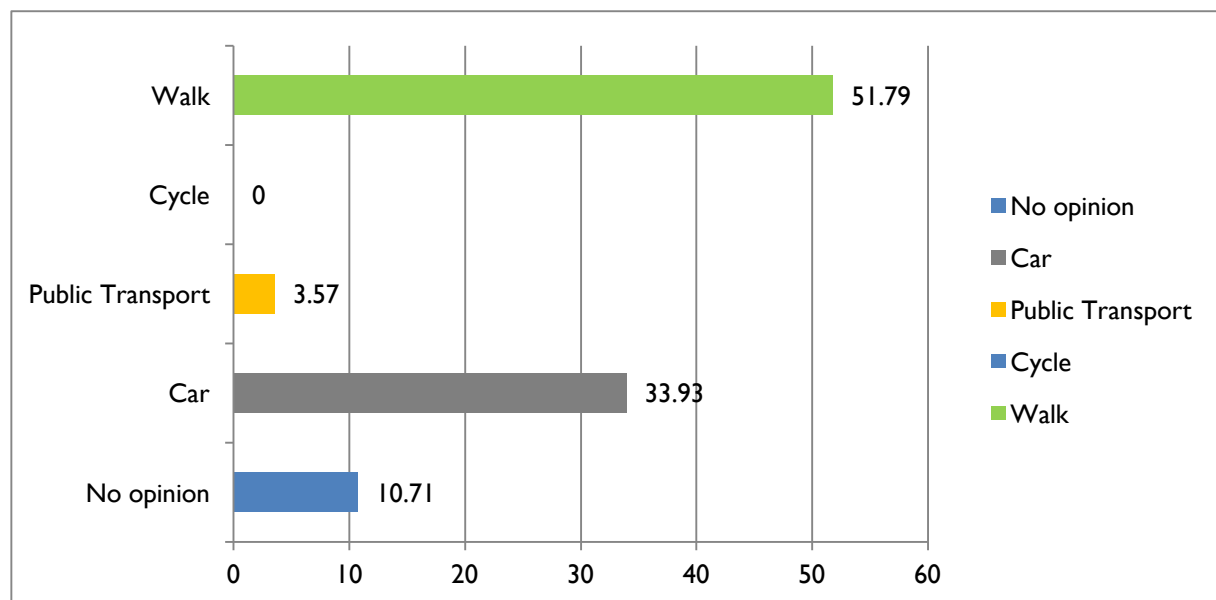
Length of time willling to travel to allotment

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
50%	40%	4.5%	4.5%

Conclusion on standard justification

The recommended quantity standard of 0.15 allotments per 1,000 population is in line with requirements adopted by comparator authorities, but not especially generous. Nevertheless, achieving this standard will help meet demand from the local population.

The recommended access standard for allotments of 400m or 5-10-minute walk in urban areas or a 15-minute drive in rural areas reflects local expectations to be able to access this type of green infrastructure/green space in about 10-20 minutes either by foot or by car when transport of equipment is needed.

2.8 Green corridors

There is no recommended quantity standard for green corridors. There is no recommended access standard for green corridors.

National standard. There is no applicable national standard.

Standards used by other local authorities

Other comparator local authorities did not set quantity standards for green corridors.

Existing provision: There are 46.03 ha. of accessible green corridors in Newcastle under Lyme.

Consultation results: 57% of adults and 40% of young people feel there's 'not enough';

Fig. A24 Consultation results on quantity of green corridors
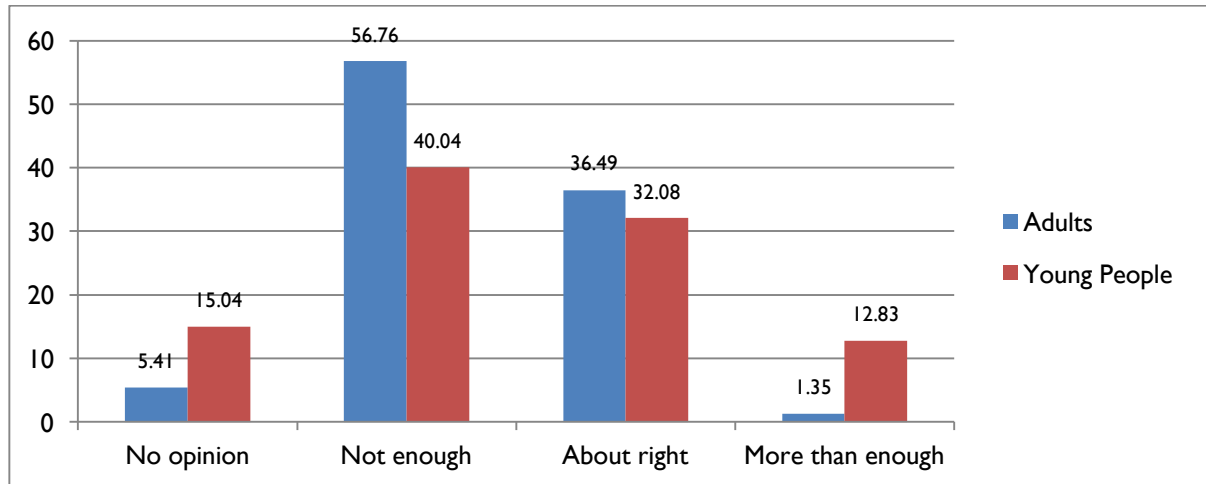
57% of adults and 40% of young people respondents to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey feel there is not enough, while 38% of adults and 45% of young people feel current provision is satisfactory. This is a semi negative result and is it could be interpreted as meaning that there is an actual or perceived under-provision in the opinion of those surveyed. Green corridors include nature walks as well as routes used for recreational activities notably cycling and dog-walking. Green corridors are also a facility greatly used by horse-riders. There is a need to investigate the relationship between the location of liveries/stables with bridleways to ascertain whether localised provision is adequate especially in urban fringe areas. Horses using public highways are dangerous to riders and motorists.

Fig. A25: % adult Consultation results on preferred travel mode to reach green paths and trails
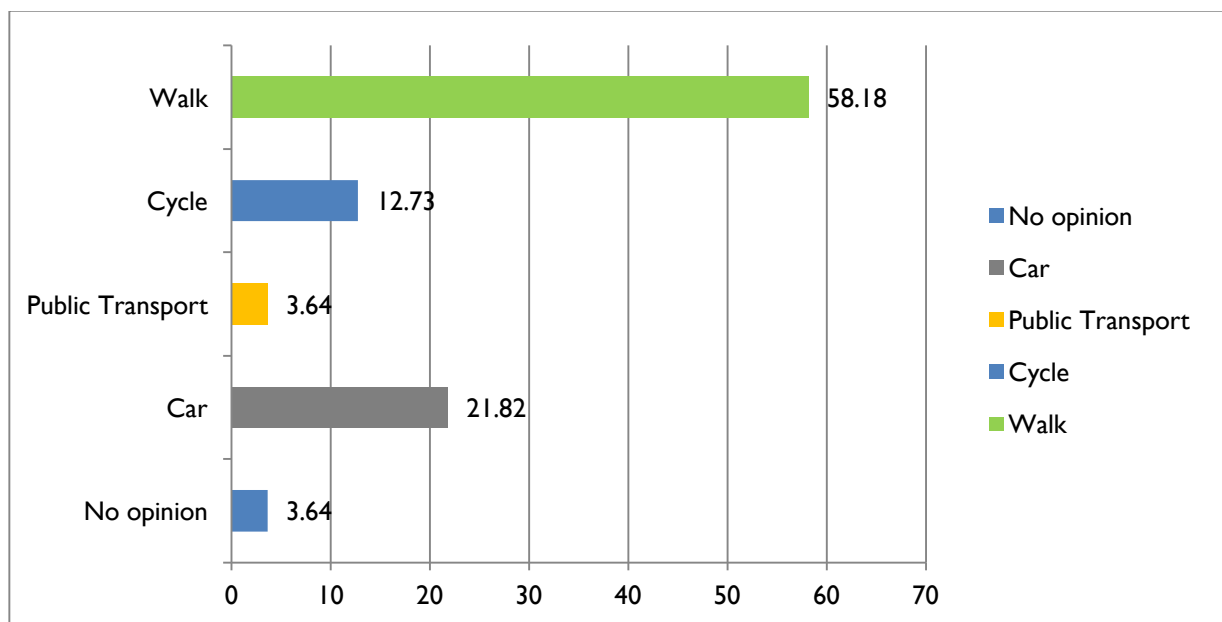
Length of time willing to travel to green paths and trails

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
58%	28%	9%	5%

A majority of adults (58%) expect to be able to get to green corridors by foot. A non-negligible proportion of respondents to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey (13%) also mentioned cycling as a preferred travel mode to get to and enjoy green paths and corridors. A travel time of about 10 minutes meets 58% of respondents' expectations on how long it should take them to get there.

Conclusions on standard justification

In the absence of examples from the nearest neighbour exercise from elsewhere a standard has not been set. However, this is an area which the Council may wish to investigate further by undertaking a green corridors study and planning for new provision and better connectivity.

2.9 Outdoor Sports pitches

Local standards are no longer accepted by Sport England so setting a new standard is meaningless and has been removed.

Fig. A26: % Consultation results on quantity of Outdoor Sports pitches
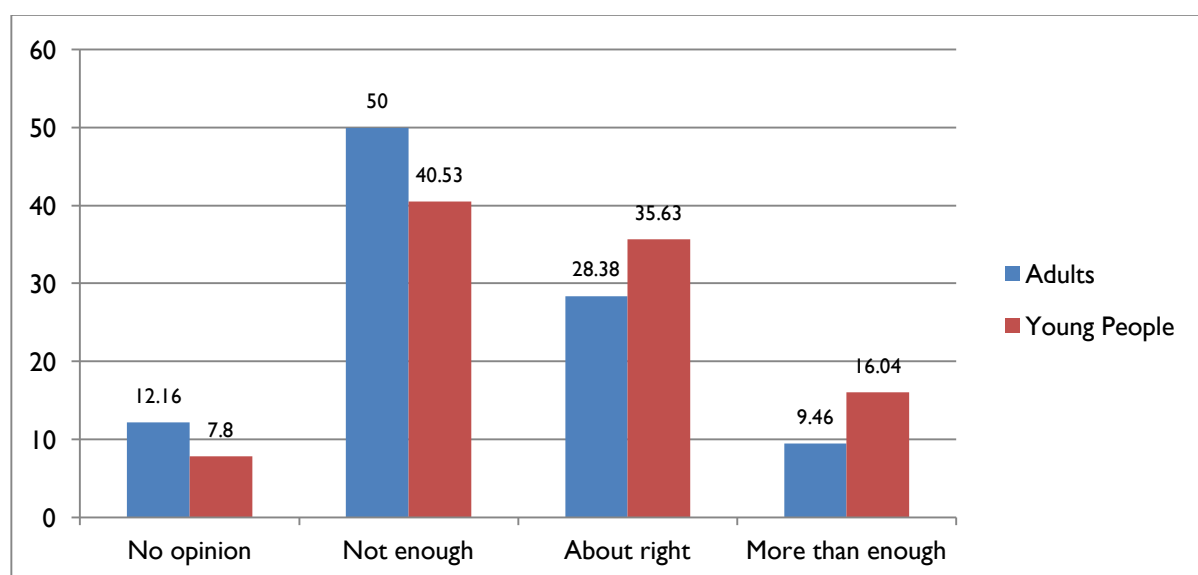
It should be noted that 50% of adults and 40% of young people respondents to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey feel there is not enough outdoor sports pitches, although 38% of adults and 52% of young people feel current provision is satisfactory. A majority of people (46%) expect to be able to get to outdoor sports pitches by car and 33% expect to walk. A travel time of about 10 - 20 minutes meets 80% of respondents' expectations on how long it should take them to get there.

Length of time willling to travel to outdoor sports pitches

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
41%	39%	11%	9%

Fig. A27: % adult Consultation results on preferred travel mode to reach outdoor sports pitches

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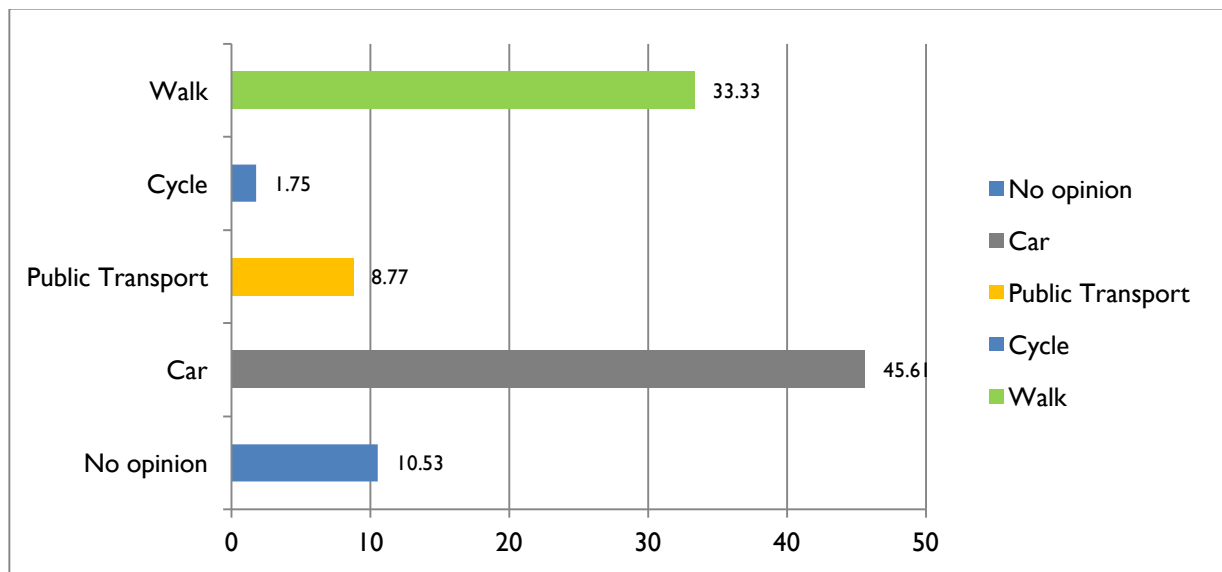
3: Newcastle under Lyme green infrastructure/green space quality standards

The Fields in Trust (FiT) Guidelines - Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard recommends quality guidelines. These are recommended for the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy

- Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.
- Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.
- Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.
- Appropriately landscaped.
- Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance.
- Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.
- Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.
- Provision of footpaths.
- Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.
- Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for playing pitches, taking into account the level of play, topography, necessary safety margins and optimal orientation.
- Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using the Children's Play Council's Quality Assessment Tool.

3.1 Quality score improvement threshold

A strategic overview of the quality of Newcastle under Lyme's green infrastructure/open space is available in the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy 2016. It is recommended that open space sites scoring less than 80% of the potential total quality score are considered as needing qualitative improvements. There are good reasons to maintain high quality:

- Site usage, as measured by the number of visits and repeat visits, is higher when the site is of a good quality;
- A greater mix of people use sites of good quality, hence there is less social exclusion;
- It is a lower cost to maintain a site in a good condition than to let it decline and then have to invest a large amount of money to return it to a good quality;
- Good quality sites are more likely to secure the interest and involvement of volunteers in its maintenance and in running events;
- Good quality sites are a tourism asset and hence contribute to the visitor economy;
- Quality allows the Borough Council and its partners to seek recognition in the form of awards and grants. This in turn builds 'pride of place' in the community.

	Urban (no.)	% of urban	Rural (no.)	% of rural	Total (no.)	% Total
Total no. of sites	326		227		553	
Total no. of sites audited/scored	176		81		257	46.5
Score > 80%	104	59.1	8	9.81	112	43.5
70 – 80%	60	34.1	38	46.9	98	38.2
< 70%	12	6.8	35	43.2	47	18.3

Open space results from 2015/16 site audit:

Of the 176 sites audited in 2015/16 only 18.3% fell below a quality score of 70%; overall this is a very strong performance

3.2 Quantity comparison

OPEN SPACE TYPES	COUNT	AREA (HA.)	CURRENT PROVISION (Hectares per 1,000 population based on 124,381 pop)	PREVIOUS STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line) URBAN RURAL*		
*Parks and gardens	35	436.29	3.51	2.35	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
*Amenity green space	112	128.31	1.03	No standard	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
*Natural and semi-natural green space	181	1746.22	14.0	3.60	3.60	600m		
*Designated play spaces for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41	0.76	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
*Allotments	12	13.60	0.11	No standard in last audit	0.15	400m (5-10 min walk)		15 min* drive
Green Corridors	16	46.03	0.37	No standard	No standard	No standard		
Outdoor Sport Facilities	NO STANDARD							

Applying the standards: key factors to take into consideration

4.1 Identifying surpluses and deficiencies

The green infrastructure/green space standards are central to the future planning and provision of facilities. The standards are used to identify:

- areas of quantitative deficiency or surplus;
- deficiencies in accessibility;
- quality deficiencies.

Results from the analysis of surpluses and deficiencies are available in the three 'Framework Plans'.

4.2 Determining how developer contributions towards green infrastructure will be collected (CIL vs Planning Obligations)

The quantity, quality and distance standards described above should also be used to guide investment and to calculate the level of developer contributions to ensure that adequate provision is made for open space/green infrastructure as a consequence of development. Since opportunities to provide additional green spaces in the urban areas in Newcastle under Lyme likely to be limited, it will be necessary in some cases to substitute the provision of new green infrastructure with a financial contribution. These financial contributions should be used to invest in existing green spaces to make them better and more useable, to increase the functionality of each space, and to improve their capacity to support ecosystem services.

To secure financial contributions, the Council could use the complementary mechanisms of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and/or planning obligations (as authorised under the Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). Whereas CIL is intended to be used for general infrastructure contributions, S106 obligations are intended for site specific mitigation. Decisions on whether to adopt CIL should be taken within the context of the scaling back of S106 obligations and the potential income streams for funding infrastructure.

The CIL Regulations 2010 defined the circumstances where each can be used and where they are not appropriate. Subsequent changes in the regulations (amended 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014) and experience in setting and using CIL has led to a clearer picture of how they can be best utilised.

If an authority has a S106 based tariff system, it is very likely that it will be severely restricted in taking further contributions post April 2015 because of the Pooling Restrictions. When CIL is introduced by a Local Authority, pooled contributions may only be secured from up to five (5) separate planning applications for one item of infrastructure that is not intended to be covered by CIL. These five planning applications will also need to consider those agreements which have been entered into since 6th April 2010 which provide funding for this piece of infrastructure. It is also possible for the Council to collect five pooled S106 obligations for a piece of infrastructure and then after that add it to the list of infrastructure to be funded/part funded through CIL.

Contributions secured by planning obligations will need to meet the statutory test set out in Regulation 122 of the CIL Regulations:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- Directly related to the development; and
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale to the development.

Each individual case should be looked at carefully before seeking S106 tariff payments. If there is not sufficient evidence to meet the statutory tests the authority may risk challenge that the decision has been

taken unlawfully. It will also be vulnerable at any planning appeal. To make optimum use of the CIL and S106 requires pro-active infrastructure planning and funding.

The Council's approach in deciding whether all or some of the contribution are secured via planning obligations or via CIL will therefore need to factor what can actually be secured in terms of new GI/GS development which is manageable and significant without pooling finance from more than one development.

This might be resolved by defining a range of 'strategic projects' drawing from the Green Infrastructure Strategy proposal map. Alternatively, this might be considered on a type-by-type basis.

The Council may well find that Green Corridors, Parks and Gardens, Allotments, and Natural and Semi-natural Green Space might benefit from a strategic approach, based on pooling of contributions (i.e. CIL), while Children's Play Provision, Amenity Greenspace, and trees can be handled through Planning Obligations.

If the Council is minded to use CIL, interim requirements and procedures related to commuted sums might be required. This can be achieved through an SPD with pre and post CIL introduction provisions. All guidance relevant to on-site provision will remain applicable post CIL introduction.

CIL offers greater flexibility than Section 106 Agreements: it can make it easier to mitigate the impact of development by using CIL funds to provide new as well as enhance existing open space.

CIL is only be chargeable in respect of change of use applications where new floor space in excess of 100 square metres is being added, except where the change of use is creating one or more new dwellings, in which case it may be payable even if no new floorspace is being created. Should the Council decide to adopt CIL, it should capture its potential to improve open spaces and green infrastructure by commissioning a Supplementary Planning Document.

Even if a specific formula is agreed in an open space strategy, it must not compromise development viability, otherwise decisions may be challenged at appeal.

4.3 Determining the developments that qualify

Applying the standard will also require determining the type of development to which the standards apply.

The selection of types of development the standards should apply to will need to be informed by the scale, location and range of new developments anticipated for the new Local Plan period.

If the Council anticipates significant large commercial/business developments, it would be desirable to ensure such developments contribute to the Borough's green infrastructure by featuring an adequate canopy cover in their parking area, while contributing to other green infrastructure provision which might be used by their customers or employees (e.g. amenity green space and green corridors so that employees and customers can access the development by cycle).

If, however the Council only anticipates small scale commercial/business developments, an argument can be made in favour of concentrating on residential developments for the application of the standards through planning permission and build commercial and other development into CIL where the cumulative benefit could be directed to a significant new GI development defined by the authority. If the Council is aware of major non-residential sites or redevelopments, the open space requirement could also be secured through site specific allocation policies or development briefs.

The following are recommended as good practice measures for Newcastle under Lyme:

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A. For residential; 0.004 hectares (0.01 acres) per dwelling of amenity open space shall be provided for the total number of dwellings, irrespective of type or tenure; notwithstanding
B. That such open space will be provided in areas of not less than 0.1 hectares (0.25 acres) regardless of development size;
C. In circumstances where back-land development is deemed permissible on sites less than 0.1 hectare (0.25 acres) where there is ecosystem loss, it will still be necessary for developer contributions to be paid and pooled as may be appropriate in accordance with the requirements of the CIL regulations;
D. Roadside landscaping will not be counted as open space towards this requirement;
E. In locating open spaces within new developments due consideration should be given to the importance of open space within developments as integral design features. Accordingly, consideration should be given to good natural surveillance; incorporation of features of ecological interest; linkages with existing footpaths and open space networks and the need to avoid potential for nuisance to neighbouring residential properties. Where appropriate, a satisfactory scheme for the provision of open space in an alternative location may be acceptable;
F. New policy needs to identify specific triggers for the provision of LAP, LEAP and NEAP in new developments.

Examples of criteria applied by a randomised sample of other authorities are listed below (unless otherwise mentioned, the provisions listed are part of an adopted SPD or Local Plan policy):

Central Lancashire (except South Ribble) [Lancashire]: all new developments are required to contribute towards open space and playing pitches provision, with the exception of nursing/rest homes, sheltered accommodation, replacement homes. There is no minimum size threshold for residential developments.

South Ribble [Lancashire]: open space and playing pitch provisions are only required for residential developments resulting in 5 new dwellings or more.

New Forest [Hampshire]: open space requirements only apply to proposals resulting in a net increase in dwelling units. Replacement dwellings or extensions to existing dwellings are not within the scope of application of the Council's open space standards.

Tendring [Essex]: As in South Ribble and New Forest, the Council's open space standards are applied where new residential development leads to a net gain in residential units. Extensions to existing dwellings do not require contributions; neither do homes for the elderly (except for informal open space), replacement dwellings, individual bedsits or nursing homes.

Rother [East Sussex]: All residential developments are expected to make a contribution.

Blackpool [Lancashire]: open space requirements apply only apply to residential developments of 3 dwellings of more, including conversions from non-residential use and replacement dwellings

Dover [Kent]: Dover's recommended Open Space Standards Proposal published alongside the Dover Green Infrastructure Strategy, the approach proposed is as follow:

	Open Space (parks, gardens, amenity space and green corridors)	Outdoor Sports	Children's Play Space	Community Gardens
Open Market Housing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Affordable Housing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flats	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial Development	✓	✗	✗	✗
Active Elderly	✓	✓	✗	✓
Less Active Elderly	✓	✗	✗	✗

4.4 Off-site versus on-site provision

Applying the standards will also require determining under which circumstances (in respect to assessed deficiencies) and for which types of green infrastructure on-site green infrastructure will be sought. To a large degree, the choices made regarding green infrastructure to be covered through CIL will limit the range of choices to be made.

Examples of criteria applied by other authorities are listed below:

Central Lancashire: the only typologies for which a developer may be required to provide on-site provision are amenity green space and children's play provisions. Regarding amenity green space: onsite provision is expected for developments of 10 or more dwellings. In respect to children's Play, onsite provisions are expected for development of 100 or more dwellings.

New Forest: decided on a case by case basis, based on scale/viability of development

Tendring: decided on a case-by-case basis, based on the scale of the development and the assessed deficiency in green infrastructure in the surrounding area – except for residential development sites greater than 1.5 hectares.

Rother: decided on a case-by-case basis, based on scale of development and existing surrounding provisions

Blackpool: A grading scale is provided, started with developments below 1 ha. (7 sq.m. of onsite children play/casual space for developments of more than 57 person, typically about 20 dwellings. In central Blackpool, where feasible the threshold for this is lowered to smaller sites of about 10 dwelling). The onsite requirement increases as the development size increases, with distinct provision for onsite play and onsite amenity green space.

4.5 Defining the policy implementation process

Examples of processes Newcastle under Lyme Council might choose to adopt to define planning obligations in respect to the proposed green infrastructure/green space standards are outlined below.

Option 1:

Step 1

Is there currently a deficit in the area?

→ **Yes** *It is recommended that new provision is required in accordance with the standards described in this document. Provision will either be on-site or by way of a financial contribution for off-site provision.*

↓ **No**

Step 2

Is the development within the recommended accessibility catchment of the type of green space considered?

→ **Yes** *It is recommended that new provision is required in accordance with the standards described in this document. Provision will either be on-site or by way of a financial contribution for off-site provision.*

↓ **No**

Step 3

Are any of the relevant green space sites within the accessibility catchment below the recommended quality standard?

→ **Yes** *It is recommended that a financial contribution towards improvement of the quality of the nearest site of that typology is required.*

↓ **No**

It is recommended that no contribution is sought for that typology.

Option 2:

Step 1

Does the development generates any demand for any open space typology (see table 6.1, presented under para. 4.3 – Dover above)?

→ **No** **No contribution towards open space is sought.**

↓ **Yes**

Step 2

Calculate the number of children/ adults generated by the new development

How? *A table is provided:*

In the case of commercial developments the Council seeks contributions at a rate of 34 sqm per person (B2, GIA) 50-80 sqm per person (B8, GEA) and 19 sqm per person (B1, GIA) in line with English Partnerships guidance on density (2001)

Type	Population	Child Yield (0.14)
1 bed house	1.30	0.00
2 bed house	2.11	0.45
3 bed house	2.62	0.74
4+ bed house	3.25	1.00
1 bed flat	1.25	0.01
2 bed flat	1.64	0.10
3+ bed flat	2.17	0.24

Step 3

Calculate the open space requirement by typology

How? *by multiplying the standard per person by the number of new resident (or equivalent, based on conversion rate provided for commercial developments) to be generated by the new development.*

Step 4

Does the development fall within accessibility distance of existing open space ?

→ **No** **The full amount of open space calculated during Step 3 will need to be provided. Negotiations with the Council will be conducted to determine how much is provided on-site or towards new or improved off-site provision.**

↓ **Yes**

An equivalent contribution may be sought in lieu of on site provision to enhance the capacity of the existing provision so that it can meet the additional demand and fully meet the quality standards. Where off site provision is proposed then the Council will determine the appropriate contribution towards capital and maintenance provision as an equivalent for on site provision

4.6 Setting commuted sum payments

A cost model for off-site contributions will need to be defined. The resulting cost schedule should be indexed to inflation and account for both capital and maintenance costs over a defined period. For on-site provision, cash contribution towards maintenance of existing open space should be the minimum sought, unless private maintenance arrangements are proposed.

Amongst other authorities investigated through desk study, the sums required to cover maintenance costs range from 10 to 20 years:

- Central Lancashire: 10 years;
- New Forest: 10 years;
- Sefton: 10 years;
- Dover: 15 years;
- Teignbridge: 20 years;
- Tendring: 20 years.

4.7 Private maintenance arrangements

Given the financial situation that local authorities face and the possibility of long-term austerity then there is a strong argument in favour of seeking private maintenance contributions from occupiers which are transferrable upon sale. It will be important to ensure that robust means are needed to collect contributions (through direct debit) and agreement on who is responsible for undertaking the works. An SPD is recommended as the optimum way to address the implementation of private maintenance agreements. This may, for example, set out the method for delivery or provision of new greenspace, as well as the way that it will be maintained. It is important to note that delivery and maintenance are likely to be two separate but related issues.

Notes on sources and methodology

5.1 National standards guidance

For the avoidance of doubt the former PPG17 companion guide, still representing 'good practice' has been used in the preparation of the GI/OS strategies. It stresses that standards should be local and reflect local demand and needs. Notwithstanding this there is a range of national standards guidance which is referenced below.

The sources consulted on national standards and benchmarks for green infrastructure and open space are as follow:

Fields in Trust's "Beyond the Six Acre Standard"
Reference document: *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play*, FIT, 2015

Natural England's "Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard"
Reference document: *Nature Nearby, Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (NE265)*, Natural England, 2010

The Woodland Trust's "Woodland Access Standard"
Reference document: *Space for People*, The Woodland Trust, 2004

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' standard
Reference document: *Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments*, H. Thorpe, 1969. Cmnd., 4166: Parliamentary Papers, London.

The Trees and Design Action Group best practice guides
Reference document: Trees in the Townscape, A Guide for Decision Maker, TDAG, 2012

5.2 Benchmarking with other local authorities

To allow for benchmarking comparisons, a cross-section of 15 local authorities was selected on the basis of the CIPFA Nearest Neighbour model which utilises the Nearest Neighbour algorithm and ONS datasets. This is widely regarded as an authoritative model and is used by the Audit Commission in their value for money profiling. In addition, the City of Stoke on Trent was included due to its geographic proximity and the fact that a joint local plan is being prepared with them. For each local authority selected, a review of the adopted green infrastructure/green space standards was carried out based on the supporting evidence, adopted strategies and/or planning policies.

* The office of National Statistics classifies Urban/Rural local authority in one of the following categories

- MU: Major Urban, the "most" urban authorities;
- LU: Largely Urban;
- OU: Other Urban;
- SR: Significant Rural, indicates tha.t a district has between 26 and 50 percent of its population in rural settlements and large market towns;
- R50: Rural-50 authorities have between 50 and 80 percent of their population living in rural settlements or large market towns.

For the determining how developer contributions towards green infrastructure will be collected exercise, a different set of local authorities were investigated based on a previous and illustrative desk study undertaken by MD2 Consulting Ltd.

NEAREST NEIGHBOURS OPEN SPACE ACCESS STANDARDS COMPARISON REVIEW

		Total Population(2001 estimate)	Area(Ha.)	Population Density(based on 2011 estimate)(Number of persons per Ha.)	Greenspace Access Standards (measured as minimum distance to Greenspace)																Source
					Parks		Amenity Greenspace		Accessible Natural Greenspace		Childrens Play		Youth Provision		Outdoor Sports Facilities		Allotments		Green Corridors		Total		
					Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1	Amber Valley	122,746	2,654,400	4.6	1200m		600m		1200m		600m		1200m		No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2018. Amber Valley Play Strategy 2010-2015
2	Chorley	109,077	2,028,000	5.45	12 min. Walk	15 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		No standard		10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	No standard		N/A		Open Space Strategy 2013-2018, Playing Pitch Stragey 2013-2018
3	Wyre Forest	98,074	1,954,000	5.04	Town Park - Urban 15 min. walk(720m)/Rural 20 min. Drive	Local Park - Urban 10 min. walk(720m)/Rural 15 min. Drive	10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		15 min. Walk (720m)		Grass Pitches - 10 min. walk(480m)/ 15 min. Drive to public outdoor facilities		10 min. Walk (480m)		No standard (National Guidance)		N/A		Wyre Forest Sport and Recreation Assessment 2008. (* 0.24 for Local Parks/0.33 for Town Parks)
4	Erewash	112,809	1,096,300	10.33	700m	1,000m	100m		300m		1-4 equipment - 1 min. Walk, 5-8 equip -5 min., 9+ - 15 min. Walk		15 min. Walk (720m)		No standard		100 plots - 1200m, 50 plots - 900m, 10 plots - 600m, 1-9 plots - 300m		No standard		N/A		Erewash Greenspace Strategy 2007, Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment 2006
5	Gedling	114,052	1,199,800	9.57	14 min. Walk(510m)		8 min. Walk(386m)		16 min. Walk		5 min. Walk or 15 min. Walk for NEAP(Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play)		10 min. Walk	15 min. Drive	20 min. Walk/10 min. Drive		No standard		N/A		Gedling Greenspace Strategy 2012 - 2017
6	Broxtowe	110,716	801,000	13.88	500m		300m		500m		No standard		500m		No standard		No standard		N/A		Green Spaces Strategy 2009-2019
7	Chesterfield	103,782	660,400	15.75	Large Country Park - 3200m, Local Park - 10 min. Walk(480m)		No standard		720m		480m, 10 min. Walk		No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		Chesterfield Parks and Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2024, Chesterfield Allotment Strategy 2012-2106
8	South Staffordshire	108,441	4,073,200	2.71	No standard		No standard		No standard		400m		No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		South Staffordshire Open Space Audit April 2008, Playing Pitch Strategy October 2007
9	Cannock Cha.se	97,940	788,800	12.44	No standard																		Cannock Cha.se Local Plan Adopted 2014 makes reference to delivering Standards in 2016
10	High Peak (outside National Park) / High Peak (inside National Park)	91,118	5,391,400	1.69	15 min. Walk	20 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	20 min. Walk	20 min. Drive	10 min. Walk to LEAP, 10 min. Drive to NEAP. In rural access to at least informal provision.		20 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	10 min. Drive		No standard / No standard		N/A		Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2009 Standards Paper
11	Newark & Sherwood	115,761	6,513,400	1.79	No standard		No standard		5 min. Walk/300m		No standard		No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		Green Space Strategy 2007 - 2012
12	Fenland	95,996	5,464,500	1.77	Fenland ha.ve moved away from the National Standards and created a very detailed standard application to each site use based on developable space and distance to green space																		Open Space Standards Evidence Base Report February 2013

		Total Population	Area (Ha.)	Pop. Density	Parks (Walk/Drive)		Amenity Greenspace	Accessible Natural Greenspace		Childrens Play	Youth Provision	Outdoor Sports	Allotments		Green Corridors	Total	Source
13	Bassetlaw	113,178	63,790	1.78	All residents to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision		All residents to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision	All residents to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision		All residents to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision	No standard	All residents to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision	No standard		N/A		Open Space Study March 2010
14	South Ribble	108,971	1,129,600	9.64	12 min. Walk	15 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	No standard	10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive		No standard	N/A	Central Lancashire Open Space Study March 2012
15	Carlisle	107,952	10,393,100	1.04	All dwellings should be within 3000m of an open space of at least 20ha. which provides general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 1,000m of an open space between 5 and 20 ha. which provides general facilities for recreation provision within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 400 metres of an open space of between 2 and 10ha. which caters for informal recreational needs • all dwellings should be within 200 metres of a small formal or informal open space between 0.2 and 2 ha. that is suitable or informal use and has high amenity value.											Carlisle District Council Local Plan - Chapter 8
16	Stoke City	249,903	934,500	26.77	Local -400m,N'hood -800m,District -1200m		No standard	600m		LAP - 220m, LEAP - 400m, NEAP - 800m		1200m	No standard		No standard	N/A	Stoke on Trent Greenspace Strategy May 2014 N.B. The standrards for Stoke are also taken from North Staffordshire Greenspace Strategy 2007
17	Newcastle under Lyme	124,183	2,109,600	5.93	Local -400m,N'hood -800m,District -1200m		No standard	600m		LAP - 220m, LEAP - 400m, NEAP - 800m		1200m	No standard		No standard	N/A	North Staffordshire Greenspace Strategy 2007, Newcastle Allotment Strategy 2014 - 2020

NEAREST NEIGHBOURS OPEN SPACE QUALITY STANDARDS COMPARISON REVIEW

		Total Population (2001 estimate)	Area (Ha.)	Population Density (based on 2011 estimate)(Number of persons per Ha.)	Parks Urban	Parks Rural	Amenity Greenspace Urban	Amenity Greenspace Rural	Accessible Natural Greenspace Urban	Accessible Natural Greenspace Rural	Childrens Play Urban	Childrens Play Rural	Youth Provision Urban	Youth Provision Rural	Outdoor Sports Facilities Urban	Outdoor Sports Facilities Rural	Allotments Urban	Allotments Rural	Green Corridors Urban	Green Corridors Rural	Total Urban	Total Rural	Source
1	Amber Valley	122,746	2,654,400	4.6	The threshold for the provision of Recreational Open Space is 36+ dwellings (10-35 dwellings contribution to off site facilities)				No standard		65+ dwellings requirements for provision		65-89 dwellings requirements for provision		90+ dwellings requirements for provision		No standard		No standard		N/A		Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2018. Amber Valley Play Strategy 2010-2015
2	Chorley	109,077	2,028,000	5.45	1.91	No provision	0.73	No provision	4.64		0.08		0.08		1.21		0.07		No standard		7.51	6.08	Open Space Strategy 2013-2018, Playing Pitch Stragey 2013-2018
3	Wyre Forest	98,074	1,954,000	5.04	Town Park - 0.33	Local Park - 0.24	0.29		2.3		0.05		0.03		1.91		0.191		No standard (National Guidance)		5.1		Wyre Forest Sport and Recreation Assessment 2008. (* 0.24 for Local Parks/0.33 for Town Parks)
4	Erewash	112,809	1,096,300	10.33	0.7		1		2		4m² of equipped play space/6m² of informal play space per U16 child		4m² of equipped play space/6m² of informal play space per U16 child		1.25 - Playing Pitch, 0.02 - bowls, 0.01 - Tennis		0.31		No standard		5.28		Erewash Greenspace Strategy 2007, Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment 2006
5	Gedling	114,052	1,199,800	9.57	4.15		0.52		4.86		1.21				1.44		20 per 1,000 households	30 per 1,000 households	No standard		12.18(not including allotments)		Gedling Greenspace Strategy 2012 - 2017
6	Broxtowe	110,716	801,000	13.88	1		0.25		2		0.6				1		No standard		No standard		4.85		Green Spaces Strategy 2009-2019
7	Chesterfield	103,782	660,400	15.75	0.5		No standard		1		0.8				1.6		21 per 1,000 households		No standard		3.9(not including allotments)		Chesterfield Parks and Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2024, Chesterfield Allotment Strategy

#	Area	Population	Area (m²)	Ratio									Source / Notes
													2012-2106
8	South Staffordshire	108,441	4,073,200	2.71	No standard(current provision 0.00004)	1.6	No standard(current provision 7.383)	0.2	Included within PPS	0.25	No standard	2.05	South Staffordshire Open Space Audit April 2008, Playing Pitch Strategy October 2007
9	Cannock Cha.se	97,940	788,800	12.44	No standard								Cannock Cha.se Local Plan Adopted 2014 makes reference to delivering Standards in 2016
10	High Peak (outside National Park)	91,118	5,391,400	1.69	1.15	0.44	1.18	Childrens Play Equipment - 0.11	1.05	0.22	No standard	4.15	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2009 Standards Paper
	High Peak (inside National Park)				No standard	1.07	8.05	Childrens Play Equipment - 0.30	1.46	No standard	No standard	10.88	
11	Newark & Sherwood	115,761	6,513,400	1.79	0.6	0.75	Suggested 10 - however due to wide spread disparity of greenspace area it decided to use Distance from home parameters for differing sizes of greenspace	0.75	2.2	0.5	No standard	4.8	Green Space Strategy 2007 - 2012
12	Fenland	95,996	5,464,500	1.77	Fenland ha.ve moved away from the National Standards and created a very detailed standard application to each site use based on developable space and distance to green space								Open Space Standards Evidence Base Report February 2013
13	Bassetlaw	113,178	63,790	1.78	0.11 - 1.59	0.44 - 1.62	0.02 - 2.05	0.21 - 0.31	No standard	0.05 - 0.35	No standard	0.83 - 5.92	Open Space Study March 2010 - N.B. Bassetlaw ha.s been sub divided into 5 areas each with a standard so the figures identified depict the range.
14	South Ribble	108,971	1,129,600	9.64	0.66	1.33	1.98	0.06	No standard	0.08	No standard	4.11	Central Lancashire Open Space Study March 2012
15	Carlisle	107,952	10,393,100	1.04	3.6ha. of land per 1,000 population of informal and formal grassed, wooded or landscaped land, and small amenity areas of public open space; • 1.86ha. of playing pitches per 1,000 population; • all dwellings should be within 3km of an open space of at least 20ha. which provides general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 1km of an open space between 5 and 20 ha. which provides general facilities for recreation provision within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 400 metres of an open space of between 2 and 10ha. which caters for informal recreational needs • all dwellings should be within 200 metres of a small formal or informal open space between 0.2 and 2 ha. tha.t is suitable or informal use and ha.s high amenity value.								Carlisle District Council Local Plan - Cha.pter 8
16	Stoke City	249,903	934,500	26.77	2.35	No standard	3.6	0.76	0.9	No standard	No standard	7.61	Stoke on Trent Greenspace Strategy May 2014
17	Newcastle under Lyme	124,183	2,109,600	5.93	2.35	No standard	3.6	0.76	0.9	No standard	No standard	7.61	North Staffordshire Greenspace Strategy 2007, Newcastle Allotment Strategy 2014 - 2020

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME OPEN SPACE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN SPREADSHEET

Open Spaces required to meet local standards and where improvements have been identified to maintain quality and accessibility (14 no.)

Action Plan Number	Database Site No.	Reference No.	Scheme/Project Name	Short Description	Need for Scheme/Project	Ward	Inclusion in other Strategies / Policies
1	99 & 100	N2 & N2A	Brampton Park Masterplan Implementation	Planning Implementation & Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Maybank	
2	18	N115	Bradwell Crematorium Extension	Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Bradwell	
3	19 & 20	N116 & N116A	Arnold Grove Redesign & Masterplan	Planning Implementation & Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Bradwell	
4	70	N162 & N162A	The Wammy - Phase 3	Youth Provision in the newly created Neighbourhood Park	Youth Provision in the newly created Neighbourhood Park	Cross Heath	
5	70	N162 & N162A	The Wammy - Phase 4	Pavilion	Upgrade to existing facilities	Cross Heath	
6	111	N211	Keele Golf Course (Municipal Golf Course)	Masterplan	Scope for new development within large urban biodiverse setting	Silverdale & Parksite	
7	138	N246	Queens Gardens Improvements	Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Town	
8	154	N263	Thistleberry Parkway - Phase 2	Cycle Path and lighting	Access & Security Route for schools	Thistleberry	
9	67	N159	Douglas Road	Scope for new facilities for adventure play for teenagers	Scope for new facilities for adventure play for teenagers	Cross Heath	
10	14	N112	Chesterton Memorial Park	Scope for new facilities for adventure play for teenagers in the main park area	Areas of dereliction currently unused	Chesterton	
11	273	N71	Clough Hall Park	Clough Hall Masterplan	Upgrade to bowling greens etc., potential community allotments	Butt Lane	
12	17	N114	Bradwell Wood	Maintenance Management Strategy	Upgrade to path, lighting and overall safety	Bradwell	
13	152	N261	Pooldam Marshes	Habitat & Interpretation Improvements	Environmental Management and Community Liaison	Thistleberry	

14	271	N66	St Johns Wood Cemetery	Historical/Biodiversity Project	Project to link biodiversity, history and access	Ravenscliffe	

All remaining sites identified as being needed to meet open space standards, with a quality score of 79% or less will be scoped for qualitative improvements. The implementation of such works will be subject to the site priority, resources and the securing of suitable funding.

ACCESSIBLE NATURAL GREENSPACE required to meet local standards

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES					
17	N114	Bradwell Wood LNR		Bradwell Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	84.39	**75**
33	N126	Ridgeway Place Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.34	
35	N128	Orford Street Open space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.61	
36	N129	Grange Lane Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.24	
38	N130	Grange Lane Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.16	
39	N131	Wolstanton Retail Park		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.22	
41	N133	Wolstanton Retail Park		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.63	
42	N134	Wolstanton Retail Park		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.12	
43	N135	Wolstanton Retail Park		May Bank Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.63	
90	N185	Ore Close Open Space		Holditch Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	17.52	
91	N186	Cheviot Close Wood		Holditch Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.88	**68**
103	N204	Proposed Open space	Knutton Quarry(including Jollies Field)	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	42.94	**78**
114	N214	The Racecourse	The Racecourse	Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	7.79	**71**
117	N217	Job's Wood		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.07	
152	N261	Poolfields Open Space	Pooldam Marshes LNR	Thistleberry Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	10.36	**76**
156	N267	Butts Walk		Thistleberry Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.71	**76**
157	N267A	Flagstaff planation		Thistleberry Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.82	
168	N277	The Parkway		Westlands Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.18	**72**
200	N310	Rowley Wood		Seabridge Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.96	**85**
201	N311	Westomley Wood		Seabridge Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.33	**78**
210	N324	Clayton Hall Woodland		Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.4	
213	N327	Coedbach Open Space	Woodland off The Green, Clayton	Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.54	**65**
215	N329	Dark Wood		Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.49	**67**
217	N330	Lees Wood		Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.98	**64**
248	N58	Kidsgrove Open Space	Woodland Kidsgrove Bank	Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.54	
249	N60	Birchenwood	Stone Bank Road Open Space & Birchenwood	Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.43	**81**
262	N61	Kids Wood		Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.73	**73**
271	N66	St Johns Wood Cemetery	Liverpool Road Cemetery(St Thomas')	Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.79	**74**
275	N72	Hollinwood woodland	Clough Hall Woodland	Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.07	
276	N73	Kinnersley Avenue Open Space	Kinnersley Avenue Woodland	Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.39	
277	N74	Clough Hall Road Open Space		Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.96	
282	N80	Hardings Wood	Slacken Lane	Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.36	
285	N86	Walton Way Open Space		Talke Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.74	
286	N87	Milton Crescent Open Space		Talke Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1	
287	N88	Hardings Wood		Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.33	
302	N92	Dee Close Open Space	Newcastle Road Woodland	Talke Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.52	
312	N909	Site 3 Poolfields	Gadwall Croft SUDS		Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.35	**86**
		RURAL SITES					
327	1	Maer Hall		Loggerheads and Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	82.34	
328	2	Keele University		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	92.64	**86**
329	3	Leycett LNR		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	28.65	

330	5	Betley Mere		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible natural greenspace	29.64	**67**
331	6	Black Firs & Cranberry Bog SSSI		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	10.49	**72**
332	52	Wrench's Coppice		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.94	
333	53	Foxley Drumble		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.37	
334	54	Birk's Wood		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.38	
335	55	Mill Dale & Jacob's Ladder		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.06	
336	59	Steele's Coppice		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.09	
337	71	Bluebell Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.52	
338	72			Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.74	
339	73	Bullhorns Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.86	
340	74	Hayes Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.61	**71**
341	75	Holly Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.93	
342	76			Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.11	
343	77	Dunge Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.08	
344	78			Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.80	
345	79	Walton's Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	29.64	
346	80	Bullhorns Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.33	
347	81	Heighley Castle Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	12.29	
348	82			Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.52	
349	83	Bowsey Wood		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.72	
350	84	Beck Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.86	
351	85	Bryn Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.53	
352	86			Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.62	
353	87	Graftons Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.03	
354	88	The Lum		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.05	
355	89	Wrinehill Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	25.10	
356	90	Beech Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.81	
357	91			Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.72	
358	92	Barhill Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.43	
359	93	Upper Bitterns Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.96	
360	94	Lower Bitterns Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.44	
361	95	Hey Sprink		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	39.33	
362	96	Radwood Corpse		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.77	
363	97	Moat Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.60	
364	98	Moat Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.85	
365	99	Pleck Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.32	
366	100	Holbrook Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	7.33	
367	101	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.88	
368	102	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.00	
369	110	Knights Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.37	
370	111	Grange Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.80	
371	112	Church Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.79	
372	113	Oak Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.54	
373	123	The Forty Acres		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	31.14	
374	126	Willoughbridge Bogs		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.15	**74**
375	127	Bishops Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.04	
376	128			Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.16	
377	129	Burnt Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.24	

378	131	Bishops Wood	Smiths Rough	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.31	
379	132	Badger Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.12	
380	133	Smiths Rough		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.59	
381	134	Park Springs		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	44.29	
382	135	Lloyd Drumble		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.57	
383	136	Burrows Rough		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.03	
384	137	Dales Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.08	
385	149	Whitmore Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	17.85	
386	151	Bateswood LNR		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	55.82	72
387	152	The Gladings		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	16.69	
388	154	Bishops Wood	Burnt Wood	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	53.18	
389	163	Audley Millennium Green		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.08	63
391	165	Arbour Close Playing Field		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.43	62
397	384	Stocking's Cote		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	10.03	
398	385	Berry Hill		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.14	
399	386	The Bogs		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.31	73
400	387	Lordsley		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	18.99	
401	389	War Hill		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.24	
402	390	Red Hill		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	11.51	
403	391	Maer Hills	Camp Hill/Camp Wood	Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	219.2	62
404	396	Bonker's Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.92	48
405	397	Cowleasow		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	12.41	
406	407	Boyles Hall Estate		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	28.34	
422	569	Land off New Road / Heighley Castle Way		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.02	75
427	574	Land off New Road / Heighley Castle Way		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.74	62
439	781	Bignall End Stream		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.39	
441	905	The Folly		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	53.29	71
442	906	Mucklestone Wood End	Woodlake	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.42	
443	907	Buckley's Drumble		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.60	
444	908	Lower Bogs Plantation		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.94	
445	909	Maer Moss		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.30	69
446	910	Sniggle Pitts		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.41	
447	911	Castle Hill		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.89	
448	912	Johnson's Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	7.75	
449	913	Old Springs Hall	Sawpit Wood	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.51	
450	914	Saw Pit Wood	Hall Wood	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.82	
451	915	Tyrley Locks		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.81	
452	916	Little Heath Green		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.69	
453	917	Old Pool Plantation		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.98	
454	919	Elmer Riddings		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.15	
455	921	Shuffers Wood		Betley, Balterley and Wrineh	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.76	
456	924	Heath Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.91	71
457	925	Craddocks Moss		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	18.91	
458	926	Brockwood Hill		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.21	
459	927	Foxley Gorse		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.81	
460	931	Redheath Plantation		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.96	
461	932	Quarry Bank		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.90	
462	933	Haying Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	16.97	

463	934	Birch Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.56	
464	935	Weburgh's Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.21	
465	936	Rosemary Hill Wood		Thistleberry	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.11	
466	937	Barker's Wood		Thistleberry	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.58	
467	938	Aldersey's Rough		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.29	
468	939	Penfields Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.13	
469	940	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.01	
470	941	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.46	
471	942	The Rookery		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.18	
473	944	Shropshire's Wood		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.93	
474	945	Whitehouse Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.21	
475	946	Whitmore Heath		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.57	
476	947	The Lymes		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.51	
479	950	Bear's Rough		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.08	
480	951	Alder	Springpool Wood	Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.17	
481	952	Springpool Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	17.79	
482	953	Brickkiln Plantation		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.63	
483	954			Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.10	
484	955	Whitmore Hall		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	21.04	
485	956	Verdun Plantation		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.05	
486	957	Leddy's Field Wildlife Area		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.67	73
488	959	Turner Hodgkiss Community Nature Reserve		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.65	
489	960	Heronpool	Lakeside Close Open Space	Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.16	71
492	964	Madeley Pool		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.49	80
503	975	Dorothy Clive Garden		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.61	79
504	976	Tadgedale Brook		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.64	74
508	978	Almington		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.47	
510	980	Castle Mill		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.79	
511	981	Knighton Cutting		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.85	
515	985	Bignall End Road		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.2	59
521	1001	Bartomley Road Pond		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.01	73
532	1013	Burnt Wood SSSI		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	81.32	76
536	1017	Holm Oak Drive		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.24	78
538	1019	Bower End Lane		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.35	55
539	1020	Cloggers Pool		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.96	69
548	1093	Heath Grove Woodland		Loggerheads	Accessible natural greenspace	0.49	
549	1094	Apedale Waste Tips			Accessible natural greenspace	14.91	62
550	1095	Chorlton Moss			Accessible natural greenspace	10.56	70
551	1096	Parrots Drumble			Accessible natural greenspace	12.08	69
552	1097	Willoughbridge Park		Maer	Accessible natural greenspace	21.87	69

	Area (Ha)
Total (URBAN)	244.52
Total (RURAL)	1486.81
Total	**1731.33**

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
AMENITY GREENSPACE required to meet local standards							
		URBAN SITES					
3	N102	Cedar Road Open Space	Waterhays	Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	6.97	**87**
4	N103	Applecroft Island Plot		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.18	**79**
9	N107	Walnut Grove Open Space		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.35	**72**
10	N108	Gibson Grove Open Space		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.36	**79**
12	N110	Church Street Flats		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.72	**79**
23	N119	St Barnabas Open Space	Bradwell Shops OS	Bradwell Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.48	**85**
40	N132	Ash Grove Playground		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
44	N136	Etruria Way Open space		May Bank Ward	Amenity Greenspace	4.7	
45	N137	Marsh Hall Community Centre		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.49	
48	N140	Highfield Avenue Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.7	
50	N142	Golf Course Walks		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.33	**83**
51	N143	Coppice View Flats		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.3	**84**
57	N149	St Michaels Road Corner Plot		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	**85**
61	N153	Albermarle Road Island Plot		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
64	N155	Gort Road Open Space		Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.42	**70**
76	N172	Mount Street Open Space		Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.39	**72**
77	N173	Hogarth PlaceOpen Space	Castle Street Open Space	Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.32	**76**
87	N181	Broad Meadow Playing Field		Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.82	**72**
104	N206	Church Lane Dismantled Mineral Railway	(right hand part) Donkey Field / Land off Church lane	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.86	**89**
106	N207	Corner Plot	Mill Lane open Space	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.18	
109	N209	Open Space	Ashbourne Drive Open Space	Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.25	**72**
118	N218	Jobs Wood Open Space	Former Keele Golf Course	Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	9.15	
119	N219	Glenwood Close Open Space		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.31	
124	N225	Droitwich Close Play Space Plot side of No 8		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.13	
125	N226	Scot Hay Road Open Space		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.3	**74**
127	N231	Pepper Street Corner Plot		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.32	
130	N236	Ashfields Grange		Town Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.34	
131	N237	Prospect Terrace		Town Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.23	
132	N24	Morris Square (South)		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.12	**88**
133	N240	Castle Hill		Town Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.36	
155	N265	Paris Avenue Corner Plot		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.17	
158	N268	Sneyd Avenue Island Plot		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.47	
161	N270	Wedgwood Ave Open Space	Howard place	Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.84	**92**
163	N272	Milford Road Open Space		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.16	
165	N274	Cross May Street Open Space		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.12	
170	N280	Wedgewood Avenue Corner Plots		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	

171	N281	The Square		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.26	**80**
172	N282	Queensway		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.23	
175	N285	Langdale road Island Plot		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.18	
185	N295	Kingsbridge Avenue Corner Plot		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.14	
186	N296	Clayton Library Open Space	Kingsbridge Avenue	Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.77	**84**
189	N298	Grasmere Avenue Island Plot		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.19	**77**
190	N299	Coniston Grove Island Plot		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.28	
193	N300	Thames Road Play Area		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.51	**84**
195	N303	The Saplings Open Space		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.21	
196	N305	Rutherford Avenue Open Space		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.14	**78**
197	N308	Wye Road		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	13.07	**81**
207	N321	Clayton Lane Corner Plot		Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.13	
208	N322	Gloucester Grange Open Space	Stafford Avenue Open Space	Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	5.04	**78**
209	N323	Cambridge Drive Open Space		Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	3.05	**72**
211	N325	Clayton Hall Playing Field		Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.98	
222	N36	Brieryhurst Road Corner Plot		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
223	N37	Trubshaw Place		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
224	N38	Hillary Road Island Plot		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
227	N40	Lapwing Road Plot front of houses		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.15	
243	N48	Birchenwood Open Space	Birchenwood Country Park	Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	14.41	**77**
264	N612	Marsh Way Play Area		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.31	**93**
281	N8	Basford Park Road		May Bank Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.12	
295	N902D	Seabridge Road		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.27	
297	N903D	Myott Avenue Play Space		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
298	N904B	Mitchell Avenue Play Space		Butt Lane Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.48	
301	N91	Chester Road Island plot		Talke Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.15	
305	N95	Former Playground		Talke Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.31	
311	N908	Site 2 Poolfields	Gallingale View OS and SUDS		Amenity Greenspace	0.72	**85**
316	N914	Site 9 Silverdale Heritage Park	Sutton Avenue OS		Amenity Greenspace	0.28	**82**
317	N915	Site 10 Silverdale Heritage Park	Heritage Park Watercourse South		Amenity Greenspace	0.19	**82**
318	N916	Site 11 Silverdale Heritage Park	Sutton Avenue OS		Amenity Greenspace	0.22	**89**
320	N918	Site 13 Silverdale Heritage Park	Heritage Park Watercourse North		Amenity Greenspace	0.51	**86**
321	N919	Site 15 Beasley	Bamber Place Play Area		Amenity Greenspace	0.23	**83**
322	N920	Site 16 Lyme Valley	Tansey Way Open Space		Amenity Greenspace	0.51	**84**
325	N923	Beattie Avenue			Amenity Greenspace	0.09	
		RURAL SITES					
396	381	The Green		Loggerheads	Amenity Greenspace	0.72	**75**
407	412			Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.48	
408	419	A525 Roadside Verge		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	0.97	
409	421	A51 Roadside Verge		Maer	Amenity Greenspace	0.90	
410	432	Keele Road		Thistleberry	Amenity Greenspace	0.81	
411	435	Beck Wood		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.58	
412	438	A525 Roadside Verge		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	1.11	
413	439	A525 Roadside Verge		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	3.94	

423	570	(568) College Gardens	Madeley High - detached Playing Field	Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	2.77	76	
428	575	Newcastle Road		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.15		
429	670	Westfield Avenue		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.42	86	
430	684	Chapel Chorlton Village Green		Chapel and Hill Chorlton	Amenity Greenspace	0.78	66	
431	700	Rowney Close Playing Field		Loggerheads	Amenity Greenspace	0.13	60	
432	701	Furnace Lane		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.03	74	
433	702	Bevan Place		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.2	80	
434	703	Heath Row		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.26	71	
435	705	Station Road		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.17	68	
437	707	Knights Croft		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	0.66	73	
438	772	Victoria Avenue		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.27	68	
440	809	Ravens Close		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.52	74	
498	970	Betley Village Green		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehi	Amenity Greenspace	0.06	91	
500	972	Common Lane		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehi	Amenity Greenspace	1.13		
541	1023	Hilwood Road		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.25	63	
545	1087	Turner Avenue		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.21	73	
546	1091	Church Street		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.27	74	

	Area (Ha)
Total (URBAN)	83.85
Total(RURAL)	17.79
Total	101.64

GREEN CORRIDORS

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES					
55	N147	Lyme Brook open space		Cross Heath Ward	Green Corridor	1.22	74
72	N167	Laxey Road Dismantled Railway	Newcastle Greenway	Cross Heath Ward	Green Corridor	2.82	84
105	N206B	Church Lane Open Space	Newcastle Greenway	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Green Corridor	1.98	75
123	N223	Moffatt Way Open Space		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Green Corridor	0.40	75
136	N243	Station Walks		Town Ward	Green Corridor	1.74	84
169	N279	The Parkway	Three Parks	Westlands Ward	Green Corridor	4.12	85
181	N291	Guernsey Drive Open Space		Westlands Ward	Green Corridor	5.81	61
194	N301	Kennett Close Open Space		Seabridge Ward	Green Corridor	0.16	
221	N35	Trubshaw Farm	Woodhall Park	Newchapel Ward	Green Corridor	2.59	
244	N49	Loopline dismantled railway	Kidsgrove Loopline	Ravenscliffe Ward	Green Corridor	1.22	83
246	N52	Loopline dismantled railway	Kidsgrove Loopline	Ravenscliffe Ward	Green Corridor	5.96	84
292	N901D	Silverdale Road Corridor	part - Lyme Brook Greenway	Thistleberry Ward	Green Corridor	2.29	71
319	N917	Site 12 Silverdale Heritage Park			Green Corridor	0.06	83
		RURAL SITES					
528	1009	Marion Platt walkway		Audley	Green Corridor	6.21	68
535	1016	Bateswood Bridle Paths		Audley	Green Corridor	5.56	67
553	1098	Bateswood Dismantled Railway		Audley	Green Corridor	3.84	66

	Area (Ha)
Total (URBAN)	27
Total(RURAL)	16
Total	46

ALLOTMENTS required to meet local standards

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES					
1	N0	Basford Allotments		May Bank Ward	Allotments	1.56	
30	N124	Allotment Gardens	Dimsdale Allotments	Porthill Ward	Allotments	0.85	
75	N171	Hill Street Allotments	Jason Street	Cross Heath Ward	Allotments	0.18	
93	N195	Cotswold Avenue Allotments	Blackbank	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Allotments	0.29	
112	N212	Park Road Allotments		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Allotments	1.24	
116	N216	The Acre Allotments		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Allotments	4.37	
164	N273	Thistleberry Allotments		Thistleberry Ward	Allotments	0.4	
232	N43	Dove Bank Allotments	Lamb Street	Kidsgrove Ward	Allotments	1.04	
323	N921	Site 17 Allotments Lyme Valley	Lyme Valley Allotments		Allotments	0.53	86
		Salvation Army Allotment		Chesterton	Allotments	0.12	

						Area (Ha)	
		Crown Bank		Talke	Allotments	0.6	
		RURAL SITES					
501	973	Loggerheads Allotments		Loggerheads	Allotments	1.1	**81**
520	1000	Halmer End Allotments		Audley	Allotments	0.25	
523	1003	Audley Allotments		Audley	Allotments	1.27	
547	1092	Manor Road Allotments		Madeley	Allotments	1.20	

	Area (Ha)
Total(URBAN)	11.18
Total(RURAL)	3.82
Total	15.00

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PARKS & GARDENS required to meet local standards

Site No	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Play Space - Equipped or Non Equipped - LAP, LEAP, NEAP	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES						
7	N106	Crackley Recreation Ground		Chesterton Ward	Park		3.62	80
14	N112	Chesterton Memorial Park		Chesterton Ward	Park		2.89	81
18	N115	Newcastle Crematorium	Bradwell Crematorium	Bradwell Ward	Park		5.84	93
19	N116	Arnold Grove Recreation Ground		Bradwell Ward	Park		7.76	78
25	N121	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Ward	Park		2.92	84
27	N122	Bradwell park	Bradwell Lodge	Porthill Ward	Park		1.16	85
29	N123	Oaklands Park (The Dingle)	Porthill Dingle	Porthill Ward	Park		1.27	88
59	N152	Brampton Recreation Ground	Icky Picky	Cross Heath Ward	Park		1.92	82
62	N154	Meadow Lane Green Space		Cross Heath Ward	Park		1.96	80
67	N159	Douglas Road		Cross Heath Ward	Park	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	2.46	83
70	N162	The Wammy		Cross Heath Ward	Park		3.92	90
82	N179	Tuscan Way Recreation Ground	Loomer Road	Holditch Ward	Park		0.7	79
84	N18	Wolstanton Park		Wolstanton Ward	Park		0.73	92
99	N2	Brampton Park		May Bank Ward	Park		2.85	93
107	N208	Silverdale Park		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Park		0.99	87
121	N222	Ilkley Place Recreation Ground		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Park		0.6	83
128	N234	Apedale Community Park		Halmerend Ward	Park		162.81	90
134	N242	Wilson Street		Town Ward	Park		0.41	84
138	N246	Queens Gardens		Town Ward	Park		0.23	88
140	N248	Grosvenor Island	The Bearpit	Town Ward	Park		0.17	89
142	N250	Stubbs Walks		Town Ward	Park		1.21	92
149	N258	Queen Elizabeth Park		Thistleberry Ward	Park		0.84	83
150	N259	Lyme Brook	Open space at corner of Orme Road	Thistleberry Ward	Park		0.28	70
159	N27	Wolstanton Marsh		Wolstanton Ward	Park		10.86	86
187	N297	Rydal Way		Westlands Ward	Park		1.35	82
203	N315	Lyme Valley Parkway		Clayton Ward	Park		24.61	77
205	N32	Long Lane Playing Field		Newchapel Ward	Park		3.03	78
236	N46	Whitehill Road Open Space	Mount Road Open Space	Kidsgrove Ward	Park		3.44	85
247	N57	Birchenwood Open Space	Birchenwood Country Park	Ravenscliffe Ward	Park	LEAP,Skate	17.77	81
255	N605	Underwood Road		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Park		0.52	76
257	N606	Orme Road Skate Park		Thistleberry Ward	Park		0.15	90
273	N71	Clough Hall	Clough Hall Park	Butt Lane Ward	Park		6.17	85
283	N82	Bathpool Park		Talke Ward	Park		61.08	93
303	N93	Chester Road Open space		Talke Ward	Park		1.07	75
306	N96	Red Street Sportsground	Red Street	Chesterton Ward	Park		2.06	84
324	N922	Silverdale Country Park			Park	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,MUGA	92.06	92
		RURAL SITES						

							Area (Ha)
					Total(URBAN)		432
					Total(RURAL)		0
					Total		**432**

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S FACILITIES required to meet local standards

Site No	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Play Space - Equipped or Non Equipped - LAP, LEAP, NEAP	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES						
2	N101	Barbridge Road	Waterhays	Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People		6.89	78
8	N106A	Crackley Recreation Ground		Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.05	

11	N109	Douglas Road Playground			Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.16	
15	N112A	Chesterton Memorial Park Play Area		Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.2	
16	N113	Ironbridge Drive Playground			Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
20	N116A	Arnold Grove Recreation Ground Play Area		Bradwell Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.12	
26	N121A	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,BMX,MUGA	0.07	
28	N122A	Bradwell park	Bradwell Lodge	Porthill Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.12	
32	N125A	Woodhall Park Play Area	Land off St Andrews Drive (Rookery)	Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.14	
34	N127	Cotswold Avenue Playground		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	4.53	77
46	N138	Cheswardine Road	Cheswardine Road Play Area	Bradwell Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.03	
60	N152A	Brampton Recreation Ground	Icky Picky	Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.15	
63	N154A	Meadow Lane Green Space Play Area		Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP	0.08	
65	N156	Thompstone Avenue Playground	Thompstone Avenue Ball Court	Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	NEAP,MUGA	0.35	65
71	N162A	The Wammy Play Area		Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.11	
83	N179A	Romney Avenue Open Space	Loomer Road	Holditch Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.05	
85	N18A	Wolstanton Park Play Area		Wolstanton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.05	
98	N199A	Acacia Avenue Play Area	Acacia Avenue Play Area / Pocket Park	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.09	
100	N2A	Brampton Park Play Area		May Bank Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP	0.07	
108	N208A	Silverdale Park Play Area		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,MUGA	0.13	
120	N221	Back Lane Play Area		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.65	81
122	N222A	Ilkley Place Recreation Ground Play Area		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.89	
135	N242A	Wilson Street Play Area		Town Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
143	N250A	Stubbs Walks		Town Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
154	N263	Thistleberry Parkway		Thistleberry Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	6.21	80
160	N27A	Wolstanton Marsh		Wolstanton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.03	
188	N297A	Rydal Way Play Area		Westlands Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.04	
199	N31	Arthur Birchall Recreation Ground		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.36	
202	N313	Wroxham Way		Seabridge Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	8.01	82
204	N315A	Lyme Valley Parkway Play Area		Clayton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,BMX,MUGA	0.52	
206	N32A	Long Lane Playing Field Play Area		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	

229	N41A	Salop Place	Salop Place	Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
235	N45A	Attwood Street Play Area		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
237	N46A	Mount Road (1)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.01	
238	N46B	Mount Road (2)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
239	N46C	Mount Road (3)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
240	N46D	Mount Road (4)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
242	N47A	Birchenwood recreation Open Space Play Area	Birchenwood Country Park	Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,Skate	0.04	
250	N600	Moorlands Road Play Area		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.14	55
251	N601	Dales Green Road Play Area		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.21	85
252	N602	Townfields Close Play Area		Butt Lane Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.15	81
253	N603	Bamber Place Play Area	Bamber Place Open Space	Holditch Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.04	95
254	N604	Rogers Avenue Play Area		Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.19	87
256	N605A	Underwood Road Play Area		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.07	
258	N606A	Orme Road Skate Park		Thistleberry Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	Skate	0.11	
259	N607	Guernsey Drive Play Area		Seabridge Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.26	87
260	N608	Lockwood Street Play Area		Town Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.04	80
261	N609	Moran Road Play Area		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.15	
263	N610	Bluebell Drive Play Area		Westlands Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.1	87
274	N71A	Clough Hall Play Area	Clough Hall Park	Butt Lane Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.15	
284	N82A	Bathpool Park Play Area		Talke Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.06	
304	N93A	Chester Road Open space Play Area		Talke Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.1	
307	N96A	Red Street Play Area		Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.4	83
309	N99	Waterhays	Waterhays No. 2 and 3	Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	6.7	80
310	N907	Site 1 Poolfields	Gallingale View Play Area		Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.45	91
313	N910	Site 5 Wolstanton	Minton Street Play Area	Wolstanton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP(to be constructed 2016	0.14	76
314	N912	Site 7 Silverdale Heritage Park	Piren Green Play Area		Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP (not NBC)	0.16	87
315	N913	Site 8 Silverdale Heritage Park	Sutton Avenue LAP		Provision for Children and Young People	LAP(not NBC)	0.32	89
326	N924	Butt Lane			Provision for Children and Young People	New LEAP (not yet built)	0.06	
RURAL SITES								
394	167A	Queen Street Playing Fields Play Area	Wereton Road Play Area	Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.17	
395	227	Madeley Heath Playing Fields		Madeley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.91	72

421	568	College Gardens		Madeley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	1.51	
436	706	Station Road		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.29	67
487	958	Miles Green Recreation Ground	Station Road Play Area	Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.53	60
491	963	Scot Hay Play Area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.35	61
493	964A	Birchdale, Madeley		Madeley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.12	
496	968	Burntwood View & Heathgrove Woodland	2 sites - woodland and amenity play space	Loggerheads	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.8	75
499	971	Betley Village Hall Play Area		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	(Excluded from analysis)	LEAP	0.09	
505	976A	Tadgedale Brook Play Area		Loggerheads	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.11	75
507	977A	Whitmore Playing Field		Whitmore	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.03	
509	979	Bell Orchard		Loggerheads	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.10	
513	983	Tomfields		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.4	66
514	984	Rileys Field		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	Non Equipped	0.29	58
516	986	Bignall End play area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	1.42	56
517	987	Albert Street play area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	1.36	62
519	999	Halmer End playing field		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.43	55
524	1004	Alsager Road play area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.67	67
529	1010	Alsagers Bank Play Area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.97	58

		Area (Ha)
Total(URBAN)		40.57
Total(RURAL)		10.55
Total		51.12

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
CABINET**

19th October 2016

1.   **REPORT TITLE**   **Draft Borough Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy**

   Submitted by: **Executive Director - Operational Services.**

   Portfolios: **Leisure, Culture and Localism and Planning and Housing**

   Ward(s) affected: **All**

Purpose of the Report

To approve the Draft Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy for the Borough for consultation.

Recommendations

**That Cabinet endorse the draft Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy and approve it for wider
consultation with the local community and stakeholders as detailed in the report.**

Reasons
This report presents the first draft of a Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy for the Borough, which
identifies a range of strategic goals for future sports provision as well as an action plan for delivery.
The draft Strategy has been developed through both inter-departmental and cross-boundary work
as this is a complex area that requires effective joint working. It has also been informed through
early engagement with a number of key stakeholders.
The Strategy once adopted, along with the Open Space Strategy and Playing Pitch Plan will form
part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan.

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1.   **Background**

1.1   The Borough Council has worked with Stoke City Council, Sport England and a number of
        expert advisors in this field of work to establish the right strategic direction for the
        development of sport across the Borough, which the Strategy aims to identify and address. It
        also provides a framework for Sports Development in the Borough and provides the
        evidence base to develop a way forward for improving and enhancing sports facilities across
        the Borough, leading to future long term strategy development and delivery.

1.2   A number of findings are described that range from the quality of existing provision, lease
        arrangements, to the demand for swimming pools, sports halls and 3G Pitches. The work
        has provided the basis for the development of the draft Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy
        and officers will continue to refresh the evidence base and context as required.

1.3   This draft Strategy summarises and details a mixed view of sport in the Borough by
        highlighting where it is thriving as well as not doing so well. To move the picture forward
        there is now a need to look at the existing provision of sports facilities more strategically and,
        as a result a need for further and continued engagement, both with Members and key
        stakeholders. Consequently a draft 10 year Strategy is now presented for approval to consult
        with the wider community and other key stakeholders such as Sport England, National
        Governing Bodies, Clubs etc.

1.4   The draft Strategy considers a number of guiding principles, including the role of the Council, clubs and governing bodies. However, it is important to put things into perspective and further clarify what the local situation is in comparison to the national picture; this is, therefore, highlighted in the draft Strategy.

1.5   A number of further considerations are taken into account and include planning policy issues and the need to review and look at the impact of the Sports Development Framework.

1.6   Taking all into consideration, this draft Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy in essence sets out what the Council intends to achieve over this period, setting a number of strategic priorities based on the evidence base collected. It clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Council and its partners/ stakeholders to deliver this Strategy.

1.7   The Strategy specifically seeks to ensure that the Borough has a network of accessible, high quality, high capacity, well maintained, well used and financially and environmentally sustainable sports facilities, capable of accommodating local demand, complemented by good quality changing and social accommodation, on a limited number of strategically located sites. Taking into account the geography and connectivity of the Borough it is possible to have both a relatively small number of separate facilities and high levels of accessibility. Having a small number of high capacity facilities – such as the excellent leisure centre at Jubilee2 has demonstrated – leads to economies of scale when compared with a larger number of smaller facilities. There is demand to provide a new leisure centre in Kidsgrove which currently requires a robust funding strategy to be identified.

1.8   The Strategy also promotes the development of financially sustainable multi-sport clubs offering good quality coaching and inclusive opportunities for players of all ages and abilities and both sexes. The example of Clayton Sports Centre for cricket and badminton is cited as a successful case in point.

1.9   The Strategy seeks to develop new forms of provision for traditional sports in partnership with their governing bodies in order to attract new participants and encourage past participants to return to their former sport. There is growing evidence that some traditional sports are in decline. The reasons for this are not completely clear, but they appear to include growing family and work-related pressures on players' and volunteers' time; the amount of sport on television; the quality of many local facilities; and the unwillingness or inability of some players to pay realistic charges for their sport. In response, forward-thinking governing bodies are responding by developing new forms of their sports, with smaller teams, shorter match times, playable throughout the week by players with limited skill.

1.10   The Strategy also highlights the three main elements to the actual delivery of the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy: planning, developing partnerships and funding and these are discussed and developed as part of an Action Plan within the Strategy.

2.   **Issues**

2.1   As part of the development of this draft Strategy, early discussions have already been undertaken with a number of key stakeholders in relation to their current club issues and what their aspirations for future development are. This consultation needs extending to other groups.

2.2   A considerable financial investment has been made in upgrading the leisure centre 'offer' in Newcastle and the ability to invest 'in the future health and wellbeing of our communities' and in particular in sports facilities in Kidsgrove is now extremely constrained in terms of available local authority funding unless assets are disposed of.

2.3　　The detailed Action Plan in the draft strategy identifies financial implications/ commitments, but with reduced funding, alternatives such as government funding and partnerships, as well as disposal, will need to be further developed in order to make the Action Plan a reality.

2.4　　Traditional funding through Section 106 capital receipts will be used wherever possible and the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy will provide the evidence base to justify such investment. As the Council has not yet agreed to become a community infrastructure levy (CIL) charging authority and therefore this funding is not currently an option to meet the needs of sport, there is a need for the Council to consider the introduction of a levy to help support the growth and development of sport. This may support the justification for introducing a CIL.

2.5　　On this basis and in summary, this Strategy sets out:-

2.5.1　A number of "guiding principles" for the Council and its key partners;

2.5.2　What the Council intends to achieve, sometimes in the fairly long term;

2.5.3　The key facility-related issues that the Council and its partners need to tackle; and

2.5.4　The specific actions that the Council and its partners intend to implement over the next decade.

3.　　**Options Considered**

3.1　　In simple terms the Council can either approve the Draft Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy for consultation or it can choose not to. Further developing the strategy and approach outlined is likely to lead to more investment in sport and more positive local health outcomes.

4.　　**Proposal**

4.1　　Engagement and communication has been identified as a vital element in the development of the Strategy and in the effective delivery of its recommendations.

4.2　　Early engagement has taken place with selected clubs and organisations to inform the draft Strategy and this was valuable in highlighting current issues, future plans and the appetite for collaboration and joint working. Further engagement is proposed.

4.3　　The following engagement strategy is proposed:

4.3.1　Period of informal engagement during November / December 2016, in particular the Advisory Sports Council, Sport England, Stoke City Council and their advisors.

4.3.2　Engagement and consultation on the draft Strategy is recommended for December / January. This will involve inviting quantitative feedback from a wide range of stakeholders through a short questionnaire. Identified stakeholders include all local clubs and organisations, the wider community (i.e. the public), councillors and national, regional and local sports governing bodies. A consultation event will also be arranged for October to allow face to face discussions and feedback. The consultation will seek, amongst other things, to establish whether any barriers to participation (perceived or otherwise) exist and what measure would help to overcome them. A consultation plan will be prepared, setting out the detail of who will be consulted and how feedback will influence the final strategy.

4.4　　Timescales for finalising the Strategy:

October 2016: Approval by Cabinet of draft for engagement & consultation
November/ December 2016: Informal engagement
January /February 2016: Engagement & consultation
March 2016: Update and amend the final strategy
April 2016: Report final Strategy to Cabinet for adoption
Post April 2016: Feedback on final Strategy to wider community

Then annually, updating of data sets.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

5.1 Given the importance of sport to the local health economy and the established role of physical activity in improving individual health, it is proposed that the Council leads on the production of a Borough Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy to maximise these benefits for our local communities.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

6.1 There will be a positive impact on those areas relating to health improvement and inward investment.

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

7.1 Any legal implications are contained within the strategy.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 An Equality Impact Analysis is being developed alongside the Strategy. It will be reviewed and updated to take into account feedback from engagement and consultation and will be presented in December as part of the report to Cabinet on the final Strategy.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 Any future investment required to fund the strategy will need to be considered as part of the Council's annual budget strategy. This will be considered as part of the annual budget process. It should be noted that delivery and funding of the strategy will not be the sole responsibility of the Council, and that the Council will seek to support partners and other providers in the delivery of services and facilities where appropriate.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 A detailed risk register for the delivery of the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy and Action Plan which will set out all the current risks and identify the mitigating actions needed to manage them will be developed, monitored and updated throughout the life of the Strategy. The key risks thus far are:

10.1.1 Unable to secure capital funding

10.1.2 Failure to engage key stakeholders in Strategy and recommendations

10.1.3 Changes in policy locally and nationally

10.1.4 Staff pressures and lack of resources to deliver

10.1.5 Failure to align with the timetable for the preparation and adoption of the Joint Local Plan.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1   This report is in the forward plan

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1   Development of the Sport and Active Lifestyle Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2014.

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SPORT AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES STRATEGY (SALS) 2016 – 2026

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Foreword

Promoting healthy lifestyles through sport and physical activity is essential to the Council's stated priorities, particularly in creating a healthy and active community.

For children and young people physical activity is essential for their health, creates opportunities, encourages aspirations around individual performance as well as developing team working.

Our investment in sport and leisure facilities and programmes, along with those of our partners is an investment in these opportunities and the future.

With Stoke being the European City of Sport 2016, the profile of sport in the area and opportunities for participation and involvement have never been greater.

The strategy sets out what the Council and its partners will seek to deliver to support more people being more active more often, to help address inequalities in health and wellbeing by targeting specific groups or specific areas to become more active.

The partners that will develop and deliver this strategy includes some of the national governing bodies of sport, Sport across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Staffordshire Public Health, the Newcastle Partnership ,the Advisory Sports Council, Keele University. Newcastle under Lyme College, schools, sports clubs, coaches and volunteers as well as the people taking part.

We wish to thank all those involved.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder   Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Leisure, Culture and Localism   Planning and Assets

Overview

This strategy aims to build on existing strengths of the sports sector in Newcastle and North Staffordshire to help more people participate in sport and physical activity.

In February 2015, Newcastle Borough Council approved its Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the Borough which along with this Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy provides an up to date evidence base to support the delivery of sport and physical activity across the Borough and North Staffordshire over the next ten years and ensure compliance with new national planning policy.

The purpose of this strategy therefore is to identify current strategic influences and priorities for the Borough including a local analysis of current and future demand. The strategy will identify the current facility stock as well as the delivery of sport related initiatives across the borough. It will also set out the future strategic approach to sport and active lifestyles provision and a clear action plan of how the vision will be achieved.

The Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy will provide a strategic direction to all partners who have a role the delivery of sport and active lifestyles within the borough. The strategy will support a clear legacy around an improved infrastructure to allow more people to become more active, more often, and it will ascertain how and where our limited resources should be targeted.

A planned consultation process with residents and partners will be undertaken, with comments being reported to Cabinet for consideration at a future meeting before approving the final strategy.

Key influencing partners include: Newcastle Borough Council; Castle Sport; Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke onTrent; Staffordshire County Council; Education establishments; Sports clubs; Sport England; Town and Parish Councils; Community groups; Neighbouring Local Authorities; National Governing Bodies (NGBs); North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group; and others.

Methodology

The overall purpose of this strategy is to set out a vision and strategic action plan. This will allow the Council and its partners to ensure the benefits of sport and physical activity are realised, protected and enhanced wherever opportunities arise.

This strategy identifies key partners and looks at key influencing trends locally and nationally. It assesses where the borough is now in regards to the demographic, sporting and health profiles, as well as looking at future predictions. Furthermore, the strategy examines the current sports facilities within its remit, irrespective of ownership.

The needs assessment work has been produced in line with the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF), which requires that (Paragraph 73, page 18):
'………planning policies are based upon robust and up-to-date assessments of needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.

This assessment and strategies have therefore been produced in line with guidance by Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; January 2014)

The first task; to tailor the approach to reflect the geographical and sporting nature of the local area was undertaken through building on local knowledge and gaining a clear understanding of the patterns of sports participation in the Borough. The analysis is developed to consider the strategic context and sports participation profile across the Borough and North Staffordshire, looks at the supply and demand of facilities in terms of quantity, quality, access and availability, builds in consultation and utilises Sport England planning tools to develop the needs and evidence base and subsequent strategy recommendations.

The approach and methodology builds on the earlier work of the Playing Pitch Strategy which was developed using Sport England's guidance – An Approach to Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy. The key tasks undertaken were to deliver the assessment for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls as well as demand for artificial grass pitches and are set out in the relevant sections of the PPS report.

Strategic Context

Sport and Active Lifestyles provision in the Borough is influenced by a number of factors at a national and local level. These all recognise that increasing participation in sport and physical activity can reduce health inequalities and boost economic growth.

The Sport England Economic Value of Sport Model, which is designed to demonstrate the estimated value of sport to the local economy, calculates for Newcastle Borough:

£27.3m	£21.9m	£5.3m	774	£22.2m	£47.4m
In Gross Value Added (wages and operating profits)	People participating in sport	Non participation interests (Manufacture, retail of sports equipment and clothes not for sports use. Ticketing for spectators, TV income or sponsorship value added of gambling)	Jobs	The value that volunteering brings to the local economy	Is the economic value of improved quality of and length of life plus healthcare costs avoided.

To maximise these benefits further it is necessary for sport locally to connect to appropriate national and local strategies:

National Strategic Influences
There are several national policies that impact upon the preparation of the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy:

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation, is set out in paragraphs 73 and 74 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application.

The Government's new sports strategy – Sporting Futures (2016) has redefined sporting success, with a new focus on five key outcomes. In future funding decisions will be made on the basis of the outcomes that sport and physical activity can deliver. The Government also expects all relevant departments to work together to create a more physically active nation. The five outcomes are:
- Physical wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and community development

- Economic Development

Sport England Strategy – Towards an Active Nation 2016-2021:
Key features of the new strategy are:
- Dedicated funding to get children and young people active from the age of five, including a new fund for family based activities and offering training to at least two teachers in every secondary school in England to help them better meet the needs of all children, irrespective of their level of sporting ability
- Working with the sport sector to put customers at the heart of everything they do, and using the principles of behavior change to inform their work
- Piloting new ways of working locally by investing in up to 10 places in England – a mix of urban and rural areas
- Investing up to £30m in a new volunteering strategy, enabling more people to get the benefits of volunteering and attracting a new, more diverse range of volunteers
- Helping sport keep pace with the digital expectations of customers – making it as easy to book a badminton court as a hotel room
- Working closely with governing bodies of sport and others who support people who already play regularly, to help them become more efficient, sustainable and diversify their sources of funding.

National Governing Body Facility Strategies: 46 National Governing Bodies have received Sport England funding for the period 2013-17 through their Whole Sport Plans. A number also have produced National Facilities Strategies which have been considered in the preparation of this strategy document. The key priorities of these documents are set out in the sport specific sections.

Health Matters, Getting Every Adult Active Every Day published by Public Health England in July 2016 is a resource for health professionals and local authorities focussing on the benefits of making more people physically active.

There are a number of common themes and outcomes within current national strategic literature:
- Increasing participation in sport and physical activity
- Improving health and well-being outcomes through physical activity and sport
- Identifying the social return on investment
- Recognising the value of volunteering
- Tackling inactivity
- National Governing Body offers
- Improving and protecting existing facilities, and open spaces, to ensure that there are no gaps in provision
- Planning for the future in terms changing demographic profiles particularly in relation to growing and ageing populations

Local Strategic Influences

The Borough's Sport and Active Lifestyles provision is influenced by many partners who will be further consulted to help shape this document.

This strategy has a number of key references; the objectives contained within the Councils Corporate Plan; the Council's approach to the Joint Local Plan; and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy of both the Borough and County Councils. Additionally it also supports the findings and direction of the Staffordshire County Council (Public Health) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Facilities framework for Staffordshire undertaken by SASSOT.

SASSOT Sports Facilities across Staffordshire: A Facilities Framework (December 2014). The document is a framework to develop more detailed strategies within each of the Staffordshire local authorities. It projects future demand up to 2023 for sports halls swimming pools and artificial grass pitches.

Newcastle under Lyme and Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy (CSS) 2008 – 2026. The core strategy was adopted in 2008. This summary focuses on the policies which relate to the SALS and PPS studies. The strategic vision for the CSS is Newcastle and Stoke will be a vibrant, prosperous, environmentally responsible and successful area of choice for business, visitors and residents in the period up to 2026.

Joint Newcastle under Lyme and Stoke on Trent Local Plan. The Joint Local Plan is currently in production and to date public consultation has take place on the strategic issues and challenges that the Joint Local Plan will seek to address. The Draft Joint local Plan is programmed for 2017 and adoption is anticipated in late 2018.

Demographic Profile

The Borough is divided into 24 wards. The latest 2014 population figure is 126,100 and is predicted to rise in 2026 to 132, 500 an increase of 6,400 or approximately 5%.

At this stage in the Local Plan process it's not possible to say how the population will be affected by the construction of new homes it's only possible to use ONS data on the number of new households.

Work has commenced to prepare a new Joint Local Plan, which will determine the need for additional housing. This could mean the population is rises even higher. Future updates to this study will take account of the latest population projections available at that time.

With higher density populations in the North of the Borough and rural communities in the south of the Borough the Council must aim to ensure that sufficient sporting provision is provided to serve both the existing and future population. It is therefore important to make sure that the Local Plan policies are supported by an up to date Sports and Active Lifestyle Strategy based on robust evidence, so that sport and recreation facilities are considered alongside proposals for new homes.

The Council must aim to optimise opportunities brought about by new developments to ensure new and enhanced sporting provision is provided. The current population is ageing, particularly in the 65+ age group. Given the prevalence of older people in the borough, it will be important to ensure that low impact activities e.g. walking, cycling, swimming and fitness facilities are easily accessible; encouraging participation to address health challenges into old age.

The health of people in the borough is generally worse than the West Midlands and England Averages. There are also health inequalities within the borough, with life expectancy lower for both men and women who live in the most deprived areas. The infant mortality rate is the second highest in England. The borough also experiences high levels of teenage pregnancy and mothers smoking during pregnancy in comparison to the national average. According to the 2008/09 Physical Education and Sport Survey, the level of physical activity in schools is 6% below the national average. Whilst rates of early deaths from heart disease, stroke and cancer are now similar to the national averages and rates of death from all causes are continuing to fall, life expectancy remains fractionally below the national level. Priorities are to help people quit smoking, to support dependant drinkers to take control, and to further reduce the early death rate (from heart disease, stroke and cancer).

The areas experiencing high levels of deprivation in the borough are in the north east of the borough where it borders Stoke and central areas of the borough. There is a correlation between deprivation and health problems. The area of relatively high population density and deprivation on the border with

Stoke experiences health inequalities which can be addressed in part through appropriate targeted investment in sport.

Sport England's market segmentation tool produces 19 market segments with distinct sporting behaviours and attitudes (these are detailed in appendix). This data identifies that the dominant participation segments in the borough are groups relating to older people, and middle-aged females and males. Figure 4 provides a chart showing the breakdown of certain market segments.
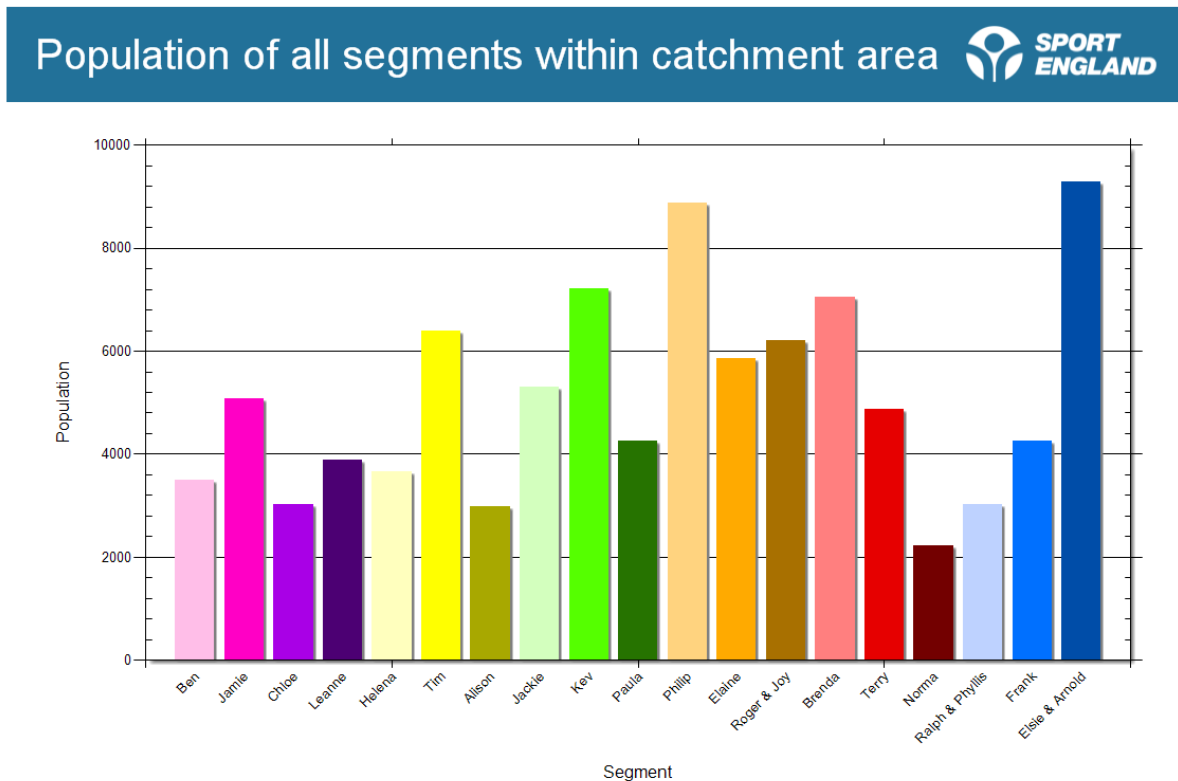
Philip (late 40s, who participates very regularly), is the second most dominant group and is predominantly based in the south west of the borough, followed by Kev (pub team mates keen on Football and Darts), Brenda (older working women) Tim (mid 30s, an active type). These segments are likely to compartmentalise activity around the working day so improved facilities with longer better opening hours, workplace activities and active transport are key.

Roger and Joy (couples nearing retirement), and Elsie and Arnold (retired couples) and most dominant group, predominantly based around Audley, support evidence of an ageing population. A priority here is to provide facilities so people can sustain activities in later life.

Sports Participation

Sport England's Active People Survey 10 (2015/2016) identifies key participation statistics for adults (age 16+) at a local authority level. These measures are only based on a relatively small consultation of 500 people per year, but to come in line with their new strategy for 2017-2021 the survey has been available on line from November 2015. Key trends in participation are considered below:

There has been a slight drop in once-a-week participation. 30.0% of adults are participating at least once a week, which has dropped from 30.7% last year. This compares to a West Midlands Average of 34.7% and is very similar to Stoke's participation (31.2%). Although in Newcastle there has been a slight increase in people participating on three occasions a week, up to 23.1% from 22.3%, which is 3% higher than Stoke, the once a week participation has shown a steady decline from 37.1% in 2012/13.

Increasing participation in sport is a big challenge for both Stoke and Newcastle. Given similar levels of participation there is scope for joint working to tackle this common issue and the Joint Local Plan provides the special dimension for this work.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (2014), shows that 51.8% of adults are active in the borough. This is below the West Midlands (55.5%) and England (57.0%) averages. 30% of adults in the borough are inactive, which is higher than the West Midlands (29.1%) and England (27.7%).

Public health England estimate that a 100% increase in the levels of physical activity amongst 40 – 79 year olds could reduce the number of preventable deaths by 104 a year and that the cost of physical inactivity in the borough is £2.6m

Males tend to participate slightly more than females but the gender gap is small at 3%. This is considerably smaller than other areas and is in part due to good utilisation locally of national programmes, such as the recent 'This Girl Can' marketing campaign.

There has been a sharp rise in club membership, but at 17.4% we are still behind West Midlands (19.5%) and England (21.6%) figures. Progress is in part due to both the improvements to local sports club facilities that have been carried out and the 33 local sports clubs that have achieved Clubmark. This approach needs to continue.

Approximately 60% of residents are very or fairly satisfied with local sports provision. This is in line with regional and national figures and reflects investment made over recent years.

Gym Sessions (10.9% of population), Swimming (9.8%) and Cycling (6.5%) are the boroughs most popular sports. The borough participation in swimming is higher that the regional and national averages. It is important therefore to maintain the current level of swimming pool provision.

The Active People Survey reports that 61.2% of the borough's adult population want to do more sport. Again this is higher that regional (56.6%) and national (57.4%) figures and points to a latent demand that can be satisfied by providing the right quality sports facilities, in the right place.

However, when this is set against the current declining rate of participation linked to the small decline in the total active population and the small expected rise in population (1.4%), it means that there is unlikely to be a projected increase in future demand for the indoor sports facilities which the population participates in most, namely sports halls, swimming pools, fitness classes and gyms. The level of participation is at the recreational level and for fitness, social and family based activity for swimming). The challenge therefore is to find investment to replace or refurbish ageing facilities and keep newer ones well maintained.

Swimming Pools

Introduction

This section sets out the assessment of need for swimming pools and provides the baseline needs and evidence. It sets out the findings from the Sport England facility planning model (fpm) analysis undertaken in 2015. It provides the baseline analysis – what does the supply and demand for swimming pools look like in 2015 and how does this change up to 2025, based on the projected changes in population. The 2012 ONS sub-national population figures were used in the modelling.

The sequence of reporting is to describe some features of the assessment: and then set out the main findings for each facility type for 2015 and 2025. For the 2015 findings these are summarised at the end of each of the four Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (ANOG) sections. For the 2025 findings there is an overall summary of key findings at the end. The detailed analysis is set out in the Appendix.

Features of the assessment

Within the fpm supply is defined by the location and capacity of sports facilities. Capacity is a function of: the number and size of facilities at a particular site, and the available hours for public use within the peak period.

The model assumes an average 'at one time' capacity for each swimming pool. This is multiplied by the number of hours the pool is available within the weekly peak period, which provides an estimated number of visits per week in the peak period that can be accommodated at each site. In the case of a 25m, 4 lane swimming pool, available for public and/or club use for all of the weekly peak period, this figure is about 1700 visits.

Demand is estimated by applying to each of 12 age/gender groups within the resident population of each enumeration district: a 'rate of participation', the proportion of a given population that is likely to express a demand to use a particular type of sports facility; and a 'frequency rate' (the number of times likely users of a particular type of sports facility will visit each week). This produces a total for the likely number of visits in a typical week from the population and so demand can thus be compared directly with supply. The model takes no account of demand from non-residents, i.e. tourists/visitors, nor does it take account of educational requirements within the school curriculum.

Catchment Area. There is a limit to which regular users of sports facilities are prepared to travel, defined in the model in terms of time rather than distance. Three modes of travel are taken into account in the analysis - by car, by public transport and on foot.

The model uses a catchment area for each facility of 30 minutes for each mode of travel. However, within this there is a 'distance decay' function, based on the concept that the willingness to travel declines with distance.

Travel times used in the model are derived from the survey data, suggests that about 60% of all users of swimming pools travel up to 10 minutes, and about 87% travel up to 20 minutes. Only about 8% of visitors travel between 20 and 30 minutes, with the remaining 5% travelling more than 30 minutes.

The study area is defined because users off sports facilities do not respect local authority boundaries and catchment areas are across local authority boundaries. So it is important to create a study area which includes the neighbouring authorities and allows for assessment of need based on the catchment area of all facilities. For this study all the neighbouring authorities, who share a boundary with Stoke and Newcastle under Lyme have been included in the assessment. A map of the study area is below.

The population applied in the assessment is based on the Office for National Statistics 2012 population projected to 2014.

Map: Study area for the assessment of need for swimming pools and sports halls in 2015 and 2025

To be inserted

Reporting of findings
The findings are reported under the Assessing Needs and Opportunities methodology (ANOG) headings of: quantity, (supply and demand); quality; accessibility and availability for each facility type, starting with swimming pools. There is a summary of key findings at the end.
The two runs reported on are:
RUN 1: Existing position in 2015- based on the current supply of swimming facilities and the demand for them in 2015
RUN 2: based on the current supply and projected demand for each facility type based on the projected population in 2025. In this strategic assessment the supply of facilities is assumed to be unchanged.

Key points and overall summary from Run 1 and Run 2
Total demand for swimming exceeds the total swimming pool supply in both 2013 and 2024. In terms of the amount of water space available for public use and in terms of the capacity of pools in visits and total demand in visits.

The good news is the projected population increase between 2013 and 2024 has a very limited effect in increasing demand for swimming. So it is more important to assess the findings from 2013 in detail because they change little up to 2024, other than the pools becoming 11 years older.

The population in Newcastle under Lyme in 2013 generates demand for some 1,314m2 of water space. Population growth by 2024 increases demand to 1,356m2 of water space. So the population growth creates an increase in demand for 42 sq metres of water, which is a 3.1% increase.

The 7 pools across 5 sites in Newcastle under Lyme are estimated to be very full. The used capacity of the pools is estimated to be 89% of total capacity in 2013 and increases to 92% by 2024. This means that at peak times the pools are very busy and over utilised, such that in reality not as many residents will go swimming as predicted and activities such as club sessions/swimming lessons etc. will not be able to get sufficient pool time to deliver programmes.

Also utilised capacity varies at individual pools and in each of the two years three pools are estimated to be at 100% of capacity used, these are: Chesterton Community Sports College; Jubilee 2 and Newcastle under Lyme School.

The only pool with "spare capacity" is NCHS Science College in 2013 at 60% of used capacity but by 2024 this is estimated to be over the pools full comfort level of 70% and is at 72% of capacity used level.

The model also estimates how much demand cannot be absorbed because pools are full and the estimate is that Jubilee 2 cannot absorb 3,951 visits or demand in the peak period that would like to access it. Over a 50 week year this is an incredibly high 197,000 visits. Undoubtedly this is because the pool is still very new and it is attracting increased demand because of that.

This finding is underlined by the age of the other four pool sites in Newcastle under Lyme. The other pool sites were opened in: Newcastle under Lyme School 1938 (modernised in 2009); NCHS Science College 1965; Kidsgrove Sports Centre 1976; Chesterton Community Sports College 1978; then no pool openings until Jubilee 2 in 2011. So the other existing pool stock is very old and none of the three 1960's – 1970's sites have undergone major refurbishment. All these factors will increase demand and usage of the Jubilee 2 centre, creating the high amount of demand that would like to access it but cannot based on the model's findings.

The biggest issue emerging from the assessment for both years is the need to reduce used capacity of the existing pools, to a level of around 65% of pool capacity used capacity. There is however limited scope to "move and manage the demand around" as all the pools are very heavily used.

The other option is to increase swimming pool provision. However, given the total costs of developing and operating a new pool this is unlikely to be a realistic option. The mapping of the unmet demand does not identify any key locations where unmet demand is particularly high either in absolute numbers or in one location having particularly high unmet demand. So any choice of pool locations does not need to be determined by hot sports of unmet demand. Modernisation/expansion/replacement of existing sites is very sensible because there is very good access to these locations by residents based on car travel.

Sports Halls

Introduction
This section sets out the assessment of need for sports halls and provides the baseline needs and evidence. It sets out the findings from the Sport England facility planning model (fpm) analysis undertaken in 2015. It provides the baseline analysis – what does the supply and demand for sports halls look like in 2015 and how does this change up to 2025, based on the projected changes in population. The 2012 ONS sub-national population figures were used in the modelling.

The sequence of reporting is to describe some features of the assessment: and then set out the main findings for each facility type for 2015 and 2025. For the 2015 findings these are summarised at the end of each of the four ANOG sections. For the 2025 findings there is an over summary of key findings at the end. The detailed analysis is set out in the Appendix.

Reporting of findings
The findings are reported under the Assessing Needs and Opportunities methodology (ANOG) headings of: quantity, (supply and demand); quality; accessibility and availability for each facility type, starting with swimming pools. There is a summary of key findings at the end. The two runs reported on are:
RUN 1: Existing position in 2015- based on the current supply of sports halls and the demand for them in 2015
RUN 2: based on the current supply and projected demand for each facility type based on the projected population in 2025. In this strategic assessment the supply of facilities is assumed to be unchanged.

Key points and overall summary from Run 1 and Run 2
Newcastle under Lyme's supply of sports halls is relatively good at a total supply of 20 sports halls on 12 sites (some sites having a sports hall and ancillary hall), providing a total of 67.5 badminton courts.

However, when the sports hall supply is assessed based on the number of courts available for public use in the weekly peak period, this reduces to 51 courts. So there are 16 courts, or 23.8% of the total supply of badminton courts in Newcastle under Lyme which are not available at peak times for public use.

Newcastle under Lyme has 5.3 courts per 10,000 population in 2013. This based on population growth reduces to 5.1 courts in 2024. This is higher than the County and Regional average in both years.

In terms of age, 8 of the total 12 sports hall sites were built centre prior to 1990 and of these 4 have been refurbished. The remaining four sites were opened between1995–2010. Overall it is quite an old stock and there will be

an increasing need for modernisation of the stock over the period up to 2024 and beyond.

In terms of size of sports halls, there are 10 main halls which are four badminton court size and four ancillary halls which are 3 badminton court size. There are no sports halls which are 6 – 8 badminton courts and provide for dual sports activity at the same time.

The balance of provision is very much towards community recreational sports halls which can provide for the full range of community sports participation but with only one activity at a time.

In terms of demand, the total Newcastle under Lyme demand is for 34 courts when assessed on the same basis of supply as demand in the weekly peak period. So in 2013 total supply exceeds total demand by 16 courts (rounded down).By 2024 with the population growth and supply assumed to be unchanged between the two years, except the sports halls are 11 years older, the supply and demand balance surplus is reduced by 1 court to a total of 15 courts (rounded down).

The key finding from the assessment is how full the Newcastle under Lyme sports halls are in both years. The estimate is that on average Newcastle under Lyme's sports halls are operating at 45.6% used capacity in 2014 and virtually unchanged in 2024 at 45.8%. So both estimates of used capacity are well within the halls full comfort level of 80% of capacity used.

This however is a borough wide average and the figures for each sports hall (full table of findings for all sports halls is within the used capacity heading) shows there is some variation between halls. Chesterton Vision Centre has estimated used capacity at 100% in both years and Kidsgove Sports Centre 87% used capacity in 2013 and 88% in 2024.

Increased demand from population growth means utilisation increases to a limited extent at most centres up to 2014. However the centres which appear to be over used remain. At Michelin Sports Centre estimated used capacity does decrease from 25% in 2013 to 12% in 2024.

Given the estimate is that across the borough there is sufficient sports hall capacity to meet demand now and up to 2024, the key issue which emerges is the intervention to manage usage more effectively across the venues. Doing this so as to make better/more use of those that are underutilised and take the pressure off those which appear over utilised. It is acknowledged this is more challenging to achieve because 5 of the sites are either school or college sites (excluding University of Keele) and each school/college determines their own rationale for and extent of community use.

Other Sports and Community Provision

Facilities provide the infrastructure to deliver sporting opportunities. Delivering the right facilities, in the right place for the right people is dependent upon the right partnerships and policy. This strategy identifies the current facility stock, any current gaps and looks at how all facilities can best be used, and developed, to increase participation, improve health, support clubs and nurture sporting talent.

The table below summarises the range of sports facilities in the Borough

Table: Number of facilities by type

Facilities	Newcastle-under-Lyme
Athletics Tracks	1
Golf	4
Grass Pitches	136
Health and Fitness Suite	11
Ice Rinks	0
Indoor Bowls	0
Indoor Tennis Centre	0
Ski Slopes	1
Sports Hall	28
Squash Courts	10
Studio	10
Swimming Pool	9
Artificial Grass Pitch	9
Tennis Courts	19
Total	238

Source: Active Places Power. Measure: Number of sports facilities by facility type. Time period(s): 2016

Athletics Track
Ashfields Track is a cinder track built in 1965, managed by Newcastle Athletics Club under a lease granted by Staffordshire County Council.

Golf
There is one driving range at Keele and three golf courses at Onneley, Wolstanton and Newcastle-under-Lyme, operated by the respective clubs. There is no par three courses in the Borough.

Grass Pitches
For further details see the Playing Pitch Strategy. The 136 pitches counted above are in Council, Education and private ownership and cover football, junior football, mini soccer, rugby union, cricket, lacrosse and rounders.

Health and Fitness Suites

There is a good mix of Council. Education and private operators. Jubilee2 and Kidsgrove Sports Centre, Chesterton High School, Newcastle Academy, Gordon Banks Sports Centre, Keele University from the public sector and Michelin Sports Club, Holiday Inn, Pure Gym and Exercise4Less in the private sector.

Ski Slope
Based in Kidsgrove and originally built in 1973, the ski slope has an artificial surface and is now leased from the Council and managed by North Staffs Ski Club, who extended their lease and added a second slope (snowpark) for snowboarding in 2014.

Sports Halls
There are 12 Activity Halls in Education and Community settings; Blackfriras School; Bradwell Lodge; Clayton High;Congleton Road Community Centre; Coppice School; Newcastle Academy; Newcastle-under-Lyme School;Sir Thomas Boughey School; Staffordshire Unitarian Meeting House; Keele University; and Wolstanton High,
There are 16 Main Halls primarily on Education and Council sites; Chesterton Vision; Clayton High; Kidsgrove Sports Centre; Madeley School; Michelin Sports Club (privately owned); Newcastle Academy; Newcastle-under-Lyme School; Sir Thomas Boughey School; Sir John Fisher School (2); Gordon Banks Sports Centre; University Academy Kidsgrove; Keele University (2); and Wolstanton High.
In addition the refurbished hall at Clayton Sports Centre and the new sports hall at Kings School need adding to the database.

Squash Courts
Michelin Sports Club has 5 courts of which 2 are glass backed.
Keele University has 2 courts of which 1 is glass backed.

Studios
There are 9 studios split evenly across the public, education and private sectors; Jubilee2 (2); Kidsgrove Sports Centre; St John Fisher School; Gordon Banks Sports Centre; Keele University; Michelin Sports Club; Pure Gym; and Exercise4Less.
The studios at Chesterton High and Chesterton Vision need adding to the database.

Swimming Pools
The analysis in section 7 considers 7 swimming pools comprising two training pools (Jubilee2 and Kidsgrove Sports Centre) and 5 main pools - Jubilee2, Kidsgrove Sports Centre, Chesterton High, Newcastle-under-Lyme School, and Holiday Inn. The Active Places Database also records the training pool at Blackfriars School and the main pool at Newcastle Academy that is temporarily closed.

Artificial Grass Pitches
The Playing Pitch Strategy gives a full analysis but included in the database are Keele University (2); Knutton; Kidsgrove Sports Centre; Newcastle-under-

Lyme School; Clayton High; Gordon Banks Sports Centre; Chesterton High and University Academy Kidsgrove.
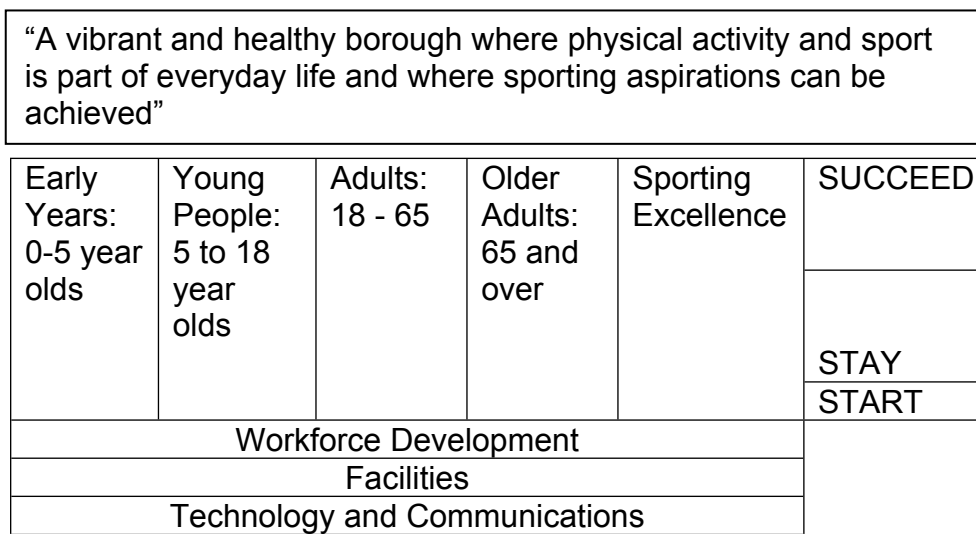
<u>Tennis Courts</u>
The Playing Pitch Strategy gives a full analysis but included in the database are Birchenwood; Bradwell Lodge; Chesterton Park; Madeley High; Silverdale Park; St John Fisher School; Keele University; Woolstanton High; and Westlands.

Sports Development Framework

Our vision encompasses the twin aims of increasing the number of people being active and achieving personal success. The physical activity guidelines provide the framework for the themes for the strategy as they set out the requirements for a healthy lifestyle at the different ages. The pathways for personal success will be addressed in each age group theme, along with a separate theme addressing sporting excellence.

Underpinning all this is the need for high quality workforce, facilities and effective use of technology and communication.

This is set out in the diagram below:

"A vibrant and healthy borough where physical activity and sport is part of everyday life and where sporting aspirations can be achieved"					
Early Years: 0-5 year olds	Young People: 5 to 18 year olds	Adults: 18 - 65	Older Adults: 65 and over	Sporting Excellence	SUCCEED
					STAY
					START
Workforce Development					
Facilities					
Technology and Communications					

Early Years – Under 5s
Physical Activity Guidelines: (Published by NHS Choices)

For infants not yet walking:
1 Physical activity should be encouraged from birth, particularly through floor-based play and water-based activities in safe environments.
2. All under 5s should minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary (being restrained or sitting) for extended periods (except time spent sleeping).

For under 5s who are walking:
1. Children of pre-school age who are capable of walking unaided should be physically active daily for at least 180 minutes (3 hours), spread throughout the day.
2. All under 5s should minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary (being restrained or sitting) for extended periods (except time spent sleeping).

Aim: To give all children in the borough an active and healthy start to life through maintaining a healthy weight

Target: To maintain a year on year reduction in the amount of overweight and obese children in the district at Reception age.

Young People – Age 5 to 18 years
Physical Activity Guidelines:
1. All children and young people should engage in moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity for at least 60 minutes and up to several hours every day.
2. Vigorous intensity activities, including those that strengthen muscle and bone, should be incorporated at least three days a week.
3. All children and young people should minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary (sitting) for extended periods.

Aim: To give access to high quality sport and physical activity opportunities for children and young people for both social and sporting benefits.

Target: 3,000 children and young people becoming more physically active
1,000 more children and young people being physically active 5 hours per week

Adults – 19 to 65 years
Physical Activity Guidelines:
1. Adults should aim to be active daily. Over a week, activity should add up to at least 150 minutes (2½ hours) of moderate intensity activity in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to approach this is to do 30 minutes on at least 5 days a week.
2. Alternatively, comparable benefits can be achieved through 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity spread across the week or a combination of moderate and vigorous intensity activity.
3. Adults should also undertake physical activity to improve muscle strength on at least two days a week.
4. All adults should minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary (sitting) for extended periods.

Aim: An increase in the number of adults across the borough who are physically active and an increase in the number of adults playing sport

Targets: 2,500 more adults becoming active (at least one 30 minute session per week)
1,200 more adults to participate in sport at least once per week

Older Adults – 65 years and above
Physical Activity Guidelines:
1. Older adults who participate in any amount of physical activity gain some health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and cognitive function. Some physical activity is better than none, and more physical activity provides greater health benefits.

2. Older adults should aim to be active daily. Over a week, activity should add up to at least 150 minutes (2½ hours) of moderate intensity activity in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to approach this is to do 30 minutes on at least 5 days a week.
3. For those who are already regularly active at moderate intensity, comparable benefits can be achieved through 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity spread across the week or a combination of moderate and vigorous activity.
4. Older adults should also undertake physical activity to improve muscle strength on at least two days a week.
5. Older adults at risk of falls should incorporate physical activity to improve balance and co-ordination on at least two days a week.

Aim: An increase in the number of older adults who are physically active and an increase in the number of adults playing sport

Targets: 1,000 more, older adults becoming active (at least one 30 minute session per week)
300 more, older adults in to participate in sport at least once per week

Sporting Excellence

National Governing Bodies (NGB's) have each set out the pathways in their sport via their "Whole Sport Plans", however, they are not consistently communicated to parents, teachers and participants.

Gifted and Talented programmes in schools have included high-level athletes who are not directly linked to NGB programmes.

There is no single system for identifying talented athletes across the district.

Sports clubs remain at the heart of sporting pathways. The borough has good spectrum of clubs from professional clubs to grass roots clubs.

The number of young people competing in schools is on the increase through the Schools Games Organisers. There is a wide range of adult leagues and competitions in different sports although not all ages or abilities are covered.

There high performance centres in several sports e.g. football, swimming, rugby union, badminton and cricket that fit within NGB pathways.

The borough has a successful sports grants scheme

Aim: To put in place sporting pathways that will enable people to achieve their full potential in sport.

Target: A recognised sporting pathway system in place.

Technology and Communication

The strategy is ambitious in its aim of encouraging more people to become more active and / or play sport. To be successful this will entail behavioural change for individuals and in some cases significantly so. It is vital that people within the borough know the opportunities that are available to them so effective communication and promotion by all agencies will be crucial to the success of the strategy.

Workforce Development

Sport and physical activity is planned, organised and delivered by people. These can be paid, but more often than not, unpaid roles for those working in the sector. This strategy will look to increase the number of those working in sport along with offering further support by sign posting training and education.

Facility Development

In this Strategy the term 'facilities' includes indoor and outdoor sites, purpose built sports centres with 'borough wide' significance, locally significant facilities, outdoor space and sports fields, and facilities provided by both the education, public, private and voluntary sectors. Facilities are crucial to the infrastructure of sport and physical activity to enable participation, rehabilitation, development or improvement.

Strategic Recommendations

The value of sport and physical activity is well-evidenced nationally. The positive benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle contribute dramatically to individual and community health, life expectancy, quality of life, emotional and mental well-being, weight control and much more. The challenge is to communicate these benefits to encourage and facilitate more people to participate in physical activity on a regular basis.

The strategic vision for the future, in relation to Sport and Active Lifestyles in the borough is for:

"A vibrant and healthy borough where physical activity and sport is part of everyday life and where sporting aspirations can be achieved"

The Council values the benefits of sport in the widest sense, not solely impacting on improving the physical health of the borough, but also in bringing communities together, building confidence in all ages and abilities, and supporting skills, training and businesses'.

Five strategic aims have been identified to help achieve the vision;
- To increase and sustain regular participation in sport and physical activity.
- To put in place sporting pathways that will enable people to achieve their full potential in sport.
- To develop effective communication channels around available local opportunities for sport and active lifestyles.
- To support and increase the numbers of people working or volunteering in sport.
- To develop and maintain facilities crucial to the infrastructure for sport and active lifestyles.

To increase and sustain regular participation in sport and physical activity.	Early Years	Young People	Adults	Older People
	To include simple physical activity message in all communications to parents from services	Advocate the importance of PE and School Sport through the development of a borough wide development plan. Identify a lead for the work along with a specific working group to develop and implement the plan.	Strengthen school and community links by implementing the government's strategy of placing community sports clubs on school sites	Use intelligence from the local JSNA and other information sources to identify local need and current provision to better inform decision making.

	Promote the consideration of Early Years needs in future facility development	Put in place a systematic approach to linking school to community provision .	In conjunction with National Governing Bodies develop a range of "back to sport" programmes aimed at those in their 30's and 40's	Produce a brief physical activity education programme that can be delivered to people who regularly come into contact with older adults to encourage safe and effective physical activity
	Implement the Early Years Aquatic Pathway to provide consistent quality across public swimming pools	Work with National Governing Bodies to ensure a high level of support is available for voluntary sports clubs.	Put in place a range of workplace physical activity and sport schemes through improved links with the business sector	Develop and implement a range of outreach community based exercise groups that are sustainable for older adults .
	To increase partnership working with the voluntary sector to improve the range and delivery of physical activity to Early Years To improve communication regarding the benefits of physical activity between Early Years providers and community groups	Support voluntary sports clubs to attain Clubmark status	Work with local leagues and clubs to increase the number of competitive opportunities available for adults	Work with the Health and Well Being board and the Clinical Commissioning groups to advocate physical activity care pathways for older people
	To establish a physical activity in Earl Years multi-agency group.	Continue to advocate the wider social benefits of physical activity and sport amongst non-sporting organisations. In particular continue to develop bespoke sports programmes aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour	Further develop and promote walking and cycling schemes	Encourage the use council sports facilities by older people
		Further develop and implement	Encourage and support charitable	Build knowledge and skills amongst the

		opportunities for disabled children and young people to participate in physical activity and sport.	mass participation events	sport and physical activity workforce of the needs of older adults and possible conditions they may have
		Further develop and implement opportunities for girls to participate in physical activity and sport	Develop and implement a specific action plan aimed at increasing opportunities for women to participate in physical activity and sport	Strengthen links with National Governing Bodies and build upon the provision of "Masters" style programmes and competitions
				Develop early intervention, positive behaviour change programmes that include physical activity to support the prevention of long term health conditions

	To put in place sporting pathways that will enable people to achieve their full potential in sport.	To develop effective marketing communications around available local opportunities for sport and active lifestyles.	To support and increase the numbers of people working or volunteering in sport.	To develop and maintain facilities crucial to the infrastructure for sport and active lifestyles.
	Review the priority sports that are appropriate to the borough. For each priority sport a specific development plan will be put in place	Systematically use Sport England and local data to gain a deeper understanding of consumer needs and wants in relation to physical activity and sport. In particular provide clarity on specific market segments within the borough	Develop an audit of skills shortages and gaps related to the physical activity and sport workforce In conjunction with Newcastle-under-Lyme College provide a range of learning opportunities, based on identified need, for those working in physical activity and sport	Subject to funding, complete and implement the local authority built facility plan, particularly in relation to Kidsgrove Implement and monitor the Playing Pitch Strategy

	Map and communicate the sports pathways for the priority sports utilising a variety of media	Implement a promotional campaign aiming to encourage increased participation in physical activity and sport	Implement the SASSOT coaching development plan in the borough	Advocate the inclusion of the needs of physical activity and sport within land planning strategies
	Develop a more systematic approach to identifying, supporting and celebrating talented young people from the borough	Promote physical activity and sport to be at the forefront of innovations in communication technology including effective use of social media	Support volunteers working in physical activity and sport	Support local sport clubs to develop facilities in line with strategic need
	Continue to develop a range of competitive opportunities for young people and adults; including recreational / informal outlets	Develop and promote a portal website that offers a single source for all opportunities to participate in physical activity and sport	Increase the number of volunteer opportunities to support individuals and communities to change to an active healthy lifestyle.	Work with schools to maximise the use of their sports facilities
	Develop a system for giving support to local sports clubs across the district including programmes relating to volunteering, funding and quality standards	To use this strategy to advocate the value of physical activity and sport amongst decision makers		Review and update the Facility Planning Model Assessment for sports facilities in the borough
	Support the creation of key centres for specific sports across the North Staffordshire that will include sports science support	Develop and support Physical Activity and Sports events related to the European City of Sport		
	Support existing performance centres, where appropriate, in their aspirations. Encourage sports clubs across the district, particularly			

	those with built			
	facilities, to register as Community Amateur Sports Clubs			
	Continue to develop the pathways for disabled athletes to succeed			

Delivery and Implementation

Delivery

The Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Newcastle in the ten years up to 2026. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Reports and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and physical activity needs of Newcastle can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that built facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the Council and supported by partners. Understanding and learning lessons from how the Strategy has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery.

Investment opportunities

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated.

Funder's requirements

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid.

- Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- Financial need and project cost.

- Funding profile (i.e., who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- Assessment of risk.

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

These costs are broken down into two areas:

- Facility capital costs
- Lifecycle costs

Facility capital costs

Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external works. Naturally, varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.

Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.

The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by Planners and Developers when reviewing potential Planning Contributions to site developments.

Facility life cycle costs

Life cycle costs are how much it costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime. It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (day to day repairs).

The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost. You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

Risk Management Matrix

Impact	Low	Medium	High
High	3	6	9
Medium	2	4	6
Low	1	2	3

Likelihood

Financial - risks associated with the financial structure of Sport and Active Lifestyles, the transactions it makes and the financial systems in place:

Number	Risk	Assessment of risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Score
1.	Failure to maintain annual core funding and consequently deliver required outcomes	Medium	High	6
2.	Failure to secure partnership funding	Medium	High	6
3.	Failure to manage budgets effectively	Low	High	3

Governance – risks associated with the governance arrangements in place

Number	Risk	Assessment of risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Score
4.	Failure to establish appropriate governance structure leading to ineffective decision making	Low	Medium	2
5.	Failure to establish appropriate expertise in support services to support the business	Low	Medium	2
6.	Failure to exploit opportunities presented by alternative organisational arrangements	Medium	Medium	4

Organisational – risks associated with the organisational management structure

Number	Risk	Assessment of risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Score
7.	Failure to implement appropriate management structure leading to ineffective delivery	Low	Medium	2
8.	Failure to ensure staff have appropriate skills and competencies for the needs of the business	Low	Medium	2
9.	Failure to recruit and retain quality staff	Low	Medium	2
10.	Failure to allocate resources effectively leading to non-delivery of key outcomes and strategy objectives	Low	Medium	2

Partnership – risks associated with the organisations ability to engage with wider partners

Number	Risk	Assessment of risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Score
11.	Failure to secure buy-in from necessary partners	Medium	Medium	4
12.	Failure to generate trust and credibility amongst partners resulting in lack of commitment and mistrust	Low	Medium	2
13.	Failure to implement effective mechanisms for raising and resolving issues and potential conflicts	Low	Medium	2
14.	Failure to engage with other partnership arrangements resulting in missed opportunities for enhanced delivery and funding	Low	Medium	2

Political – risks associated with the political context in which Suffolk Sport operates

Number	Risk	Assessment of risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Score
15.	Failure to adapt to changing political environment resulting in mismatch between strategy / policy and delivered outcomes	Low	High	3
16.	Failure to acknowledge the political sensitivities of individual organisations resulting in weak partnerships	Low	Medium	2
17.	Failure to recognise wider political context and impact of changes to Government policy on sport and physical activity	Low	Medium	2

Reputation – risks associated with the reputation of Sport and Active Lifestyles as a credible lead organisation

Number	Risk	Assessment of risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Score
18.	Failure to deliver high standards of performance resulting in lack of credibility	Low	High	3
19.	Failure to build strong relationships with local media and wider partners	Low	Medium	2
20.	Failure to communicate vision, strategies and plans effectively	Low	High	2
21.	Failure to develop strong brand image	Medium	Medium	4

Information – risks associated with the management of information and information technology

Number	Risk	Assessment of risk		
		Likelihood	Impact	Score
22.	IT Systems Failure	Low	High	3
23.	Failure to establish effective mechanisms for collecting and interpreting data	Low	Medium	2
24.	Failure to communicate and share appropriate data and information with partners and wider audiences	Low	High	3

The following table sets out further evaluation of these risks, including the mechanisms in place to mitigate and treat the risks as well as any further action required.

The Risk Register will be regularly reviewed and monitored.

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Assessment

The assessment of these risks and the actions proposed to reduce these risks are considered within the table below:

Risks	Assessment of risk			Risk Mitigation / Controls	Further Action Required	Risk Owners
	Likelihood	Impact	Score			
1. Failure to maintain annual core funding and consequently deliver required outcomes	Medium	High	6	Robust Business Plan in place to support SAL Strategy Close and ongoing dialogue with Sport England and other partners Awareness of national and regional changes in strategic direction Monthly monitoring and associated action plans related to financial position	Review and develop new Business Plan to meet new national / Sport England strategic direction Monitor ongoing economic downturn and respond accordingly	Head of Service
2. Failure to secure partnership funding	Medium	High	6	Ongoing dialogue with partners regarding future funding Track record of securing match funding above levels required	Review of Agreements beyond March 2016	Head of Service
3. Failure to manage budgets effectively	Low	High	3	Robust financial accounting procedures Regular budget clinics and financial auditing Budget holders trained in financial management Monthly performance review of finance including reporting to EMT	Income action plans to be kept up to date.	Business Manager
4. Failure to establish appropriate governance structure leading to ineffective decision making	Medium	Medium	4	Current Governance Structure implemented 2010/11 following options appraisal.	Governance arrangements not audited. Political wish to revisit options appraisal.	Portfolio Holder Director Head of Service
5. Failure to establish appropriate expertise in support services to support the business	Low	Medium	2	Resources allocated by support services to be targeted at strategy priorities.	HR - Vacancies to be filled Finance – Budget monitoring and financial accounting Communications – brand development Facilities Management - maintenance	Director Head of Service
6. Failure to exploit opportunities presented by alternative organisational arrangements	Medium	Medium	4	Awareness of national and regional developments and trends Linked into local authority joint working	Ongoing consideration of management arrangement arrangements as part of future Business Planning	Director Head of Service

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Risks	Assessment of risk			Risk Mitigation / Controls	Further Action Required	Risk Owners
	Likelihood	Impact	Score			
Failure to implement appropriate management structure leading to ineffective delivery	Low	Medium	2	Management / staffing structure developed to support existing Business Plan and future delivery	Review staffing requirements in line with development of Strategy	Portfolio Holder Director Head of Service
8. Failure to ensure staff have appropriate skills and competencies for the needs of the business	Low	Medium	2	Annual appraisal process including appropriate consideration of training and personal development needs Appropriate training available to staff	None	Head of Service Business Manager Service Managers Duty managers
9. Failure to recruit and retain quality staff	Low	Medium	2	Local authority conditions attractive to potential applicants Staff turnover and industry trends monitored Comprehensive recruitment processes in place	Recruitment process often fails to present sufficient number of quality applicants.	Director Head of Service
10. Failure to allocate resources effectively leading to non-delivery of key outcomes and strategy objectives	Low	Medium	2	Resources allocated through Service Plan and Business Plan ensure clear link between organisational objectives and individual work programmes	Monitoring and Review of performance on a quarterly basis Annual Delivery Plan developed each year to maintain strategy data sets and supported by Service Plan	Portfolio Holder Director Head of Service
11. Failure to secure buy-in from necessary partners	Medium	Medium	4	Agreements in place for current funding Partnership working at the heart of service delivery	Regular opportunity for partners to comment on progress on strategy	Head of Service

Risks	Assessment of risk			Risk Mitigation / Controls	Further Action Required	Risk Owners
	Likelihood	Impact	Score			
12. Failure to generate trust and credibility amongst partners resulting in lack of commitment and mistrust	Low	Medium	2	Sport and Active Lifestyles has generated credibility through existing delivery and partnership working across a range of sectors	Continued engagement	Head of Service Business Manager
13. Failure to implement effective mechanisms for raising and resolving issues and potential conflicts	Low	Medium	2	Regular meetings with key partners to manage ongoing expectations and targets	None	Head of Service Business Manager
14. Failure to engage with other partnerships resulting in missed opportunities for enhanced delivery and funding	Low	Medium	2	Sport and Active Lifestyles engaged through key forums and working groups e.g. CSP; NGB's; SLOCOF; LGA etc.	None	Head of Service Business Manager
15. Failure to adapt to changing political environment resulting in mismatch between strategy / policy and delivered outcomes	Low	High	3	Regular meetings with Sport England and SASSOT to discuss policy direction	None	Head of Service Business Manager
16. Failure to acknowledge the political sensitivities of individual organisations resulting in weak partnerships	Low	Medium	2	Sport and Active Lifestyles linked into local networks with SOT (e.g. ECOS LOC to ensure high-level of awareness of individual organisational needs	None	Head of Service
17. Failure to recognise wider political context and impact of changes to Government policy on sport and physical activity	Low	Medium	2	Sport and Active Lifestyles is engaged with local government agenda	None	Director Head of Service Business Manager

Risks	Assessment of risk			Risk Mitigation / Controls	Further Action Required	Risk Owners
	Likelihood	Impact	Score			
18. Failure to deliver high standards of performance resulting in lack of credibility	Low	High	3	Robust Business Plan and Performance Management Framework in place to ensure performance achieved Past performance demonstrates credibility of Sport and Active Lifestyles	Ongoing monitoring and review of performance Annual Reporting of Performance and achievements to partners	Head of Service Business Manager
19. Failure to build strong relationships with local media and wider partners	Low	Medium	2	Good working relationships established with key media: local press, radio, etc marketing / communications group established	Detailed consultation plan to be developed	Head of Service Business Manager
20. Failure to communicate vision, strategies and plans effectively	Low	High	2	SAL Strategy, Service Plan and Business Plan sets out clear vision and plans for delivery	Ongoing Development of website and e communication and associated marketing material	Director Head of Service Business Manager
21. Failure to develop strong brand image	Medium	Medium	4	Recognisable brand image in place	Further development required to embed across all media	Director Head of Service Business Manager
22. IT Systems Failure	Low	High	3	Robust IT systems established through IT support available to Sport and Active Lifestyles through ICT business unit.	Develop understanding of funding for corporate and service systems	Director Head of Service Business Manager
23. Failure to establish effective mechanisms for collecting and interpreting data	Low	Medium	2	Performance Management systems in place Agreements for organisations delivering on Sport and Active Lifestyles behalf include data collection and reporting requirements	Continue to monitor performance	Head of Service Business Manager
24. Failure to communicate and share appropriate data and information with partners and wider audiences	Low	High	3	Limited information released currently	Marketing and communications plan in place	Director Head of Service Business Manager

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
CABINET COMMITTEE**

19th October2016

1. **REPORT TITLE**   **Stoke-on-Trent Bid for UK City of Culture 2021**

   Submitted by: **Executive Director Operational Services, Dave Adams**

   Portfolio: **Leisure Culture and Localism**

   Ward(s) affected: **All**

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to support a bid from Stoke-on-Trent for the UK City of Culture 2021

Recommendations

1. **To support the Stoke-on-Trent Bid for the UK City of Culture 2021 title as a key partner through appropriate Borough Council Elected Member and officer involvement**

Reasons

Approval is sought to support the development of Stoke-on Trent bid for the UK City of Culture 2021 title for the benefit of the North Staffordshire communities.

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1.   **Background**

1.1 The European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) programme was created in 1985 as an intergovernmental cultural initiative. Initially titled 'European Cities of Culture', the programme has evolved to a position where the ECoC programme is now considered by many to be the flagship cultural initiative of the European Union.

1.2 Glasgow was the first UK city to be awarded the ECoC title (for 1990) and was followed by Liverpool (for 2008). The next ECoC title that UK cities can apply for is 2023.

1.3 The UK City of Culture (UKCoC) programme was developed by the UK Government to build on the successes that Liverpool enjoyed as the UK's second European Capital of Culture in 2008,which successfully placed culture at the heart of the city's regeneration, through giving more cities the opportunity to access the benefits derived from bidding for a prestigious cultural title and the opportunity to be centre stage nationally. The UK City of Culture (UKCoC) programme is focused on creating a national cultural event, spread over the course of a title year, concentrated in a particular city or area. Derry-Londonderry was the first city to be awarded the UK City of Culture title for 2013 and Hull will be the second UK City of Culture in 2017.

1.4 In March 2015, the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) announced that the competition for title of UK City of Culture 2021 will be held in 2017, in Hull's UK City of Culture year.

1.5   The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) manage the process for the UK City of Culture title. Following a recent consultation about the timetable, the DCMS has committed to inviting proposals for the 2021 title by early 2017, meaning the next UK City of Culture will be awarded the title for 2021 during Hull's title year.

2.   **Issues**

2.1   The City of Stoke on Trent is leading on the bid and the Council would be a key partner and would still play an important leadership role along with cultural providers in the Borough such as the Museum and Art Gallery, Keele University, The New Vic Theatre and the BID. Keele University and The New Vic Theatre have already pledged their support. The Council would commit Elected Member and officer support to the relevant theme groups

3.   **Proposal**

3.1   To support the development of a Stoke-on Trent bid for the UK City of Culture 2021 title.

4.   **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

4.1   The process of developing a City of Culture bid will build on existing arts and cultural provision across the City and here in Newcastle, which draws on the cultural heritage of the area and includes The Homecoming, which celebrates the life of Phillip Astley, the Museum and Art Gallery, Midsummer Wakes, Lymelight Festival, Jazz and Blues Festival, Newcastle Lantern Parade, artworks in the subways and on the roundabouts, Keele University Arts Programme and The New Vic Theatre, which will stimulate a new cultural narrative in the city, borough and across North Staffordshire.
.
5.   **Links to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

5.1   There is a clear strategy for partnership working and a growing understanding that culture has a significant part to play in addressing wider social and economic regeneration issues. The evidence base for this is provided in the Warwick Commission report 2015, DCMS Culture White Paper 2016and Arts Council England, Everyday Creativity report 2016.

6.   **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1   The Council has the power to directly provide culture services and also the power of community leadership, introduced by the Local Government Act 2000, to lead, influence and support partner organisations to work to common goals to meet the needs and aspirations of their communities.

7.   **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1   To be successful the bid will need to demonstrate a high quality cultural programme that reaches a wide variety of audiences and that uses culture and creativity to lead to lasting social regeneration through building engagement, widening participation, supporting cultural diversity and cohesion, contributing to the localism agenda and reaching out to sectors of the community who are disenfranchised and isolated. The DCMS has further explicitly required that bids engage a wide range of audiences and participants, especially children and young people and under-represented groups and communities

8.   **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1   At this stage there are no financial implications as our support is being offered at a time of limited financial resources and forms part of our response to encourage excellence, whilst being driven by the need for austerity. However, it is expected that staff will attend meetings in order to contribute to the development of the bid

9.   **Major Risks**

9.1   The approach seeks to manage the risks for the public, stakeholders and funders, in relation to the culture sector's ability to respond to the challenge.

10.   **Key Decision Information**

10.1 This proposal has the potential to bring cultural investment into the Borough, which will support the regeneration of the town centres and builds further on the existing arts and cultural provision as detailed earlier

11.   **Earlier Cabinet Resolutions**

11.1 None

12.   **List of Appendices**

12.1 None.

13.   **Background Papers**

13.1 None.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

Date 19th October 2016

1.	**HEADING**	**Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) Service Contract Extension**
	Submitted by:	**Joanne Halliday**
	Portfolio:	**Planning and Housing, Communities and Social Cohesion**
	Ward(s) affected:	**All**

Purpose of the Report

This report seeks authority to extend the current Newcastle Housing Advice Service Contract to 31st March 2020.

Recommendations

(a) **That the Newcastle Housing Advice Service Contract with Midland Heart be extended for a further three years to 31st March 2020 in accordance with the original award of contract.**

(b) **That officers be authorised to take the necessary steps to replace a Housing Advisor with a Private Sector Officer role with the NHA contract.**

Reasons

The original contract award for the Newcastle Housing Advice Service was granted with the option to extend for a further three years subject to satisfactory performance. As reflected in the report the current service provider has demonstrated a high level of service delivery and therefore no substantive issues or concerns have been raised in contract management meetings. Accordingly there is no reason that the contract extension cannot be awarded.

It is important that the Council has an effective service in place to help the most vulnerable residents and therefore it is appropriate that the Council makes the decision on the contract extension so that the service is in place beyond March 2017.

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1. **Background**

Newcastle Housing Advice

1.1 On 15th January 2014 Cabinet considered the outcome of the tendering exercise for the Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) service. It's decision was to award contract to Midland Heart for the period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2017, with the option to extend for a further three years on satisfactory performance.

1.2 The current NHA service delivers the following elements:

- A Homelessness service which includes the prevention of homelessness through advice and assistance, discharging the Council's statutory homelessness duty and ensuring customers are housed appropriately:
- A Housing Options service which includes the delivery of more comprehensive housing advice across all tenures, joint working with key stakeholders and providers and signposting households to other specialist services.
- A Housing Register service which includes the management of the Council's Housing Register and nominations to other Registered Providers who own housing stock in the Borough.

1.3   Officers within the Council's Housing Strategy team monitor the delivery of this contract and meet regularly with Midland Heart to discuss delivery and performance.

1.4   Performance of the NHA service is reported to Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

Private Sector Support Officer

1.5   There is a national approach of utilising the private rented sector to meet the needs of many homeless households. The Council has recently commissioned a part time Private Sector Officer (PSO) to enable customers who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness to access homes within the private rented sector. This project enables an officer to work alongside Newcastle Housing Advice 2.5 days per week liaising between customers, letting agents and private landlords. The officer negotiates deposits and rent in advance, referrals to any agency to assist with setting up the tenancy; this includes the provision of recycled furniture from agencies such as the Furniture Mine.

2.   Issues

Newcastle Housing Advice Service

2.1   Preventing and reducing homelessness remains a key priority for Newcastle. Ensuring the provision of a high quality housing advice service is a key tool in helping to prevent and reduce homelessness in the Borough. The homelessness Strategy outlines the approach to preventing homelessness but acknowledges the anticipated that the level of demand for the service is likely to continue to increase.

2.2   The current service has been fully mobilised along with the successful implementation of the Homesdirect choice based lettings system. Customers and partner stakeholders are now familiar with the service and its location within the town centre. It has developed and evolved as a service that customers now access independent and impartial free housing advice.

2.3   A robust contract management framework is in place and it is confirmed that the service is meeting the key service standard targets, as summarised in the table below:

Service Area	Service Standard Targets	Performance To Date
NHA Activity		
Homelessness decisions	20 working days but within national target of 33 days	100%
Homelessness Preventions	NUBC Corporate Performance Indicator with a target of 600	580 Year 15/16
Households in Temporary Accommodation	Families should not be in temporary	100% less than 6 weeks

	accommodation for longer than 6 weeks	
Customer Service Standards		
Letters received and responded to	10 working days	100%
Emails received and responded to	10 working days	100%
Housing Register applications processed in 10 days	10 working days	100%
Homelessness Decision Appeals (national target of 56 working days)	Within 15 working days	100%
Complaints	10 working days (within NUBC Corporate Performance Indicator)	100%
Medical Applications	Within 28 days	100%
Housing Register and Lettings (as at 1.7.16)		
Nomination timescales	3 working days of cycle closure	100%

Private Sector Support Officer

2.4   The Private Sector Support Officer is not employed by Midland Heart and there are a number of issues in delivering a seamless service; this includes difficulty in sharing ICT access to household case files. Whilst the issues may be minor it means that the post is not as efficient and therefore potentially not as effective as if it were delivered by the NHA team members.

3.   Options Considered

3.1   To extend for a further three years as per the contract's original terms. The delivery and performance of the NHA service has been monitored by Officers within the Housing Strategy Team. The contract has been delivered to a satisfactory standard in accordance with the terms of the contract; therefore there is no reason not to extend the contract as originally envisaged.

3.2   To not extend the current contract. There is no reason for this option as to date the Council has confirmed its satisfaction with the delivery and performance of this service.

3.3   As the Private Sector Officer is intrinsically linked to the NHA service, providing support to homeless households there is an opportunity to provide a more integrated service. It is therefore recommended to incorporate this element into the main Newcastle Housing Advice Service. Due to financial pressures it would not be feasible to add the Private Sector Officer therefore it is proposed to replace a Housing Advisor with a Private Sector Officer.

4.   Reasons for Preferred Solution

4.1   Midland Heart has continued to evolve and implement service improvements throughout the first three years of the contract. The service has been delivered to a satisfactory standard in accordance with the terms of the contract therefore the contract extension should be granted as per the original contract expectations. By replacing a Housing Advisor with the Private Sector Officer the service to customers will be more seamless and therefore more effective. Officers also believe that this offers the best value for money option and seeks to place the service in the best position to meet the changing needs of the customers in the current housing market.

5.   Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

5.1   The provision of a housing advice service assists in meeting the Corporate Priorities to provide a Clean, Safe and Sustainable Borough, a Borough of Opportunity, a Healthy Active Community and Becoming a Co-operative Council by delivering high quality community driven services.

6.   **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1   The Council has a statutory duty under the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, to provide homelessness, housing advice and housing register services in the local authority area.   Under the provisions of the Contracting Out and Deregulation Act 1994, Local authorities can contract out making inquiries and/or decisions on homelessness applicants, provision of housing advice, securing accommodation to discharge their homelessness duties and the allocation of housing.

6.2   If the Council considered there were good reasons to not extend the current contract it will be necessary to either bring the housing advice service back in house or embark on a new tendering exercise. Otherwise non provision of this service would mean the Council will have no provision for the service after 31st March 2017 and would be in breach of its statutory obligations (in relation to the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002).

6.3   Should the contract provider need to change at this time, TUPE regulations will apply to potentially 8 employees. The Private Sector Officer may also have TUPE rights.

7.   **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1   The Public Sector Equality Duty is part of the Equality Act 2010 and this Duty requires us as a public body to have 'due regard' to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act. It requires us to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'relevant protected characteristic' and people who don't.

7.2   The service currently provided by Newcastle Housing Advice offers Newcastle residents an access point to housing advice services. It provides assistance to those who are owed a statutory homeless duty. A contract extension will help the Council to continue to provide advocacy services to residents in need across the Borough and will help to promote equality of opportunity through easy access to services.

8.   **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1   To date the Council has received Homelessness grant funding each year from the DCLG. This funding has been confirmed at £124,672 for the 2016 / 2017 financial year, plus proposed figures for amounts in 2017 to 2019. The grant is important funding for the borough's homelessness prevention activities.

8.2   As the PSO is intrinsically linked to the NHA service, there is a need to provide an integrated service. Officers are seeking approval to integrate funding to the indicative budget for the NHA service, supporting continuity of service and outcomes linked to the Council Housing and Homelessness Strategy Based on the 2016/17 budget of £15,000 for the PSO, the likely expenditure over the contract period 2017-2020 would be £45,000.

8.3   There is £304,000 budgeted for the NHA service annually, with a further £15,000 budgeted for the commissioning of a part time Private Sector Officer. Following negotiation with Midland Heart in view of the significant financial pressures facing the Council (including the

replacement of a Housing Advisor with a Private Rented Sector Officer), the costs of the service would be £315,535 in 2017/18, £322,233 in 2018/19 and £328,863 in 2019/20. As such there would be a small budget saving for 2017/18 (£3,465), the budget pressures for 2018/19 and 2019/20 will need to be considered within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

8.4   As outlined in 6.3 above, if the extension is not granted and the contract ends, TUPE will apply to potentially 8 employees.

9.   **Major Risks**

9.1   There are no major risks involved if the extension of the current service provision is approved.

10.   **Key Decision Information**

10.1   The Council has a statutory duty to provide homelessness, housing advice and housing register services in the Borough and the delivery of this service affects all wards.

11.   **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

11.1   15th January 2015 - Cabinet approved the decision to award the Newcastle Housing Advice, Homelessness and Housing Register contract to Midland Heart Housing Ltd for the period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2017, with the option to extend for three years on satisfactory performance.

12.   **List of Appendices**

12.1   None.

13.   **Background Papers**

13.2   None.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

Date   19th October 2016

1.   **HEADING**   **Car Park Management**

      Submitted by: **Head of Housing, Regeneration and Assets**

      Portfolio: **Town Centres, Property and Business**

      Ward(s) affected: **Primarily the Town Ward**

Purpose of the Report
To consider the information provided through the Car Park Review and to give direction to the future management of the Council's car parks.

Recommendations
i) That members note the key issues raised in the recent Car Park Review.

ii) That the current geographical charging arrangements remain the same – i.e. no charging on car parks outside of Newcastle Town centre's environs.

iii) That officers explore the scope for local management of the non-chargeable car parks and report back to the relevant Portfolio Holder within six months.

iv) That the current charging tariff structure remains as currently arranged and that this position be reviewed on an annual basis to take account of changing demands.

v) That, at this stage, the Council continues to provide free car parking for Blue Badge Holders subject to further review within six months following consultation with appropriate local groups.

vi) That, at the earliest practical opportunity, the town centre car parks become chargeable on a 24-hour/day basis and a new overnight rate is introduced as described in the report.

vii) That the Council continues to work with the County Council to improve signage to the car parks in general and in particular to expedite the introduction of variable message information signs on key highway approaches to the town centre.

viii) That the Council informs the Business Improvement District company to cease the council's contribution to the free parking arrangements with immediate effect after the end of 2016/17 and that officers seek to agree an appropriate succession arrangement with them.

ix) That the Council considers the allocation of funding in future capital programmes to deliver physical improvements to the town centre car parks, specifically the Midway MSCP.

x) That the current "Pay by phone" arrangement be reviewed within the next 12 months.

xi) That "Pay on exit" not be reviewed further at this time.

xii) That a clear strategy for issuing parking Permits should be developed within 6 months.

> **xiii) That officers continue to engage on a multi-disciplinary basis with not only prospective developers and the two Local Universities but also the bus operators to minimise the risk of unmet demand for car parking causing nuisance to existing local residential neighbourhoods.**
>
> **xiv) That the current level of parking provision should be further reviewed by the year 2020 in order to inform future decisions about the Council's car parks estate.**
>
> **Reasons**
> The Council has a responsibility to manage its car park portfolio effectively in order that it is fit for purpose and meeting its objectives. An independent parking consultant has been commissioned to undertake a review, this raises many important issues for which a local decision can be taken, it is therefore relevant that the Council considers the issues to direct the preferred approach.

1. Background

1.1 The Council has a range of car parks both in Newcastle town centre, Kidsgrove and other villages. They provide a valuable resource to support the function of town and village centres including local communities and businesses. In providing such facilities the Council has a duty to provide them in a safe manner and in order to maximise usage they should provide a good quality environment that customers value. Should the car parks not fulfil a valid business purpose then they should be considered for disposal.

1.2 The Council currently only charges customers to park on the car parks in Newcastle Town Centre. The charging times and fees vary between car parks as historically the charges have been introduced by different Traffic Management Orders and, to an extent, the tariffs have been set to reflect the preferred customer usage.

1.3 The Council offers a range of "Permits" both to customers who purchase them directly and to companies who block purchase them for their staff; where this occurs it is normal practice to offer a discount to block purchases based on the number of Permits purchased.

1.4 On a broader note members will be aware of the changing face of retail centres and car parking provision must be kept under review in order that the quantum and nature of it keeps pace with such changes. Consistent with the Council's corporate priority relating to 'Borough of opportunity' the town centres should be supported to develop economically and there are several key issues to consider in relation to the development of important sites in Newcastle town centre, most notably the Ryecroft redevelopment, the new Civic Hub and the various sites currently or potentially developable for student accommodation.

1.5 Consequently Alpha Parking, an independent parking consultancy, have been commissioned to produce a car parks review and they have made some recommendations that should assist the Council in the future management of its car parks.

2. Issues

2.1 The main issue is that the Council needs to consider the report prepared by the expert consultants and, in particular, decide how to respond to the recommendations it makes (noting that some recommendations identify the need for longer term reviews – e.g. to take account of the evolving function of the car parks in the context of changing demands).

2.2 Officers acknowledge that the consultants' recommendations need careful consideration and, helpfully, the report suggests timescales for either implementing or considering actions which appear realistic and reasonable.

2.3 Consequently in the following paragraphs officers have sought to reflect upon those recommendations which the consultants have suggested should be considered either immediately or within twelve months. Additionally the issues raised have been blended with local management matters (e.g. item 6 in relation to concessionary charging).

1) **Introducing car parking charges to car parks across the Borough**
The Council could consider introducing charging to car parks outside of the town centre, specifically Kidsgrove and the other villages. Many of these car parks have either been recently resurfaced or will need resurfacing over the forthcoming years; the Council could therefore consider that it is appropriate to charge for these facilities on the basis that users/customers are or will be receiving a better quality offer. In short the income would assist in meeting the capital costs of the resurfacing. Should this be considered then the Council would need to take into account the resource requirements for the Civil Enforcement (staff and vehicle) and the practical collection of money. In reality, based on current enforcement methods, this option is not considered to represent value for money. On balance your officers would not recommend any changes at this stage. However there may be merit in exploration of some form of local management in the future to reduce the Council's financial liabilities.

2) **Change charges**
As part of the fees and charges annual review the Council considers whether to alter car parking charges. Over the past few years the Council has not increased charges largely for reasons relating to the wider programme of town centre management taking into account economic vitality of the town centre.

The current charging structure is based on the simple premise of car parks further away from the town centre being cheaper. Alpha Parking have highlighted that it may be simpler for customers if all car parks had the same charges. It is recognised by customers however that the parking on the edge of town is cheaper to reflect the fact that it is less convenient (i.e. they have further to walk into town). Alpha Parking also recommend trials to see whether altering charges would change usage patterns. Comparisons are given to Stoke-on-Trent whereby they have charging for the first 2 hours compared to Newcastle charging in hourly bands.

This would possibly encourage more people to stay for 2 hours however evidence suggests that the vast majority of our customers choose 1 hour parking and therefore they may see this as a loss of choice and some may be reluctant to pay a 2-hour charge. In addition the anticipated Ryecroft development will bring the introduction of limited stay shopper parking in the next few years and this will have an impact on the Council's car parks. Given the risks associated with making radical changes to the charging structure, particularly income loss, it may be considered unwise to make changes prior to the planned Ryecroft development coming into operation. On balance your officers would not recommend any changes at this stage.

3) **Charging for blue badge holders**
A significant number of councils have introduced charges for disabled drivers who use the blue badge facility. Alpha Parking has recommended that the Council considers this on the basis that the first hour is free and then a charge of £2.50 for the next 2 hours. Clearly this recommendation raises a point of principle which requires sensitive handling. Accordingly members may wish to consider this particular matter with the benefit of some local consultation with relevant interest groups. It should be noted that the primary objective of providing dedicated parking bays for blue badge holders is to ensure that these spaces are in the most convenient and accessible locations.

4) **Reviewing the charging Hours**

Currently the town centre car parks have a range of different chargeable periods with some being chargeable to 6pm and others to 9pm. Most are chargeable on a Saturday except for King Street. There is little reasoning behind some of these differences and it makes sense to consider aligning them all.

Whilst several of the car parks have 24 hour charging, the normal hourly day rate continues until 9pm. The Council could therefore consider an overnight charge of 8pm to 8am for £1.

An overnight permit of £60 could be considered for a quarter or £210 24hr permit (Band C car parks specifically King, Hassall, Windsor, Cherry and Corporation St).

Officers would recommend that both of these charges should be implemented as soon as practically possible.

At this time it would be advisable to consider extending the opening hours of all floors on the Midway up to 7.30pm and retain the currently locking of floors beyond floor 4 and 5 on the grounds of safety and to minimise anti-social behaviour (particularly car racing) on the site late at night. This would align with the private sector provision of The Square being open late at night to accommodate those using the Lymelight Boulevard and other evening entertainment.

Wider considerations include the opportunities to provide convenient car parking for additional residents who will be living in the emerging residential accommodation in premises such as the former Blackburn House, the former Jubilee Baths site and the former offices at Hassall Street. This consideration would need to be balanced with a current persistent problem with rough sleepers in the building (which is the subject of a separate multi-agency response). Consequently it is also recommended that officers review these various considerations at the Midway MSCP with the relevant Portfolio Holder at quarterly intervals in order that the optimum timing of any new arrangement can be determined.

It should be noted that Civil Enforcement Officers would be required for periodic evening enforcement.

5) **Signage**

Signage is extremely important in order to provide clear directions to reach the car park and information within the car park itself. Alpha Parking have highlighted that most of the signage within car parks is clear, however there is a need to update some signage (e.g. out of date signs that still refers to clamping). They do however highlight the need to improve external signage (on the approaches) to the car parks with very little directional signage being provides which they consider discourages some people from stopping. The use of Variable Message Signs is recommended to show not only where the car parks are but the number of spaces available. This is currently provided in both Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford on principal approach roads. Discussions are taking place with the County Council (in its capacity as the Highway Authority) with the aim being to introduce Variable Message Signs. At present the County Council's Integrated Transport Strategy identifies the variable messaging for introduction by 2018 and your officers propose to seek the earliest possible installation of such signs.

Signage on the car parks or by their entrances could also be considered and would be subject to planning permission. It should be noted that the car parks within the

Conservation Area would need to be considered by the Conservation Advisory Working Party before Planning Committee. Electronic signs would not be considered appropriate but the Council could consider signs of suitably sensitive design. At this stage it is premature to make any formal decision without there being any clear proposals; consequently this matter should be reviewed in consultation with the Portfolio Holder within the next 12 months.

6) **Cease the Council contribution to the free parking days that are currently offered in conjunction with the Business Improvement District.**
Members will recall that, over a number of recent years, the Council has provided free parking to support the steps being taken to improve the economic vitality of the town centre. This concession was predicated upon an anticipated windfall payment which would cover the lost income.

For Christmas 2016 the Council has agreed to provide free parking after 3pm. The BID requested additional free parking and it has been agreed that the BID will "purchase" parking between noon and 3pm to enable customers to have free parking all afternoon for the four Saturdays in December.

The original funding allocated to cover the loss of income through free parking on key dates has now passed and the Council needs to consider the future income loss of offering additional free parking to the Business Improvement District. Given the other financial pressures facing the Council and the establishment of the BID it is recommended that the free/subsidised parking ceases with immediate effect after the end of 2016/17 and that officers seek to agree an appropriate succession arrangement with the BID company.

7) **Investment in improvements**
The management of any asset or service needs to take into account the quality of the product on offer. It is important that the Council considers the quality of the car parks, particular those for which the customer is paying to use. In undertaking the parking review Alpha Parking met with a Focus Group of local interested parties to gauge opinions about cap parking provision in Newcastle town centre. Alpha Parking have identified that safety and security is important, this is both in terms of the car park surface and the surrounding area. Alpha have also highlighted that the Midway MSCP spaces are considered to be restricted compared to the increasing size of modern cars; your officers would note that this is difficult to address as many of the columns and the ramps are structural components of the building thereby providing very limited scope for modification. Nevertheless it is recommended that the Midway MSCP is prioritised for investment in decorative refurbishment in the future Capital Programme to make it more attractive to users.

8) **Local innovations**
i) Pay by phone: the review report notes the recent introduction of this arrangement (the popularity of which seems to be increasing). The report recommends that this be kept under review.

ii) Pay on exit: the review report notes the Council's previous consideration of this approach as a way of giving greater flexibility to customers (as compared to fixed time, pay and display). The technical constraints of the Midway MSCP are noted although the consultants indicate that there may be merit, in the future, in assessing systems which link barriers to camera detection arrangements.

iii) Permits: the report notes the existence of a number of Permit-holder arrangements which on the one hand provide value-for-money for customers (and

some employers) and allow the Council to direct them to preferred locations. In view of the increasing demand for Permits (particularly from employers and the promoters of town centre residential schemes) the consultants recommend that a clear strategy for issuing these should be developed within 6 months.

9) **Future student parking demand**

Further to the latter point the review report recommends ongoing and thorough review of the whole issue surrounding the movement of students to and from the two local Universities. This should include liaison with the bus operators and the Universities in order to promote behaviours which minimise demand whilst directing any parking requirements in the town centre to the most appropriate locations (to minimise potential nuisance arising from parking in the local residential areas around the town centre). In overall terms the report recommends that the level of parking provision should be reassessed in 3 to 5 years; i.e. once a number of the planned/current developments have been completed and occupied).

3. **Proposal and Reasons for Preferred Solution**

1) **Introducing car parking charges to car parks across the Borough**

Taking into account the potential benefits and disadvantages it is not proposed at this time to progress with introducing charging to car parks in Kidsgrove and the other villages. Nevertheless it is proposed that officers should explore the scope for local management of the non-chargeable car parks and report back to the relevant Portfolio Holder within six months.

2) **Change charges**

When reviewing the Council car parks and that of other private sector providers, it is believed that our charges are appropriate and should not be increased. Retaining the current prices will continue to support the town centre and the option to provide hourly charges rather than 2 hourly bands provides the customer with the greatest choice in length of stay and cost. Once further information is available on the Ryecroft retail parking, along with other information on customer parking times, the Council may wish to consider a pilot of 2hr/4hr/6hr and 24hr parking. Therefore it is recommended that the current charging tariff structure remains as currently arranged and that this position be reviewed on an annual basis to take account of changing demands.

3) **Charging for blue badge holders**

At this stage, it is recommended that the Council continues to provide free car parking for Blue Badge Holders subject to further review within six months following consultation with appropriate local groups.

4) **Reviewing the charging Hours**

Taking into consideration the changing nature of the town centre with the introduction of student accommodation and the recommendation of Alpha Parking to have a clear understandable charging policy, it is recommended that all Newcastle Town Centre car parks become chargeable 24hours Monday to Saturday, retaining Sunday as free parking. Then a lower specific evening charge between 8pm and 8am of £1, together with overnight parking permits being made available for Band C car parks. These changes should be made at the earliest practical opportunity.

5) **Signage**

The joint working with the County Council should be continued with the aim to introduce Variable Message Signs to improve customer knowledge of available spaces and to minimise road congestion of people driving around the town centre looking for available spaces at peak times. Signs within the car parks should also be

reviewed to remove out dated messages; this will most effectively be undertaken when the signs are updated with the changed charges. External signage should also be considered in line with the conservation area requirements.

6)   Cease the free parking days that are currently offered in conjunction with the BID.

The original funding allocated to cover the loss of income through free parking on 5 event days and free after 3pm for Christmas has now passed and the Council has not yet budgeted for the loss of income through offering further free parking to the Business Improvement District beyond this financial year. The Council has an agreement with the Business Improvement District that states 'The Council makes an annual decision on the car parking charges and additional concessions to support specific objectives which align to the Corporate Priorities.

Requests for concessions or support for specific projects from the BID would need to be considered alongside other requests from partner agencies such as the Town Centre Partnership).' It is therefore recommended that the free parking ceases immediately at the end of 2016/17 through negotiation with the Business Improvement District.

7)   Investment in improvements

That the Council considers the allocation of funding in the 2017/18 capital programme to deliver physical improvements to the town centre car parks, specifically the Midway MSCP.

8)   Local innovations

i) Pay by phone: it is recommended that this arrangement be reviewed within the next 12 months.

ii) Pay on exit: given the availability of pay-by-phone and the known technical constraints of the Midway MSCP (and the nature of use/modest size of other car parks) it is not considered that this option be explored at this time.

iii) Permits: it is recommended that a clear strategy for issuing Permits should be developed within 6 months.

9)   Future student parking demand

(a) It is recommended that officers continue to engage, on a multi-disciplinary basis (including Planning, Assets and Engineering staff), with not only prospective developers and the two Local Universities but also the bus operators to minimise the risk of unmet demand for car parking causing nuisance to existing local residential neighbourhoods.

(b) It is recommended that the current level of parking provision should be further reviewed by the year 2020 in order to inform future decisions about the Council's car parks estate.

4.   Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

4.1   The Council manages a range of car parking facilities to provide car parking for business and leisure users. The recommendations in this report have been considered in the context of the priorities of a Borough of Opportunity and a Clean, Safe and Sustainable Borough.

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

5.1 The Council operates the off-street car parks in line with the Traffic Management Act 2004 and each car park has a Traffic Regulation Order to state the operational conditions. The Traffic Regulation Order will need to be updated to include the charging changes.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 The recommendations in this report do not adversely affect any protected groups. However, should further consideration be made to implementing a charge for disabled drivers in the future, equality impacts identified during consultation with appropriate groups will be considered.

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

7.1 Over the last five years car parking income per year has decreased by £200,894, from £1,226,627 in 2011/12 to £1,025,732 in 2015/16, it is therefore appropriate that the Council considers the charges alongside the decreasing car park usage.

7.2 Introducing a range of different approaches to charges as outlined above, in particular ceasing the free parking sessions for Christmas/ events and increasing the charging periods to 24 hours will assist in maintaining the income whilst supporting the town centre economy. The Council has retained the current charges for car parking for several years and importantly this report recommends continuing this freeze on car park charges.

7.3 Failure to deal with the decrease in income will result in a further significant pressure having to be added into next year's budget process. Members will recall that in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, approved at the last cabinet meeting, that the Council is already having to deal with a £2.5m "gap" in next year's budget.

7.4 The option to improve the car parks will be subject to the allocation of capital funding through the annual budget setting process and future Cabinet reports. Any such investment will have to be considered against other competing pressures for capital expenditure and in light of the Council's position in respect of capital funding.

8. **Major Risks**

8.1 The delivery of the actions recommended will need to be phased to take into account the staffing resources to implement the changes and the finance to make physical improvements to the car parks.

9. **Key Decision Information**

9.1 The report raises issues affecting more than two wards so this is a key decision regardless of any financial implications the quantification of which is difficult to forecast at this stage.

10. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

10.1 In July 2013 the Council agreed to utilise grant funding to support the free parking in conjunction with the Town Centre Partnership:

http://moderngov.newcastle-
staffs.gov.uk/documents/s8173/Town%20Centre%20Car%20Parking%20-
%2005%2007%2013%20tracked.pdf

11. **List of Appendices**

11.1 None

12. **Background Papers**

12.1 The Car Park Review from Alpha Parking Ltd.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

October 2016

1.	**REPORT TITLE**	**Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Lottery**
	Submitted by:	**Jane Sheldon - Business Improvement Officer (Research & Equalities)**
	Portfolio:	**Policy, People & Partnerships**
	Ward(s) affected:	**All**

Purpose of the Report

To seek approval for recommendations to implement a local lottery for Newcastle under Lyme.

Recommendations

(a) **that the Council introduce a local lottery for the Borough of Newcastle, with the aim of raising funds for local charities, voluntary organisations and good causes;**

(b) **that authorisation is given to officers to work with an External Lottery Manager to develop and implement a local lottery to commence as soon as practically feasible;**

Reasons

An initial grant review was undertaken in 2014 to identify similarities and shared objectives in the criteria for Community Chest and Small Grants with a view to simplifying processes for both applicants and the Council. The subsequent review update in 2015 identified potential efficiencies that might be realised by including funding streams administered by the Operational Services Directorate with the streams administered by the Partnerships Team in the Chief Executive's Directorate. The review also sought to ensure that efficiencies and improvements can be made to enable the Council to maximise benefits to the community. Recent developments in other parts of the country have led to the consideration of a completely new approach to providing financial support to community groups in the form of a local lottery. A decision is required by members to enable preparations to be made for the early implementation of the scheme.

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1. **Background**

1.1 As budget pressures continue to grow in all aspects of the council's work there has, and will continue to be an impact on the funding available for good causes. The concept of a lottery for Newcastle-under-Lyme is considered a viable alternative to providing financial support for local community and voluntary groups.

1.2 In late 2015, Aylesbury Vale District Council created the Vale Lottery. The lottery was developed in partnership with Gatherwell Ltd, an External Lottery Manager, and was the first local authority lead 'society lottery' in the country. During 2016, four further local authorities (Portsmouth City Council, Melton Borough Council, Mendip District Council and Gloucester City Council) have taken the decision to launch their own local lotteries in partnership with Gatherwell using the Vale Lottery model.

2.   **Issues**

2.1   Given the significant reductions public sector expenditure over the last few years, and bearing in mind the potential for further reductions, there is concern that resources for local good causes will become increasingly constrained.

2.2   There are currently the four funding schemes available to local community and voluntary groups: The Community Chest, Small Grants, Green Grants and Cultural Grants. All have different procedures in terms of administration and decision-making.   Administration of Community Chest currently accounts for 25% of the workload of the LAP Co-ordinator. The Partnerships Officer spends around 5% of their time dealing with the administration of Small Grants. Assessment of Green Grants accounts for less than 5% of the workload of the Operational Services part-time Admin Assistant with some support from officers within the Landscape team.   Administration of Cultural Grants takes up no more than 2% of the workload of the Museum Managers. The Grants Assessment Panel meets 4 times per year to assess Small Grants and to take an overview of Green and Cultural Grants. Meetings are generally well attended by the Panel's 8 members and can last up to 3 hours. The Panel is supported by the Member Training and Development Officer and the Partnerships Officer.

It is considered that an alternative method of making support available to community groups would ensure that resources are utilised in a more efficient and cost-effective way and would put in place processes that are more simple and consistent.

3.   **Options Considered**

3.1   Do not implement a local lottery for Newcastle.

This option would not address the issues identified with regard to future financial constraints on grant funding budgets and would not help to ease the administrative pressures involved with managing the current funding arrangements.   (Not recommended).

3.2   Development of a local lottery for the Borough. By adopting the Vale Lottery model, there is an opportunity to benefit from the experience that the External Lottery Manager will bring whilst tailoring the process to fit with the needs of the Council.

This is the recommended option as not only will a financial saving be realised but the Council will be able to continue to fund local community groups. Using the lottery as the primary distribution mechanism for funding would also result in administrative efficiencies.   More reasoning and considerations in this regard are provided in the next section. (Recommended)

4.   **Proposals and Reasons for Preferred Solutions**

4.1   As budget pressures continue to grow on all aspects of the Council's work there will inevitably be an impact on funding available for the Council to commission work with the voluntary and community sector across the Borough.

4.2   A Borough lottery has the potential to help organisations to address any funding pressures they are facing whilst moving the Council from a 'provider' to an 'enabler'.

4.3   The Vale Lottery developed by Aylesbury Vale District Council and Gatherwell Ltd has been running since late 2015 and operates at two levels:

Vale Lottery – operating borough-wide, with profits generated distributed through existing funding mechanisms to local voluntary and community groups. Players in this option do not

specify a group to benefit from the proceeds. This helps those organisations who may have fewer local supporters and/or less ability to generate funding support due to the nature and size their services.

Specific Vale Good Causes – this version of the lottery enables groups to 'sign up' to take part in the lottery specifically raising a 50% of the ticket price for their good cause. By signing up they have their own web page for the lottery which helps them engage players and raise income. There is no cost or administrative burden for the community groups.

4.4   The Vale Lottery raised £53,000 for good causes via the central fund in its first three months and a further £17,500 was raised for specific good causes over the same period. A total of 115 good causes have signed up to join the lottery.

4.5   Until there is approval for the development of a borough lottery, no approaches have been made to Gatherwell and therefore, there are no clear proposals as to how a lottery would work in Newcastle. It is anticipated that the set up would be very similar to the Vale Lottery but it is envisaged that it will be possible to tailor the scheme to meet the needs of the Borough. The Vale model has been picked up by both Portsmouth City Council and Melton Borough Council, both of whom have lotteries due to start in the next few months. As such, officers would recommend to Cabinet that approval be given to pursue this further with a view to implementing a similar local scheme.

5.   **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

5.1   When officers progress arrangements they will seek to ensure that organisations who sign up to support the lottery can demonstrate how they meet at least one of the four corporate priorities as identified in the Council Plan.

6.   **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1   There is a slight risk of challenge should any organisation feel that they have suffered a loss as a result of the proposals set out in this report. This risk is mitigated, however, by the fact that community groups will still be in a position to receive financial support by signing up to become a 'specific good cause' or by benefitting from the lottery funds.

6.2   It will be necessary for the Council to make an application to the Gambling Commission and appropriate authority for a Lottery Operating Licence, and possibly a Remote Gambling Licence. The Licence will be subject to the conditions laid down by the Commission.

7.   **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1   There are no adverse equality issues identified as arising from this report.

7.2   The council's four corporate priorities aim to address disadvantage and inequality where it exists across the borough and this will be a key consideration when developing the criteria for distribution of lottery funding. In addition, NULBC has made a clear promise to work co-operatively with partners and communities and will consult with local voluntary and community groups to ensure that the implications and benefits of the scheme are communicated effectively.

8.   **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1   The reduction in funding levels since 2014/15 has already realised a financial saving for the Council. Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this report will ensure that any further budgetary pressures will not have an adverse effect on the support that is provided to local good causes. It is envisaged that there will be a significant saving to the General Fund

as budgets earmarked for grants will be replaced by monies generated from the borough lottery.

8.2 It is anticipated that the initial set up costs for a borough lottery would not exceed £10,000. The initial outlay would include the fees to Gatherwell and promotion and marketing. There would be an initial one off cost of around £250 to register with the Gambling Commission and year on year expenditure of £700 for the appropriate licences from the Commission. These costs can be met from existing budgets.

8.3 There are resource implications for Council Officers who will be involved in implementing the recommendations contained within this report. However it is considered that these implications will be mitigated by the fact that administration for the existing grant schemes will no longer be required and resources within the Partnerships team will be re-deployed to support administration of the lottery in conjunction with the external lottery manager.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 The major risks arising from this report are:

9.1.1 That by implementing a lottery scheme, the Council is seen to be advocating gambling, leading to adverse publicity.

Lotteries are the most common type of gambling activity across the world, and considered to be a 'low risk' form with respect to the emergence of problem gambling due to its relatively controlled form. The lottery would be fully compliant with the Gambling Commissions licencing code of practice. There are many local and national examples of similar schemes with philanthropic aims, e.g. Dougie Mac, Health Lottery, etc.

9.1.2 That the local lottery does not attract sufficient players leading to it being suspended or failing entirely.

It is considered that the success of the Vale Lottery is due to the support of their External Lottery Manager, Gatherwell Ltd. As already discussed four other local authorities have chosen to follow the Gatherwell model based on the testimonial of Aylesbury Vale District Council. Gatherwell's terms and conditions ensure that neither Gatherwell or the local authorities would be liable for any losses or failure. Furthermore, considerable marketing and promotion would be undertaken to mitigate this risk.

10. **Key Decision Information**

This is a key decision, as it will affect more than two wards.

11. **List of Appendices**

11.1 The 'Business Improvement, Central Services and Partnerships Grants Review 2014/15' and the 'Business Improvement, Central Services and Partnerships Grant Funding Review Update 2015' are available on request.