

Exeter Parks and Green Space Strategy

2020 - 2030

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1. Setting the scene

1.1 Foreword

Few aspects of our environment are so important and affect as wide a range of people as the public parks and green spaces.

People use their green spaces to a far greater degree than anything else. No other space is used by the entire age range of the population, in all weathers, at all times of the year, for such a wide range of activities. No other attraction has the visitor numbers of the average park. Over 25 million visits are made to parks and green spaces in Exeter every year, making them the most-used facility in the city (source – Heritage Lottery Fund data 2007).

These spaces are used by people in many different ways, and offer the opportunity to relax and enjoy the natural environment away from the stresses of everyday life. This use may be passive, simply appreciating the views of mature trees gracing the skyline, or more dynamic, such as vigorous exercise in a safe and free space.

In providing active recreational space, local to the community and a focal point for families, friends and groups to meet, exercise and socialise, our green spaces support the broader aims of the City Council's Corporate Plan (specifically Promoting Active and Healthy lifestyles), and Physical Activity Strategy.

Exeter has always recognised the value of its parks and, despite decades of facing continual reductions in funding, has sought to retain and invest in the city's parks and green spaces.

The council has determined that valued community green space will not be lost to development, and that biodiversity and climate change management need to be central to measures to manage green space within Exeter and beyond. As housing density increases and garden space decreases, especially for those families most in need, the values of public green space increases.

It is imperative that park managers can demonstrate that the service they deliver is one that is wanted and supported by the community, particularly as the community will be an essential tool in the armoury of parks management.

However, funding reductions continue and, within this context, the way in which such a valuable and finite resource is managed and maintained will have to change - and that needs to be within a clear strategic framework.

This strategy will provide the framework that enables the transition of green space management to a sustainable model, with the highest standards possible for the next ten years.

1.2 Interim Executive Summary

The 2019 consultation showed that communities valued their green space, but wanted more information. It is clear that there are insufficient resources to maintain our green spaces in the traditional way, and we have to develop alternatives that balance need with capability.

This Interim Executive Summary provides an illustration of where we are, and proposals for the future. We are now consulting on this draft strategy to ensure that it provides a comprehensive and realistic framework for the future. The Executive Summary will be updated after consultation has concluded.

What did we discover?

There are existing good levels of provision and distribution, with most of the city's urban residential areas being within a 10-minute walk of a formal or informal green space. Due to the extent of development within the city, there is limited scope for new large-scale parks. However, there is scope to join up smaller green spaces to form larger green corridors with active recreation and habitat benefits.

Fields in Trust suggests 0.8 Hectares (ha) per thousand head of population of formal (parks and gardens) open space. This is about the same as an average adult football pitch. In Exeter, we have 0.26 ha per thousand, similar to Bristol's 0.2 ha. However, from consultation, it is clear that people value their local green space highly, regardless of any classification that may be placed upon it. Combining formal and informal ECC green space gives a figure of 0.85 ha per thousand.

What are the good things?

People have a connection to the green spaces they use, even if that use is occasional, seasonal, or determined by family pressures. Local green space, where 'ownership' is more tangible, is if anything more fiercely protected by communities than are the formal parks. There are considerable opportunities for communities to be more involved in their local green spaces, for example by taking on minor works and improvements to such spaces. This will improve their value and worth to the people who matter most.

What are the gaps and shortfalls?

Whilst there is a quality assessment profile for the formal parks and gardens, the informal green spaces range from being mini parks with play areas and other infrastructure, to areas of grass and scrub. However, their relative quality and value, especially to their communities, may not be as straightforward as scoring by attributes. We have a good ratio of green space to people when using the Fields in Trust guidance. However, there remain the problems of financial pressures, especially on revenue (maintenance) budgets, increasing costs, and a legacy of previous reductions in maintenance over the past ten years to meet financial constraints. This leaves limited options to safely maintain the land and assets the council holds.

Whilst distribution of green space may appear comprehensive and evenly spread, work remains to obtain a more realistic assessment of the actual and potential value to the community, and the city as a whole.

How are these going to be addressed?

The challenge now is in making the most of our green spaces. We have good green space in the city, but some of this is not in the areas of most need, and the traditional approaches to maintenance are often simply too expensive. So we need to change this. That may be by increasing use to promote activity, or reducing use to increase habitat value. For example, orchard and woodland planting, informal play, habitat enhancement, or a form of land transfer.

The council continues to invest in equipment and staff training, and performance measures need to be reinstated to ensure we use our resources effectively and efficiently.

For the future, good quality green space will be of even greater value to those who live and work in the city, and both new greenfield and brownfield reclamation developments must provide more green space for both recreational and active travel purposes that benefit everyone, not just the individual development.

How is the community going to be engaged?

Many tasks and skills will always remain beyond the capabilities of private individuals and community groups, and the responsibilities and liabilities can be onerous. However, there will be many instances where there is no need for the council to be the only method of service delivery. The way the land is used, forms of maintenance, or the need for specific equipment, can be changed. A partnership arrangement with others can also deliver a different outcome in a range of different ways. The traditional approaches to public green space management and maintenance can be challenged and changed and this can have enormous benefit. Such transitions will not be easy and it is important that communities are supported, and staff, agreements and mechanisms are in place to achieve this.

What are we doing next?

Subject to consultation, and adoption of the strategy, we will develop the action points into detailed rolling work plans to achieve these key points:

- Ensure that key gaps in provision of quality green space across the city are rectified as soon as possible. This will enable full engagement with other strategies and initiatives, such as the Tree and Woodland Strategy, Play Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Efficient and effective use of budgets and staff resources requires coherent work programmes and performance measurement, linked to existing data management systems.
- Strategic investment in basic service improvements, (such as developing and implementing a seating and litter bin programme, which gives an immediate visual uplift to a park, and often reduces maintenance costs).
- Develop and actively manage a five-year development and improvement funding plan driven by gaps in provision. This must be linked to proportionate infrastructure repairs and maintenance to reduce expensive reactive work.
- Develop skills and function-specific teams to engender pride and responsibility in the work, and increase professionalism, efficiency and standards.
- Employ skilled, trained and experienced staff to remedy the shortfall in skills, staffing levels and capability management, maintenance, inspection, safety, and systems implementation.
- Review traditional maintenance and delivery channels. Look at other specialist methods of landscape management, for example using Devon Wildlife Trust's expertise in habitat enhancement.
- People and community - boosting participation and increasing use will provide more leverage for funding. LSOAs will be prioritised.
- Develop an evaluation and review system - this will link to the asset management software.

1.3 The reason for a strategy

The previous Parks and Open Spaces Strategy dates back to 2005. Its purpose then was to identify the range and type of parks and green spaces, and set management plans and maintenance standards. There is now a need to:

- update that information;
- re-address provision, management and maintenance issues in the current context of decreasing revenue budgets;
- refocus on provision matching need, in particular promoting active and healthy lifestyles;
- identify and manage the broader themes of green space linkage in areas such as cycle and footpath networks and green corridors;
- identify future demand and need in the light of population increase and housing needs;
- investigate the potential for asset based community development.

As at 2018 the population of Exeter was 130,400. This is set to rise with a need to provide 655 houses per year for the next ten years. To meet this need in a planned manner, that makes the most of the available space, Exeter has developed proposals for a transformational housing delivery programme that has, as one of its three pillars, “great open spaces.”

Housing accommodation is a significant issue across the country, and the disproportionate cost of housing in relation to income is forcing many people into small accommodation with little or no gardens. This results in even greater pressure on the green spaces within the city for physical and recreational activity, and also for the proven mental health benefits green space offers.

At the same time, the Sports England Local Delivery Pilot is looking to help deliver the city’s Physical Activity Strategy, aimed at promoting and establishing an active and healthy population across all sections of the community.

Public parks are, in the main, owned and managed by local authorities, originating in many instances from land donated by philanthropic Victorians providing publicly-accessible green space. This provided opportunities for recreation and an escape from the slum housing and poor working conditions of much of the population. Then, as now, the countryside was effectively de-populating as people migrated into towns and cities for the opportunity of better paid and more consistent employment. The Victorian infrastructure, particularly regarding housing and sewers, was unable to cope adequately, and this led to the Public Health Act of 1875, of which Section 164 allowed local authorities to obtain land for use as public parks and pleasure grounds. Today, as garden space for modern housing decreases, there is as great a need now for recreational space for people to take part in formal or informal exercise.

The council’s recreational green space land holdings have increased over the last 130 years to around 246 ha. This comprises of a wide range of land-use definition, including formal parks, playing fields, allotments, woodlands and informal green space such as pocket parks. The city’s Valley Parks, which are now managed by Devon Wildlife Trust, add a further 144 ha of publicly-accessible land. Other significant land owners who allow public access are the Environment Agency, the University of Exeter and Forestry Commission. It is now time to take a strategic view of how publicly-accessed green space in the city is protected, enhanced and valued.

Themes that underpin the strategy are:

- Positively influencing planning policy through the developing Exeter Local Plan and Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. This includes the evidence base and policy recommendations from the Physical Activity Strategy to include the Playing Pitch, Parks and Green Spaces and Built Facilities Strategies.
- Promoting Active Design principles through the developing Exeter Local Plan, emerging Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, and subsidiary plans to promote and protect the provision of green space in association with the development of built environments that support and encourage active lifestyles.
- Providing the evidence base to support future policy and practice to ensure that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts are appropriately allocated to support the development of parks and green space in a comprehensive and inclusive way across the city.
- Providing opportunities for inclusive development and evolution of parks and green space to meet the needs of all, but with a particular focus on inactive populations within the city.
- Continuing to re-assess the value of parks and green space across the city, to ensure the cost/benefit is proportionate, to achieve the broader aims of the council and meet the needs of the community, particularly those in greatest need.
- Working with other significant green space landowners as partners to maximize availability of green space for recreational purposes, e.g. University of Exeter, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (NHS).
- Pursuing a carbon neutral approach to managing and developing parks and green spaces.

1.4 Background

The origins of the city

As is the case with the origins of most cities, settlements established in valuable and strategically important locations, and Exeter is no exception.

Exeter is set within the valley of the River Exe, at what was the lowest crossing point of the river. The Exe Valley is relatively narrow until it reaches Exeter, at which point it opens out to a valley and flood plain almost a mile wide. Formerly the tides reached Exeter, and the combination of tidal head and a crossing point on the river resulted in the Roman establishment of a fort from c AD80, after subjugation of the Dumnonii.

The long period of Roman occupation for 300 years saw the construction of the castle and walled city and established Exeter (Isca) as the westernmost extent of Roman trade and civil administration.

However, overland routes to access the valuable tin-mining in Cornwall remained important. Routes from the east converge on Exeter as this then gave options, when heading west. of being south of Dartmoor, or taking the valley between Dartmoor and Exmoor to the north.

Apart from the importance of Plymouth as a major sea port, Exeter was widely seen as the westernmost centre of commerce, and was the fifth wealthiest city in the kingdom by the late 15th century, mainly due to the wool trade.

The size of the city fluctuated through the 16th to 19th centuries, reflecting the strengths and weaknesses of the agricultural economy. Since the development of railways, trade and commerce again expanded, and accompanied by Victorian house-building the population steadily increased.

The city today

Today, the city is on the main rail link between London Paddington and Penzance, and the road network retains its earlier influences, with the city being at the centre of a hub - most noticeably as the M5 ends at Exeter. Exeter Airport adds the third dimension of air travel.

More recently, the largest topographical changes arose from flood prevention measures in response to severe floods in the 1960s. This led to broadening the channel of the Exe through the city, diverting the river at Exe Bridges away from the medieval bridge (which still stands in part today) and the creation of flood channels, north and south. Further flood defence work in 2014-2019 took a less radical and more sympathetic approach to provide 100-year flood protection.

The developments of Cranbrook, the Science Park and housing, light industry, commercial and retail to the east of the city since 2000 have added, and continue to add, to Exeter's growth.

However, Exeter is a relatively small city. The total area of the city is 47.04 km² (4704 ha), and the total residential population of Exeter in 2018 was 130,400. At 1st April 2019 there

were 55,800 homes in Exeter. Future growth plans require the provision of 655 homes per year. Large residential developments have, and are, evolving in the Greater Exeter area outside the borders of the city, and the residents look to Exeter to provide recreational facilities, as well as a range of other needs. Additionally, as a major centre of employment, large numbers commute daily into the city.

Parks and green spaces in and around Exeter

Exeter has a horticultural legacy that belies its size. The oldest public open space in England is Northernhay Gardens, dating from 1612. The Veitch Nurseries built on the earlier reputation of the Luccombe and Pince nursery in St Thomas, providing the plants for many landscapes within and around Exeter. Northernhay and Rougemont Gardens, and St Bartholomew's Cemetery are registered as historic parks and gardens by English Heritage, in recognition of their heritage value.

Amongst the current accessible green space, there are 12 formal parks, 9 playing fields, 26 allotment sites (1500 plots), and 39 ha of woodland. When the 144 ha of accessible Valley Parks are taken into consideration, public green space makes up nearly 10% of the total area of the city. However, the greatest value lies in the wealth of smaller parks and green spaces that are used on a more local basis for recreation, play and exercise, and that contribute to the resilience of communities.

On a broader theme, the opportunities to use green space outside the city boundaries need to be developed to ensure sustainable and manageable recreation, increase scope for a wider range of activities, allow the implementation of Active Design principles, improve habitat diversity, and reduce car journeys.

The natural green spaces of Valley Parks and woodlands do not stop at the city boundary. They provide habitat corridors important for the region, and the potential for active recreational activities. The Exe estuary is internationally important for migratory birds, and is a Special Protection Area (SPA), RAMSAR site (an internationally recognised protection for wetland sites) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). Ashclyst Forest, the Matford, Peamore and Haldon greenways, and Alphington Growth Spur all offer potential for linked landscape management to deliver the three components of the Corporate Plan:

- Tackling congestion and accessibility.
- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles.
- Building great neighbourhoods.

2. Framework

2.1 Vision

Our Green Space Vision for Exeter

Exeter will have high-quality green spaces that are safe, attractive, inclusive and accessible for all - supporting habitats, enabling active and healthy lifestyles and promoting the wellbeing of our communities.

2.2 Aims of the strategy

To achieve this vision we have identified eight key aims.

Ref	Aim
A	Provide, develop and maintain safe, sustainable, equitable and inclusive green spaces across the city for all who live and work in Exeter.
B	Provide a sound basis for long-term investment and funding in green spaces.
C	Set standards to promote high quality, well-maintained green spaces with a focus on health and well-being.
D	Enable community participation and support to sustain, develop and enhance green space.
E	Work with other green space landowners to maximise the availability of green space for recreational purposes.
F	Protect green space from development and seek additional public green space to make up shortfalls in provision.
G	Build on existing city green space measures to channel, develop and enhance biodiversity and climate change mitigation.
H	Provide a network of green spaces to safely link communities, habitats, and aid active travel with green corridors.

2.3 Themes

From the aims, a number of themes have been developed.

Ref	Aim	Achieved by these Themes
A	Provide, develop and maintain safe, sustainable, equitable and inclusive green spaces across the city for all who live and work in Exeter.	Balanced provision Staff and training
B	Provide a sound basis for long-term investment and funding in green spaces.	Investment
C	Set standards to promote high quality, well-maintained green spaces with a focus on health and well-being.	Management Quality
D	Enable community participation and support, to sustain, develop and enhance green spaces.	Communities
E	Work with other green space landowners to maximise the availability of green space for recreational purposes.	Partners
F	Protect green spaces from development and seek additional public green space to make up shortfalls in provision.	Protection and planning
G	Build on existing city green space measures to channel, develop and enhance biodiversity and climate change mitigation.	Biodiversity
H	Provide a network to safely link communities, habitats, and aid active travel with green corridors.	Balanced provision Management Protection and planning

2.4 What's included? What isn't?

Green spaces included in the strategy:

- **Formal parks and gardens** - Sites with a designed layout for recreational enjoyment. This can include large parks, such as Heavitree Pleasure Grounds, or smaller ornamental gardens which include flower beds, paths, walls or railings and features such as statues.
- **Informal local green spaces** - Informal in layout and character, where the emphasis is on informal recreation. They generally have few, or no, additional facilities, although they may well have an equipped play area. These will be most people's "local" green space.
- **Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)** - Sites providing people with access to, and experience of, natural habitats. It includes the Valley Parks, cemeteries and closed churchyards, woodland, grassland, scrub, hedgerows and wetland. These are often established, mature landscapes, with high-habitat values suited to quiet contemplation. The management of trees and woodlands is dealt with within the Trees and Woodland Strategy.
- **Allotments** - Controlled access sites for the production of self-grown food. Although access is restricted, allotments offer recreational benefits, as well as promoting healthy eating.
- **Children and young people's space (play space)** - These are spaces specifically designed to increase opportunities for children and young people to play or meet safely within equipped and unequipped environments. These are most often either stand-alone green space or part of a formal park, and so are included here. The function and purpose of play space is the subject of the Play Strategy.
- **Active sports space** - Those areas which are used for a variety of formal, informal and competitive sports. When these are situated in council-owned land, they are available to others at times when they are not used for sport, and are therefore included. The purpose and function as sports space are considered within the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Listing of the key green spaces in the city, by name:

Formal parks and gardens

Belle Isle Park, Belmont Pleasure Ground, Bull Meadow Park, Bury Meadow Park, Heavitree Pleasure Ground, Northernhay Gardens, Pincus Gardens Pleasure Ground, Rougemont Gardens, Southernhay Greens, St Bartholomew's Cemetery, St Thomas Pleasure Ground, Summerway Park, Topsham Recreation Ground.

Informal local green spaces

These are many and varied. Examples include:

Trews Weir Pocket Park, Mary Arches Pocket Park, The Mint, Topsham Pleasure Ground, Merrivale Road Park, Digby Open Space, Vaughan Road Open Space, Dunsford Gardens, Lakeside, Haven Banks and Sandford Walk.

Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces

Valley Parks, urban woodlands, Higher, Exwick and Topsham cemeteries, and seven closed churchyards.

Valley Parks

The term 'Valley Parks' denotes a local planning designation, covering 782 ha of space in and around Exeter. Of this larger area, around 140 ha of land in the Exe Valley is owned by ECC and comprises the informal public green spaces which are managed by Devon Wildlife Trust. These are generally and collectively known as the Valley Parks. The parks (in order of approximate area size) include the following:

Ludwell Valley Park (58 ha)

Riverside Valley Park (43 ha)

Mincinglake Valley Park (19 ha)

Barley Valley Park (Local Nature Reserve, 11 ha)

Belvidere Meadows Valley Park (Local Nature Reserve) and Duryard Valley Park (11 ha)

Whitycombe Valley Park (2 ha)

Allotments

Around 1500 plots on 26 sites

Children and young people's space (play space)

85 equipped play areas and various play space around the city. Refer to the 2020 Play Strategy.

Active sports space

Playing fields at Bettysmead, Bromhams Farm, Cowick Barton, Exwick*, Exhibition Fields, Flowerpot*, Grace Road, Hamlin Lane, King George V (Topsham Road), Pinhoe Station Road, Wonford.

*Leased to Exeter College

Green spaces not included in the strategy

Although some of the excluded categories have benefits as green space (and they may well be noted in parts of the strategy for the benefits they offer), in general they are natural or semi-natural green spaces, and their recreational benefits are limited.

- Highway verges – no recreational benefit, although they do contribute to habitats.
- Public Rights of Way – although these can provide green corridor linkage, their use by a wide section of the community is limited, especially during winter periods.
- Community gardens – recreational benefit, but no, or limited, public access.
- SINCs (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) in private ownership – no public access.
- Active churchyards – contribute to tree cover in the city, but not available for recreational use.
- Crematorium - contributes to tree cover in the city, but not available for recreational use.
- Grazing land – limited public access. The benefits are more in habitat management.
- School grounds – no public access for the majority of the time.
- University and college active sports space - no public access for the majority of the time. Purpose and function are considered within the Playing Pitch Strategy.

2.5 Policy context

A number of plans, policies and strategies have direct connections with the Parks and Green Space Strategy. These are listed below, with a brief explanation of their purpose.

- Exeter Corporate Plan
- Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership (GESP) policies
- Liveable Exeter
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Paragraphs 73 and 74)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation'
- Planning and Local Development Framework (Public Open Space Supplementary Planning Document 2005)
- Planning and Local Development Framework (Core Strategy-Sustainability Appraisal Report 2012)
- Physical Activity Strategy, (draft 2019)
- Live Better, Move More, (report 2019)
- Play Strategy 2020-2030
- Tree and Woodland Strategy 2020-2030
- Playing Pitch Strategy 2020
- Exeter and East Devon Green Infrastructure Strategy 2009
- Carbon Neutral Exeter Report June 2019

Exeter Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan 2018-2021 has three strands:

- Tackling congestion and accessibility.
- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles.
- Building great neighbourhoods.

This Parks and Green Space Strategy clearly aligns with promoting activity through ensuring equitable and inclusive recreational opportunity, and helping to build neighbourhoods where free recreation opportunity is central to achieving active communities.

Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership (GESP)

The local authorities of Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council, are working in partnership with Devon County Council to prepare a Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). The GESP will be a statutory plan that will set the overall development strategy for the sub-region and will therefore provide a focus for infrastructure priorities and investment. The GESP is still evolving and as yet there are no specific policies that impact on this strategy.

Liveable Exeter

Liveable Exeter is a transformational Housing Delivery programme, identifying eight liveable neighbourhoods within Exeter. Active Design principles guide the key outcomes, including Activity for All, and a network of multi-functional open space.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Paragraphs 73 & 74 of the NPPF state: “Access to high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on, unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.”

Since the adoption of the NPPF, there have been major changes to national planning policy. Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 ‘Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation’ (PPG 17) is now omitted and this provided better context and detail in relation to recreation and green space. However, particularly in the light of there being no updated guidance, PPG still retains relevance. It is a tried and tested methodology and is used by many other local authorities.

PPG 17 Planning Objectives

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well-designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives. These include:

- supporting an urban renaissance;
- supporting a rural renewal;
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion;
- health and well-being; and
- promoting more sustainable development.

Planning and Local Development Framework

The relevant objectives within the Exeter Local Plan are within Section 7.0, Leisure and Recreation:

- To resolve any deficiencies in the quantity, quality and accessibility of sports, green spaces and recreation facilities;
- to protect or enhance green space and recreation provision that is, or has the potential to be, of value to the community;
- to locate green space, sports and recreation facilities where they are accessible by a choice of modes of transport and especially by foot, bicycle or public transport; and
- to provide good quality green spaces and built recreational facilities as an integral part of new or expanding communities.

The Exeter Local Plan states within Policy DG5:

Family housing proposals should provide 10% of the gross development area as level open space, including equipped children's play space, unless there is open space and play provision in the area which is well located and of sufficient size and quality to serve the development.

Further details are provided in the Public Open Space SPD. (Appendix 7)

It confirms that the required open space should be on site where the development comprises 50 or more dwellings and alternatives for smaller developments include provision, or contributions towards provision, on other sites in the vicinity.

The SPD also requires informal recreation space near to and for the benefit of family housing areas. It goes on to say that this should be easy to reach for adults, sometimes accompanied by small children, on a casual basis, and the aim is that family housing is closely associated with an informal recreation area which:

- is fully-accessible to the public;
- comprises at least 1000 m², of which no part is less than 20 m wide and/or contain slopes greater than 1:6;
- is appropriate in character and function to the surrounding area, but also offers varied potential activities and surroundings;
- is highly-visible so that all residents are fully aware of its existence;
- is easily reached on foot or cycle by a convenient and safe route; and
- is no more than 250 m away.

However, this SPD dates from 2005 and is limited in scope. It recognises that all residential housing generates a demand for sport, when in fact the demand is primarily for recreational green space, of which some will be needed for sport. It excludes single bedroom accommodation when a large proportion of development in the city since 2010 has been off-campus student accommodation, which does place significant demand on green spaces. This Parks and Green Space Strategy will have the status of an SPD, enabling the 2005 SPD to be superseded.

Planning and Local Development Framework (Core Strategy-Sustainability Appraisal Report 2012)

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Core Strategy was published in October 2006, alongside the publication of the Preferred Options Report. Arising from the consultation responses to both documents, the Core Strategy objectives and policies were revised for inclusion in the Submission Draft. The core strategy objectives relevant to parks and green spaces are:

- 6: Meet local needs for community, cultural, social, retail, health, education, religious, and recreational facilities, particularly within the urban extensions, regeneration areas and in areas of deprivation...
- 7: Promote development that contributes to a healthy population – by implementing the Green Infrastructure Strategy and ensuring that environmental quality and air quality is protected and enhanced.
- 8: Protect and enhance the City's unique historic character and townscape, its archaeological heritage, its natural setting that is provided by the Valley Parks and the hills to the north and west, and its biodiversity and geological assets.

The core strategy policies relevant to parks and green spaces are:

Policy CP16: Green Infrastructure (PO Policy CP18/19)

The policy has been amended as a result of changes to national policy guidance in PPS1 Supplement: Planning and Climate Change. The policy is strengthened by including targets to be achieved and including a range of design measures which will help to enhance well-being, as well as reduce carbon emissions.

Policy CP17: Design and Local Distinctiveness (PO Policy CP20/21)

The policy guidance on landscape and biodiversity is replaced by a strategic approach to green infrastructure. The policy aims to protect and enhance current environmental assets and local identity, provide a framework for sustainable new development and link existing and proposed new communities through a coordinated and easily accessible network. This integrated approach considerably strengthens the positive sustainable impact of the policy.

Submission Core Strategy Policy CP16: Green Infrastructure

Opportunities to provide green corridors, open space and allotments, to enhance cycling and walking opportunities, to link existing habitats, to incorporate environmental assets and

to integrate biodiversity, proposed by the Exeter Green Infrastructure Strategy, will be secured through partnership working, direct implementation and the application of policy CP18 (SA Objective Section 11. To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the city. The policy ensures that green infrastructure is provided to meet needs in a timely manner.)

These are high-level policies and therefore relatively weak and unfocused in terms of obtaining any recreational green space for new and existing communities. The Parks and Green Space Strategy will provide clearer, evidence-based guidance on meeting need to support the Core Strategy.

Physical Activity Strategy 2019

The Physical Activity Strategy (PAS) 2019 provides the overall direction for increasing physical activity in Exeter, and a means of aligning other strategies, partnerships and initiatives to secure an Active Design/whole system approach.

The strategic aims of the Physical Activity Strategy are to:

- Improve population health and well-being.
- Reduce health inequalities.
- Promote community resourcefulness.
- Increase active travel.

Amongst the guiding principles for the PAS are:

- Building from the bottom up.
- Connect people with physical activity.
- Create a physical activity habit.
- Make it fun.

The Parks and Green space strategy will contribute to all these aims and principles.

Play Strategy 2020, Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 and Trees and Woodlands Strategy 2020

These planned strategies provide the framework for provision, protection and enhancement of play and trees and woodlands - all subjects which are closely aligned to parks and green space.

Exeter and East Devon Green Infrastructure Strategy 2009

Green Infrastructure (GI) Vision

“Green infrastructure will help to create high-quality, attractive and functional places that will provide a setting for day-to-day living, enhance the character and diversity of the landscape and protect heritage assets that contribute to the area’s unique sense of place and cultural identity. It will enrich the area’s wildlife value by addressing the negative impact of habitat loss and fragmentation by promoting habitat enhancement and linkage. GI will also help to connect people to places by linking residents and visitors to leisure and work destinations along a network of safe and clearly defined routes.”

This aligns with the aims and objectives of the Parks and Green space Strategy.

Towards Carbon Neutral Exeter Report July 2019

The council has made a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. There are many measures that can be taken towards achieving this goal, but amongst those where a Parks and Green space strategy can contribute are:

- Green corridors and safe off-road walking and cycling routes.
- Planting to screen from vehicles and airborne pollution.
- The management, maintenance and planting of trees, shrubs and grass public green space to absorb carbon dioxide.
- Retention and improvement of green space as a haven from traffic.

2.6 Biodiversity

The benefits of a comprehensive approach to biodiversity in green space management are now well-documented, and is an underpinning aspect of any green space management approach.

Biodiversity optimisation, in terms of species range, vegetation management and urban habitat corridors, has always been a feature of Exeter's Parks and Green Spaces, and especially so since the 2005 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. However, improving this diversification had been an ethos, rather than a planned design.

In some specific locations, where an area has been identified as a site of particular wildlife value, such as a County Wildlife Site, or SSSI, there are specific vegetation management plans to maintain, enhance and sustain habitats.

The 2005 strategy developed management plans for all principal parks, and these are being revisited and revised to enable forward planning. A central aspect of these plans will be a biodiversity audit and development plan. A more inclusive outcome would be that these are eventually jointly owned by the council and the relevant communities (e.g. Parklife at Heavitree).

For the majority of the informal greens spaces in the city, biodiversity management will be a balance between evolving management and maintenance approaches and local needs.

Natural and semi-natural green space will reflect the needs of the location. In many places, patches of bramble are acceptable and a benefit; in others, they can be a cause of anti-social behaviour. Natural green space that has a specific or potential niche biodiversity value are most often identified by specialists such as RSPB, or the Devon Biodiversity Records Office, and the landowners informed.

Woodlands and their management will, by their nature, be a slower evolving process, in terms of specific biodiversity aims. As woodlands coalesce to form wildlife corridors, and trees mature, the biodiversity values will change over time.

Biodiversity enhancement is a specific Aim of this strategy:

- Aim G - Build on existing city green space measures to channel, develop and enhance biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

3. Technical assessment

3.1 Types of green spaces

Formal parks and gardens

Sites with a designed layout for recreational enjoyment. These are most often specifically laid out with lawns, ornamental trees, horticultural features such as flower and shrub beds, a path network, and may have features such as statuary.

Informal local green space

Informal in layout and character, where the emphasis is on informal recreation. They generally have few or no additional facilities, although they may well have an equipped play area. These will most people's 'local' green space.

Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)

Sites providing people with access to, and experience of, natural habitats. It includes the Valley Parks, and other woodland, grassland, scrub, hedgerows and wetland, orchards, cemeteries and closed churchyards.

Children and young people's space (play space)

These are spaces specifically designed to increase opportunities for children and young people to play or meet safely within equipped and unequipped environments.

Allotments

Controlled access sites for the production of self-grown food.

Active sports space

Those areas which are used for a variety of formal, informal and competitive sports.

Listing of the key green spaces in the city by name

Formal Parks and Gardens

(The term "Pleasure Ground" was used in the 1700s to distinguish the more formal planted areas then being developed within the grounds of large residencies from the outlying parkland. The same term was applied to public parks as these were developed in the nineteenth century, specifically from phrasing used within the 1875 Public Health Act.)

Belle Isle Park, Belmont Pleasure Ground, Bull Meadow Park, Bury Meadow Park, Heavitree Pleasure Ground, Northernhay Gardens, Pincus Gardens Pleasure Ground, Rougemont Gardens, Southernhay Greens, St Bartholomew's Cemetery, St Thomas Pleasure Ground, Summerway Park and Topsham Recreation Ground.

Informal Local Green Space

These are many and varied. Examples include:

Trews Weir Pocket Park, Mary Arches Pocket Park, The Mint, Topsham Pleasure Ground, Merrivale Rd Park, Digby Open Space, Vaughan Road Open Space, Dunsford Gardens, Lakeside, Haven Banks and Sandford Walk.

Natural and semi-natural urban green space

Valley parks, urban woodlands, Higher, Exwick and Topsham cemeteries, and seven closed churchyards.

Children and young people's space (Playspace)

85 equipped play areas and various play space around the city.
(Refer to the 2020 Play Strategy.)

Allotments

Around 1500 plots on 26 sites.

Active sports space

Playing fields at Bettysmead, Bromhams Farm, Cowick Barton, Exwick*, Exhibition Fields, Flowerpot*, Grace Road, Hamlin Lane, King George V, Pinhoe Station Road, Wonford.

(* Leased to Exeter College)

Valley Parks (See natural and semi-natural urban green space)

The term 'Valley Parks' denotes a local planning designation, which covers 782 ha of space in and around Exeter. Of this larger area, c140ha of land in the Exe Valley is owned by ECC and comprises the informal public green space which are managed by Devon Wildlife Trust. These are generally and collectively known as the Valley Parks. The parks (in order of approximate area size) include the following. (Please note that the names of some of the parks have been adjusted slightly to ensure they follow a consistent format):

Ludwell Valley Park (58 ha)

Riverside Valley Park (43 ha)

Mincinglake Valley Park (19 ha)

Barley Valley Park (Local Nature Reserve) (11 ha)

Belvidere Meadows Valley Park (Local Nature Reserve) and Duryard Valley Park (11 ha)

Whitycombe Valley Park (2 ha)

3.2 Needs methodology

To establish an accurate picture of the current provision, the following sources of information were used:

- NM1. An analysis of existing database information, with links to GIS (spatial mapping).
- NM2. An assessment of privately-owned (management company) green space.
- NM3. The catchment areas for each green space over 500 m2.
- NM4. The consultation in spring 2019.
- NM5. An update of assessments of the quality, condition and standards of green space.
- NM6. An additional assessment of the local context, value, and accessibility of each area, and it's relevance to the nearest LSOA.
- NM7. GIS mapping of barriers such as main roads, and the proximity to schools.

NM1. An analysis of existing database information, with links from the database to GIS (spatial mapping).

All council-owned land is digitally mapped, and land which is actively maintained is also mapped with specific attributes identifying land type (e.g. grass or shrub beds) and associated maintenance and inspection regimes. All these thousands of parcels of land now also have attributes assigned to one of the six standard land-use classifications used throughout this strategy.

NM2. An assessment of privately-owned (management company) publicly-accessible green space.

This exercise mapped areas of Public Open Space on housing developments where the proposed adoption by the city council has not been completed, or where the Public Open Space was always intended to remain outside the council's ownership. These were in the main classified as informal green space. Play areas are considered in more detail within the Play Strategy.

Locations included: Pinhoe quarry and brickworks, Lavender Road, Rydon Greenacres, Polsloe Priory, Cumberland Way, Harts Lane, Seabrook Orchards, Tithebarn Green.

NM3. The catchment areas for each green space area in terms of 10 minutes' walking distance.

- Formal parks and gardens
- Informal local green spaces
- Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (including green corridors)
- Children and young people's space (play space)
- Allotments
- Active sports space

Although there are many valued green spaces smaller than 500 m2 (the minimum size for a 'local' play area is 400 m2), by identifying only these larger green spaces and then plotting the 10-minute walking distance, a clear illustration of distribution could be achieved. This work showed that the city is well served with virtually no gaps in provision. However, further work is required to assess the value of these spaces.

NM4. Consultation in spring 2019

The city council undertook an eight-week, multi-strand online consultation in April 2019, under the umbrella of the Physical Activity Strategy. One of the strands was Parks and Green Space. The consultation included a mixture of methodologies to ensure a cross-section of views and opinions were taken into account, and attracted over 1,650 responses from residents and stakeholders.

Additionally, consultants Red Quadrant were commissioned to host two Parks & Green Spaces focus groups, with key local stakeholders, in May 2019.

The purpose of the focus groups was to review the priorities in the draft strategy and to set out some principles and a potential approach for future engagement with residents and communities. 25 representatives of local community organisations attended the sessions. The focus groups identified some key emerging strategic priorities:

- Commit to maintaining and protecting green spaces in the city.
- Develop a clear policy on Community Asset Transfer.
- Align with Exeter's health and well-being strategies.
- Make biodiversity a key theme.
- Commit to making parks and green spaces accessible to all.

Key themes that have been identified include:

- An obvious passion for Exeter's parks and green spaces and a clear determination from local organisations to retain and develop them.
- Understanding of the need to do things differently in the context of the council's budgetary pressures.
- Commitment and willingness to support the council with current maintenance and future development of parks.
- Communication could be improved and ongoing engagement with residents and communities would bring greater benefit.
- Strong wish to involve young people in engagement and future development.
- The need to strike a clear balance between physical activity, horticulture and wildlife. Strong agreement to see less grass cutting and more wild-spaces.
- Need to improve positive signage and accessibility for parks & green spaces.
- Community Builders (as party of the Wellbeing Exeter programme) have an important role to play in engaging communities with their local green space.

The strategy takes into account this feedback.

NM5. Quality, condition and standards of green space

(the quality criteria for children and young people's space is covered within the Play Strategy. Active sports space is covered within the Playing Pitch Strategy).

- The existing inspection regimes for Formal Parks and Gardens, and Playing Fields are forming the basis of development plans measured against a set of quality standards.
- For Informal local green spaces, and natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, it is not proposed to develop a set of quality standards. The reasons for this is that there is enormous variance in the purpose and function of these spaces, rendering fixed standards of limited value, and the regular inspection regimes, coupled with maintenance operations, ensures the safety of the public and highlights emerging issues. Many of these areas are central to the local community, and use, value, function and purpose should be driven by local needs.
- All the relevant types of green space Within, Adjacent or Near to each LSOA, were listed and values given to them.
- Green space maintenance regimes are established and applied to each land type, such as grass (of varying cutting frequencies), shrub beds, hedges, etc.
- Performance measures help determine quality proportionate to the locality.

NM6. A general assessment of the local context, value, and accessibility of green space areas in proximity to LSOAs.

This is shown in detail in Appendix 5.

NM7. GIS mapping of barriers such as main roads, and the proximity to schools.

This shows, in general, barriers to free pedestrian accessibility by structures such as the busy road routes in the city, and railway lines. Other barriers such as distance to pedestrian crossings are dealt with in individual site assessments such as those of the Formal Parks and in development or project proposals. (See Appendix 4.)

3.3 Needs assessment

There are a range of criteria that may be applied to assess parks and green spaces, but the three most common, because they give the most valuable information and are most easily measured, are:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Accessibility (which includes proximity)

Quantity

Exeter is a relatively small city and does not have any large public parks, when compared with many county capitals. Other than the Valley Parks, the playing fields are the largest green space sites, and Heavitree Pleasure Ground is the largest formal park at 8.5 ha. Statistically, provision is uneven, with 57% of all managed green space (excluding valley parks and allotments) being in three wards. However, closer analysis shows that green space provision in relation to need (e.g. LSOAs) can be better balanced, with St Thomas having 9% of the ward area as green space, Priory 12%, and Heavitree 12%. When ward boundaries are excluded, distribution in terms of 10-minute walking time is good.

A common method of determining adequate areas of green space is to set a value of square metres for every person in the area. This allows alignment with Fields in Trust recommendations of 0.8 ha per 1000 population for Parks and Gardens, 0.6 ha per 1000 for informal green space, and 1.8 ha per 1000 of natural and semi-natural green space.

Using this criteria Exeter exceeds the Fields in Trust recommendations. For example there is 246 ha of green space in the city. The Fields in Trust figure for the city, if calculated at the Parks and Gardens value alone, would be 104.32 ha, and at the natural and semi-natural green space value alone, 235 ha.

The audit methodology identifies:

- The quantity of publicly-accessible green space within the city (ECC and others).
- The types and functions of ECC-provided green space: 12 formal parks, 9 playing fields.
- 26 allotment sites (1500 plots), 39 ha of woodland, and 98 ha of other local green space.
- The green space available per person.

Of the 4787 ha that make up the city, many areas can be discounted as having no green space value due to their purpose and function, and very little housing. Areas identified are:

1. The industrial and retail parks at Sowton and Marsh Barton (265 ha).
These locations offer minimal amenity space.
2. Royal Devon & Exeter hospital (27 ha)
3. Agricultural farm land to the north of the city and on the eastern borders of Topsham (885 ha).
4. The Valley Parks and the Ridgeline Park (that are within the Planning Designation but have no public access) account for a further 782 ha. Also excluded is Bowling Green Marsh at Topsham, which is a SSSI and is managed by the RSPB.

By excluding these areas, 3071 ha remains as what may be described as “urban residential space” where there is publicly-accessible green space. Within these 3071 ha, there are 248 ha of (ECC) green space, with a further 152 ha in accessible valley parks, and 32.5 ha of allotments - although access to the allotments is limited to plot holders

As well as land in the ownership of the city council, (including Valley Parks which are owned by the city council but managed by Devon Wildlife Trust), included for the purposes of the audit are publicly-accessible green spaces owned by the Environment Agency (the Flood Relief Channels), the Forestry Commission (Stoke Woods), and the University of Exeter (Streatham Campus). Privately-managed green space areas on housing developments, provided as part of the planning process, are considered and mapped as part of the overall distribution of green space, although it is recognised that the long-term retention of these, and the value provided, cannot be guaranteed.

TABLE OF PUBLICLY-ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE IN EXETER

Owner	Type of green space	Area (m2)	Area (ha)
DCC	Informal local green space (grass verges)	20,683	2.06
Private	Informal local green space	53,765	5.37
ECC	Active sports space	858,611	85.86
ECC	Allotments	320,828	32.08
ECC	Children and young people's space (equipped playspace)	160,081	16.00
ECC	Formal parks and gardens	349,583	34.95
ECC	Informal local green space	767,505	76.75
ECC	Natural and semi-natural urban green space (green corridors)	512,990	51.29
ECC	Playspace youth	10,247	1.02
Environment Agency	Informal local green space	NA	
Environment Agency	Natural and semi-natural urban green space (green corridors)	68,514	6.85
Forestry Commission	Natural and semi-natural urban green space (green corridors)	500,847	50.08
Private	Children and young people's space (Playspace - LEAPS)	14,391	1.43
University	Formal parks and gardens	300,000	30.00
University	Informal local green space	350,000	35.00
University	Natural and semi-natural urban green space (green corridors)	200,000	20.00
Valley Parks (DWT- managed)	Natural and semi-natural urban green space (Green corridors)	1,521,184	152.11

Local information

To provide more localised information of interest to communities, each ward has been mapped to show the parks, informal local green space, natural and semi-natural urban green space (including woodlands), playspace, active sports space, valley parks and allotments. (Appendix 2)

The catchment area for each of the main green spaces has been mapped to show ten minutes' walking distance.

Due to their importance to the Corporate Plan, each LSOA has had an assessment of green space "Within, Adjacent, or Near", to identify gaps in provision. (Appendix 5)

Quality

A number of methods of quality assessment of green space are available for use. The Green Flag (Keep Britain Tidy) methodology is commonly used, and some local authorities have developed their own versions of assessments. Many assessment tools run the risk of green spaces being developed and managed to obtain good scores, without reference to the reason, purpose and function of the space in relation to the people that use it.

For city council land, the quality audit methodology identifies:

- quality criteria for Formal Parks and gardens;
- priority factors, such as LSOAs; and
- green space maintenance standards.

The quality criteria for children and young people's space is covered within the Play Strategy. Active sports space is covered within the Playing Pitch Strategy. Informal local green space, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, due to their variance and number, do not have any criteria set.

The formal parks and playing fields in the city are inspected regularly for defects, and it is proposed in this strategy that each has a management and development plan to ensure the correct standard of maintenance, the retention of important features, and that long-term management can be planned and funded in a measured way that reflects the needs of the community and the city. (Action Point 26.)

Consideration is also given to:

- Green space facilities in relation to new developments, where the Local Plan requires provision of green space for amenity and recreational purposes, although with no surety that green space provision will be maintained or improved where these are managed privately. These are mainly classed as play areas, and provision and quality is covered in more detail in the Play Strategy.
- Green corridor and foot/cycle path linkage, where the green space may have little amenity or recreational value, but may well be an important off-road community link or a habitat corridor.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (PPG 17) does refer to the value of green space, and the way in which they are used and valued by the community. However, this is difficult to assess, and tends to fluctuate over time. Quality relating to attributes such as condition and fitness for purpose, is far easier and more practical to measure. Value is a consideration in relation to the LSOAs, where the importance of any particular green space may be construed as being of greater significance.

Accessibility

The audit methodology identifies:

- Good distribution of publicly-accessible green space across the city, with notable and obvious exceptions, such as Sowton and Marsh Barton, agricultural areas, the Valley Parks, and the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. However, there remains work to be done to identify additional potential accessible green space and green corridor links.
- The 10-minute walking catchment area of every green space over 500 m², for reasons of clarity in mapping terms. (It is recognised that many valuable green spaces are less than 500 m², and notional gaps are moderated to add in smaller areas.)
- An accessibility audit of each of the principal parks.
- Lower Super Output Areas of deprivation. Some LSOAs in the city are amongst the most deprived in the country. By focusing on those areas in particular, where there may well be extra pressures such as time and finance acting as a barrier, poor accessibility may adversely affect opportunities for recreation and physical activity. (Appendix 5.)

There are in addition 467 individual sites of "doorstep" green space over 500 m².

3.4 Standards of provision

Fields in Trust suggests allowance is made within their standards of estimated walking time for traffic, topography and other local features that would slow people down. When working on the catchment areas for play areas, it was decided to allow a smaller distance as parents with children, often with a push chair or buggy, would take longer to walk 400 metres. Instead of a 480-metre radius for a 10-minute walk, we set a 420-metre radius, and have used this as the catchment area distance for both play areas, and for parks and green spaces.

Type of green space	Exeter values Quantity within timed-walk, or other	Exeter values Quality	Exeter values Access	Fields in Trust distance guidelines (metres) and/or area per 1000 pop.	Fields in Trust standard distance, estimated timed-walk
Children and young people's space (Playspace) LEAPS	10-minute walk (420 m radius)	Play value standards	Access audit	400 m (240 m radial)	5 minutes
Children and young people's space (Playspace) NEAPS	10-minute walk (420 m radius)	Play value standards	Access audit	1000 m (600 m radial)	12 minutes
Playspace youth	15-minute walk (610 m radius)	Quality standards	NA	NA	NA
Formal parks and gardens	10-minute walk (420 m radius)	Quality standards	Access audit	710 m 0.8 Ha per 1000	8 minutes
Informal local green space	10-minute walk (420 m radius) Ha per 1000	NA	NA	480 m 0.6 Ha per 1000	5 minutes
Natural and semi-natural urban green space (green corridors)	10-minute walk (420 m radius) Ha per 1000	NA	NA	720 m 1.8 HA per 1000	8 minutes
Allotments	1512 plots Caters for 1% of the population. Average 200 m ² per plot	Outside the scope of this strategy	Limited by availability of suitable land	NA	NA
Active sports space	Sport England levels	NGB (sports) standards		1000 m (600m radial)	12 minutes

4. Delivery of the Parks and Green Space Strategy

4.1 Action Points by Theme

A series of Action Points have been developed. These are designed to deliver the Aims, and are grouped by their Themes.

The Action Points will be developed into Delivery Plans, for annual review,

Themes	
Balanced provision	<p>Identify shortfalls of major green space provision in the city, in relation to deprived areas and planned population increase. Include areas on or beyond the city boundaries and link with adjacent authorities and other land owners.</p> <p>Develop solutions to enable fair provision across the city, with particular emphasis on healthy living. This will also help achieve the aims of other strategies such as the Physical Activity, Play, and Trees and Woodlands strategies.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for the development and evolution of parks and green space to meet the needs of everyone. To do this we need to focus on accessibility, and aiding inactive populations. Undertake access and information audits of major green spaces to improve inclusivity.</p>
Investment	<p>Develop 5 and 10-year development and improvement funding plans. These should be linked to, and driven by, gaps in provision and risk management of previous shortfalls in investment.</p> <p>Identify and develop potential sources of external income. This could include landscape sponsorship, seasonal catering options, park furniture sponsorship.</p> <p>Ensure that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts are allocated to support the comprehensive and inclusive development of parks and green space across the city.</p> <p>Investigate options for the transfer of some or all of the city parks and green space into a Trust, or similar body. The benefits need to include mutual gain by benefactors, green space provision, and secured long term funding and planning.</p>
Management	<p>Undertake Strategic investment programmes in basic service improvements. For example, a seating and litter bin programme, which gives an immediate visual improvement to a park. The Strategy and specifically Action Plans require evaluation and review. Performance measurement should be linked to asset management software.</p>

Themes	Action Point
	<p>Action Plans developed must have robust management and a clear delivery plan.</p> <p>The significant Horticultural heritage of Exeter (Luccombe, Pince, Veitch) must be protected, and this offers an opportunity for promoting the city, investment to enhance the formal parks, and maintaining them to the highest standard.</p> <p>Produce development and management plans for formal parks and major green spaces. These will form a basis for investment funding, and a means of ensuring engagement with community interests. These are to be live documents with annual reviews</p> <p>Utilise Active Design principles to combat and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour across green space, utilising intelligent design of space with the local community, education, communication, and using digital options to respond to and resolve incidents swiftly.</p>
Quality	<p>Assess the value of green space across the city in relation to the local community, to ensure it is fair, and to achieve the council's corporate plan.</p> <p>Provide a set of policy guidelines to achieve the Strategy Aims. This will provide a framework for parks and green spaces management plans, and a basis for quality standards.</p> <p>Develop a relevant and practical quality assessment tool that does not act against small local green spaces.</p>
Communities	<p>Work with communities to identify the potential to improve green space use and inclusivity. Offer community involvement, management and transfer options for parks and green spaces.</p> <p>Provide a platform for local groups and communities, to encourage volunteering, education and outreach activities. This in turn will help communities to develop their local green spaces to match local needs.</p>
Partners	<p>Work with other landowners and partners to increase accessible green space in the city and beyond for recreation and exercise. An example would be working with Devon Wildlife Trust to identify access points and connections to communities to enable improved access to Valley Parks</p>
Protection and planning	<p>Protect green space from development, and enhance provision within the City's Planning framework. (The Parks and Green Space Strategy will have the status of a Supplementary Planning Document)</p> <p>Contribute to the planning of city expansion by providing a range of high quality parks and green spaces. These will play a significant role in meeting the needs of communities, and enhancing the city and fringe landscape.</p>

Themes	Action Point
	<p>Ensure that new housing development, especially in constricted urban settings, has adequate high value recreational green space.</p> <p>Use Active Design principles (Sport England) when planning the protection, enhancement and provision of green spaces.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Work with a range of partners to identify shortfalls in habitat types and suitable locations for habitat creation and enhancement. Protect and enhance existing valuable rich and diverse habitats and species within parks and green spaces. Identify specific locations where threatened species are known to be.</p> <p>Continue to develop and evolve green space management and maintenance to reduce interventions, improve biodiversity, utilising and investing in carbon neutral approaches and reducing chemical use.</p> <p>Identify opportunities to improve green space, community and habitat linkage by the use of green corridors. Examples include canal and riverside routes and off-road cycle/walkways.</p> <p>Balance grass, herbaceous and shrub species choice within green spaces to adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change. An example would be drought resistant planting, or species to help mitigate flood flow.</p>
Staff and training	<p>Develop a comprehensive training and skills programme for all staff engaged in parks and green spaces space, with a particular focus on horticultural training and parks management skills.</p> <p>Develop specialist teams to engender pride and responsibility in the work and increase professionalism, efficiency and standards.</p> <p>Develop and extend the use of existing digital solutions for planning, management and maintenance of Parks and Green space in the city. This will allow efficient and effective use of budgets and staff resources.</p>

40 Action Points in relation to the Aims and Themes

Aims Ref	Obj No	Action Point	Theme
AC	1	Identify imbalances in value and provision of green space and develop solutions to enable equitable provision across the city, with particular reference to healthy living and exercise potential.	Balanced provision
ABCDEFGH	2	Provide opportunities for the development and evolution of parks and green space to meet the needs of all, but with a particular focus on accessibility, and aiding inactive populations within the city, to develop a culture of being active together. Undertake access and information audits of major green spaces to improve inclusivity.	Balanced provision
ABCDEFGH	3	Identify shortfalls of major green space provision in the city in relation to LSOAs and planned population increase. Include areas on or beyond the city boundaries and link with adjacent authorities through GESP.	Protection and planning
ABCDEFGH	4	Protect green space from development, and enhance provision within the City's Planning framework. (The Parks and Green Space Strategy will have the status of a Supplementary Planning Document.)	Protection and planning
ABEF	5	Contribute to the wider planning of the city and the Greater Exeter Area by providing a range of high quality parks and green spaces, which play a significant role in meeting the needs of balanced and sustainable communities and enhancing the city and fringe landscape.	Protection and planning
ABCDEFGH	6	Promote Active Design principles through the developing Exeter Local Plan, emerging Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, and subsidiary plans to promote and protect the provision of green space in association with the development of built environments that support and encourage active lifestyles.	Protection and planning
ACDEFGH	7	Ensure that new housing development, especially in constricted urban settings, has adequate high value green space to offer multi-functional recreational amenity.	Protection and planning
BCDG	8	Assess the value of parks and green space across the city in relation to the local community, to ensure the cost/benefit is proportionate, and to achieve the council's corporate plan.	Quality
ABC	9	Provide a set of policy guidelines and a framework for parks and green spaces management plans to promote the Strategy's aims.	Quality
ABCDGH	10	Develop a relevant and practical quality assessment tool that does not act against small local green spaces. Assess the community value of each major green space and set, and maintain the relevant quality standards.	Quality

Aims Ref	Obj No	Action Point	Theme
ACD	11	Identify the purposes of park buildings and consider a range of alternative uses, with a particular focus on community involvement.	Quality
AB	12	Identify and develop potential external funding streams including landscape sponsorship, seasonal catering options and sponsorship of park furniture.	Investment
ABC	13	Develop 5 and 10-year development and improvement funding plans, linked to and driven by gaps in provision and potential large-cost failure due to previous shortfalls in investment.	Investment
ABCDEFGH	14	Provide the evidence base to support future policy and practice to ensure that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts are appropriately allocated to support the development of parks and green space in a comprehensive and inclusive way across the city.	Investment
ABCD	15	Investigate options for the transfer of some or all of the city parks and green space into a Trust, where there is mutual gain by benefactors in association with green space provision, and secured long-term funding and planning.	Investment
ACDH	16	Work with communities to identify potential to improve green space use and inclusivity by a transfer of assets.	Communities
ABCDGH	17	Provide a platform for engagement with local groups and communities, encouraging volunteering, education and outreach activities, which in turn will enable communities to develop their local green spaces to match local needs.	Communities
DH	18	Offer community involvement, management and transfer options for parks and green spaces in whole or in part.	Communities
ADEFGH	19	Work with other landowners and partners to maximise potential accessible green space in the city and beyond for recreation and exercise.	Partners
ACD	20	Review the relevance and effectiveness of byelaws and enforcement measures available within parks and green spaces.	Management
ABCD	21	Undertake strategic investment programmes in basic service improvements, (such as developing and implementing a seating and litter bin programme which gives an immediate visual uplift to a park).	Management
ABCDEFGH	22	The Strategy and specifically Action Plans require evaluation and review. Performance measurement should be linked to asset management software. The Action Plans arising from these Action Points must have robust management and a clear delivery plan.	Management
ADEFG	23	Allotments are protected by specific legislation but the opportunity to develop and promote existing and new locations, utilising new and specifically organic and carbon neutral practices, needs to be identified and adopted to ensure full engagement with the strategy.	Management

Aims Ref	Obj No	Action Point	Theme
ABCDGH	24	The significant Horticultural heritage of Exeter (Luccombe, Pince, Veitch) must be protected, and this offers an opportunity for promoting the city and investment to enhance the formal parks, and maintaining them to the highest standard.	Management
ABCDEF GH	25	Ensure that key gaps in provision of quality green space across the city is rectified as soon as possible to enable full engagement with other strategies and initiatives such as the Physical Activity, Play and Tree and Woodlands strategies.	Management
ABCDGH	26	Produce development and management plans for formal parks and major green spaces as a basis for investment funding and means of ensuring alignment with community interests to prevent the atrophy of these key assets. These are to be live documents with annual reviews.	Management
ACDH	27	Utilise 'Active Design' principles to combat and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour across green space, utilising intelligent design of space with the local community, education, communication, and using digital options to respond to and resolve incidents swiftly.	Management
ACDEH	28	Work with Devon Wildlife Trust to identify improved access points and connectivity to communities to encourage full access to Valley Parks.	Management
ACD	29	Review dog bin and litter bin provision in formal parks and larger open spaces in the light of dog bins no longer being a specific requirement when co-mingled litter will be disposed of locally at the Waste to Energy plant. This will allow an opportunity to refresh signage and social media outlets to remind dog owners of their responsibilities.	Management
ACD	30	Assess the need and demand for good quality accessible toilets at formal parks.	Management
ACEFG	31	Actively identify water storage and storm water Attenuation measures that may be possible on or under green space. This could include income for allowing SUDS or similar measures to be positioned on green space.	Management
ACDGH	32	Work with a range of partners to identify shortfalls in habitat types and suitable locations for habitat creation and enhancement.	Biodiversity
ACDGH	33	In partnership with Devon Wildlife Trust protect and enhance existing valuable rich and diverse habitats and species within parks and green spaces, and specific location where threatened species are known to be. Ensure GIS mapping is updated.	Biodiversity
ABCG	34	Continue to develop and evolve green space management and maintenance to reduce interventions, improve biodiversity, utilising and investing in carbon neutral approaches and reducing chemical use.	Biodiversity

Aims Ref	Obj No	Action Point	Theme
ACDH	35	Identify opportunities and improve green space, community and habitat linkage by the use of green corridors, such as canal and riverside routes and off-road cycle/walkways.	Biodiversity
ACDGH	36	Balance grass, herbaceous and shrub species choice within green spaces to adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change; including drought resistant planting, with skilled and capable staff to adequately maintain and manage. This offers options for broader habitat enhancements.	Biodiversity
ABC	37	Develop a comprehensive training and skills programme for all staff engaged in parks and green spaces space with a particular focus on parks management skills.	Staff and training
ABC	38	Invest in horticultural training as a significant aspect of investment in raising horticultural standards. Develop an understanding throughout the workforce of different horticultural requirements necessary to maintain and sustain the vegetation in Parks and green spaces to optimise the potential beneficial values for the community and habitat biodiversity.	Staff and training
ABC	39	Develop skill and function specific teams to engender pride and responsibility in the work and increase professionalism, efficiency and standards.	Staff and training
ABCG	40	Develop and utilise digital solutions for planning, management and maintenance of Parks and Green space in the city. Efficient and effective use of budgets and staff resources requires coherent work programmes, and utilisation of systems which are already in place to be implemented.	Staff and training

4.2 Performance and review

Short, medium and long-term plans. Performance measurement

The strategy provides the overall direction for management, enhancement, addition or change to the parks and green spaces, and to the way in which they are maintained. Infrastructure projects and improvements will require project plans to enable funding and delivery. Maintenance methods will require regular review to ensure compliance with broader objectives, efficiency and effectiveness. By setting out proposals into short, medium and long-term plans, a clear, focused and achievable approach can be taken, and appropriate performance measures applied.

Customer Satisfaction

There is little benefit providing a service, unless it meets the needs of those it serves. A clear message from consultations was that communities wanted to be informed and involved. This cannot be fully achieved across all locations and communities, but having a broad and representative number of touchstone groups will go a long way towards achieving customer satisfaction. Communication is key. Within a formal park, which will often have notice boards and active groups whose contacts are known, interaction is more easily achieved. This strategy proposes that the Management Plans for the formal parks are made readily available, and this allows communities to see what is proposed, and be involved in decision processes. This is often less straightforward for smaller green spaces, so alternative communication measures need to be employed.

Stakeholder meetings

There is a diverse range of stakeholders when it comes to parks and green spaces. Meetings can provide an effective means of managing process, progress and communication. They can also be unnecessary. The need for, and frequency of, meetings needs to be appropriate to the circumstances. Meetings can also be achieved through video conferencing or simply emails. Communication may be better achieved through existing community channels, with local context, rather than formal and traditional means.

Annual review

An annual review provides a means of assessing progress, ensuring the programmes remain relevant, and engaging with communities. Input of stakeholders and other sources of information also allows indicators such as quality and visits and visitors to be taken into account. These may be subjective but come at no cost.

4.3 Investment Plan

Background

In the 1990s, grounds maintenance Revenue budgets were set at Compulsory Competitive Tender (CCT) contract values. These were deemed to be the market value of the work, though the value (cost) of achieving the specifications is unrelated to the commercial value of the contract. Contracts were awarded solely on price (the Estimated Annual Value), without any consideration for Social Value, which is now a factor today. Thus, the Exeter contract, as with many other Local Authority grounds maintenance contracts, was significantly under-valued.

In 1999, the contractor and client sections of the council's Parks and Green Spaces merged as the additional costs of a CCT approach were realised. This gave rise to better utilisation of staff and more efficient methods of working by reducing duplication, though without any material increase in Revenue budgets to mitigate earlier 'savings' arising from CCT.

From 1999 to 2010, efficiency savings in work planning, landscape management and re-equipping helped offset the worst effects of under-funding. However, the size of the land holdings of the council increased, mainly by the adoption of new Public Green Spaces, often with play areas, within new housing developments (an additional 10% of green space between 1999 and 2019). From 2010, the effects of the financial crisis began to take effect across all local authority budgets, and again Public Green Space budgets were reduced, and with an overall operational staff reduction of 12%.

Within the period from 1999 to 2019, capital funding for projects had enabled significant improvements to the parks and green spaces. Funding was mainly from the council's capital budget allocations, though external funding from a range of bodies, such as Sure Start, and small-scale commercial sponsorship, was also successful. Formal parks underwent improvements, such as path reconstruction and resurfacing, new signage, fencing walls and gates; buildings were renovated, and landscaping improvements and large-scale woodland tree planting took place across the city.

An accurate assessment of actual costs for maintaining any particular area or function is currently unknown, as there is no consistency in approach nor direct link between the tasks (costs and performance) and location and maintenance regime. Until this point is addressed, capability and capacity cannot be measured.

The situation in 2020 is that the costs of maintaining the green space the council owns continues to increase, from an artificially low base, driven by staff, equipment and safety costs. Available funding continues to decrease. There remains some capacity for cost reductions by lowering standards, and/or removing some aspects of high-cost maintenance completely.

It is clear that a more radical approach is required to managing green spaces to achieve the key objectives of the council, against a background of continued and further budget reductions, and a need to find alternative funding.

Why maintain green space?

As landowner, the council has an obligation to take a responsible approach to ensuring people who use their property are protected from negligence on the part of the landowner (Occupier's Liability Act 1958). Unless land is transferred in the form of a lease, this liability is retained. A basic level of inspections is the absolute minimum the landowner should employ.

Any green space will swiftly revert to a bramble patch should maintenance cease, and limit the use and community value. Some basic form of vegetation maintenance is therefore needed.

Alternative funding

Capital funding is used primarily for projects - a cost requirement with a finite value and timescale, as opposed to the ongoing revenue costs for maintaining for evermore. Capital-style funding remains available from various sources, including Lottery Funding, national governing bodies, institutions and national and local businesses.

There are potential alternatives to traditional Revenue funding.

Forming a Trust can take ownership and liability away from the council and into a separate body. A similar approach is widespread in the USA and Australia, where corporations find their public image enhanced and the tax bill reduced by funding public parks. It is not a common approach in the UK due to the origins and history of local authorities, so is a harder market to define and develop.

In 2018, the management of the city's Valley Parks was transferred to Devon Wildlife Trust, with a five-year budget. There are break clauses in the agreement, but after five years the intention is that the Valley Parks are no longer funded by the city council, but are self-funding.

There is clear and obvious common ground between Devon Wildlife Trust and the valley parks. Currently, there are no obvious partnering arrangements of a similar match. There remains scope to investigate potential including hybrid arrangements, for example where a partnering organisation brings in a third party to develop a previously unexplored option.

Sponsorship and commercial opportunities remain an unused opportunity for funding Exeter's green spaces, at least in part - though this is a well-established form of income in other authorities.

Assessment of future revenue costs

The costs of maintaining land are affected by a variety of issues. These can include changes to:

- Safe working practices, e.g. Working at Height Regulations.
- Legislation, e.g. pesticide use, habitat management.
- Equipment capacity, e.g. larger tractor power units, Lithium battery development for hand-held equipment.
- Climatic and seasonal variation.
- Change of use, purpose or function.

Many legislative and safety changes result in cost increases. As noted earlier, much of the capacity for planned cost reductions has been used over the last ten years. High-cost, low-benefit provision has been stripped out. This leaves more radical proposals as the only areas left for meaningful cost reductions, such as to stop providing aspects of the service in their entirety, such as bowling greens, complete with their clubhouses, or only the most basic and cheapest forms of grass cutting by larger, ride-on equipment. Evidence from consultation suggests that communities do not accept any further reductions on a significant scale. Furthermore, the city council has a stated policy against disposal of green space.

The council's corporate plan promotes a number of policies that can be most effectively delivered by using parks and green spaces. Improving health and well-being has a quantifiable benefit. Parks and green spaces have a quantifiable cost to provide and maintain. There is currently no direct financial correlation between this benefit and the service cost.

Community-based cost reductions

There are limited examples of communities taking on green space areas successfully. Unlike projects where communities have taken on the management of buildings (where access can be controlled), green spaces pose a different set of challenges. It is also the case that without wholesale transfer of a service or asset (such as a local park), there is little financial advantage.

There are, however, some high-cost aspects that could be better delivered by community groups. To establish what these may be, a comparison is required between the service currently provided and the priorities of the community. Litter-picking, observational play equipment checks, notice-board updates, fly-posting removal, building access, are a number of tasks that need not require a member of staff driving to site, but could be undertaken by and within the community. This type of approach also in turn stimulates greater community involvement and interest, and leads to better use of green spaces.

Financial Plan 2020-2030

A forward plan, covering a five-year rolling span, allows for more comprehensive and effective management.

Areas of costs are:

1. Maintenance of infrastructure – paths, gates, fences, steps railings, etc. (Play and sports equipment are covered within the Play and Playing Pitch Strategies.)
2. Grounds maintenance – vegetation management (trees and woodlands are covered within the Tree and Woodlands Strategy).
3. Parks and Green Spaces management and development.
4. Equipment renewal and updating, and staff training.

Funding requirements are:

1. An assessment of costs through the asset inspection system to identify priorities, capacity and timescales, prior to producing a rolling maintenance plan with funding requirements.
2. The Grounds Maintenance budget for 2020-2021 is £821,380. Although there is an additional overheads budget of £68,298, this includes £41,750 for depreciation. This suggests there are insufficient staff on the ground for the volume of work required to maintain even a basic service - not least as this includes the staff who provide the sports pitch and play equipment maintenance. There is no current data available to determine what maintenance regimes are actually in place, and the staff resource required to achieve them. Either work is trimmed to match the numbers of staff and the skill sets available, or, more efficiently, a standard of work and staffing levels are set and funded for appropriately qualified staff.
3. Fleet and equipment management has ensured safe, modern and efficient plant and equipment has been available when required. Other, more cost-effective approaches to procurement are being implemented, which may lead to leased plant being the norm. This should be balanced with the needs of the service, for example, more extensive use of Lithium battery equipment should be an urgent development. The notional equipment lifespan needs to be moderated to a more realistic model, as with proper servicing and maintenance, much of the equipment lasts far longer than suggested.

Detailed assessments of real costs for these areas will enable accurate financial planning and forecasting, and give targets for budgets and funding. It will also provide a focus on the real costs of all aspects of the service, indicate areas of disproportionately high costs, and point to where alternative solutions need to be found.

Without a fully-planned and costed-approach, even if funding in future years is unsecured at the time, it will not be possible to deliver this strategy and provide the service agreed with communities.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 - ECC Formal Parks and Open Spaces
- 5.2 Appendix 2 - Green space by ward
(excludes valley parks, allotments and Housing land)
- 5.3 Appendix 3 - Consultation 2019
- 5.4 Appendix 4 - NM7 Barriers to access
- 5.5 Appendix 5 - LSOAs and their green space
- 5.6 Appendix 6 - Issues to consider (from 2019 consultation)
- 5.7 Appendix 7 - Public Open Space SPD
- 5.8 Appendix 8 - School 10-minute walking zones
- 5.9 Appendix 9 - Local Green Space 10-minute walk distribution
- 5.10 Appendix 10 - Privately-owned Public Open Space
- 5.11 Appendix 11 - Equalities Impact Assessment
- 5.12 Appendix 12 - References and Glossary

5.1 Appendix 1 - Exeter City Council Formal Parks and Open Spaces

Location	Classification	Area m2
Belle Isle Park	Formal parks & gardens	28,496
Belmont Park	Formal parks & gardens	30,015
Bull Meadow Park	Formal parks & gardens	12,715
Bury Meadow	Formal parks & gardens	15,893
Friernhay Burial Ground	Formal parks & gardens	6,764
Heavitree Pleasure Ground	Formal parks & gardens	85,594
Library Field Park	Formal parks & gardens	19,219
Northernhay Gardens	Formal parks & gardens	27,475
Pinces Gardens Pleasure Ground	Formal parks & gardens	13,758
Rougemont Gardens	Formal parks & gardens	9,874
Southernhay Green	Formal parks & gardens	8,288
St Bartholomew's Cemetery	Formal parks & gardens	16,107
St Thomas Pleasure Ground	Formal parks & gardens	20,591
Summerway Park	Formal parks & gardens	19,386
Topsham Recreation Ground	Formal parks & gardens	35,406
Alphington Playing Field	Playing field	23,556
Bettysmead Playing Field	Playing field	24,517
Bromhams Farm Playing Field	Playing field	81,477
Cowick Barton Playing Field	Playing field	100,219
Exhibition Fields	Playing field	75,943
Exwick Playing Fields	Playing field	58,337
Flowerpot Playing Fields	Playing field	63,609
Hamlin Lane Playing Fields	Playing field	89,836
King George V Playing Field	Playing field	158,906
Northbrook Approach Golf Course	Playing field	62,773
Pinhoe Station Road Playing Field	Playing field	30,256
Wonford Playing Field	Playing field	102,009
Digby Open Space	Informal open space	19,054
Eastern Field	Informal open space	91,303
Grace Road Playing Field	Informal open space	61,812
Lakeside Avenue Open Space	Informal open space	13,836

**5.2 Appendix 2 - Green space by ward
(excludes Valley Parks, allotments and Housing land)**

Ward	m2	Hectares	% of total area
Alphington	80,528	8	3%
Duryard & St James'	42,402	4	2%
Exwick	585,883	59	24%
Heavitree	361,843	36	15%
Mincinglake & Whipton	95,129	10	4%
Newtown & St Leonard's	106,033	11	4%
Pennsylvania	25,595	3	1%
Pinhoe	264,769	26	11%
Priory	431,510	43	18%
St David's	142,521	14	6%
St Loye's	71,800	7	3%
St Thomas	159,300	16	6%
Topsham	95,136	10	4%
GRAND TOTAL	2,462,447	246	100%

5.3 Appendix 3 - Consultation 2019

Two consultancies, Marketing Means (online) and RedQuadrant (drop-in sessions) undertook consultation in 2019 on a range of issues, including Parks and Green Spaces.

Online survey

Marketing Means carried out a survey of residents and stakeholders (both online and face to face) on the council's overall Physical Activity Strategy, with some specific questions about Parks and Green Spaces.

Report from focus groups on Parks and Open Spaces by RedQuadrant, May 2019

Introduction and context

As part of the work on the Council's overall Physical Activity Strategy, RedQuadrant were commissioned to facilitate two focus groups with stakeholders on Exeter's parks and open spaces.

The previous Parks and Open Spaces Strategy dates from 2005. There is now a need to renew this in consultation with communities and other stakeholders. During 2019/20, officers are recommending the following actions:

- Through a series of community and stakeholder workshops identify priorities for the future development of parks and green space strategies and action plans.
- Undertake a current audit and needs assessment of the City's green space, including those in the ownership of other bodies which have existing or potential public access, with a particular focus on the latent activity opportunities that could be developed.
- Map and develop linkage of parks and green space with cycle and footpaths as part of a Green Corridor network across the city, providing safe off-road travel within communities.
- In principle, subject to resources, provide support and opportunity to "start-up" groups wishing to undertake and develop low-key but valued activities and social interaction in local parks and green spaces that promote physical activity.

This report sets out the key findings from the focus groups.

1 Focus groups – Parks and Open Spaces

We held two focus groups on 12th April 2019, at Exeter Community Centre, with 25 people attending in total. People and groups who were involved in some way with parks and open spaces were invited by the council to participate.

The aims for the sessions were:

- To get stakeholder views on existing parks and green spaces.
- To begin to identify future priorities.
- To identify how parks and green spaces can be used to promote physical activity and social interaction.
- To establish how best to get a wide range of views in community consultation.

At the beginning of each session, the context for the development of a parks strategy was explained, stressing that there are opportunities for the Council to:

- Work more closely with other local authorities.
- Obtain community focused funding through new health and wellbeing strategies.
- Work in partnership with community groups to protect and develop green spaces.
- Be involved in village green and similar community development projects.
- Make Exeter the most active city in England.

The tables below show the key points from the subsequent discussions:

Development of a strategic approach
<p>There was strong agreement on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for next steps of developing the strategy needs to be widely and clearly communicated. • Ask the community for help at an early stage and involve them in developing initiatives/plans. • Speak to community forums (e.g. open event on 29/6/19) regularly and work closely with Active Devon, Devon Wildlife Trust, Ludwell Life and Friends groups. • Improve communication with residents and stakeholders, e.g. direct mailing, more use of the Exeter Citizen, social media. • Align the new strategy with the NHS strategy for wellbeing. • No more green space should be lost. It would be detrimental to the whole city and to Council priorities. • Need to have a clear and robust Community Asset Transfer policy. • Green spaces improve mental health: include as a key theme. • Have fitness equipment, outdoor gyms and ping pong tables in parks as installed in many authorities across England. • The parks strategy needs some clear principles to shape its development including biodiversity, accessibility, green space within x distance of all home. • Need to strike a balance between physical activity and horticulture and wildlife. • Locally developed solutions delivered with volunteers can offset costs, e.g. litter picking and guerrilla gardening. • Establish clear boundaries and publish guidelines on the role and remit of volunteers and how they work with council officers. • Community Builders have an important role to play in the development of green spaces in local communities.

A number of people agreed with the following points:

- Use Plain English in all communications to residents.
- Ensure teenagers feel welcome in parks.
- Set up focus groups in the colleges to get the views of young people.
- Expand the Exeter Green Space Network.
- Parks play an important role in reducing pollution levels.
- ECC to support long term leases for appropriate amenities e.g. community cafes.
- Communicate benefits of volunteering in parks, including increased well-being, social interaction, reduction of isolation as well as physical benefits.
- Clarify what the council will do and what volunteers can do. These boundaries to be guidelines but permeable by agreement.
- Develop a programme of wide-ranging community events in parks, including toddler activities and bingo sessions.
- Farmers' markets in parks can link to allotments, food growing and healthy eating.

The following points were made by one or two individuals:

- The Council is at risk of 'selling off the family silver.'
- Important for ECC departments to work together and not in the existing silos, e.g. ECC planning policy not to build cul-de-sacs in new developments is wrong. Children living in new developments, can't play in the street.
- People who are happy with their parks are happy with their council.
- ECC boasts it has the lowest Council Tax in the country. Why not put it up?
- Balance in how money is spent, e.g. £52m for new leisure centre, but no money for maintaining local assets.
- There should be an opportunity to respond directly to councillors on the draft policy: that they should have attended the consultation meeting.
- The Council promotes Exeter to employers and prospective students to attract people from outside the city; this needs to be balanced with the needs of local residents.
- Make 'going for a stroll' or going for a ride on a disability scooter a valid (listed) activity for parks and open spaces as otherwise it may be taken for granted
- New sports facilities could be in direct competition with businesses

Operational management of parks and open spaces

There was strong agreement on the following points:

- Create more wild spaces in parks
- Cut the grass less often in some instances
- Don't use so much weed killer and, when it is used, take care how and where
- Improve signage to parks and green spaces
- Events in parks run by community groups need to be centrally coordinated
- Consider implementing a community warden scheme

A number of people agreed on the following points:

- It would be helpful to know the running costs of parks e.g. staff and equipment.
- Introduce dog control orders for the number of dogs one person can walk.
- Promote use of social media to draw attention to problems in parks and open spaces.
- Volunteer-led fitness activities increase participation levels in parks.
- Explore options for a roving ranger service.

The following points were made by one or two individuals:

- Introduce an on-demand grass-cutting service.
- Local residents are willing to help with grass cutting.
- All trees should have Tree Protection Orders.
- Developers put in new play areas and leave them to the community to maintain.
- Introduce a network/system for contact with the Council, e.g. who to contact for grass-cutting, needle removal, planting planning, fire hazards.
- Explore possibilities for an umbrella insurance to cover risks of residents gardening/working in parks (like the RHS 'Exeter in Bloom' insurance).
- Use park noticeboards to create dialogue between council workers and volunteers.
- Volunteer community wardens are in place in a few parks; this could be expanded.

Conclusions

The discussions were lively and stimulating. There is an obvious passion for Exeter's parks and open spaces and a determination to retain and develop them. Participants understood the financial situation the Council is in and are willing to help by being involved in the maintenance and development of parks and open spaces.

Below are the key issues we believe need to be addressed:

Community involvement in the strategy

We spoke to two groups of people who represent a powerful community network. They understood the key issues and have much to contribute in terms of ideas and resources. During our discussions, we identified several emerging strategic objectives:

- Maintaining and protecting green spaces in the city.
- Develop a clear policy on Community Asset Transfer.
- Align with Exeter's health and wellbeing strategies.
- Make biodiversity a key theme.
- Commit to making parks and open spaces accessible to all.

People are keen to be involved in the development of the strategy, co-creating with the council.

Communication

The groups felt that communication could be better, and regular engagement would bring benefits to the council. See below.

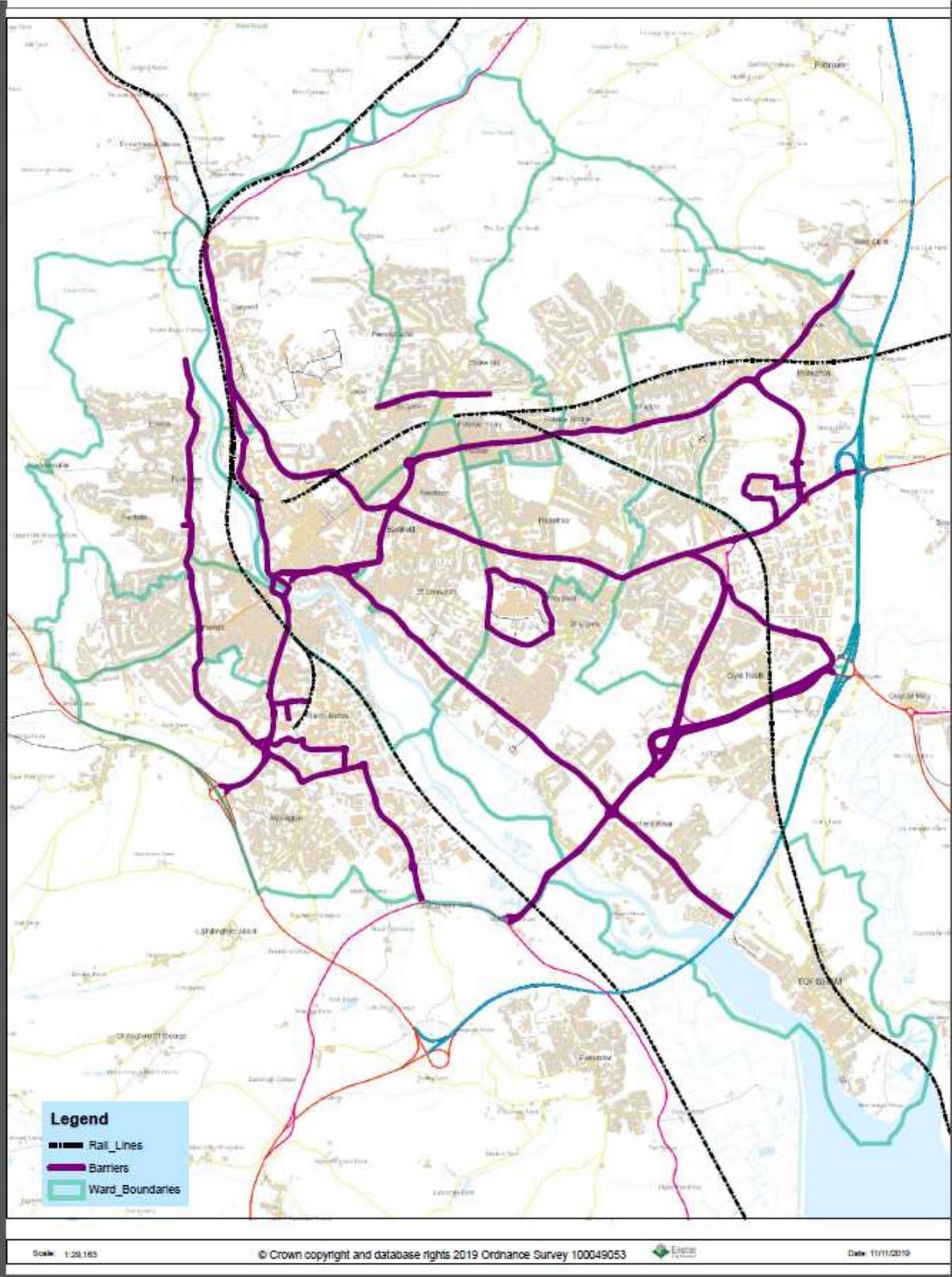
Community involvement in managing parks

There is a clear need to develop a more joined up approach to how the council/community maintains green spaces. Communities are willing to take responsibility for tasks such as grass cutting, planting and litter picking, as well as activities. There is also a strong wish to involve young people.

Community asset transfer

This area needs clarification by the council, as there were conflicting perceptions.

5.4 Appendix 4 - NM7 barriers to access



5.5 Appendix 5 - LSOAs and their Green Space

Rating 1 = good, 4 = poor

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Alphington & Whitestone VP	20	A	Cowick Barley Farm Rd			Y					3	3	2
Alphington & Whitestone VP	14	W	Exwick Redhills Area			Y					3	3	2
Anne's Close play area	13	A	Stoke Hill				Y				2	1	2
Arena Athletics	10	A	Beacon Heath area						Y		2	4	1
Arena play area	10	A	Beacon Heath area				Y				1	1	1
Arena skate park	10	A	Beacon Heath area				Y				1	2	1
Arena skate park	15	W*	Summerway area				Y				1	1	1

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Ashwood Rd allotments	19	W	Alphington Rd – Ebrington Rd area					Y			1	1	1
Beacon Ave allotments	10	A	Beacon Heath area					Y			1	1	3
Belmont PG	05	A	Sidwell St and Clifton Rd	Y							1	1	2
Bettysmead playing field (CR)	10	A	Beacon Heath area						Y		1	2	1
Bonhay RD OS	12	W	City centre West		Y		Y				2	1	3
Bull Meadow	06	A	Cathedral and City centre East	Y			Y				2	1	2
Cathedral Close	06	W	Cathedral and City centre East		Y						1	3	1
Cemetery Fields	[14]	N	Exwick Redhills Area		Y		Y				3	2	4
Cemetery Fields	08	A	Exwick cemetery area		Y		Y				2	4	4

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Cemetery Fields	[17]	N	Exwick Farm Hill		Y		Y				3	4	4
Clifton Hill	05	A	Sidwell St and Clifton Rd		Y				Y		1	3	2
Cowick Barton playing field (CR)	19	N	Alphington Rd – Ebrington Rd area		Y		Y		Y		3	1	3
Dickens Drive play area	11	W	Burnthouse Lane POETS				Y				1	2	2
Ducks Marsh park	11	W	Burnthouse Lane POETS		Y						2	2	3
Ducks Marsh playing fields (Uni)	11	A	Burnthouse Lane POETS						Y		4	4	4
Exe Bridges St Edmunds	12	A	City centre West		Y						2	4	4
Exe Bridges St Edmunds	06	W	Cathedral and City centre East		Y						2	4	4
Exhibition Fields	10	A	Beacon Heath area		Y		Y		Y		1	1	1

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Exhibition Fields	15	W*	Summerway area		Y		Y		Y		1	1	2
Exwick Cemetery	08	W	Exwick Cemetery area		Y					Y	1	3	1
Exwick Playing Field	08	W	Exwick Cemetery area						Y		1	3	2
Exwick Playing Field CCSC ex	08	W	Exwick Cemetery area						Y		1	2	2
Farm Hill Open Space	17	W	Exwick Farm Hill		Y						1	2	3
Flowerpot (ECC retained area)	[06]	N	Cathedral and City centre East		Y		Y				4	2	4
Flowerpot (ECC retained area)	12	N	City Centre West		Y		Y				4	2	4
Flowerpot Playing Field (Leased to College)	08	W	Exwick Cemetery area						Y		1	2	2
Flowerpot Play Area	08	A	Exwick Cemetery area				Y				2	3	3

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Flowerpot skatepark	08	A	Exwick Cemetery area				Y				2	1	2
Friernhay Burial Ground	06	N	Cathedral and City Centre East	Y							1	1	1
Friernhay Burial Ground	12	W	City Centre West	Y							1	1	2
Georges Close Play area	18	W	Hamlins Lane and Honeylands				Y				1	2	1
Glasshouse Lane Allotments	16	W	Countess Wear					Y			1	1	1
Guys Hylton Allotments	08	W	Exwick Cemetery area					Y			1	1	2
Hamlin Lane Allotments	18	W	Hamlins Lane and Honeylands					Y			1	2	2
Hamlin Lane Playing Field	18	W	Hamlins Lane and Honeylands						Y		1	2	1
Heavitree Pleasure Ground	18	N	Hamlins Lane and Honeylands	Y			Y		Y		2	1	2

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Higher Barley Mount Public Open Space	14	W	Exwick Redhills area		Y						1	1	1
Honeylands	18	W	Hammins Lane and Honeylands		Y						1	2	1
Hospital Lane Allotments	07	W	Whipton Hillyfield					Y			1	1	1
John Levers Way Play Area	08	W	Exwick Cemetery area				Y				3	2	3
King George V inclusive Play Area	16	A	Countess Wear				Y				1	1	3
King George V Playing Fields (CR)	16	A	Countess Wear						Y		1	2	3
Kinnerton Way MUGA	17	W	Exwick Farm Hill				Y				1	1	1
Lakeside Avenue Play Area	16	W	Countess Wear				Y				1	1	1
Lancelot Road Open Space	10	A	Beacon Heath area		Y						1	2	1

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Lancelot Road Open Space	02	W	Lancelot Rd area		Y						1	2	1
Lavender Road Play Area	17	W	Exwick Farm Hill				Y				1	1	1
Lime Kilns, etc.	16	W	Countess Wear			Y					1	2	2
Lloyds Crescent Play Area	03	A	Whipton, Leypark Rd and Bramley Ave				Y				1	1	2
Lloyds Crescent Play Area	07	W	Whipton Hillyfield				Y				1	1	1
Ludwell Valley	01	A	Burnthouse Lane TREES			Y					1	1	2
Ludwell Valley Park	04	A	Burnthouse Lane Rifford Rd			Y					1	1	2
Marypole Road Open Space	13	A	Stoke Hill		Y						2	3	2
Marypole Road Allotments	13	A	Stoke Hill					Y			1	1	2

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Masterson Street PA	11	W	Burnthouse Lane POETS				Y				3	1	2
Merrivale Park	20	A	Cowick Barley Farm Road	Y			Y				1	1	2
Merrivale Park	09	W	Cowick Newman Road	Y			Y				1	1	1
Mincinglake Valley Park	02	W	Lancelot Road area			Y					2	1	2
Mincinglake Valley Park	13	A	Stoke Hill			Y					1	1	2
Mincinglake Valley Park	10	W	Beacon Heath area			Y					1	1	2
Mulberry Close Play Area	03	A	Whipton, Leypark Road and Bramley Avenue				Y				2	2	2
NAGC	01	A	Burnthouse Lane TREES		Y						2	2	3
Newman Rd allotments	09	W	Cowick Newman Road					Y			1	1	1

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Northernhay Gardens	06	A	Cathedral and City centre East	Y							1	1	2
Northernhay Gardens	12	A	City centre West	Y							1	1	2
Pendragon Road Play Area	02	W	Lancelot Rd area				Y				1	1	1
Pinhoe Station Road Play Area	15	A	Summerway area				Y				3	1	3
Pinhoe Station Road Playing Fields (CR)	15	A	Summerway area						Y		3	3	3
Prince Charles Road Allotments	13	A	Stoke Hill					Y			1	1	1
Rear 1-10 Southernhay	06	W	Cathedral and City centre East		Y						3	2	3
Ribston Avenue	[03]	A	Whipton, Leypark Rd and Bramley Ave		Y						3	3	2
Riverside Valley Park	01	A	Burnthouse Lane TREES			Y					3	2	3

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Rougemont Gardens	06	W	Cathedral and City centre East	Y							1	1	2
Roundtable Meet PA	10	A	Beacon Heath area				Y				2	1	2
Salmonpool PA	11	W	Burnthouse Lane POETS				Y				3	1	3
Shilhay	06	W	Cathedral and City centre East		Y						4	3	3
Southernhay Greens	06	W	Cathedral and City centre East	Y							3	1	1
St Bartholomew's Cemetery	06	N	Cathedral and City centre East	Y							2	2	2
St Bartholomew's Cemetery	12	W	City centre West	Y							2	2	2
St Peter's Mount POS	14	W	Exwick Redhills Area		Y						3	3	3
St Sidwell's Church	05	A	Sidwell St and Clifton Rd							Y	1	1	1

POS	LSOA ref	Proximity Within Adjacent Near	LSOA	Formal Parks and gardens	Informal local green space	Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces (green corridors)	Children & young peoples space	Allotments	Active sports space	Cemeteries and churchyards	Local context 1-4	Value 1-4	Accessibility 1-4
Summerway Park	07	A	Whipton Hillyfield		Y		Y				4	1	3
Summerway Park	15	W	Summerway area		Y						1	1	1
Sweetbriar Lane Allotments	18	A	Hamlin Lane and Honeylands					Y			2	1	2
Tumbling Hills Playing Field	16	W	Countess Wear		Y						1	2	3
Wonford Playing Field north incl. Leisure centre (CR)	04	W	Burnthouse Lane Rifford Road		Y				Y		1	1	1
Wonford PF	04	A	Burnthouse Lane Rifford Road		Y		Y		Y		1	1	1
Wonford PF	01	W	Burnthouse Lane TREES		Y		Y		Y		1	1	1
Woodwater Lane Play Area	04	A	Burnthouse Lane Rifford Road		Y		Y				2	1	2

5.6 Appendix 6 - Issues to consider (arising from 2019 consultation)

Subject	Group	Detail
Community Asset Transfer	Community	<p>Communities wish to be involved in decisions regarding parks and green space, and there is some evidence of communities wishing to take on management to some degree. However, the full implications of an asset transfer are not understood, and remain a significant barrier.</p> <p>There remains work to be done to involve and engage communities so that asset provision and maintenance is a sharing partnership between the council and the community.</p>
Misc	Community	Volunteers to help with the maintenance of parks and green space.
Other landowners	Community	Identification of potential for non-ECC land to be utilised as public green space. This already occurs to some extent, but there has been no assessment of shortfalls and potential provision.
Social values	Community	Local green spaces are extremely important to communities, though the definition of locality is mixed, especially in terms of the time and distance people would be prepared to walk.
Social values	Community	Benefits of green space to combat social isolation, especially for families moving to Exeter, or families who are less well-off, don't have the time or money to travel and will be isolated and left out.
Social values	Community	Use clear language and avoid acronyms.
Access	Design and development	<p>Mapping of barriers, e.g. railways and red and blue routes.</p> <p>Accessible routes within green space, green corridor linkage.</p> <p>Public Transport.</p> <p>Accessible routes to the play area.</p> <p>On foot, cycle, car.</p>
Misc	Design and development	Sustainability is important in terms of reducing budgets and capacities. Re-focus of green space purpose and function required?
Other spectrums people	Design and development	Autistic children and or for young people with special needs. Green spaces are highly suitable for children with disabilities or specific needs, and those with mental health issues.
Sustainability	Design and development	A sustainability test needs to be applied even if the score is low, as other values should compensate

Subject	Group	Detail
Value Assessment	Design and development	Develop green space value measurements beyond simple asset-based issues.
Communications	Information	As a means of ensuring the parks and green space meet the needs of the community and for the community to feel involved in what is happening, information needs to flow in both directions.
Communications	Information	Signage needs to be of value.
Community Viewpoint	Strategy	Level of use, involvement, views of the space, equalities, educational, demographics, asb, events.
Council viewpoint	Strategy	Local context, historical and archaeological significance, landscape, conservation, habitat, legal status,
Funding	Strategy	Identify funding shortfall, investment plan.
Measurements/performance	Strategy	Set values to measure against. Define criteria.
Measurements/performance	Strategy	Identify management and maintenance systems.
Priority Actions	Strategy	Set up mechanism to provide guidance to planners regarding citywide and GESP provision proposals in new developments, which are a constant stream and represent loss of opportunity.
Research other strategies for comparisons	Strategy	Bath and NE Somerset Bristol Gloucester Open Space Strategy 2014-2019 Mid Devon District Council Plymouth Green Space Strategy 2008-2023

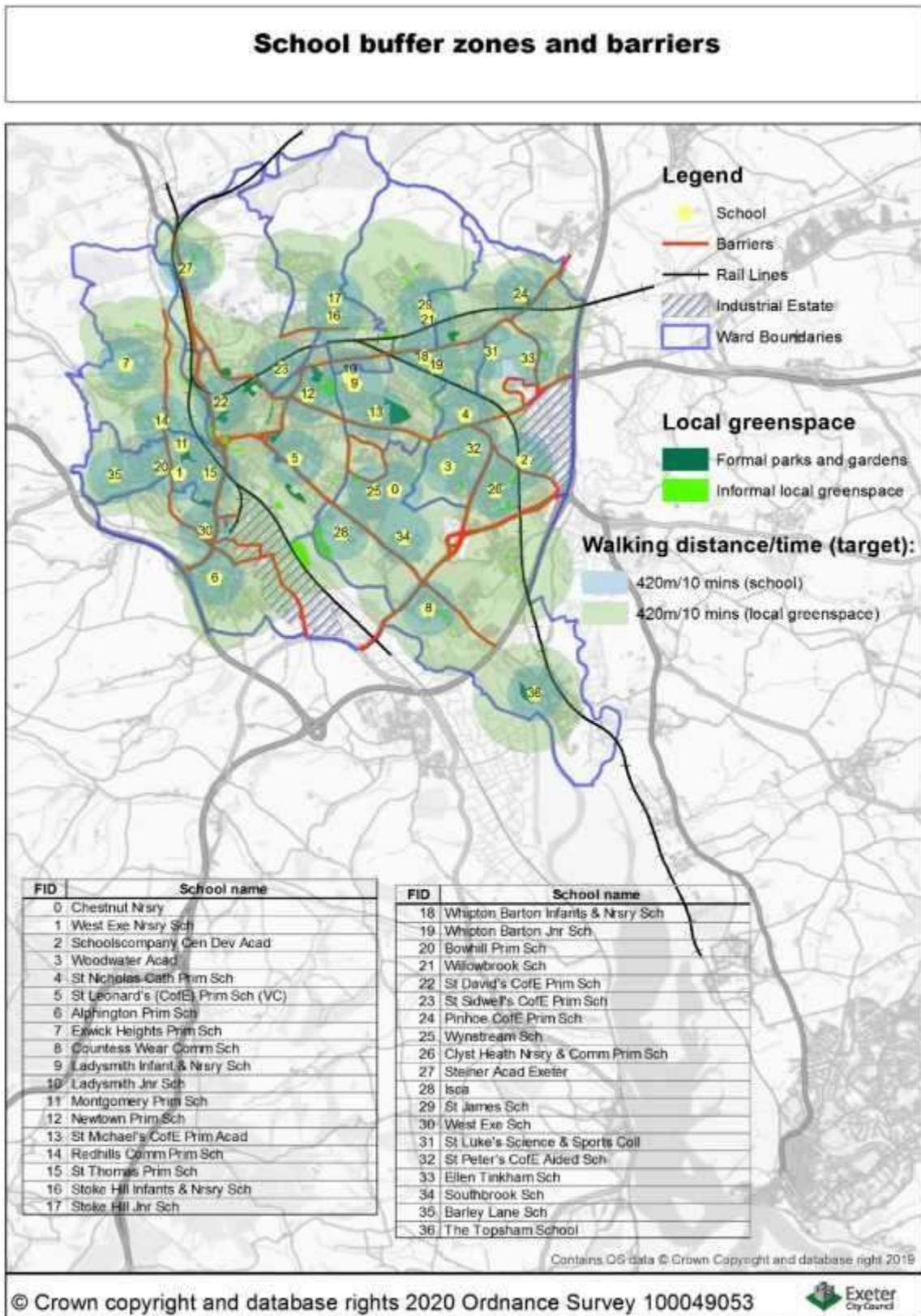
5.7 Appendix 7

[Public Open Space Supplementary Planning Document September 2005](#)

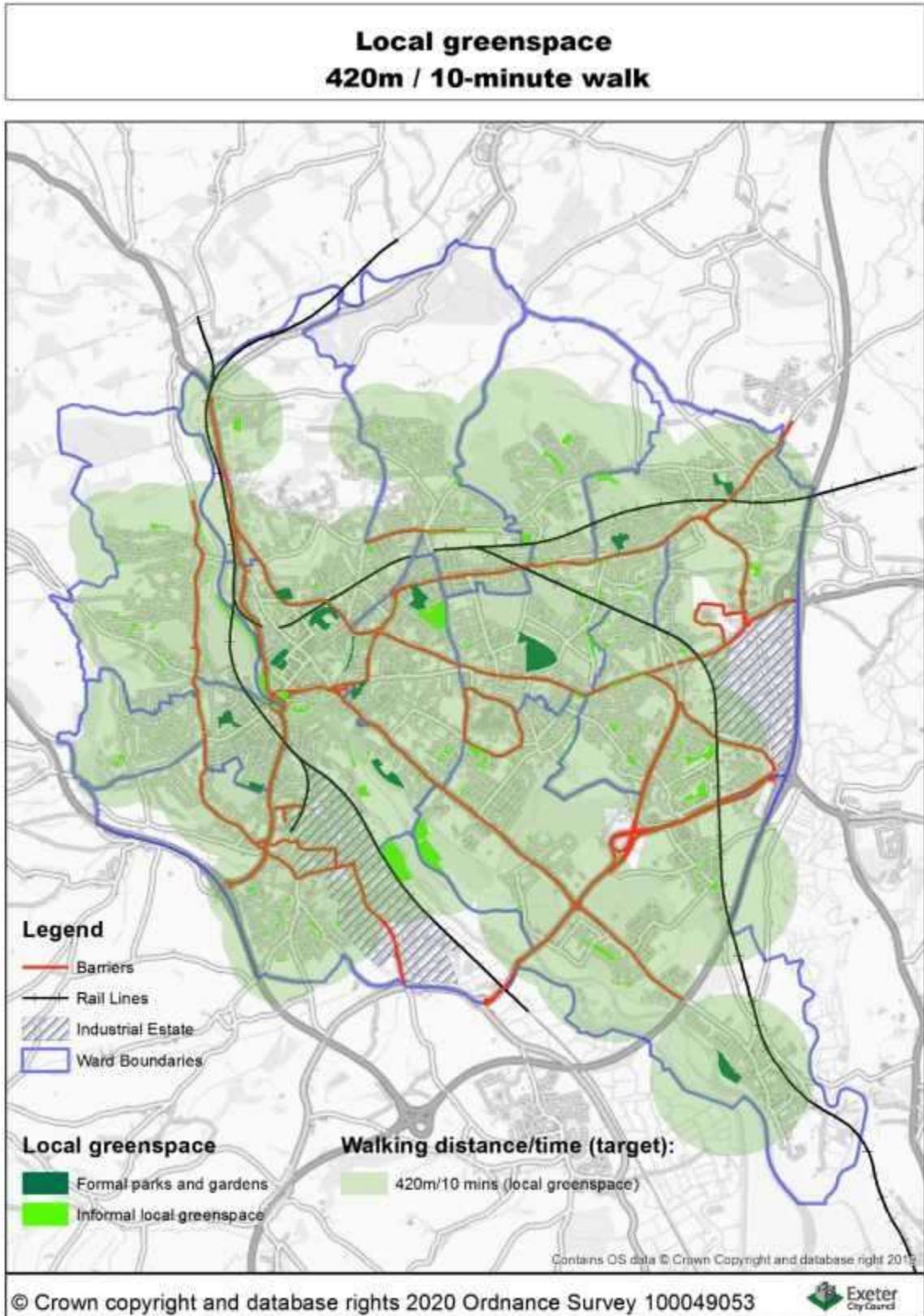
This sets out guidance in support of the Exeter Local Plan First Review. It focuses on:

- L3 Development on open space;
- L4 Provision of outdoor sports and informal youth facilities through new development;
- L5 Development causing the loss of playing fields;
- L7 Development causing the loss of sporting facilities;
- DG5 Provision of open space and children's play facilities through new development.

5.8 Appendix 8 - School 10-minute walking zones



5.9 Appendix 9 - Local Green Space 10-minute walk distribution
(note, only the larger sites shown individually)



Date: 25/02/2020

5.10 Appendix 10 - Privately-owned Public Open Space

Land unlikely to transfer to ECC as POS, or land that has been planned as privately-owned POS from the outset. The areas are, in the main, estimates based on Planning Approval.

Locations included:

Site name	Approx area (m2)
Beacon Lane Chaucer Grove	5657
Bishops Court	29200
Cumberland Way	7500
Harts Lane	32351
Lavender Road	930
Millbrook off Topsham Road	5825
Pinhoe brickworks	10239
Pinhoe Quarry	10000
Polsloe Priory	25493
Rydon Greenacres	7550
Seabrook Orchards (incl allotments, pitches, play area, streamside)	100000
Tithebarn Green	20369

5.11 Appendix 11 - Equality Impact Assessment

Title of work being assessed: Parks and Green Space Strategy

Introduction

The city council is renewing its Parks and Green Space Strategy to provide a resilient and sustainable means of developing, enhancing and retaining green space in the city. This is particularly relevant to the council's Physical Activity Strategy, the drivers for the current Sport England Local Delivery Pilot, the declaration of Climate Emergency, the overall beneficial effects of green space in terms of physical and mental health and wellbeing, mitigating air pollution, and compensating for the diminishing size of garden space allocated to housing.

Lead officer: Paul Faulkner

Service Manager: Lou Harvey

Stakeholders: Residents, employees of the council and visitors to the city.

Revisions: 7/1/2020, 13/3/2020.

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the policy has a **positive, negative or neutral impact**, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place, etc.

Medium impact – some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the council has very little discretion.

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
Target group / area Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers asylum seekers etc.)		It is known that greenspaces provide locations where ethnically diverse groups can meet and congregate socially both within their own groups and as a mix	No identified issues
Disability (as defined by the Equality Act - a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)		Development and maintenance plans for greenspace is made against a range of criteria to improve accessibility and functionality of greenspaces for all regardless of ability.	There may be some locations where no meaningful alterations can be made to improve accessibility and use, e.g. due to topography.
Sex/Gender		Development and management proposals for greenspace will be targeted at inclusivity.	Some greenspace areas could be considered potentially dangerous for lone females or children in that they offer cover for illegal activity.
Gender reassignment		Development and management proposals for greenspace will be targeted at inclusivity.	
Religion and belief		Development and management proposals for greenspace will be targeted at inclusivity.	
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)		Development and management proposals for greenspace will be targeted at inclusivity	
Age (children and young people)		Development and management plans for formal and local parks	

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
aged 0 – 24; adults aged 25 – 50; younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older people 81+. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).		should take into account the full age range and, for example, ensure adequate seating and level paths. LSOAs are mapped and targeted to ensure the higher needs of people living in these areas are addressed	
Community relations		Opportunities for community engagement and action	
Human Rights			

Actions identified as a result of the impact assessment

Action	Lead	By when

As aspects of the Strategy are implemented, reference needs to be made to EQIA to retain compliance.

5.12 Appendix 12 - References and glossary

References

Exeter and its Region Barlow 1969

Audit of Outdoor Recreation Facilities 2005

Exeter Green Infrastructure

Exeter Green Infrastructure study_executive-summary.pdf

Exeter Green Infrastructure Study_phase2.pdf

Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields In Trust (originally known as the 'National Playing Fields Association')
GESP	Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership
GIST	Green Infrastructure Strategy
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
NGB	National Governing Body (e.g. Football Association)
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area (Area of Deprivation)
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
RDE	Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest