



Liverpool
City Council

Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board Interim Report



“ A city becomes magnificent when
the spaces between the buildings
equal the architecture they frame ”



Contents

Mayoral Preface	6
Chair's Note	7
Introduction	8
Background	10
Methodology	14
Appointing the Board	14
Defining and Scoping	14
Informing	14
Surveying and Mapping	15
Consulting	16
Public meetings	16
Public and Stakeholder workshops	17
Regeneration Housing and Sustainability Select Committee	17
Website	18
Visiting	18
Nesta Visits	18
Additional Visits	18
Analysing and Reporting	18



Evidence	19
Website	19
Public Meetings and Consultation	19
Public and Stakeholder Workshops	19
Surveying and Mapping	20
National Visits	20
International Reviews and Case Studies	20
Stakeholder Meetings	20
Board Meetings	20
Commissions	21
External Experts	21
 Interim Recommendations	 22
Engagement	22
Equality and Accessibility	24
Public Parks	24
Sports Provision	25
Woodland	26
Play Areas and Parks with Play Provision	26
Nature Reserves, Greenbelt and Local Wildlife Areas	27
Blue Space/Water	28
Canals	29
Ponds and Lakes	29
Other Waterways	30
Allotments	30
Incidental Spaces	30
Brownfield	32
Green Corridors and Connectivity	32

Finance.....	35
Balancing the Books.....	37
Cost Reduction.....	37
Increasing Income.....	37
A Different Financial Approach.....	39
In House.....	39
Park Trust.....	39
Partnership.....	39
Referendum.....	39
City-Region Approach.....	39
Health.....	40
General Health and Wellbeing.....	40
Protection from Harmful Environmental Exposures.....	40
Promoting Physical Activity.....	40
Promoting Social Interaction and Cohesion.....	40
Health Partnerships and Funding.....	41
Planning.....	42
List of Interim Recommendations	44
Further Work.....	47
Chair's Summary.....	48
Glossary of Terms and Acronyms.....	50
List of Figures and Tables.....	52
List of Appendices.....	53

Mayoral Preface

Liverpool is proud of its green and open spaces and our enviable waterfront. My administration has worked hard to increase across the city, creating over 60 acres of new and improved green and open space, meaning that we have more now than at any point in our history since becoming a city in 1880.

Sadly, the 58 percent cut to our budget by central Government has left us grappling with the challenge of finding new ways to fund non-essential services, including maintenance of and investment in our green and open spaces. At this time of great financial uncertainty it is imperative we do all we can to protect the legacy of our civic forefathers and find new and innovative ways to secure the long term future of our green and open spaces.

It was with this in mind that I asked Simon O'Brien to act as an independent Chair for the Green and Open Spaces Review. Being Liverpool born and still living in the city, I know that as a committed environmental activist he cares passionately about the city and its green spaces.

I had no doubt that he would bring a fresh approach to this work, challenging how we do things, questioning what we can do differently and not shying away from the problems the city is likely to face and the real issues that need to be addressed.

I was keen that Simon opened a dialogue with our residents and stakeholders and consulted widely to inform his findings and I am hoping that there will be some practical solutions that emerge from this work that we can seek to consider.

I know that ongoing further debate and work will be essential to identifying the recommendations that are likely to have the greatest positive impact for the city and I look forward to the final report.

This is an important conversation for the city and your feedback on the interim report and recommendations will contribute to the further thinking of the Board and help to inform the final report which is expected in early 2016.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Anderson".

Joe Anderson OBE
Mayor of Liverpool

liverpool.gov.uk/greenandopenspaces



Chair's Note

It was a great honour to be invited by the elected Mayor, Joe Anderson, to Chair the Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board. This task is the most challenging and fascinating piece of work I have ever undertaken. My appointment was unquestionably a bold decision by the Mayor as I have no formal affiliations for this work other than being passionately interested in the future of our city from an ecological perspective. After initial discussions, a Board was formed with a broad mix of people from within the Council appointed by the Mayor and others personally chosen by myself with very different skill sets that I believed would bring a fresh approach to the daunting review ahead.

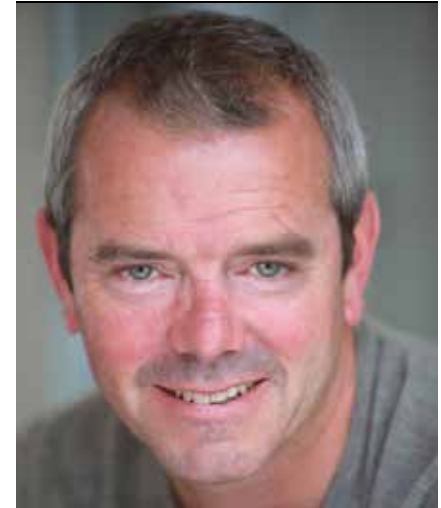
Whilst campaigning against the closure of my local baths a few years ago, I was handed an estimate from Liverpool City Council which stated that the cost of painting two small window frames, two average doors and thirty foot of louvre shutters could cost up to £25,000. I subsequently understood why Westminster was imposing austerity on Councils around the country. However, having seen Liverpool City Council's current financial situation, I believe central government has now gone too far. There is a big difference between cutting wasteful bad practice and wanton destruction of our social fabric. This is now happening in Liverpool due to ongoing fiscal 'austerity'. It is becoming impossible to run public services without 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'. I feel the Review Board is caught up in a financial mess, which should not exist, but here we are. The pressure for us all to find a solution to the issue is enormous so definitive action is required at every level in a very short-time period.

After heated debate, much discussion and diverse input from the public, Board Members, Council Officers and other organisations I have written this interim report as a guide for the final stages of the Review. I welcome critique and further input as only by continued engagement can the final report be as thorough and robust as the Board and I intend. I have personally penned this report because ultimately the responsibility for the work of any review board lies with the Chair. I also feel very strongly that too often such reviews can lose clarity and direction when unduly edited through a committee process. I have been asked to provide independent leadership and therefore have chosen to do so.

I have been asked to reference the glorious history of Liverpool's park provision and accept the worthlessness of some of the old industrial scars but whilst answers may be found in the past, it's the complex issues looking forward which I am focused on. We will have space to wallow in nostalgia when the Final Report is complete.

One of the most startling aspects of the journey so far has been the realisation that there is unquestionably a north – south divide within the city when it comes to the quality of recreational space available. This is something I feel passionately must be put right.

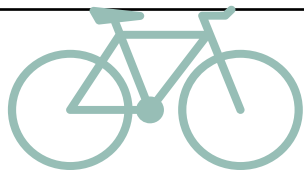
This interim report is the product of many hundreds of hours work and I hope that it will be embraced by The Mayor and the people of Liverpool. After seven months of obsessing over this matter, and notwithstanding the enormous pressure felt by the impending budgetary meltdown, I believe that we are at a moment in time which may never come again and by acting decisively we can both protect the spaces in the city that we love and enhance our urban environment for future generations.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon O'Brien'.

Simon O'Brien.

Chair of the Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board



Introduction

The Strategic Green and Open Space Review was set up to advise the Mayor on how to cope with the difficult austerity measures being imposed by central government. Budgetary cuts have affected all councils across the UK from small towns to large conurbations and none more so than Liverpool. The city has suffered the biggest budgetary cuts of any city council.

Following massive reductions in council expenditure the city is struggling to find the money to maintain its statutory services and meet its legal obligations. Going forward, this means that in future years there will be no financial support available to provide many of the non-statutory (discretionary) services, which include the upkeep and maintenance of the city's green and open space provision.

Ironically, the city is also growing economically and the population is steadily rising, which is putting pressure on the built environment for different reasons. The requirement to provide new housing, employment and retail space is becoming increasingly important as the city re-establishes itself as one of the most vibrant cities in the world. This is further complicated because of the ongoing national shortage of available and affordable housing.



This interim report is structured into the following sections:

Introduction

Background

Methodology

Evidence

Interim Recommendations

Further Work

Chair's summary

The facts and opinions gathered during the evidence collection phase (January 2015 – June 2015) have helped to inform the interim recommendations and have been organised under the following headings:

Engagement

To study the engagement of all parties with an interest in our green and open spaces and to recommend mechanisms to improve dialogue and co-operation.

Equality and Accessibility

To study the provision of all types of green and open space and to recommend long-term solutions to achieve balance in the location and accessibility of these resources, for all members of the city's population.

To study the city's green and open space provision and to make recommendations on how to improve connectivity for people and wildlife.

Finance

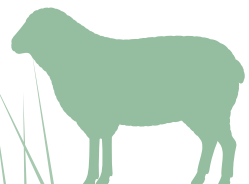
To study the impending financial constraints facing the city with regard to the cost of provision of green and open spaces, and to recommend long-term models to enable the city to retain and maintain its extensive parks and open space provision.

Health

To study the health benefits of the city's green and open space provision and to recommend ways that the city can take full advantage of these benefits.

Planning

To study the pressures on the green and open space within the city from the requirements for housing, employment and retail land, as well as other uses, and to seek to find the right balance for an aspirational forward-thinking city.



Background

Liverpool lies at the centre of Merseyside, in the North-West of England. It has close physical and functional linkages with the four other Merseyside districts - Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral, as well as with Halton, which together comprise the Liverpool City-Region. Liverpool also has close economic and social ties with the wider West Lancashire area, Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester (the former local authorities of Chester, Vale Royal and Ellesmere Port and Neston), and parts of North Wales.

Liverpool covers an area of 113 km² and has a population of approximately 466,400 (2011 UK census). It is almost wholly urbanised, although there are areas of open land at its periphery designated as Green Belt. The city is also home to a ring of parks within the built-up area.

The city is the primary driver of economic activity within the sub-region, accounting for 39% of the City Region's total Gross Valued Added (GVA - 2013 figures). The city centre is of particular importance economically, as it is the largest employment-generating area in the city-region.

In the last decade Liverpool has undergone extensive change, with major investment in the city centre and other locations, particularly south Liverpool, which has included the rapid expansion of Liverpool Airport. However, despite these achievements Liverpool still faces a number of challenges. The legacy of its long-term economic and population decline is evident in the economic and social deprivation seen in the city. The scale of this situation is particularly apparent in residential neighbourhoods close to the city centre, especially in northern inner Liverpool where substantial parts of Anfield, Kirkdale and Everton wards fall within the 1% most deprived areas in the country. As the city's economic fortunes have varied, we have seen a corresponding change in the quality of the public realm in Liverpool.

The changing demographics of the city reflect its social and environmental history. Liverpool held a significant role as a major port and trading centre


resulting in a large number of major physical and environmental assets in a rich and diverse architectural heritage. The waterside setting, flanked by several important buildings, gives a unique river approach and a world-renowned frontage. This has been recognised by the inscription in 2004 of much of the city centre and waterfront as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition the city has more than 2,500 listed buildings, 35 Conservation Areas, ten registered historic parks, four Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 1,800 items on the Historic Monument Record. Together, these provide Liverpool with a very distinctive urban landscape, which contributes significantly to its identity.

Liverpool also has substantial green and open space resources, which include local wildlife sites, green wedges, parks, allotments, street trees, the internationally important Mersey Estuary, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, numerous playing fields and parks (some with lakes) and private gardens. Although the Council has targeted Stanley Park in the north and Sefton Park in the south to achieve green flag status annually, the geographical distribution and quality of provision is not consistent across the city. There is significant potential for improvements if we approach things differently.

In addition to these easily recognised green spaces, the city also benefits from a Country Park at Croxteth, a number of cemeteries, churchyards, golf courses, hundreds of incidental spaces, civic and pedestrianised areas, green spaces within the grounds of institutions, agricultural land, brownfield sites and a long waterfront area, which together provide a mosaic of green and open spaces across the city.

Viewed from above, the distribution of green and open spaces is uneven. However, in reviewing the size and spatial distribution of these spaces there are a number of interesting patterns. The River Mersey frames the city to the west, whilst the ring of Victorian parks, including the city's two green flag sites (Stanley Park and Sefton Park) circles around the city centre to create an inner urban greenbelt. This is supported further by the actual greenbelt, which lies at the eastern edge of the city. Other green and open





spaces, such as Otterspool Promenade and Gardens and Croxteth Hall and Country Park are also important spaces in the city's green network.

These major sites and the patchwork of small street-level, incidental and neighbourhood green and open spaces make up the city's green and open space network. They offer key recreational, social and environmental benefits to Liverpool and its local residents.

The city is also dotted with many old industrial sites and areas of previous land clearance as the city declined. Whilst many are now being redeveloped as Liverpool once more prospers, these sites still make up a significant proportion of the city's open space.

The variability of the city's green and open spaces also reflects the waves of development witnessed in Liverpool. From large-scale philanthropic investments in the 1800's to more recent community gardening projects, Liverpool has constantly reinvented its use of green and open space. Most recently, the development of 'meanwhile' spaces for temporary use has shown that the city is attempting to reinstate value in some of Liverpool's underused landscape. With such variety though also comes variation in quality. Although Liverpool has a number of high quality and well used sites, others suffer from a range of social and financial issues, which require a rethinking of how we manage and improve these spaces. As a consequence, it is fair to say that the city's green and open space network is one of the reasons why Liverpool has prospered, as it has an almost unique mosaic of parks and open spaces not seen in many UK cities.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100018351

Figure 1. An overview of Liverpool's Green and Open Spaces Network



The 2005 document, 'A Parks Strategy for Liverpool', expressed the following strategic aim:

To ensure that Liverpool's parks and open spaces meet local needs and support regeneration in a manner which makes best use of the resources of people, land and finance.

The Council went on in 2014 to affirm the following vision for parks and open spaces:

Successful, thriving and prosperous communities are characterised by public places, streets, parks and open spaces that are maintained, clean, safe, attractive areas that local people are proud of and want to spend their time in.

Unfortunately, the City of Liverpool is currently in a difficult position to achieve the vision and strategic aim. It is being forced to make very tough financial decisions to ensure that the city continues to function. One of the outcomes of these discussions is the growing awareness that there will be no money available to fund non-statutory services, such as the management of green and open spaces, if the current austerity measures imposed by central government continue. The Council is obligated by government to meet a set of legal requirements in terms of delivering services, however, the discretionary nature of funding for parks, gardens and landscape management is not a legal obligation.

Since 2010 the city has had to manage cuts to council budgets that total £173 million and over the next three years the Council needs to find additional savings of £156 million. This will mean that by 2017/18 Liverpool City Council will have experienced around a 58% cut in funding in real terms since 2010/11. Over 76% of the city council's budget comes from central government. Only 9% is raised from Council Tax; this is lower than most councils because the majority of houses in the city are in the lower council tax bands A and B. Council tax can only be raised by 1.99% before a referendum is required.

To help address the impact of cuts the City Council has been reviewing all processes, reaching out to strategic partners as well as lobbying central government. It is however true to say that the financial cuts faced by the City Council are unprecedented and many tough choices lie ahead.

The lack of certainty over the funding of green and open spaces and the need to identify a long-term sustainable solution for the maintenance of our parks and green spaces are two of the main driving forces behind the commissioning of this review.

The purpose of this document is to provide a 'halfway house' or 'mid-term report' with regard to the work of the Board to enable the Mayor, Liverpool City Council, and importantly, the public to take stock of the Review and comment on our work so far. The responses to this interim report, as well as the evidence gathered to date, will be collated to inform the parameters of the final report and will help the Board to develop a more strategic and detailed approach in preparing the final report and full recommendations, which are due to be delivered to the Mayor's Office in the early part of 2016.

This advisory work will help the Mayor and City Council formulate the city's thinking with regard to the Liverpool Local Plan, which is the vital document required by central government for the future planning of our city.



Methodology

The methodology adopted to undertake the first phase of the review consisted of a number of separate and sometimes overlapping or parallel aspects, which included: the initial appointment of Board Members; scoping of the work; information gathering; surveying and mapping; consulting; visiting and reporting.

Appointing the Board

The Green and Open Spaces Review was commissioned by the Mayor of Liverpool, and Simon O'Brien was appointed as the independent Chair. As the scope of the commission became clear the Chair was asked to form a Board to help advise on the task being undertaken.

A suggested set of Board Members was proposed by the Mayor's Office. This was supplemented with additional members appointed by the Chair drawn from the public, academic and private sector in the city.

Some of these appointments were well known to the Chair, whilst others were relatively unknown. Together, they bring expertise in the fields of urban and economic management, social enterprise, green and open space planning, and community/sustainable architecture.

The full list of Board members and their expertise can be found on the Liverpool City Council Green and Open Spaces Review website liverpool.gov.uk/greenandopenspaces

The Board was formally constituted in January 2015 and the Terms of Reference for the review were published in February 2015 and are available on the website.

Defining and Scoping

Many people wanted to have an input into this report and everyone had something valuable to add. It became clear at the beginning of this work that to engage as widely as possible across the city and to maximise the time available, that the Board would need to programme and sequence a number of key aspects to the Review.

The agreed Terms of Reference, (which can be found on the Green and Open Spaces Review website at liverpool.gov.uk/greenandopenspaces), provided clarity on the scope and sequencing of various aspects of the Review and ensured that the Board were able to listen and respond to public and partner feedback and adjust some of the subsequent stages to take account of emerging issues. Adopting a robust, but flexible, approach to data-gathering and consultation helped to ensure focus during the first stages of the Review Board's work and provided a well-documented and sound basis upon which the Board was able to propose the option appraisals for the second phase of its work.

Informing

From the beginning of 2015, the Chair and Board have been gathering evidence from local, national and international examples in order to understand what has been done, what must be done and what could be done to manage the city's green and open spaces.

An exhaustive list of relevant documentation was evidenced for this report. At national level, the UK Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been reviewed along with more localised studies. These documents, and others, have been reviewed to gather information about how green and open space policy and practice is undertaken at a national, regional and local level in the UK and elsewhere.

Although assessments of planning policy can be a dry subject, this was a vital part of the evaluation process. A full list of the documents can be found in Appendix 1.



Supporting this evidence gathering has been an extensive review of the city's development context regarding the regeneration, planning and future growth of Liverpool from 'desktop' sources.

The Board additionally received a number of presentations from council officers and key stakeholders and went on a tour of the city to see at first hand some of the different types of green and open spaces across the city.

Surveying and Mapping

With the support of council officers, maps were prepared on a citywide and ward-by-ward basis; highlighting council maintained green spaces, education establishments, health centres and Liverpool City Council's physical assets. The Board also used the Strategic Housing Land Assessment (SHLAA) ¹, sites, allocated/identified employment sites, and the 'call for site' lists to review the variety of areas that were to be considered under the green and open spaces mandate of the review.

These maps were used to inform and plan a citywide survey of all green and other open spaces, as well as, waterways and water resources.

Whilst much can be gleaned from maps and satellite images and on-line street views, it became apparent that to achieve a balanced picture of the possibilities, problems and needs of our city and all of Liverpool's green and open spaces it would be important to visit each site to view the nature of space in its built environment context.

The Chair, therefore, undertook a city-wide survey of all of Liverpool's green and open spaces, travelling approximately 530 miles by bike and car, crisscrossing every ward to visit, photograph and describe 730 sites so far that fall under the broad umbrella of 'green and open space'. Surveys remain ongoing.

The purpose of the survey was twofold: to develop a feel of the quality and equity of spaces within each ward; noting first-hand how each space interacts with its geographic and social location; and, secondly, to gain an overview of whether the city's green and open spaces form a citywide network. An example recording sheet can be found on the website (Appendix 2).

Chair's Comment:

The survey proved to be enormously helpful, revealing some of the city's hidden gems but also an inequality of good recreational space. It was during the survey that I realised the city's brownfield sites are amongst the most exciting open spaces in the city, as well as being blots on the landscape. I also found some brilliant examples of alternative ways of maintaining green space that already exist within our city.

Each site was also categorised as being either owned by Liverpool City Council or in private ownership, and was further categorised under the following criteria to develop a graphic representation of the existing provision and potential for further development:

¹ The purpose of the SHLAA 'call for sites' is to provide an opportunity for anyone (the public, Liverpool City Council, land-owners and developers) to submit sites for consideration within future preparation of the Local Plan. The 'call-for-sites' is not a legally binding statement of intent to develop, although as the Chair and Board discovered in its public consultations, it is often interpreted as such.

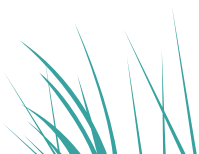
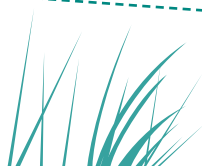


Table 1: Criteria Used to Categorise Sites

Brownfield*	Greenfield**	Parks	Other spaces
Pocket Brownfield (under 400m ²)	Pocket Greenfield Informal (under 400m ²)	Pocket Park (under 400m ²)	Other open spaces e.g. Dock Paved area Blue space
Small Brownfield (401m ² - 4,050m ²)	Small Greenfield Informal (401m ² - 4,050m ²)	Small Park (401m ² - 4,050m ²)	
Medium Brownfield (4051m ² - 10,000m ²)	Medium Greenfield Informal (4051m ² - 10,000m ²)	Medium Park (4051m ² - 10,000m ²)	
Large Brownfield (10,001m ² >)	Large Greenfield Informal (10,001m ² >)	Large Park (10,001m ² >)	

Technically, greenfield and brownfield sites can be described as follows:

*Brownfield Land / Previously-Developed Land - Previously-developed land is that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. It excludes agriculture or forestry land.

** Greenfield land - Land that has not been occupied by a permanent structure or any associated surface infrastructure, or does not fit into the definition of brownfield land.

However, for the purposes of the survey, they were categorised simply by appearance. In other words, if there was clear visual evidence that a site had previously been built on it was categorised as brownfield. If a site showed no evidence of earlier development it was greenfield – even though in some cases it was very likely that a building once stood there. This was supported with photographs taken at every site.

The overarching aim of the desk-based and on-site surveys was to provide the Chair and the Board with a more detailed understanding of where the provision of green and open space is making a positive contribution to the city and where it could be amended or improved. It also illustrated the variation in the equitable distribution of spaces in terms of the size, location and amenities available to different communities across the city, and raised questions over the ways in which the green and open spaces of Liverpool are used, funded and managed.

Consulting

Following the desk-based and on-site surveying, the Board organised a series of different consultation sources and events to enable the citizens of the city (and further afield) to comment on Liverpool's green and open spaces.

To consult as large a proportion of the city's population as possible, four approaches were taken. These were: public meetings; public and stakeholder workshops; representations to the Liverpool City Council Regeneration, Housing and Sustainability Select Committee, and the development and publishing of a Green and Open Spaces Review website.

• Public Meetings

Ten public meetings were organised across the city to gather comments and information from interested parties regarding the Review. Due to time constraints, each meeting was organised to cover three wards in the city. Although, the location of some meetings was criticised for being in specific wards (and not others), attempts were made to ensure that meetings were accessible to all.

The public meetings provided an opportunity for the Chair and members of the Board to explain the rationale for the Review and for them to receive comments, ideas, and recommendations about how Liverpool City Council and its partners could improve the management of the city's green and open spaces.

The outcome of the ten meetings was the collation of a wealth of local knowledge of the nature, value and problems of local green and open spaces, which were used by the Chair and the Board to inform subsequent stages of the work, such as the public and stakeholder workshops, and to shape this interim report.

The meetings had to be held in a short period of time to meet the constraints of local ward members due to *purdah*² and the timing of the 2015 General Election.

A full list of the meeting locations, dates and times can be found on the Review Board's website (Appendix 3).

• Public and Stakeholder Workshops

Following the public meetings, the Board spent time digesting the nature of the comments provided. A number of key recurring themes were identified within the feedback, which included how parks should be financed, how we seek to provide accessibility and equitability of green space across the city and the need to do things differently in the future. Based on this a further three public and stakeholder workshops were planned to discuss these in more detail.

The workshops were held in Croxteth Hall, the Palm House in Sefton Park, and the Isla Gladstone Conservatory in Stanley Park. The meetings were attended by invited guests who had registered an interest in participating in the workshops and were drawn from campaign groups, representatives of the local business and environment community, local people, school and university students, and the Chair, Council Members and Board.

Each workshop also received a number of representations from external speakers with expertise in the development, management and funding of green and open spaces (Appendices 4 - 6). These speakers were also asked to act as 'facilitators' of discussions based on three key themes: Finance (Croxteth Hall), Balance (Palm House, Sefton Park) and Innovation (Isla Gladstone Conservatory).

The discussions and feedback from the workshops were used by the Board to identify alternative options for the future development and management of the city's green and open spaces.

• Regeneration Housing and Sustainability Select Committee

To date the Chair of the Board has reported twice to the above Select Committee. At the first attendance, on 12th February 2015, the Chair responded to a number of public questions, outlined the scope of the work that the Board would be pursuing and gave assurances to members of the public in attendance that he would be consulting fully and planning to hold a number of public meetings to which they would be invited to contribute ideas and suggestions to assist the work of the Board.

At a subsequent Select Committee meeting on 18th June 2015, the Chair of the Board attended to listen to the committee debate a council submitted report on green space maintenance costs that included information on the scale of budget pressures facing the city and potential models for investment going forward. The Chair of the Board was invited to give an overview update of the work of the Review Board to date and responded to a number of questions from the committee and members of the public who were in attendance, inviting all to provide any ideas and contributions to the review process through the dedicated website. The minutes of both these public meetings are available in Appendices 7 and 8.

As of July/August 2015 the process of consultation for the Review is ongoing and will continue until the final report is delivered to the Mayor's Office and subsequently published.

² *Purdah* is the pre-election period in the United Kingdom, specifically the time between an announced election and the final election results. The time period prevents central and local government from making announcements about any new or controversial government initiatives (such as modernisation initiatives or administrative and legislative changes) which could be seen to be advantageous to any candidates or parties in the forthcoming election.



• Website(s)

At the commencement of the Review, Liverpool City Council developed a website where people could access information about the Chair, the Board and the Green and Open Space Review. This provided biographies of the Board, the Terms of Reference for the Review and information about forthcoming events. The website also allowed people to leave comments for the Board during the consultation process.

The Review Board's website is: liverpool.gov.uk/greenandopenspaces

In addition to gathering information directly from the Review Board website, the Board members have also requested that the data collected through the Council's website survey of parks and open spaces be made available, once complete. This will be used as further evidence for the Board.

• Visiting

NESTA VISITS

Alongside the public meetings and workshops and to support the evidence gathered through a desk-based analysis, a series of national visits was organised to a range of identified best practice organisations. The aim of these visits was to view alternative and, in many cases, successful operational and financial approaches for green and open space management and to identify models that might be partially or wholly transferrable to a Liverpool context.

The Chair of the Board was accompanied on these visits by members of the Board and council officers where appropriate.

The site visits were largely selected from the Nesta list. Nesta is a national innovation charity that has been chosen by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to engage 'exemplar' projects to find possible solutions to the issue of financing green and open spaces (nesta.org.uk/project/rethinking-parks). The Nesta site visits are ongoing.

ADDITIONAL VISITS

Additional visits and meetings were undertaken to support and inform the work. As well as several meetings with the Mayor and regular Board Meetings, the Chair has met a range of internal and external stakeholders to draw on the vast experience and knowledge base from within the city and around the country.

A full list of the completed visits and brief description of each made by the Chair and the Board can be found in Appendix 9. The Chair and the Board will continue to seek out and engage with further organisations and individuals with expertise and an interest in relevant areas over the coming months to supplement the review's evidence base.

Analysing and Reporting

All the evidence collected during the consultation process, in its many forms, has been used to support the discussions and recommendations made in the interim report. It will also be used to inform the ongoing development of the final report to ensure that the latter draws on a well sourced and robust evidence base, to ensure clarity and added transparency.

The following evidence section of this report identifies where issues currently exist in Liverpool and where innovative solutions could be investigated to ensure the city's green and open spaces are managed for the betterment of its population.

Evidence

From the beginning of 2015, the Chair and Board have been gathering evidence from local, national and international examples in order to understand what has been done, what must be done and what could be done to manage the city's green and open spaces.

The key evidence sources are outlined below.

Website

The Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board website has received over 160 comments so far (January 2015 - October 2015 inclusive). The Chair of the Board has personally read each comment using these to frame the focus of the Review. Each comment has subsequently been characterised on general issues (i.e. funding, focus or use) and on a ward-by-ward basis.

Public Meetings and Consultation

At ten public meetings throughout April and May 2015, members of the public were invited to suggest potential ideas and solutions regarding the maintenance and provision of green and open spaces throughout the city. They also discussed the balance of land use in the city and any concerns they had regarding the quality of its green and open spaces as the city's population expands. The meetings were advertised through a variety of means including the City Council intranet and internet, through the city's libraries, by Twitter to Friends of Parks Groups, via ward Councillors using ward mailing lists, by the hosting venues and via local radio. All press agencies in the north-west were also informed of the meetings.

There were approximately 600 registrations for the meetings. The meetings were minuted and will form part of the exhaustive evidence base presented in the final report. It should be noted that one public meeting for the Childwall, Belle Vale and Woolton wards held on Saturday 28th March 2015

fell within the Purdah period of the general elections so was recorded by a Board Member rather than a Liverpool City Council officer. The emerging messages from the public meetings were used to help inform the themes for the subsequent workshops.

There was some concern that the public meetings were not publicised sufficiently, so with the support of the Board it has been decided to hold three further strategic public meetings early in 2016. This will afford the opportunity for the public to engage further and provide feedback regarding the interim report.

Public and Stakeholder Workshops

In order to take advantage of the knowledge and talent found in and around the city, three themed workshops were held. These provided opportunities for many differing opinions to come together at the same table in a rational debate. The workshops were held at some high profile city park venues: Croxteth Hall (29th April), Palm House, Sefton Park (6th May) and the Isla Gladstone Conservatory in Stanley Park (13th May). The themes of the three workshops were 'Finance', 'Balance' and 'Innovation' respectively. The choice of these themes was heavily influenced by the comments and feedback received from the public meetings. Attendance at the workshops was by application or at the invitation of the Chair, and collectively the three workshops were able to accommodate everyone that expressed an interest to attend and contribute.

The workshops brought together a mix of interested parties including a significant number of the passionate people who attended the earlier public meetings; stakeholder organisations with a vested interest in green and open spaces; council officers with differing skills; undergraduate and postgraduate students from The University of Liverpool, Year 7 pupils from Holly Lodge School and a wide range of individuals and members of the public who had expressed an interest in attending.



Each workshop followed a similar format. Invited speakers provided a range of diverse insights into the particular theme and set the scene for the subsequent table discussions. The presentations can be found in Appendices 4 – 6. Each speaker then facilitated round table discussions with the attendees using a range of questions, visual and written prompts and articles to steer the discussion and capture the emerging thoughts of the participants. The suggestions and ideas were then analysed and collated so they could be reflected upon in this interim report. The feedback received was used to help clarify the various options available to the Board in the next stage of the review process.

Surveying and Mapping

The ongoing site surveys of all the green and open spaces within the city are being collated both on a ward by ward and citywide scale. The information gleaned at first hand is being used to produce and update a range of working maps and plans. Field observations and 3,000 photographic images are also being collated to form a valuable evidence base.

National Visits

The Board's visit list was created to examine different approaches for green space provision in light of the financial pressures being felt nationwide following central government cuts and included some Nesta sites. The Nesta sites are being supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) as exemplar projects that are investigating alternative financial models to the problem of financing parks and open spaces in the future.

The Chair of the Board was accompanied on these visits by members of the Board and council officers where appropriate. The current list of completed visits can be viewed in Appendix 9.

International Reviews and Case Studies

To inform fully the thinking of the Board additional 'desk-based' research was carried out on many examples of different practice from around the world most notably from Chicago, Tokyo, Berlin (Grun), and Los Angeles. Links to several of these models reviewed can be found in the evidence presented in the 'Rethinking Parks' website listed in the bibliography.

Stakeholder Meetings

As well as several meetings with the Mayor and regular Board meetings, the Chair has met a range of internal and external stakeholders to draw on the vast experience and knowledge base from within the city and around the country. A full list of these meetings can be found in Appendix 9.

The Chair and the Board will continue to seek out and engage with further organisations and individuals with expertise and an interest in relevant areas over the coming months to inform the review's findings.

Board Meetings

Throughout the review the Board has met regularly to discuss progress and exchange views. The Board has also received a number of presentations from various council officers and representatives of external organisations, which have helped to inform the understanding and thinking of the Board members. These presentations are available in the appendices to this report (Appendices 10 - 12).

Further details of the Board members and the review process can be found at: liverpool.gov.uk/greenandopenspaces.



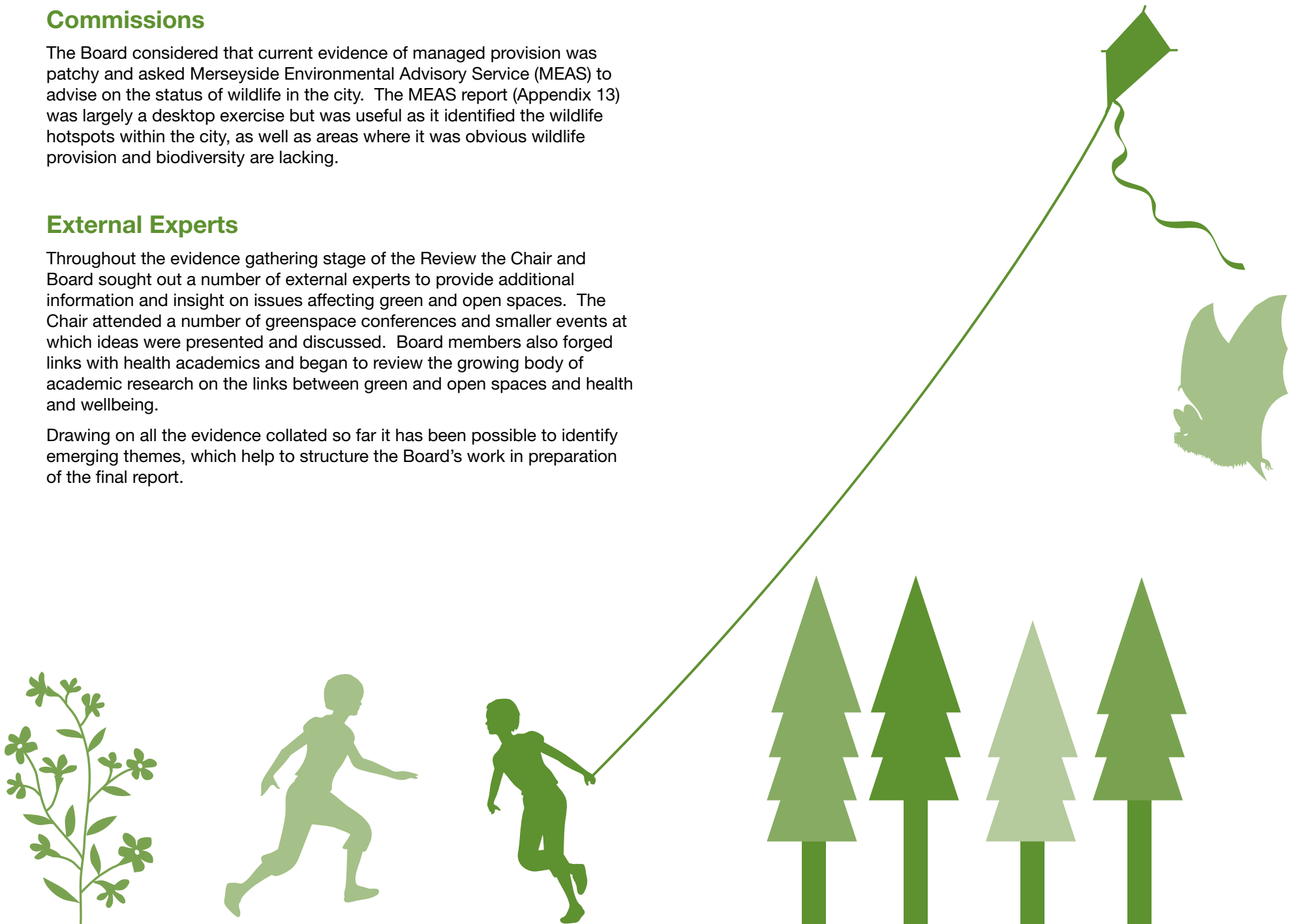
Commissions

The Board considered that current evidence of managed provision was patchy and asked Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) to advise on the status of wildlife in the city. The MEAS report (Appendix 13) was largely a desktop exercise but was useful as it identified the wildlife hotspots within the city, as well as areas where it was obvious wildlife provision and biodiversity are lacking.

External Experts

Throughout the evidence gathering stage of the Review the Chair and Board sought out a number of external experts to provide additional information and insight on issues affecting green and open spaces. The Chair attended a number of greenspace conferences and smaller events at which ideas were presented and discussed. Board members also forged links with health academics and began to review the growing body of academic research on the links between green and open spaces and health and wellbeing.

Drawing on all the evidence collated so far it has been possible to identify emerging themes, which help to structure the Board's work in preparation of the final report.



Interim recommendations



There are, as a consequence of the extensive evidence collection process, a number of recommendations, which can be made at this stage, that will enable the Board to investigate practical solutions and seek to engage further with stakeholders from all walks of life. The other purpose of these interim recommendations is to allow the Review Board to work within clearly defined areas, as the final report is prepared.

The work to date and interim recommendations are reported under the following headings which cover both the identified Business Objectives for the Board and address the Decision and Activity Areas outlined in the Terms of Reference.

- **Engagement** – website feedback; public meetings and consultation; public and stakeholder workshops; national visits; international reviews and case studies; Stakeholder meetings; Board meetings.
- **Accessibility** – public parks; sports provision; woodland; play areas and parks with play provision; nature reserves, greenbelt and local wildlife areas; blue space/water; allotments; incidental spaces; brownfield sites; green corridors and connectivity.
- **Finance** – general: balancing the books, cost reduction, increasing income; a different financial approach: in house; park trust; partnership; referendum; city region approach.
- **Health** – general health and wellbeing, protection from harmful exposures, promoting physical activity, promoting social interaction and cohesion, health partnerships and funding.
- **Planning**.

Engagement

Chair's Comment:

I have been inspired by the voluntary organisations using and improving the city's green and open spaces.

Further work will be undertaken by the Board to seek ways of drawing on the inspirational characters and groups such as Treehouse, Rotunda and the Southern Neighbourhood Community Centre already enriching the city's green and open spaces. This will help these organisations, and others, to connect with like-minded people and continue to encourage further community involvement in the future.

As well as the established lines of communication through Ward Councillors, MPs, and community groups, there is already a structure in place through the Friends of Parks network for people to engage in the provision and care of their local parks and other green and open spaces. All of these lines of communication are dependent on the veracity and commitment of the individuals involved. In some cases they work very well and in others they are difficult to negotiate.

What has become clear during the public meetings, workshops and meetings is that there is no accepted single approach to find out about and engage in the use of green and open spaces. In one ward, a community allotment flourishes and, in another, the desire to start one exists, but the inspiration and help, which could be transferred from one group to the other and back again, does not always happen.

One desirable outcome through the work of the Review Board is to identify and implement methods to engage positively with stakeholders in our green and open spaces with a view to maintaining sustainably, making decisions about and utilising these spaces. It is therefore important that we have meaningful involvement from all key stakeholders (in specific areas) to work with the strategy group initially and then the local authority in the longer term, to make the right decisions for their areas and become advocates for transparent decision making with regard to green and open spaces.

The first stage is about ‘joining up’ all stakeholders to ‘talk’ and ‘engage’ in a timely and formal manner. Existing relationships with, for example, local authority and Friends Groups exist (and are fruitful partnerships built over many years) but often have no formal recording of meetings and actions.

Engagement – Interim Recommendation:

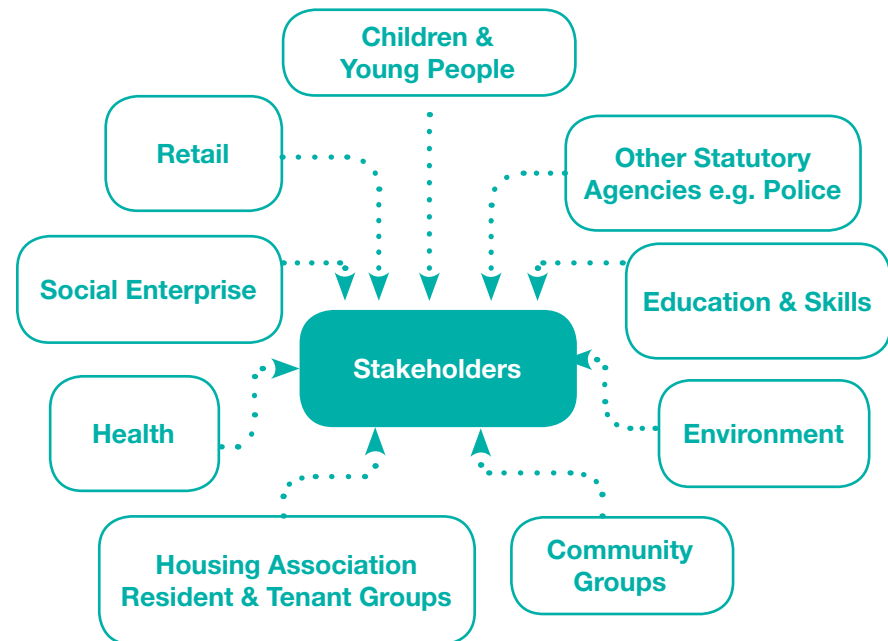
Identify and create positive engagement across groups to create platforms for sustainable regeneration in our city and develop local plans that are designed and owned by local Councillors, residents, community groups and local stakeholders with support from the local authority. Support capacity building of community groups, which will be essential to ensure the successful delivery and sustainability of future green space programmes, to aid ‘buy in’ from those involved and to assist in alleviating any concerns of the communities affected.

To support this process the Review Board is working towards designing and implementing a number of procedures, including a communications strategy, stakeholder strategy, research strategy and consultation procedures as well as roles and responsibilities.

Therefore, it is recommended that the local authority works towards the creation of a ‘Green and Open Spaces Ambassadors Programme’ which will provide sustainable engagement, active involvement at community level and support for the local authority in future years (with perhaps existing members of the Review Board initially forming a steering group on a voluntary basis to take this forward).

The following figure outlines potential stakeholder groups with whom engagement should be undertaken:

Figure 2. Potential Stakeholder groups to Include in Developing the Engagement Strategy



Engagement – Interim Recommendation:

The local authority and partners work towards the creation of a ‘Green and Open Spaces Ambassadors Programme’ which will provide sustainable engagement, active involvement at community level and support for the local authority in future years.

Chair's Comment:

It is worth noting that, despite the evidence presented in public meetings and workshops, communities do not always feel they are told the facts about the management of the city's landscape and that 'promises' are not always kept. It is essential that when engaging with the community on such issues that the Council is seen to be transparent and factual in its presentation and does what it says it will do.

Equality and Accessibility

The following section summarises the evidence gathered to date regarding the citywide provision of all types of green and open space, and makes interim recommendations for their management, as well as providing a signpost for 'further work'.

Public Parks

On the whole the people of Liverpool live within a city with a wide-range of diverse and high quality public parks. Generally, ours is a city with good access to maintained parkland. This means Liverpool could be viewed as an exemplar city and we should do everything we can to maintain our open space and balance of green and open space with urban development if the city is to reinforce its aspirations to be a first class European city welcoming to business, visitors and new residents.

However, the distribution of these sites is uneven across the city. There are pockets in the City Centre (Riverside), Old Swan, Edge Lane area, Speke and Yewtree where the distance between people's homes or places of work to a public park of high quality could be considered to be too far.

The distribution of high quality public parks and green space is not balanced. In the north of the city the number of parks is equal to those of south Liverpool, however, the location, accessibility and quality of these spaces is more variable. For example in Kirkdale there are 89 incidental space or amenity grassland sites, which is the highest of any ward in the city. Unfortunately, the ward also has the lowest amount of park space in the city suggesting that the physical environment may not encourage people to use outdoor spaces.

The varying state and distribution of the city's parks and incidental spaces makes it difficult for some communities to access high quality green space. There is also a general public perception that the overall quality of the green and open spaces in the north of the city falls below the standards achieved in the south of the city and this perceived 'north-south divide' was a recurring issue at meetings and workshops.

For clarity, definitions of parks, gardens, and other green spaces can be found in Appendix 14.

Chair's Comment:

People at the public meetings made it clear that many of the city's residents felt strongly about open space issues local to them, however, there were several key issues that were repeated across the city. These included the quality versus the quantity of accessible green and open space; the 'ever changing urban landscape', a vocalised citywide groundswell of concern that all parks and green spaces are 'under threat' or 'earmarked for development', coupled with a call to 'use brownfield sites for development'.

When conducting my surveys I was surprised at the difference in the quality of maintenance between parks in the north and south of the city.



Public Parks – Interim Recommendation:

The city should make a commitment to raise the quality of green and open spaces in the north of the city so they are deemed to be comparable to those in the south of the city.

Website comments were also varied but weighted heavily towards ‘don’t build on parks’.

The Open Space Study commissioned by the Council (Atkins, 2005) recommended three quantitative standards for natural and semi-natural greenspace that should be included in the Local Development Framework:

- 1 hectare of natural or semi-natural greenspace per 1,000 population;
- All residents in the city should have access to a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2 hectares in size within 300 metres of home; and
- All residents in the city should have access to a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 20 hectares in size within 2 kilometres of home

Liverpool is just over the recommended 1 hectare per 1,000 population figure at 1.12 hectares per 1,000 population.

The accessible Green and Open Space Standards (ANGSt) released by Natural England and other partners identified similar findings, stating that if people were forced to walk over 5-10 minutes from their home to a green or open space then their use of the space would decrease.

As the city’s population expands the provision and location of its parks could decrease if land is repurposed for housing or commercial development. It may therefore be appropriate to place a cap on the denigration of park provision in order to retain the city’s green and attractive character that encourages people to settle, visit and do business in Liverpool.

The financial case for the city developing on green and open spaces will be discussed in more detail in the finance section and will feature in further work. However, a blanket opposition to any development in or on open space could restrict the ability of the city or private developers to bring

back into use the buildings and ‘brownfield’ space within parks, which may lend themselves to small scale development and commercial opportunities. There may also be occasions when community and health infrastructure may be introduced into green spaces in order to give parks more purpose. The Board may identify some areas within parks suitable for development in order to capitalise one or more of the possible financial models identified in the ‘further work’, financial section of this report.

Everton Park is intentionally excluded from the following recommendation as it has already been identified as a National NESTA model and The Land Trust are progressing a new management and funding model with local stakeholders and community groups. The Chair has been in regular contact with The Land Trust and will continue to be so as the project develops (Appendix 15).

Public Parks – Interim Recommendation:

With the exception of Everton Park, the Board strongly recommends that all public parks should be withdrawn immediately from SHLAA lists, and ‘Call for Site’ lists permanently and the Chair and all Board Members be kept closely informed of any parks which are included under regeneration and development agendas until the final report of the Strategic Green and Open Space Review Board is complete.

Sports Provision

Whilst recognising that Liverpool is a football mad city the completion of the Liverpool Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) also incorporates the locations and requirements of other sports pitches e.g. cricket, rugby league, rugby union and hockey. This strategy has identified that there is spare playing pitch capacity in some areas across the city but there is also overplay on some sites. Therefore there is a need for access to better quality playing pitches to meet unmet and future demand.

The predominant outdoor sport in Liverpool is football with over 80% of games being played on local authority or voluntary sector managed playing

field facilities i.e. not public parks. There are approximately 21 leagues providing opportunities to play competitive football in Liverpool. This equates to 140 grass football pitches across 30 playing pitch sites.

A presentation made to the Board by the City Council showed that, in 2013/14, the expenditure on football was circa £1.35m p.a. and income was approximately £65,000. The £1.35m budget was predicated on the ongoing budget provision. Therefore, in order to plan beyond 2014, the City Council put forward proposals for alternative methods of delivery and management for football. This equates to a three year budget reduction of approximately 45%. The outline 2015/16 net cost is approximately £700,000 p.a, which includes costs to maintain grass and existing artificial pitches, utilities (i.e. gas, water and electricity), and pavilion management.

The City Council is currently working in partnership with the FA to secure significant investment to deliver several strategically located football hub sites across the city and to explore plans relative to the future sustainability of football across the city. Therefore in partnership with the City Council, The FA has agreed to lead a practical piece of work to set out an alternative delivery model for the City with a view to completing a report in the autumn.

Woodland

At a University of Liverpool/Heseltine Institute organised event held in the city on the 29th January 2015 attended by the Chair, woodlands were identified as being the most beneficial green and open space with regard to mental wellbeing. Woodlands, once matured, are also cost effective with regard to maintenance (Appendix 16). Furthermore, if managed correctly, woodlands can become a source of income, as will be evidenced in the later financial section of this interim report.

Chair's Comment:

Mature mixed deciduous woodland is also incredibly beneficial with regard to urban wildlife. A single Oak tree can be home to 80 different species of fauna.

To the south of the city, managed mature public woodland with easy access can be found at the Black Woods, Childwall Woods, Camp Hill, Alder Plantation and Woodlands, as well as, at other sites. Around the fringes to the east of the city, mature open woodland can be found in and around Croxteth Country Park and Higher Lane. In Fazakerley the local Nature Reserve is a developing woodland and meadow area.

No such provision is found to the eastern, central or northern areas of the city centre.

Woodland – Interim Recommendation:

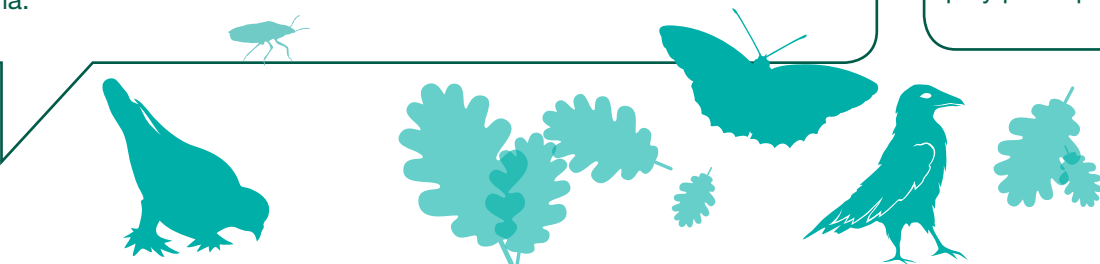
To identify two sites of approximately 2 hectares in size one to the north of the city centre and one in the eastern core of Liverpool to create new public woodland.

Play Areas and Parks with Play Provision

In 2002 the City Council's Play Policy recognised that there were areas of shortfall in play provision. At the time, the level of revenue funds available was able to support 50 play areas across the city and the Play Policy identified that this would be sufficient to provide a play area within 1km of almost every household.

Chair's Comment:

Whilst some wards are fairly well provisioned, on a citywide scale there are discrepancies in the provision of green and open space across the city. This is evident in the lack of provision of parks with play areas, which the Board considered to be inadequate in many parts of the city. Other core cities such as Leeds and Sheffield, for example, have around twice as many play parks per head than Liverpool.



There are currently 48 formal play areas across the city and these are required to meet minimum standards for play. Some play areas are now over 20 years old and replacement of these sites must be considered a priority. In seeking to ensure wider coverage, there is a need to continue to maintain the existing playground assets if the current standard of provision is to be maintained. Some of the city's existing play areas are in a state of decline and planned investment will be needed to maintain these.

Between 2002-04, £263,000 of Liverpool City Council capital funding was invested in the renewal and refurbishment of the city's existing play areas. Since then, funding has been directed to the delivery of new fitness trails, outdoor gyms, Multi Use Games Areas, 2 new play areas and delivery of the Playbuilder Programme; a government initiative which funded the development of 13 new 'Natural Play' facilities in the city's parks. As a consequence, increased pressure has been placed on the revenue budget as attempts are made to extend the life of the existing facilities, some of which are approaching the limits of economic repair.

The distribution and quality of provision is uneven. Some parks have high quality and well-used provision such as Calderstones and lower Everton Valley. In other areas, it is a different story. The combined wards of Norris Green and Clubmoor, home to around 20,000 people do not possess a public play park which includes swings or a roundabout, although they do have slides and/or a mound of earth. In a progressive city, the provision of parks with play provision should be a clear civic objective, especially if we are to embed within the city's children and young people a love of the landscape and outdoor environment.

Child obesity continues to rise and lifestyle habits are formed early. Play parks introduce children to exercise at a formative stage. Norris Green and Clubmoor have some of the highest sedentary lifestyle health issues in the city and some of the worst provision of amenities.

Consequently, any play area investment programme will need both to address gaps in provision and to focus on replacing equipment so that current levels of play value on these sites can be maintained.

Play areas and parks with play provision – Interim Recommendation:

Council officers to carry out a citywide survey of current outdoor play provision in parks and open spaces to assess quality and accessibility.

Officers also to provide a full review of costs for a maintenance, replacement and improvement programme and to investigate how this can be funded.

Nature Reserves, Greenbelt and the Local Wildlife Areas

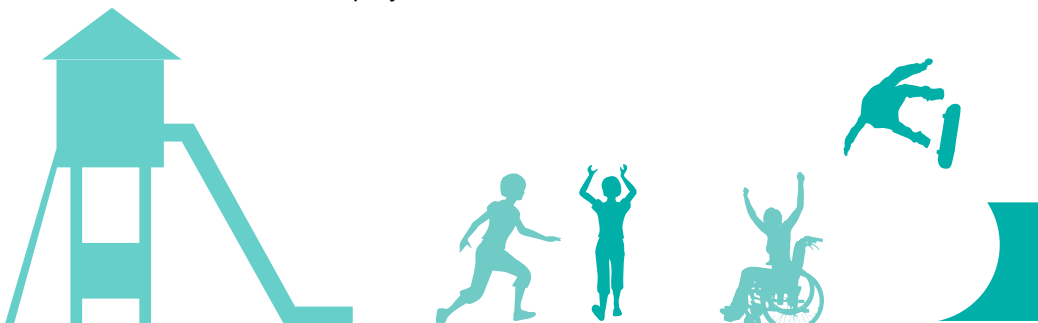
Historically, the City Council has worked with the Mersey Forest and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust to manage biodiversity activities but the Board considered that current evidence of managed provision was patchy and, as already noted, asked Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) to advise on the status of wildlife in the city. The MEAS report (Appendix 13) was largely a desktop exercise but was useful as it identified the wildlife hotspots within the city, as well as, areas where it was obvious wildlife provision and biodiversity are lacking.

The City of Liverpool has 4 formally designated Local Nature Reserves and 4 other recognised nature reserves. As well as these reserves the city has significant areas of greenbelt; two to the east bordering Knowsley and Oglet Shore to the south bounded by Liverpool John Lennon Airport and the Mersey Estuary RAMSAR site; a wetland of international importance. Over many years, as the airport has developed and more space has been brought into use as employment land between Garston shore and the city's boundaries, the Oglet wildlife diversity has decreased.

One of the city's most valuable but least known about natural assets is the Speke and Garston Coastal Reserve. The Reserve is managed and maintained by the Speke and Garston Coastal Reserve Management Company Limited, a company set up and funded by the Peel Group who also own the land.

Nature Reserves, Green belt & Local Wildlife Areas – Interim Recommendation:

Council Officers to continue working with the Coastal Reserve Steering Group to support the continued development, use and enjoyment of the reserve.



Within the city there is also only a small area of farmland and open heathland remaining. This type of land has an important role to play with regard to wildlife diversity within the city, as it acts as both a buffer between urban areas and countryside and as a facilitator of wildlife corridors. The 'Green Corridors' work of this review (see page 32) would go some way to creating an informed balance between our understanding of wildlife needs and the current provision within Liverpool, but more work needs to be done on all levels to achieve this aim.

There is evidence of pressure from adjacent Local Authorities to develop the green belt and it will be important that such applications are properly assessed within the due process of plan-making as to whether each and every site should or should not be brought forward for development.

Nature Reserves, Green belt & Local Wildlife Areas

– Interim Recommendations:

- Further evidence to be investigated to understand the management requirements necessary for developing and safeguarding biodiversity.
- All Greenbelt areas should be removed from 'Call for Sites' and retain protected status from all types of development until the completion of the final report of this Strategic Review.

Blue Space/Water

The River Mersey and water frontage is the front door to the city and is the main reason why Liverpool exists. It is also the largest and most high profile open space asset in Liverpool, as recently demonstrated by the 'Three Queens' event attended by over a million people.

The continuing development of the cruise liner terminal will have a major impact on the city's waterfront economically and socially and the number of events currently held on the river could increase. As an open space resource, the River Mersey is still under-utilised. There may also be a significant potential for the city to make use of the river and the dock as a

source of power production. However, that topic is vast in its own right and except to say that the city should continue to investigate such opportunities it will not be further evidenced in this document.

Centrally, Liverpool's dock area is host to some key tourist attractions and event spaces. Collectively, these generate a heavy footfall and make an important contribution to the local economy. The waterfront area, its docks and quaysides also provide a number of other multi-purpose benefits which include the provision of leisure and recreational space and the protection against on-shore sea storm surges provided by the external dock walls. The area is also well used by local residents and city visitors for both walking and cycling.

Chair's Comment:

Merseyside Maritime Museum is keen to revitalise a quayside open space lying next to the Graving Dock at Canning Dock. The Museum had planning permission for such a scheme but could not fulfil those ambitions due to lack of funding. There is a real opportunity to combine both the Mayor's priority to 'green' the city centre and the museums wish to repurpose the under-utilised quayside to create [a] floating park[s] and dockside green space.

Blue Space – Interim Recommendation:

The Mayor to catalyse and reinvigorate discussions with Liverpool Maritime Museum and other dockside partners to collaborate on a redrafted plan for Graving Dock Quayside which should include significant green space provision.



In addition to the many benefits of a coastline, the city also has one river; the Alt, and a number of freshwater ponds and small lakes within its parks and green spaces. Historically, the majority of small brooks and streams have been culverted over the years as the city has developed and many ponds and water bodies have been infilled due to development or health and safety concerns. The infilling of water bodies and the culverting of old waterways, together with the loss of natural landscape features that previously helped to protect the city from flooding, result in Liverpool being recognised as having the fourth highest surface water flood risk in the UK.

Ponds and water bodies in parks and open spaces were often previously established or formed to accommodate ground water run-off from surrounding local development and served a valuable flood alleviation purpose. This beneficial function of ponds and water bodies is becoming increasingly important and recognised as the city regenerates and develops.

Most rainwater drains from properties into public sewers, which are owned by the ten water and sewerage companies in England and Wales. The water companies are responsible for removing and processing this rainwater and it's estimated to cost about £600 million a year to provide this service. Water companies have now decided to levy landowners for surface water drainage and this now presents an on-going future cost to the City Council as a major landowner of Parks and Cemeteries. Although these proposed charges have been successfully challenged by the Council and have been significantly reduced, with increasing austerity for councils there may still be a strong financial argument for local authorities to investigate the potential for Parks and Cemeteries to manage their own surface water more sustainably. Possible solutions to this could be installing soakaways and changing impermeable surfaces to permeable ones. However, in order for the charge to be removed completely, the site has to be disconnected from the main sewer.

Blue Space – Interim Recommendation:

Based on the financial burden of surface water drainage charges, balanced against the cost of any future investment, the Council should investigate the potential for investment in sustainable drainage systems rather than continue to pay United Utilities for processing surface water drainage.

Environmentally, the loss of ponds and water bodies through development or culverting has reduced the ability of species to migrate between sites and fragmented and threatened some aquatic populations. It is widely accepted and promoted by the Environment Agency, Canal and Rivers Trust and other wildlife organisations that clean, oxygenated habitats are essential to encourage biodiversity and support aquatic life.

CANALS

To the north of the city centre, the Leeds-Liverpool canal has been the hub of the regeneration of parts of Kirkdale and beyond. This 'blue-green' corridor is vital to the continued regeneration of the north of the city and to progress the idea of connective green corridors. The Council should consider the future linkage of this waterway with the major city-scale development at Liverpool Waters.

Blue Space – Interim Recommendation:

The Council should consider the future linkage of the Leeds Liverpool Canal with the major city-scale development at Liverpool Waters.

PONDS AND LAKES

Water features can have a transformative impact on green and open spaces. Larkhill Park in north Liverpool is made a more attractive public park due to its lake. Furthermore, although the aesthetic quality of water features in parks is well known to their users, there are also economic values as well.

Fishing is a popular recreational pastime in the city's parks and open spaces and the participants often act as unofficial environmental custodians of sites, and are eager to protect and improve these facilities. An opportunity exists for some sites to have a managed fishery, perhaps run as a social enterprise that will bring in revenue to the city and improve and enhance the existing fishery and aquatic habitat.

Similarly, larger water bodies e.g. the lake in Sefton Park lend themselves to some managed recreational boating.

Further work is needed to see if there are other opportunities to use the city's blue space as a source of revenue.



OTHER WATERWAYS

The New Alt Park is an excellent example of how the city's watercourses, such as the River Alt, can be used as an aesthetic and functional route for people, water management and for wildlife. However, Fazakerley Brook is, for example, separated from the public parkland by a fence which limits its integration within the park. The Environment Agency has been working nationally on a programme to de culvert waterways wherever possible in order to mitigate flood risk. The impact of this work has seen uplift in the local area and property values due to reduced flooding. Furthering our understanding of such process would also link in to any Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) development needed around the city.

Blue Space – Interim Recommendations:

- To provide a more attractive landscape and an increased number of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) the Council should investigate the feasibility of deculverting underground waterways and the introduction of ponds and lakes into the city's smaller parks.
- To investigate the use of waterways, starting with the River Alt, as a traffic free corridor, linking the resources with the wider 'Green Corridors' work (see Green Corridors section, [page 32](#)).
- The Board will seek to identify the possibilities of delivering further regeneration projects such as the River Alt realignment that have multiple benefits in this process in Liverpool.

Allotments

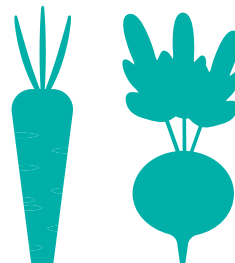
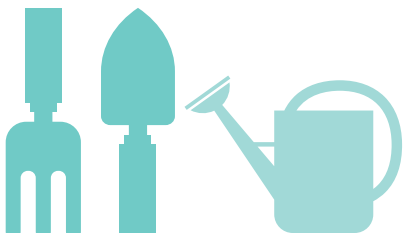
There is mixed demand for allotments across the city, with some having extra capacity and some with long waiting lists. The city's first new allotments for 70 years at Parkhill are a good example of how a green space can be repurposed and the community fully engaged with the development.

Allotments – Interim Recommendation:

The Board to work with the Allotment Associations to investigate further provision and possible increased mixed-use and greater accessibility of council allotments.

Incidental Spaces

As well as the public parks and larger open spaces, Liverpool has, more than most other cities, a significant proportion of 'incidental' green and open spaces largely left over from historical population decline. For the purpose of this report, the term 'incidental space' is taken to mean land that is not classified under an alternative green space category (i.e. park or nature reserve), sometimes associated with areas of amenity grassland, derelict sites, under-utilised spaces-post development or areas of informal ecological growth.



Chair's Comment:

Since 2005, Liverpool has lost around 120 hectares of incidental open space (4% of the total open space area). The football pitch my amateur team won the league on is now houses. Those houses are now happy homes but every time I pass them I feel a twinge of sadness. Whilst some loss is inevitable as the city develops such loss should be very carefully managed in order to keep Liverpool an attractive place to live and visit.

Some incidental spaces have been intentionally designed into the fabric of suburbs and estates, whilst many have appeared as clearances of commercial and residential buildings have taken place. There are even those which are the scars of the Blitz. Some of these are important and welcoming spaces within the urban landscape. Others appear to serve little purpose as they feel like exclusionary spaces that are unwelcoming.

Due to their fragmented nature, incidental spaces are disproportionately expensive to maintain. As budgets continue to be reduced the care of these spaces is very likely to suffer, so other options must be explored. Derwent Square in Old Swan is one example of an incidental space, which has no cost to the city, as it is managed by local residents. In other areas Housing Associations have taken over the care of such spaces: Acrehurst Park in Belle Vale is one example of this. There may also be the potential to create areas of wild flowers on a proportion of the city's 'meanwhile' and 'incidental' spaces, where appropriate; such as the regime introduced at Burnley Council, although the cost of managing such projects to a high standard may be restrictive in spite of the aesthetic qualities they provide.

Possibilities also exist to develop some of the city's incidental spaces to improve the overall standard and provision of green corridors. The proposed development of a 'Green Corridor' vision by the Board could support this process.

Some incidental spaces have been repurposed as 'meanwhile spaces' by community groups with the help of Liverpool City Council and others for use as community gardens and other environmental projects. People invest passion, time and effort into these spaces. However, there is sometimes a lack of understanding regarding the temporary nature of these meanwhile spaces, which may already have planning permission for development.

Chair's Comment:

Highlighting this dilemma, a city councillor, was very keen to show the Chair a meanwhile community growing project located on a former fly-tipping site. The councillor made it very clear that the community knew this was a 'temporary meanwhile' project. However, a member of the community group approached and the Chair asked if they would mind when the site was eventually developed. The response was immediate "Over my dead body!" The 'meanwhile space' philosophy needs to be addressed very carefully to ensure that all members of the community, developers and the Council are aware of the timeframes associated with meanwhile spaces.

Incidental Spaces – Interim Recommendations:

- The Chair has identified two potential incidental spaces, one in the north of the city and one in the south that could potentially be transferred to the local community. The Mayor and the Chair aim to engage, via ward councillors, the local communities surrounding Menlove Gardens in Church Ward and East Circle in Clubmoor ward to discuss potential alternative management models to maintain these spaces in the long-term.
- The Chair and Board to be kept informed of all planning applications regarding incidental spaces as the review continues.



Brownfield

The city is pockmarked with 'brownfield' sites of all types and sizes and whilst not attractive in most cases, they are the most important land in the city. They hold the answer to the city's future growth and equity of provision for everything from housing to wildlife. The Chair with the assistance of council officers is currently categorising these sites. With regard to land use and housing, this review is uncompromising with regard to the adoption of a 'brownfield first' philosophy; but also recognises that not all brownfield sites will be viable and that a degree of pragmatism will need to be applied when assessing their future viability for development.

Green Corridors and Connectivity

The most important proposed new strategy within this document relates to the identification and extension of a series of corridors for walking, cycling and the linking of wildlife areas. Each piece of green and open space has a part to play in the proposed 'Green Corridors' network of the city and it is the detailed purposing of the patchwork of differing open spaces which will define this work on green corridors and their connectivity.

Chair's Comment:

Whilst it has some antisocial stigma attached, the Liverpool Loop Line provides the only coherent link between the north, east and south of the city. Otterspool Promenade and Gardens and the Garden Festival site go some way to linking the south to the centre of the city. Indeed for cycling and walking provision this route is truly connective but lacks the same value in respect of wildlife cohesion.

From the north the Leeds-Liverpool Canal provides a key route for people and wildlife (to a degree), but becomes fractured on approach to the city centre. Starting at the east of the city only the most adventurous of people and fleetest of wildlife can negotiate its length and enter the city centre without risk. Other wildlife corridors are mainly provided by domestic gardens, railway embankments, brownfield sites and to a lesser degree roadside verges and central reservations.

Chair's Comment:

When I was surveying the Everton Ward I spotted a bird of prey hunting rabbits less than ¼ of a mile from the city centre, demonstrating how wildlife remains in the urban core making use of the abundance of brownfield, incidental sites and parks. However, Liverpool could be considered to be less advanced in its thinking compared to some European cities which interlink different areas of the city with green and traffic free routes such as in Copenhagen (Denmark) or Utrecht (The Netherlands). Successive cycle strategies for the city have previously led to little tangible change in the development of a clear network of cycling and walking infrastructure.

The 'Citybike' scheme has been a good addition to the transport mix of Liverpool, but more could be done to ensure that the Cycle Strategy delivers a coherent cycle network. Only truly segregated cycle routes will encourage all sections of society to cycle more. Recent developments such as the Leeds Street route indicate a progressive attitude and the proposals put before the Regeneration Committee by the Highways Department illustrate how cycling and green transport options can be integrated into development plans. Further plans for the Strand and Regent Road with the possible inclusion of one of the city centre flyovers are also to be applauded and are further examples of the possibilities open to the city (Appendix 17).



The Chair's site-by-site survey identified the skeleton of a green wildlife and traffic free corridor network. Liverpool's parks form the stepping stones and the wasteland and cleared sites can be used as key links joining the green space hubs.

A coherent network would also give parks an enhanced purpose as they would give increased access and connectivity to people's homes, places of work and other recreational sites. Parks with busy pedestrian and cycling thoroughfares are friendlier to more vulnerable users.

Green Corridors and Connectivity – Interim Recommendation:

Chair to work with Head of Planning using GIS to identify and map green corridor network and flag sites for provision throughout the city.

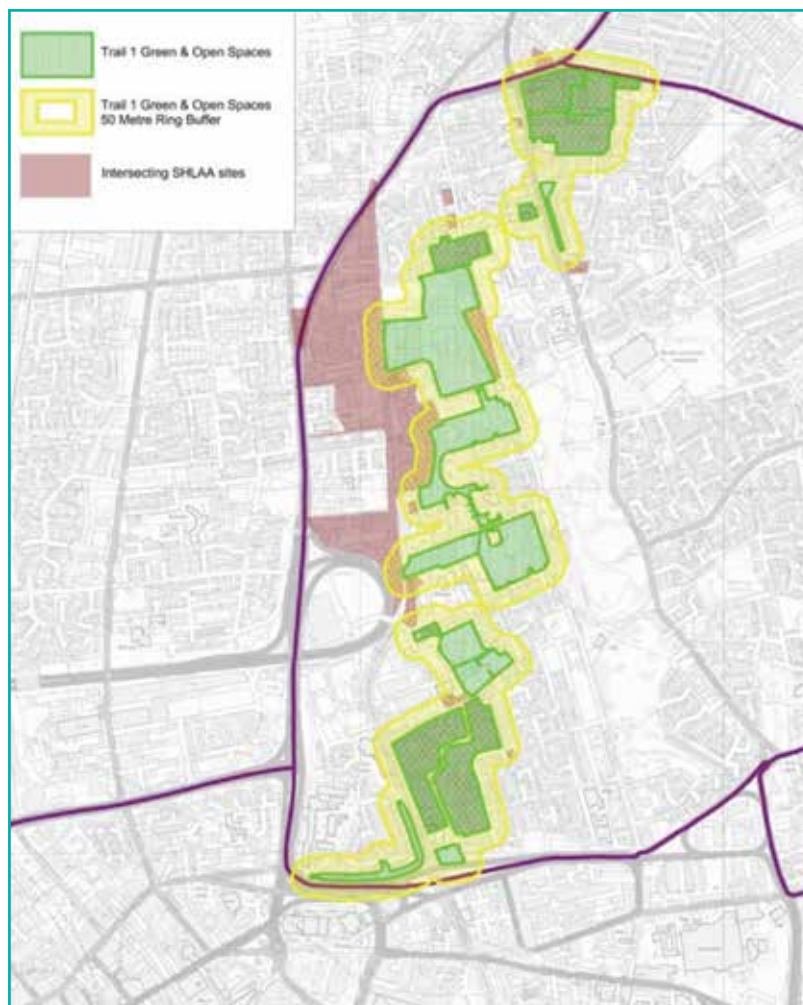
The following is a single ward example, which demonstrates how sites of green and open space can collectively be linked to form green corridors and improve connectivity.

Working with council officers and GIS mappers, a pilot proposal for a revised green system for Everton has been developed. This makes use of the existing framework and highlights how it can be linked to possible development sites to create a long-term practical human and ecological solution for the city's mobility. Moreover, it can be achieved without the need for additional finances from the City Council as it could use planning powers to place the emphasis for the development of added infrastructure on developers who will be presented with a coherent plan with regard to any development levy. Figure 3 is a mapped example of Everton Ward as one strand of the network, which illustrates how sites within Everton Valley can be viewed as a connective network. This includes current SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) sites and existing brownfield spaces.

Figure 3: Liverpool's Green Corridors and Proposed Everton Greenway/Cycleway:



© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100018351



With regard to additional green corridor provision in the city centre, one idea has caught the imagination of the Chair, the Board and those people attending workshops above others. The ‘Friends of the Flyover’ proposal for the greening of one (or both) of the Dale Street and Tithebarn Street flyovers is both imaginative and practical. It is this kind of project that

would make a significant and immediate change to the green and open space of Liverpool city centre and could resonate on a global scale as a best-practice example of innovative green space planning. If considered alongside other forward thinking plans such as the greening of the Knowledge Quarter it could catapult Liverpool up the environmental city rankings and form the focus of both an extended northern and eastern green corridor route.

Pulled together with the co-operation of central government, Merseytravel, Local Health Partners, Registered Providers and Developers green corridors, alongside new funding arrangements, should be the most significant legacy of this review of green and open spaces.

Green Corridors and Connectivity – Interim Recommendations:

- The Mayor to engage with the ‘Friends of the Flyover’ project and others, to gather and understand the viability of the ideas and proposals being made.
- As Liverpool once more prospers, there is a significant opportunity for the City Council and other agencies, such as Merseytravel or Sustrans, to put in place a coherent plan that creates the initial grid of a citywide green corridor network. This should be explored to ensure that there is adequate provision to protect and encourage the city’s wildlife to populate the incidental habitats in the city.

Chair’s Comment:

Whilst travelling around the city and further afield I have seen many surprising uses of green and open space. These include urban paddocking for horses, bee hives on incidental land, lavender crops, vegetable patches in supermarket car parks and even a farm in a cemetery. All of these and any other new suggestions have their place within the future mix of our unbuilt environment and will continue to be investigated by the Board.

Finance

Central to the work of the Review is the threat that Liverpool City Council may have no funding available to continue financing its green and open spaces in the future. The budgetary cuts from central government, outlined in the background to this report, are forcing the Council to reconsider how it works with contractors, developers and communities to identify new ways of ensuring the city's landscape remains attractive, accessible and functional.

The entire provision of maintained green and open spaces, which includes the maintenance of all other public open spaces including roadside grass verges and sports fields in Liverpool costs approximately 2% of the City Council's budget. Parks maintenance costs account for about half of this; costing less than 1% of the entire council budget.

It has been reported and evidenced by senior council officers that, within the next 2 years, continued government funding cuts would seriously reduce the money to fund the provision of non-statutory services such as green space provision and maintenance.

At present, pending the next Comprehensive Spending Review and future council budget allocations, the short and long term funding position for non-statutory services remains uncertain and parks provision and maintenance continue to be 'at risk'.

Although the City Council has already started reviewing its budgetary commitments and continues to review the situation, the ongoing need for further cuts has exacerbated the situation and it is clear that action must be taken by the Mayor, the Council and all those interested in the quality of life in our city to avert a serious decline in the quality of the urban environment around us.

Board members have been tasked with collating information and investigating further the current financial situation faced by the City Council.

Glendale Liverpool Limited (currently responsible for approximately two thirds of the maintenance contracts for green spaces in financial terms) has provided evidence via various documents and presentations that demonstrate the budgetary savings it has successfully achieved during the last three years and has also outlined additional projected cuts for the next two years. The remaining one-third of green and open space maintenance is delivered by Enterprise Liverpool Limited.

Table 2: Liverpool City Council Green Space Maintenance Costs

Budget Type:	Budget: 2013/14	2014/15:	2015/16:	2016/17 Current Provisional Allocation:	2017/18* Pending Allocation:	Beyond* 2018/19 Pending Allocation:
Parks: (Glendale Liverpool Limited)	£6,798,840	£5,060,117	£4,748,840	£4,388,840	£?*	£?*
Green Spaces: (including corridors and highways verges) Enterprise Liverpool Limited	£3,271,800	£3,271,800	£2,771,800	£2,271,800	£?*	£?*
Croxteth Hall: (service costs offset by income)	£1.945m net budget	£1.847m net budget	£1.403m net budget	£1.470m net budget	Zero. Plan to have alternative provider	Zero. Plan to have alternative provider
Total Costs:	£12,015,640	£10,178,917	£8,923,640	£8,130,640	£?*	£?*

£?* - These figures are unavailable until the Council receives its funding allocation from central government. Given the anticipated further cuts, the funding values here could fall to zero by 2017/18.



As evidenced above, the budget provision for the maintenance of parks and green spaces has significantly reduced over the last three years and work is ongoing to remove the cost burden associated with Croxteth Hall and Country Park. All future funding allocations shown are provisional, uncertain and dependent on central government. There is an expectation that further government cuts will follow and that the available financial provision for future years will continue to decrease. In future years, there will be the need to develop a financial business model that provides the same or improved standards of parks compared to today, through other sources of funding and service provision.

Chair's Comment:

This, rightly, has been viewed by many as a gloomy scenario that could decrease the liveability of the city, as well as, lowering its attractiveness to investors. Whilst some may imagine added beauty if Calderstones Park were to be covered in brambles, there are many others who would fight to stop Picton Clock swing-park being strewn with glass and unused, Walton Hall Park built over and Croxteth Country Park locked and lying abandoned. In the current financial situations these scenarios may be possible, however, before we state categorically that this is the case we need to review, in more depth, the current financial position of funding the city's green and open spaces.

The annual £8,923,640 cost of green and open space maintenance (2015/16) can be broken down as follows:

- £4,748,840 costs attributed to Glendale Liverpool Limited for the maintenance of all parks, sports as well as smaller public spaces and some incidental spaces. (Appendix 16).
- £2,771,800 attributed to Enterprise Liverpool Limited for highways, verges and other incidental spaces. Both the Glendale Liverpool Limited and Enterprise Liverpool Limited contracts expire by the end of October 2018.

- £1.403m net budget costs for the maintenance of Croxteth Hall, which is to be reduced to zero by 2017/18.

The above budgets could well fall to zero by 2107/18 as money for non-statutory provision dwindles to nothing.

The 139 public parks, cemeteries, crematorium gardens and recreation grounds' maintained by Glendale Liverpool Limited (approximately 444 Hectares) collectively cost £4,748,840 to maintain (2015/16) (Appendix 16) which is less than 1% of the net 2015/16 City Budget of £494m.

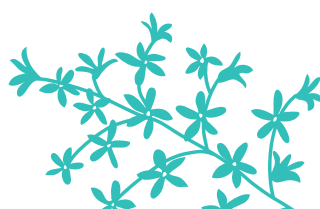
The maintenance of 'public park' spaces provision costs approximately £2,182,200 per year or less than 0.5% of the 2015/16 City Budget.

It is evident that referencing Nesta models and the exemplar practices throughout the country, that the £2,182,200 cost for the maintenance of public park spaces (Appendix 16) could be reduced further. It can therefore be calculated that, for the remaining 103 spaces classified as public parks the average cost per person (using the UK Census data of 2011) in the city is approximately £4.50.

An interim financial paper prepared by Board Members with support from the City Council Streetscene Services Team illustrates the Council's interpretation and evidence for the Board to consider (Appendix 8).

The Head of Service and council officers for Sports and Outdoor Recreation are currently engaged in a cost saving review and are attempting to restructure external contracts with regard to all sports provision in the city. The details of which, with particular regard to the provision of facilities for football, will be produced shortly and cannot be integrated into this interim document. Sports maintenance and provision will be scrutinised later in the review process.

Although such reviews provide a clear indication of the task being undertaken by council officers to ensure service provision, evidence gathered from reports, visits, financial statements and meetings, both locally and nationally, strongly indicates that public parks, are perceived as a public service and cannot become self-financing on a purely 'revenue raising' model.



To finance adequately the city's green and open spaces also requires Liverpool City Council to review the value of its green and other assets as a potential form of future revenue. According to Liverpool City Council's Physical Assets Managers, previously developed and undeveloped open space within the city varies from less than £1 per acre for certain brownfield sites to £1,000,000 per acre for certain greenfield sites.

Furthermore, The National Trust, The Land Trust, The Parks Trust in Milton Keynes and Nene Park Trusts all agree that 4.5% is the figure required to endow a Park Trust in perpetuity. One example of this is the ongoing investigation by The Land Trust to explore possible funding models for Everton Park.

Each of these issues, and potential solutions, are being reviewed by the Chair and the Board to put into context the costs of managing Liverpool's green and open spaces compared to other locations. A further aspect of this review, which also needs to be considered, is the potential economic return to Liverpool City Council in the form of revenue from events and activities held in the city's green and open spaces. The current revenue generated by Liverpool's green and open spaces including events is approximately £500,000 per annum. Officers are continuing to investigate ways of further enhancing this income stream.

Balancing the Books

Although the city's parks, gardens and waterways provide health, education, recreation, economic, social and ecological benefits that the majority of city residents can enjoy the city must investigate alternative cost reduction and revenue opportunities further.

Chair's Comment:

There appears to be no question, having reviewed other National NESTA list models, that further savings could be made to the current funding of Liverpool's green and open spaces. However, many respondents to the public consultation, as well as myself, find it difficult to understand why the incredible benefits that the city gains from its green and open spaces, at such little cost should be placed under pressure because of central government cutbacks.

COST REDUCTION

In the medium and-long term, there are several possibilities that stand out when it comes making further savings:

- Using economies of scale and shared resources, the city could potentially maintain and operate its public green and open spaces far more effectively through inter-local authority sharing of services or on a city-region basis whether this be through in-house provision or a different model. Recognising that there can also be dis-economies of scale the Council should also explore whether it could maintain and operate its public green and open spaces far more effectively through devolving services down to neighbourhood level whether this be through in-house provision or social enterprises.
- The Burnley and Bristol models brought maintenance [back] 'in-house' leading to direct savings due to the elimination of the private sector 'management fee'. This may, however, be a moot point if there is indeed no budget within the Council to maintain green and open spaces.
- Further 'wilding' of parks and other grassed spaces could significantly reduce maintenance costs. Reducing mowing and maintenance regimes from 12 cuts a year to as little as 2 cuts a year would have obvious financial benefits. This practice is already being introduced in certain areas, most locally in Knowsley, and could be applied far more widely.
- The city has existing high quality neighbourhood design which integrates green space built into the fabric of the area. However, these spaces are relatively expensive to maintain. Community Asset Transfer of such spaces that serve only those houses surrounding them should be investigated.
- Exploring further opportunities for reuse and repurpose of existing buildings within public and open spaces would reduce the burden of maintaining such buildings.

INCREASING INCOME

As well as reducing costs, there are also opportunities to increase revenue raised from the city's green and open spaces. During both the public meetings and workshops it was clear that there is a widespread view that



regulated commercial activities within parks and open spaces would be a positive step. The Isla Gladstone in Stanley Park is good example of how parks can be commercialised and help raise revenue for the maintenance of parks. Below are just a small number of possibilities, which could be considered by Liverpool City Council in terms of ongoing funding:

- Placing portable solar arrays on brownfield and incidental sites could generate income whilst the sites are awaiting development. When the site is due for development the array is 'unbolted' and moved to another site.
- Increase the development and uplift levies and proportion allocated to public parks from housing and commercial developers where development occurs on open space.
- Increase the use and value of green and open spaces where there are opportunities to licence commercial properties in these places. The dog walkers of Doric Park proposed that a cafe be created to service users. 'Pop up' licences for good quality food and drinking vendors could be extended in many parks across the city.
- Woodland allotments and social enterprise centred around woodcraft could be introduced to bring in revenue and share maintenance of woodland areas.
- Those businesses such as 'professional dog walkers' and 'fitness boot campers' using public spaces for commercial gain should be commercially licensed and have a fee levied against the use of parks and green spaces.
- Incidental spaces and some brownfield sites could be used to grow biofuel crops such as Miscanthus Grass and coppiced Willow. There is evidence that this could both raise revenue and reduce contamination on previously developed sites.
- The City lacks a caravan, camper van and camping site. This could bring in revenue and increase the tourist offer. The Garden Festival site or Croxteth Country Park could be an attractive location for such a proposal.

- Underused and derelict buildings within open space should be let at an initial peppercorn rent then revisited when any commercial interest is established. The sale of such buildings if appropriate could also raise capital.
- In addition to the scale opportunities listed above, there is also a real opportunity to seek financial support from some of the largest public and private stakeholders in our city; each of whom has its own vested interest in maintaining provision of green and open spaces.
- The opportunity to raise income through selling off appropriate parcels of land cannot be considered fully until such time as the revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment Objectively Assessed Need figure is made available. This report, which is due out in the near future, will provide an indication of the number of new dwellings that Liverpool will need to accommodate in the coming years and will in turn be a factor, along with the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), in any future decisions on potential land sales. This issue will be addressed in the final report.

These are just a handful of possibilities of the varied ways the city's green and open spaces could be used to raise revenue. There are many more, but to what degree they are employed hinges on which management model (as discussed at the beginning of this section) the city chooses to adopt for the future of the different types of open space. It is also worth repeating that there is very little evidence to show that tended public green and open space can be entirely 'self-financing'.

To support the delivery of these possibilities and to link better and support the businesses located or established within parks it would be helpful to set up (a) park(s) business forum(s) that included all stakeholders that have business interests within parks.

Finance – Interim Recommendation:

Set up (a) Parks Business Forum(s) that includes all stakeholders of businesses located or established within the parks.





A DIFFERENT FINANCIAL APPROACH

Pulling together the disparate facts and ideas reported above, along with the additional sources of evidence already discussed, we can begin to tackle the central issues and exciting possibilities for the future development of the city's green and open spaces.

Considering the evidence presented, there are a number of models that have emerged which could potentially be employed effectively to enable the city to maintain and even improve its green and open spaces now, and in the future.

- **In House**

The City Council needs to reorganise expenditure and identify the 0.5% of net budget needed to continue to own, run and improve the city's public parks with other open spaces to be maintained through other department funding. For example, verges and central reservations to be maintained through the Highways budget, whilst sports facilities are maintained through health provision. It has been suggested at a number of public meetings and workshops that maintenance could simply be abandoned until such time as central government realises the damage caused to such non-statutory provision by continued cuts.

- **Park Trust**

The Council to endow a Parks Trust for Liverpool through a mixture of land, capital and commercial concerns, and in the longer-term hand over the responsibility and control of the city's parks to a third party, who are not subject to council budgetary limitations, on an initial 10-year lease and moving to a 99-year lease if successful.

- **Partnership**

There is a third, rather more prosaic model that can be investigated further, involving a combination of the first two models coupled with greater community involvement. Liverpool City Council could develop a structure to share costs and improvements with other agencies; for instance through local health care providers, a levy of tourist activities/accommodation, via key national/international commercial partners in development, retail and sport, public institutions in health and education, and also through private households living in close proximity to parks. The City Council could also seek to transfer assets of significant community value to local people all under a 'Parks Partnership' umbrella.

Finance – Interim Recommendation:

To further develop the Mayor's progressive proposal to set up an Environmental Initiative Fund that is accessible on an annual award basis to Schools, Communities and small local businesses to support them in improving and sustainably maintaining local green, open or blue spaces. This should form part of the Engagement and Ambassadors programme.

- **Referendum**

Finally a referendum could be held to investigate the possibility of increasing council tax by £4.50 per annum, per head of population which would be ring fenced for the funding and management of public green and open space, to cover the loss of non-statutory budget.

- **City-Region Approach**

There is also a very strong argument that any of the above models would be more viable if developed within a city-region structure. This is evidenced most eloquently in the Nature Connected Rethinking Parks document. Collaborating with the other Council partners (e.g. Knowsley who have recently refreshed their parks strategy) could offer obvious advantages through economies of scale, shared resources, best-practice and strategic planning.

Furthermore the city-region offers a very varied open space portfolio which would give any model a far more attractive and diverse portfolio and could be used to attract funding from central government, the environment sector or from developers. Whichever model is chosen there is evidence that employing a more commercial approach to funding green and open spaces, as well as, using alternative practice would enable the financial gap to be further bridged.



Finance – Interim Recommendation:

The Mayor and Chair of Strategic Green and Open Space Review Board to organise a meeting with the appropriate officers from all other city-region partners to discuss the feasibility of city-region wide collaboration with regard to open space provision.

The Board to continue to investigate the financial restructuring of current services and provision and models for future delivery of the services and to investigate ideas for reducing costs and increasing income.

Health

The Review Board received submissions from the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Mersey Forest and the City Council's Community Services Directorate that variously highlighted the contribution that green and open spaces make to enhancing public health and wellbeing.

Board Members also reviewed the growing body of academic research on the links between green and open spaces and health and wellbeing.

The evidence that green and open spaces are an essential element of a healthy human habitat and are crucial in enhancing community health and wellbeing, particularly in cities, is conclusive - even though questions remain over the causal mechanisms that transmit these benefits and the variable effects of different types of green and open spaces.

Research shows that green and open spaces have beneficial effects through their direct impact on general health and wellbeing, the protection they afford from harmful environmental exposure, the promotion of physical activity and the indirect effects of promoting social interaction and cohesion (greenspace Scotland). The research (to be cited fully in the final literature review) shows:

General health and wellbeing

- Better health is related to green and open spaces - regardless of socio-economic status, but this is highly dependent on the quantity and quality of greenspace - poor quality greenspace may have a negative health impact;
- People are happier when living in urban areas with greater amounts of green space - compared to those living in areas with less green space they show significantly lower mental distress and significantly higher wellbeing;
- Access to green space is not equal - people living in the most deprived areas are less likely to live in the greenest areas, and consequently have fewer chances to benefit from the health benefits of green space compared with people living in the least deprived areas.

Protection from harmful environmental exposures

- Green and open spaces in cities protect people from harmful environmental exposures such as flooding, air pollution, noise and extremes of temperature.

Promoting physical activity

- Accessible and safe urban green spaces have a positive influence on levels of physical activity – as long as the green space is well-maintained and safe to use;
- Exercising in natural environments - compared to exercising indoors - is associated with greater feelings of revitalisation, and a greater intention to repeat the activity.

Promoting social interaction and cohesion

- Green and open spaces have the potential to increase and enhance social interactions and the use of public spaces;
- Communal green and open space activities – for example, allotments and community gardens - can enhance community interactions and build local capacity and self-esteem and the 'social capital' that promotes wellbeing.



Health partnerships and funding

- Green and open spaces contribute directly to health promotion and enhanced wellbeing and for this reason the Board would like to see them explicitly incorporated into public health care systems.

The City Council has already developed a partnership between its parks and recreation service and the health sector in the implementation of the Liverpool Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. This partnership also contributes to the implementation of the Healthy Liverpool Prospectus for Change that is taking forward the recommendations of the Mayoral Health Commission for the establishment of an Integrated Health and Social Care System focusing on prevention and self-care.

As part of this partnership working, the Council's Community Services Directorate has secured funding from the Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group and Sports England to support physical activities in the city's parks and the Board would like this 'social prescribing' to be developed further.

The support, to date, from the Clinical Commissioning Group has been for physical activities. Sports England funding for artificial football pitches has implications for revenue funding in terms of future savings in maintenance costs but generally the funding is targeted at individuals and parks-based activities and not for the general maintenance of parks and other green spaces.

Chair's Comment:

With the exception of a few experimental programmes, there is very little combined thinking between health providers and park authorities. Indeed Scargreen Park in Norris Green indicates the opposite, as it is a park with a health centre/care home running all the way along one edge. However, between them is a 12 foot fence creating a barrier which limits any interconnectivity between the two areas.

As well as the common theme that parks benefit people's health the second often repeated call made during the consultation was for health providers to make some contribution to meeting the costs associated with the provision of green and blue spaces, as these keep people healthy, and thus are a form of preventative medicine by their very existence. It is therefore imperative that, as the burden of health risks associated with sedentary lifestyles are increasing; the importance of good green space provision and the current pressure on such space is not lost on the people responsible for the health of the city's residents. Discussions with strategic and local health practitioners have, to date, developed a positive and ongoing dialogue, which needs to be long-term if the values of green and open spaces for a healthy population are to be established.

The Board would like health partners to explore the potential for funding to be extended to include a contribution towards the general maintenance of parks and greenspace.





Health – Interim Recommendations:

- The Board to work with the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) and Public Health partners to identify a location for a pilot health referral programme in one of the city's green and open spaces.
- Green and open spaces are key elements of 'community health' and need to be incorporated into public health care strategies and funding – in relation to both 'social prescribing' for individuals and the general maintenance of green and open spaces.
- The Mayor's Commission on Environmental Sustainability recommended the establishment of an International Research Centre for Environmentally Sustainable Cities. This Research Centre should include a strand of research on the impact of green and open spaces on public health and well-being and include a 'Science Shop' that makes this research publically accessible.
- Links should be made with 'Sensor City', the city's University Enterprise Zone, to exploit developing sensor technologies for measuring and monitoring the usage and environmental impact of green and open spaces in the city.
- The Board to liaise with Dr William Bird, a GP and member of the Physical Activity Programme Board for Public Health England and advisor to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board to help evidence public health initiatives and to contribute to the Board's final recommendations.

Planning

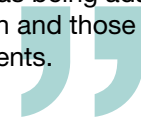
Given the positive association between the amount of green spaces in people's living environments and the general health and wellbeing of residents the Board feels that the development of these spaces should be central to planning policy. The Board welcomes the recognition, in the Planning Practice Guidance, of this relationship in the definition of what makes a 'healthy community':



A healthy community is a good place to grow up and grow old in. It is one which supports healthy behaviours and supports reductions in health inequalities. It should enhance the physical and mental health of the community and, where appropriate, encourage:

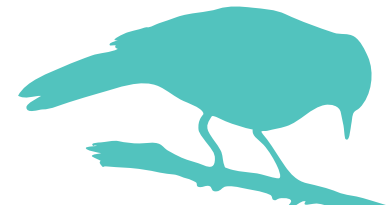
active healthy lifestyles that are made easy through the pattern of development, good urban design, good access to local services and facilities; **green open space** and safe places for active play and food growing, and is accessible by walking and cycling and public transport.

the creation of healthy living environments for people of all ages which supports social interaction. It meets the needs of children and young people to grow and develop, as well as being adaptable to the needs of an increasingly elderly population and those with dementia and other sensory or mobility impairments.



The Planning Practice Guidance also says that the range of issues that can be considered through the plan-making and decision-making processes, in respect of health and healthcare infrastructure, includes how:

- development proposals can support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do and create places and spaces to meet to support community engagement and social capital;
- the local plan promotes health, social and cultural wellbeing and supports the reduction of health inequalities;



- the local plan considers the local health and wellbeing strategy and other relevant health improvement strategies in the area;
- the healthcare infrastructure implications of any relevant proposed local development have been considered;
- opportunities for healthy lifestyles have been considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity, and promotes access to healthier food, high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation);
- potential pollution and other environmental hazards, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, are accounted for in the consideration of new development proposals; and
- access to the whole community by all sections of the community, whether able-bodied or disabled, has been promoted.

The Board believes that its final report will provide an invaluable source of key evidence for the Liverpool Local Plan, which the Government now requires the City Council to produce by early 2017.

The Board recognises that the City Council will have to address competing demands on land use in Liverpool and as the local planning authority it is required to 'significantly boost' the supply of housing. As required by the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, the City Council must:

- ensure that its Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, as far as is consistent with the policies set out in this Framework, including identifying key sites which are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period;
- identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements with an additional buffer of 5% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. Where there has been a record of persistent under delivery of housing, local planning authorities should increase the buffer to 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to provide a realistic prospect of achieving the planned supply and to ensure choice and competition in the market for land;

- identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15.

The Board is aware that, as a result of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West of England the City Council has had to identify land to meet a much higher housing requirement than it had in the past. However, with the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy in 2013 and more significantly the publication, by the government in 2014 and 2015 of revised projections for population and household growth, Liverpool is now able to use the most up to date official statistical sources to assess objectively its own level of housing need to be met in the city.

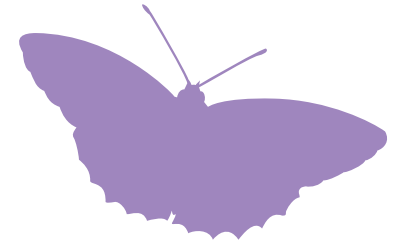
The City Council will therefore soon have a new 'objectively assessed needs' calculation. By early 2016 the updated Housing Needs Study will inform the public consultation process as part of the ongoing Local Plan preparation.

Following the completion of this consultation in early 2016 and having properly considered the responses received the City Council will then aim to prepare the final draft of the Local Plan. That final draft will also be published for public consultation before being sent to the Secretary of State for independent public examination. There are therefore several further opportunities to influence the Local Plan as it emerges.

Planning – Interim Recommendations:

The City Council's next Local Plan consultation, in early 2016, based on an up-to-date objectively assessed needs calculation should give as clear an indication as possible of what sites it believes it will need to allocate for development.

Should it be necessary to allocate for development any green space sites, the Local Plan should where possible link this development to the negotiation and provision of S106 development agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions to improve the green space network.



List of Interim Recommendations

Drawing on all the evidence collated so far it has been possible to identify emerging themes which helps to progress the Board's work in preparation of the final report.

There are, as a consequence of the extensive evidence collection process, a number of recommendations, which can be made at this stage which will enable the Board to investigate practical solutions and seek to engage further with stakeholders from all walks of life.

A further purpose of these interim recommendations is to allow the Review Board to work within clearly defined areas as the final report is prepared.

Engagement

1. Identify and create positive engagement across groups to create platforms for sustainable regeneration in our city and develop local plans that are designed and owned by local Councillors, residents, community groups and local stakeholders with support from the local authority. Support capacity building of community groups, which will be essential to ensure the successful delivery and sustainability of future green space programmes, to aid 'buy in' from those involved and to assist in alleviating any concerns of the communities affected.
2. The local authority and partners work towards the creation of a 'Green and Open Spaces Ambassadors Programme' which will provide sustainable engagement, active involvement at community level and support for the local authority in future years.

Public Parks

3. The city should make a commitment to raise the quality of green and open spaces in the north of the city so they are deemed to be comparable to those in the south of the city.

4. With the exception of Everton Park, the Board strongly recommend that all public parks should be withdrawn immediately from SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) lists, and 'Call for Site' lists permanently and the Chair and all Board Members be kept closely informed of any parks which are included under regeneration and development agendas until the final report of the Strategic Green and Open Space Review Board is complete.

Woodland

5. To identify two sites of approximately 2 hectares in size one to the north of the city centre and one in the eastern core of Liverpool to create new public woodland.

Play Areas and Parks with Play Provision

6. Council Officers to carry out a citywide survey of current outdoor play provision in parks and open spaces to assess quality and accessibility. Officers also to provide a full review of costs for a maintenance, replacement and improvement programme and to investigate how this can be funded.

Nature Reserves, Greenbelt and the Local Wildlife Areas

7. Council Officers to continue working with the Coastal Reserve Steering Group to support the continued development, use and enjoyment of the reserve
8. Further evidence to be taken to understand the management requirements necessary for developing and safeguarding biodiversity.
9. All Greenbelt areas should be removed from 'Call for Sites' and retain protected status from all types of development until the completion of



Blue Space/Water

10. The Mayor to catalyse and reinvigorate discussions with Liverpool Maritime Museum and other dockside partners to collaborate on a redrafted plan for Graving Dock Quayside which should include significant green space provision.
11. Based on the financial burden of surface water drainage charges, balanced against the cost of any future investment, the Council should investigate the potential for investment in sustainable drainage systems rather than continue to pay United Utilities for processing surface water drainage.
12. The Council should consider the future linkage of the Leeds Liverpool canal with the major city-scale development at Liverpool Waters.
13. To provide a more attractive landscape and an increased number of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) the Council should investigate the feasibility of deculverting underground waterways and the introduction of ponds and lakes into the city's smaller parks.
14. To investigate the use of waterways starting with the River Alt as a traffic free corridor linking the resources with the wider 'Green Corridors' work.
15. The Board will seek to identify the possibilities of delivering further regeneration projects such as the River Alt realignment that have multiple benefits in this process in Liverpool.

Allotments

16. The Board to work with the Allotment Associations to investigate further provision and possible increased mixed-use and greater accessibility of council allotments.

Incidental Spaces

17. The Chair has identified two potential incidental spaces, one in the north of the city and one in the south that could potentially be transferred to the local community. The Mayor and the Chair aim to engage, via ward councillors, the local communities surrounding

Menlove Gardens in Church Ward and East Circle in Clubmoor ward to discuss potential alternative management models to maintain these spaces in the long-term.

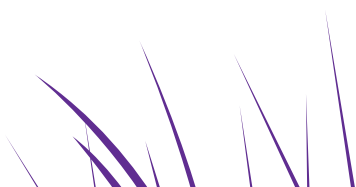
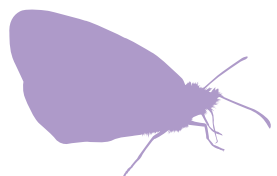
18. The Chair and Board to be kept informed of all planning applications regarding incidental spaces as the review continues.

Green Corridors and Connectivity

19. The Chair to work with Head of Planning using GIS to identify and map green corridor network and flag sites for provision throughout city.
20. The Mayor to engage with the 'Friends of the Flyover' project and others, to gather and understand the viability of the ideas and proposals being made.
21. As Liverpool once more, prospers there is a significant opportunity for the City Council and other agencies, such as Merseytravel or Sustrans, to put in place a coherent plan that creates the initial grid of a citywide green corridor network. This should be explored to ensure that there is adequate provision to protect and encourage the city's wildlife to populate the incidental habitats in the city.

Finance

22. Set up (a) Parks Business Forum(s) that includes all stakeholders of businesses located or established within the parks.
23. To further develop the Mayor's progressive proposal to set up an Environmental Initiative Fund that is accessible on an annual award basis to Schools, Communities and small local businesses to support them in improving and sustainably maintaining local green, open or blue spaces. This should form part of the Engagement and Ambassadors programmes.
24. The Mayor and Chair of Strategic Green and Open Space Review Board to organise a meeting with the appropriate officers from all other city-region partners to discuss the feasibility of city-region wide collaboration with regard to open space provision.



25. The Board to continue to investigate the financial restructuring of current services and provision and to investigate ideas for reducing costs and increasing income.

Health

26. The Board to work with the CCG and Public Health partners to identify a location which can be used for a pilot health referral programme in one of the city's green and open spaces.
27. Green and open spaces are key elements of 'community health' and need to be incorporated into public health care strategies and funding – in relation to both 'social prescribing' for individuals and the general maintenance of green and open spaces.
28. The Mayor's Commission on Environmental Sustainability recommended the establishment of an International Research Centre for Environmentally Sustainable Cities. This Research Centre should include a strand of research on the impact of green and open spaces on public health and well-being and include a 'Science Shop' that makes this research publically accessible.
29. Links should be made with 'Sensor City', the city's University Enterprise Zone, to exploit developing sensor technologies for measuring and monitoring the usage and environmental impact of green and open spaces in the city.
30. The Board is to liaise with Dr William Bird, a GP and member of the Physical Activity Programme Board for Public Health England and advisor to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board to help evidence public health initiatives and to contribute to the Board's final recommendations.

Planning

31. The City Council's next Local Plan consultation, in early 2016, based on an up-to-date objectively assessed needs calculation should give as clear an indication as possible of what sites it believes it will need to allocate for development.

Should it be necessary to allocate for development any green space sites, the Local Plan should where possible link this development to the negotiation and provision of S106 development agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions to improve the green space network.



Further work

Following the publication of the interim report the Review will enter the second stage of work with the production of the final report. The final report will be developed after interested parties have been consulted over the evidence and findings of the interim report.

The Board will work with the Mayor and council officers to consider further and, where possible, put into action the recommendations made in this interim report. This work is of the highest priority and the final report will make reference to the progress and development of the key objectives listed below.

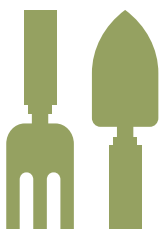
The Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board will also concentrate over the next few months on supplying definitive advice for the Mayor, the Council and the people of Liverpool regarding the green and open space environment within our city and the wider city-region.

This final report will have value and, although it will be an advisory paper, its findings will feed into the formation of The Local Plan. Given the ongoing financial austerity impacting on non-statutory provision and pressure to formulate the Local Plan, the final report must go much further than the often quoted 'must do things better.'

As mentioned at the start of this interim report, action is needed and the Review will seek to provide as much clarity as possible within the timeframe.

The final report will seek to address the following key objectives:

- To identify financial models which will enable the provision of our green spaces to be maintained at the highest possible standard and enhanced where possible for the long term benefit of the city.
- To identify sites to improve the quality and equity of provision city-wide without increasing the financial burden of the future maintenance of such provision.
- To map the green corridor model on a city-wide scale and identify sites which could provide provision and/or development levies to enable the creation of the connected network.
- To identify sites for the commercialisation of green and open spaces and identify other tangible means of revenue creation within the city's open spaces of all descriptions.
- To identify sites where community engagement, such as social enterprise, Community Asset Transfer and local levy contributions will lead to the easing of the financial burden of maintaining provision.
- To identify where additional greenspace can be provided in line with the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).
- To identify an engagement and information mechanism, which is accessible, available and supportive without being parochial with regard to the parks and maintained spaces within the city.





Chair's Summary

As I have travelled around the country over the last six months both for this task and for my media work it has become increasingly obvious to me that the issues facing Liverpool are not unique. From the smallest village green to vast swathes of greenbelt around conurbations, central government is showing scant regard for how precious green spaces everywhere are funded and managed. A delegate at one conference suggested that the country should unite and close all public parks for a day to send a message to Westminster to highlight the plight and strength of feeling for the green and open spaces that make our built areas civilised places to be.

As I have travelled around Liverpool I have been inspired by the amazing individuals looking after, championing and enjoying the green and open spaces around them; for no financial gain just for the sense of belonging and a good reason to be outdoors. Helping others as they do so. Amazing.

The 'NESTA' visit to Bristol also threw up an unexpected but telling piece of evidence that I wish to share. Three years ago, Bristol City Council along with the Parks Forum worked closely with the city's Neighbourhood Partnerships to identify, very carefully, how certain 'low value' areas of public parks could be developed in order to improve the provision of the remainder. This was based on the Green Spaces Strategy adopted in 2008.

Forty eight sites were identified for potential sale and Bristol City Council agreed to ring fence 70% of any capital gained from the sale of the land for the future provision of the parks. This was a strategic and well thought out plan that included major stakeholders from the outset. However, of these only six were agreed for sale because the councillors and public would not support the perceived intrusion on their parks and so for political reasons the plan remains on the shelf.

Here is a salient lesson about the strength of feeling people have for their local park. There remains, though, a need for pragmatism because Liverpool is now once again thriving and population and economic growth on any scale will put pressure on the spaces between the buildings in any city and ours is no exception.

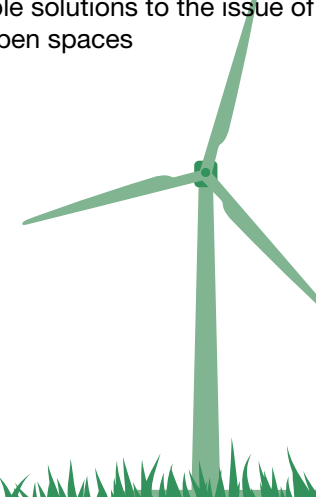
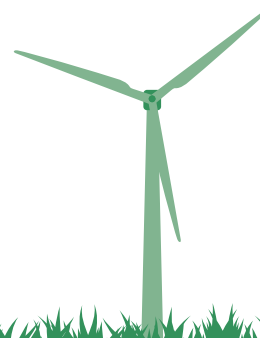
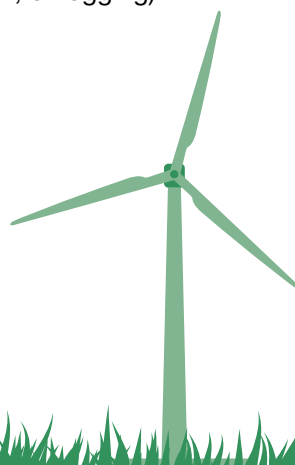
The Board, and myself, will seek to find the balance between the city's needs and the attachment we all feel to the beautiful urban environment in which we are lucky enough to reside. I will do everything possible to finish this work ahead of the agreed timescale, as I am fully aware that action and not words are needed. The final report will be completed and presented to the Mayor in early 2016.





Glossary of Terms & Acronyms

ANGSt	The accessible Green and Open Space Standards released by Natural England	GVA	Gross Valued Added
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
FA	Football Association	Local Plan	The Local Plan sets out how Liverpool will plan its future development. It will guide new developments to appropriate locations, while protecting our natural environment and built heritage, and provides guidance to developers on submitting planning applications. The Local Plan is shaped by the National Planning Policy Framework - the top tier of planning policy
GIS	Geographic information system is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data	Meanwhile Space	A space which will hosts an alternative interim, temporary or 'meanwhile' use (e.g. wildflower planting, community garden) pending the commencement of an otherwise agreed planning use for the site
GP	General Practitioner (Doctor)	MEAS	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
Green Belt	Green belt or greenbelt is a policy and land use designation used in land use planning to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas.	MPs	Elected Members of Parliament
Green wedge	Green wedges or greenways have a similar concept to green belt but have a linear character and may run through an urban area instead of around it	Nesta	An innovation charity that has been chosen by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to engage 'exemplars' projects to find possible solutions to the issue of financing green and open spaces
Green Corridors	A green corridor, wildlife corridor or habitat corridor is an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures (such as roads, development, or logging).		



NPPF

National Planning Policy Framework

Purdah

Purdah is the pre-election period in the United Kingdom, specifically the time between an announced election and the final election results. The time period prevents central and local government from making announcements about any new or controversial government initiatives (such as modernisation initiatives or administrative and legislative changes) which could be seen to be advantageous to any candidates or parties in the forthcoming election

RAMSAR

A Ramsar site is the land listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) 1973

S106

Section 106 development agreements are a mechanism which makes a development proposal acceptable in planning terms that would not otherwise be acceptable. A section 106 obligation can:

- restrict the development or use of the land in any specified way
- require specified operations or activities to be carried out in, on, under or over the land
- require the land to be used in any specified way; or
- require a sum or sums to be paid to the authority (or, to the Greater London Authority) on a specified date or dates or periodically

SHLAA

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

SuDS

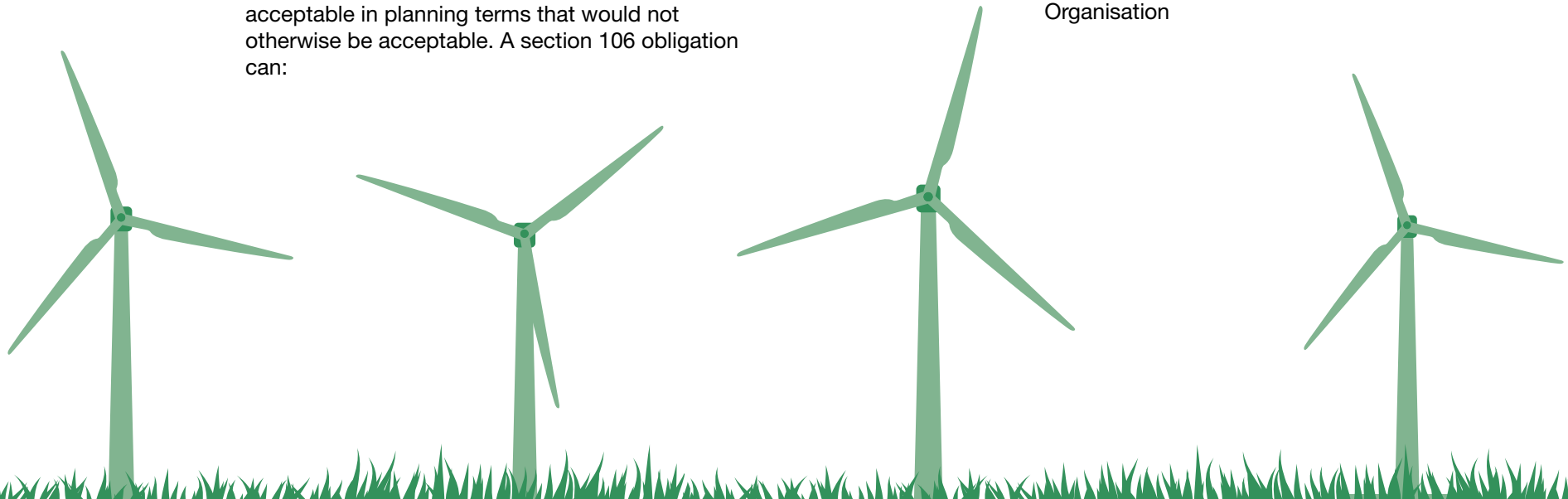
A sustainable drainage system (SuD) is designed to reduce the potential impact of new and existing developments with respect to surface water drainage discharges

ToR

Terms of Reference

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation



List of Tables and Figures

Reference	Description
Figure 1	An Overview of Liverpool's Green and Open Space Network
Figure 2	Potential Stakeholder Groups to Include in Developing the Engagement Strategy
Figure 3	Liverpool's Green Corridors and the Proposed Everton Greenway/Cycle way
Table 1	Criteria used to Categorise Sites
Table 2	Liverpool City Council Green Space Maintenance Costs



List of Appendices

All Appendices can be downloaded at liverpool.gov.uk/greenandopenspaces

Appendix	Appendix Title	
Appendix 1	Bibliography	Appendix 10iii
Appendix 2	Example Recording Sheet	Presentation to the Board January 2015 - Overview from the Chair
Appendix 3	Public Meeting Locations, Dates and Times	Appendix 11
Appendix 4	Finance Workshop – A Local Authority Perspective	Presentation to the Board February 2015 – Liverpool City Council Finance Overview
Appendix 4i	Finance Workshop – Redrow Presentation – Liverpool Open Space	Appendix 12
Appendix 4ii	Finance Workshop – Glendale Liverpool Limited Handout.	Presentation to the Board March 2015 - MerseyForest
Appendix 5	Balance Workshop – Climate Change and Green Space	Appendix 12i
Appendix 5i	Balance Workshop – Liverpool Physical Activity and Strategy 2015-2021	Presentation to the Board March 2015 – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
Appendix 5ii	Balance Workshop – Reward Your World	Appendix 13
Appendix 5iii	Balance Workshop – Riverside Acrehurst	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service - Biodiversity Evidence Base Report
Appendix 5iv	Balance Workshop – The Art of Innovation	Appendix 13i
Appendix 6	Innovation Workshop – Friends of the Flyover	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service - Assessment of Biodiversity Value in Liverpool
Appendix 6i	Innovation Workshop - Landlife	Appendix 13ii
Appendix 7	Minutes from the Regeneration Housing and Sustainability Select Committee 12th February 2015	Core Biodiversity Area
Appendix 8	Minutes from the Regeneration Housing and Sustainability Select Committee 18th June 2015	Appendix 13iii
Appendix 9	National, Nesta and Other Visits 2015	Nature Sites – Habitat – Greenspace
Appendix 10	Presentation to the Board January 2015 – Liverpool Parks and Greenspace Environmental Policy, Strategy and Guidance Documents	Appendix 13iv
Appendix 10i	Presentation to the Board January 2015 – National and Local Planning Policy	Hotspot Map Spaces
Appendix 10ii	Presentation to the Board January 2015 - Liverpool Playing Pitch Strategy	Appendix 13v
		Hotspot Map Habitat and Sites
		Appendix 13vi
		Hotspot Map Biodiversity
		Appendix 14
		Definitions of Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces
		Appendix 15
		Everton Park Boundaries
		Appendix 15i
		Everton Park Development Sites
		Appendix 16
		Glendale Liverpool Limited Parks Cost Breakdown
		Appendix 17
		City Centre Connectivity, Strand and North Liverpool Major Schemes. Presentation to the Regeneration Housing and Sustainability Select Committee, 2nd April 2015.
		Appendix 18
		Maritime Park Design and Access Statement 1 of 2
		Appendix 18i
		Maritime Park Design and Access Statement 2 of 2 (continued)

Key Appendices

All Appendices can be downloaded at liverpool.gov.uk/greenandopenspaces

Appendix 1 Bibliography

Asad, Ali (undated). *Role of Green Space in Sustainable Urban Environment: A case of Tehran (Iran)*. Paper by the Assistant Professor of Extension and Education, Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Development, University of Tehran, Iran.

Arup (2010). *Toxteth Smart Grid Area – Outline Wind Assessment*.

Bates, G; McCoy, E; Murphy, R; Kornyk, N; Suckley, D (2013). *Evaluating the provision of outdoor gym equipment. Uptake and impact in Sefton, Merseyside: Summary Report*.

BBC News (2015). *'Fairy control' to halt tiny doors in Somerset woods*. BBC News Article.

Boles, Nick (2014). *Right to Build: Nick Boles Tells Councils to Offer Land for Self-Builds – 'Or Be Sued'*. Guardian Article.

Bristow, C and Farrell, J (2015). *Reward Your World and Liverpool City Council*. Presentation to Workshop 3 Innovation, Isla Gladstone, Liverpool.

Cabe Space (2004). *A Guide to producing park and green space management plans*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cabe Space (2004). *Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cabe Space (2005). *Decent Parks? Decent Behaviour? The Link between the Quality of Parks*

and User Behaviour. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cabe Space (2005). *Start With the Park. Creating Sustainable Urban Green Spaces in Areas of Housing Growth and Renewal*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cabe Space (2006). *Paying for Parks. Eight Models for Funding Urban Green Space*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cabe Space (2009). *Making the Invisible Visible: The Real Value of Park Assets*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cabe Space (2010). *Community Green: Using Local Spaces to Tackle Inequality and Improve Health*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cabe Space (2010). *Community-led Spaces – A Guide for Local Authorities and Community Groups*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment & the Asset Transfer University.

Cabe Space (2010). *Managing Green Spaces. Seven Ingredients for Success*. Published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Cochran, B; Rothfuss, B; Cochran, J (2015). *Connecting Health Care & Green Space – Trends in Hospital Charity Care- An Opportunity for Investment in Nature and Health?* Nature & Health Discussion Note. Willamette Partnership.

Communities and Local Government (2012). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

Cosgrove, P (2015). *A Unique Partnership Success Story*. Glendale Liverpool Limited. Presentation to Workshop 1 Finance 29th April 2015, Croxteth Hall, Liverpool.

Dahl, D and Lew, N (2015). *South Park Food Bridge Wins Design Contest for Old 520 Floating Bridges to Span Parts of the Duwamish River Waterfront with Parks and Gardens*. KPLU News for Seattle and the Northwest, USA. Web Article.

Davies, C (2015). *A Local Authority Perspective*. Knowsley MBC. Presentation to Workshop 1 Finance 29th April 2015, Croxteth Hall, Liverpool.

Dottie, D (2015). *A Parks Strategy for Liverpool*. Presentation to Workshop 3 Innovation, Isla Gladstone, Liverpool.

English Nature (2007). *A Natural Estate*. Commissioned on behalf of Neighbourhoods Green.

Glendale Liverpool Budget (2014/15). Produced by Glendale Liverpool Limited.

Glendale Liverpool (2014). Glendale Liverpool Recognition Awards.

Gray, Louise (2009). *Floating Allotments. Allotments on Canals to be offered to public.* Telegraph article produced by Louise Gray, Environment Correspondent.

Greenspace (2013). *An opportunity for change: Exploring the Trust option for parks and green space services.* A practical guide to the feasibility stage. Full version 1: Jan 2013.

Greenspace Scotland (2007). *The links between green space and health: a critical literature review.* Stirling: greenspace Scotland.

Groundwork (2005). *Areas of Opportunity. A review of local green space policy and guidance in a social housing context.* Produced for Neighbourhoods Green by Hannah Peabody (Groundwork) in collaboration with Mathew Frith of Peabody Trust.

Hellard, B (2015). *Liverpool City Council Budget.* Presentation by the Director of Finance at Liverpool City Council to the Strategic Green and Open Space Review Board.

Heritage Lottery Fund (2014). *State of UK Public Parks.* Research Report to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Prepared by Peter Neal Consulting, Community First Partnership, Ben Hurley Communications, Peter Harnik Centre for City Park Excellence, Dr Ed Hobson, Ipsos MORI.

Hornsby, M (2015). *Liverpool's Best Kept Secret.* Presentation by Rice Lane Farm to Workshop 1 Finance 29th April 2015 Croxteth Hall, Liverpool.

Hughes, D (2015). *National and Local Planning Policy.* Presentation by David Hughes, Head of Planning and Policy at Liverpool City Council to Workshop 2 Balance 6th May 2015, Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

Iliad Presentation (2015). *Vertical Gardens Project. Connecting Rope Walks & the Baltic Triangle through an environmentally sustainable vertical garden maze.*

Jenkins, G (2015). *Landlife.* Presentation by Landlife to Workshop 3 Innovation, Isla Gladstone, Liverpool.

Keaney, M (2015). *Liverpool Playing Pitch Strategy.* Presentation to the Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board.

Kandy, D and Diaz, D (2015). *Using Carbon Markets to help Urban Landowners in Oregon Pay for Healthcare.* Does Healthcare Cash Grow on Trees?

Lambeth Council (2015). *Enabling Local Leadership of Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces. Delivering differently in Neighbourhoods.* Produced by Lambeth Council.

Leonard, M (2015). *The Art of Innovation.* Presentation by Palm House, Sefton Park to Workshop 3 Innovation, Isla Gladstone, Liverpool.

Liverpool City Council (2005). *A Parks Strategy for Liverpool.*

Liverpool City Council (2005). *Liverpool Open Space Study Volume 1: Strategic Open Space Assessment Final Report.* Produced by Atkins.

Liverpool City Council (2009). *Positive Future 2009.* Regeneration Policy Programmes & Performance Division.

Liverpool City Council (2010). *A Guide for Community Groups: Setting up Community Greening Activities.*

Liverpool City Council (2010). *Greening the City – moving towards a strategic approach. Final Report.* Produced by SQW Consulting.

Liverpool City Council (2010). *Greening the City – moving towards a strategic approach. Topic Paper – An investigation in the temporary re-use of land within Liverpool.* Produced by SQW Consulting.

Liverpool City Council (2011). *Liverpool Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Report.* Prepared by GVA Ltd

Liverpool City Council (2011). *Liverpool Strategic Housing Market Assessment SHMA – Appendix B. Housing Survey Methodological Overview.* Prepared by GVA Ltd.

Liverpool City Council (2011). *Liverpool Strategic Housing Market Assessment SHMA – Appendix C. Forecasting Future Population and Household Growth – Modelling Methodology and Assumptions.* Prepared by GVA Ltd.

Liverpool City Council. (2012). *Submission Draft – Liverpool Core Strategy.*

Liverpool City Council (2012). *Green Print for Growth.* Mayoral Recommendation. Report No: EDR/82/12 & EDR/48/12.

Liverpool City Council (2014). *Liverpool Draft Playing Pitch Strategy 5 Year Plan 2014 – 2019.* Produced by Knight, Kavanagh and Page.

Liverpool City Council (2014). *Liverpool's Cycling Revolution. A Cycling Strategy for Liverpool 2014 – 26.*

Liverpool City Council (2015). *City Centre Connectivity, Stand and North Liverpool Major Schemes.* Presentation to Regeneration Select Committee.

Liverpool City Council (2015). *The Report of the Mayor of Liverpool's Commission on Environmental Sustainability.* (Chair of the Commission Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive - Liverpool John Moores University Professor N Wetherill).

Liverpool City Council, et al (2012). *Greenprint for Growth. – The making of the Great Park: North and South Liverpool.* North Liverpool and South Sefton Stakeholder Event. Presented by Richard Tracey.

Liverpool City Region (2015). *Liverpool City Region Parks Study Final Report.* Commissioned by the Rethinking Parks Task Group. Established by Nature Connected the Liverpool City Region Local Nature

Partnership Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council with Halton Borough Council, Liverpool City Council Sefton Council and St Helens Metropolitan Council. Peter Neal Consulting Ltd with Richard Tracey Ltd.

Liverpool City Region (2015). *LEP Final Report - Green Infrastructure Technical Report.* Produced by Arup and Partners.

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (2015). *A Transport Plan for Growth.*

Liverpool Vision (2024). *People, Place and Prosperity.* An Economic Prospectus.

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (2015). *Biodiversity Evidence Base Report.* Prepared for The Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board.

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (2015). *Assessment on Biodiversity Value in Liverpool. Version 2.* Prepared by MEAS for The Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board.

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (2015). *An overview of the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.* Presentation to the Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board by Dr Alan Jemmett.

Mersey Forest Trust (2010). *Liverpool Green Infrastructure Strategy.*

Mersey Forest Trust (2010). *Liverpool Green Infrastructure Strategy Technical Document.*

Mersey Forest Trust (2015). *Benefits of Trees.* Presentation to the Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board.

Mersey Forest Trust (2015). *Forest School Research.* Paper to the Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board.

Munro, Gavin (2015). *The Innovators: Growing Solid Wooden Furniture Without the Joins.* Guardian Newspaper Article.

National Housing Federation (2011). *Greener Neighbourhoods: A Good Practice Guide to Managing Green Space.*

National Museums Liverpool (2014). *Maritime Park Design and Access Statement.* Revision A. Produced by Austin-Smith:Lord LLP.

Neighbourhoods Green (undated). *A Natural Estate. Improving the greenspace for social housing.* Prepared by Ecology Consultancy Ltd and Commissioned by Natural England on behalf of the Neighbourhoods Green project.

Nolan, P (2015). *The Mersey Forest.* Mersey Forest, Presentation by the Mersey Forest at Workshop 2 Balance 6th May 2015, Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

Place Northwest (2011). *Exchange Flags Enjoys Year of Revival.* Web Article.

Places to see in your lifetime (2015). *A new attraction in Sydney – Floating Forest, Australia.* www.placestoseeinyourlifetime.com

Regencia, T (2015). *The Award-Winning Bridge Connecting Iranians.* The Third Symbol of Tehran Earns International Recognition for Architect Leila Araghian. Web Article in Al Jazeera English.

Ridgers, N and Sayers, J (2010). *Natural Play in the Forest School Evaluation – children.* Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University and The Mersey Forest. A report produced for Natural England (Report 1 of 2).

Ridgers, N and Sayers, J (2010). *Natural Play in the Forest, Forest School evaluation (Families).* Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University and The Mersey Forest. A report produced for Natural England (Report 2 of 2).

Ridgers, N; Knowles, Z; Sayers, J (2012). *Encouraging Play in the Natural Environment: a child-focused case study of Forest School.* Children's Geographies, 10:1,49-65

Riley, J; Newton, J; Massin, P, Frith, M (2015). *Making space for nature on housing estates.* Neighbourhoods Green.

Slater, P (2015). *Submission to Liverpool Green Spaces Review.*

Stansfield, G and Whiteoak, F (2015). *Liverpool Housing Partnership, Building Our Future.* Presentation by Redrow to Workshop 1 Finance 29th April 2015 Croxteth Hall, Liverpool.

Staples, J (2015). *Climate Change and Green Space.* Presentation to Liverpool City Council to Workshop 2 Balance 6th May 2015, Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

STEP (2015). *Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package* Executive Summary. Merseytravel document.

Stewart, K and Bennett, M (2015). *Friends of the Flyover.* Presentation by Friends of the Flyover to Workshop 3 Innovation 13th May, Isla Gladstone, Liverpool.

University of Liverpool (2015). *Fresh Thinking: Beyond Greenspace: How can nature create healthier and wealthier places?* The Heseltine Institute for Public Policy and Practice

Watson, E (2015). *Acrehurst Park, The Project.* Presentation by Riverside Housing to Workshop 2 Balance 6th May 2015, Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

Woodland Trust (2011). *Trees or Turf? Best Value in Managing Urban Green Space.* Prepared by Land Use Consultants.

Appendix 2

PLOT NUMBER

Brownfield	Public Park	Other	Informal Greenfield	Facilities
Open	Formal bedding	football pitches open	Open	
Enclosed	woodland	footbal pitches enclosed	enclosed	
pathway	trees	cricket pitch open	pathway	
building(s)	building in use	cricket pitch enclosed	building(s)	
trees	building non use	rugby pitch open	trees	
activity	play area	rugby pitch enclosed	tended	
POI	café	allotment	activity	
	Wild area(s)	wildlife sanctuary	hedgerow	
	Lighting	private grass open	POI	
	paved pathway(s)	private grass enclosed		
	car park	private woodland open		
	water	private woodland enclosed		
	sports no facilities	Corridor		
	sports facilitated	golf course		
	hedgerow	cemetary		
	POI	paved open		
		paved enclosed		
		school field		
		water		
		other		

Appendix 9 National, Nesta and Other Visits

Strategic Green and Open Spaces Review Board Visits April - June 2015

Date	Organisation	Location	Nesta Visit
April 2015			
30th April	Liverpool Business Improvement District	Liverpool	
May 2015			
1st May	Culture Liverpool	Liverpool	
1st May	Clinical Commissioning Group	Liverpool	
5th May	Heritage Lottery Fund	Manchester	Nesta
5th May	Mersey Forest	Warrington	
7th May	Redrow	Liverpool	
7th May	The Land Trust	Liverpool	Nesta
8th May	National Trust	Manchester	Nesta
11th May	Burnley Borough Council	Burnley	Nesta
11th May	Incredible Edible	Todmorden	
13th May	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service	Liverpool	
18th May	Milton Keynes Trust Park	Milton Keynes	
June 2015			
2nd June	Bristol Parks Forum and Park Work: Voluntary Park Workforce Programme	Bristol	
4th June	Maritime Museum	Liverpool	
5th June	Nene Valley Park Trust	Peterborough	
29th June	Local RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)	Liverpool	
30th June	Merseytravel	Liverpool	

Appendix 14 Definitions of Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces.

Type of Open Space/Park	Characteristics or Definition
Brownfield Land/ Previously-Developed Land	Previously-developed land is that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. It excludes agriculture or forestry land.
City Parks (10 total)	City Parks serve as City-wide attractions. They are usually >50 hectares and comprised of either: i natural heathland, down land, commons, woodland, or ii formal parks providing for both active and passive recreation. They may contain playing fields, but have at least 40ha for other pursuits. There is usually adequate parking. City Parks will also serve as District Parks for those living within 1,200m and as Neighbourhood Park for those living within 400m. They serve a catchment distance of 3.2km.
District Parks (14 total)	District parks have a landscape setting with a variety of natural features and a range of facilities including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits. They often have some car parking. These will operate as a local park for those within 400m. They are usually between 5 – 50 hectares and serve a catchment distance of 1.2km.
Green Belt	Green belt or greenbelt is a policy and land-use designation used in land-use planning to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighboring urban areas.
Green Corridor	A green corridor, wildlife corridor, or habitat corridor is an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures (such as roads, development, or logging).
Greenfield Land	Land that has not been occupied by a permanent structure or any associated surface infrastructure, or does not fit into the definition of brownfield land.
Green Wedge	Green wedges or greenways have a similar concept to green belt but have a linear character and may run through an urban area instead of around it.
Incidental Space	Land that is not classified under an alternative green space category (i.e. park or nature reserve), sometimes associated with areas of amenity grassland, derelict sites, underutilised spaces post development or areas of informal ecological growth.
Meanwhile Space	A space which hosts an alternative interim, temporary or 'meanwhile' use (e.g. wildflower planting, community garden) pending the commencement of an otherwise agreed planning use for the site.
Neighbourhood Parks (60+ total)	Neighbourhood parks make provision for court games, important children's play function, sitting-out areas, nature conservation, landscaped environment, and playing fields if the parks are large enough. Usually between 1-5 hectares they have an indicative catchment area (refined to take into account barriers of access) of 280m.
Open Spaces including Linear Open Spaces	These spaces Include play areas, sport facilities, amenity spaces, allotment and community gardens in addition to river and canal banks, canal towpaths, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, paths, disused railways and other routes which provide opportunities for informal recreation, including nature conservation. Often characterised by features or attractive areas which are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space. They are of variable size.
Small Local Parks	These comprise gardens, sitting out areas, children's playgrounds or other areas of a specialist nature such as nature conservation. Usually less than 1 hectare they have an indicative catchment area (refined to take into account barriers of access) of 280m.

Appendix 16 Glendale Liverpool Limited Parks Cost Breakdown

Site Bill of Quantities by Area, By Cost & By Hectarage

Area	Category	Site	Hectares	Cost per Hectare	Annual Cost
N	CEM	Anfield Cemetery - Maintenance	44.160	£3,164.19	£139,730.65
N	CEM	Everton Cemetery - Maintenance	19.830	£3,338.40	£66,200.39
N	CEM	Kirkdale Cemetery - Maintenance	12.350	£2,940.81	£36,319.03
N	CEM	West Derby Cemetery - Maintenance	18.240	£3,342.93	£60,974.99
N	CEM	West Derby Cemetery (Jewish) - Maintenance	0.712	£10,017.95	£7,127.77
N	CREM	Anfield Crematorium	0.473	£96,361.96	£45,617.75
N	CCY	St Georges Church	0.263	£12,337.03	£3,249.57
N	CCY	St Mary's Church Walton	0.115	£7,956.89	£915.04
N	SP	Barnfield D.P.F. (Bill Shankley)	4.800	£4,548.54	£21,832.98
N	SP	Circular Road East Recreation Ground - Leisure	0.467	£39,773.50	£18,586.16
N	SP	Clubmoor Recreation Ground	10.331	£3,236.49	£33,436.23
N	SP	Joe Stone Recreation Ground	11.805	£2,440.64	£28,811.71
N	SP	Lower Breck Recreation Ground	9.684	£4,229.44	£40,956.21
N	SP	Maiden Lane D.P.F.	2.156	£2,584.82	£5,572.88
N	SP	Parkview Recreation Ground	2.409	£3,366.40	£8,109.65
N	SP	Scargreen Avenue D.P.F.	4.576	£3,561.88	£16,299.15
N	SP	Thomas Lane Playing Field	5.689	£3,083.56	£17,540.86
N	SP	Townsend Lane D.P.F.	3.556	£4,363.56	£15,516.81
N	SP	Walker D.P.F.	5.047	£3,004.69	£15,164.96
N	SP	William Collins POS - Leisure	5.788	£3,348.00	£19,378.58
N	GF	Stanley Park	24.590	£7,528.56	£185,124.19
N	A	Croxteth Country Park	45.100	£3,360.44	£151,555.88
N	A	Devonfield Gardens	0.400	£39,153.32	£15,676.99
N	B	Adlam Park	3.556	£6,554.45	£23,307.64
N	B	Atlantic Park	1.688	£10,402.38	£17,562.33
N	B	Canalside Park	4.823	£4,040.56	£19,487.61
N	B	Doric Park (Wharncliffe Rec)	2.294	£6,913.77	£15,861.58
N	B	Dovecot Park	7.726	£3,102.57	£23,968.94
N	B	Everton Park	23.746	£2,578.13	£61,221.06
N	B	Everton Park Nature Garden	0.405	£14,996.56	£6,072.11

Area	Category	Site	Hectares	Cost per Hectare	Annual Cost
N	B	Everton Sports Centre	6.005	£5,052.06	£30,339.64
N	B	Kirkdale Recreation Ground	2.213	£4,068.62	£9,003.04
N	B	Larkhill Gardens	1.155	£8,960.63	£10,349.53
N	B	Newsham Park	37.433	£3,528.28	£132,074.68
N	B	Norris Green Park	6.729	£5,650.21	£38,021.39
N	B	Queens Drive Rest Gardens	0.232	£11,695.75	£2,708.74
N	B	Rice Lane Recreation Ground	8.241	£3,222.71	£26,558.98
N	B	Sheil Park Open Space	1.301	£8,237.01	£10,716.35
N	B	Springfield Park	9.040	£3,674.46	£33,216.00
N	B	Stalmine Road Gardens	0.592	£7,223.45	£4,274.12
N	B	Warbreck Moor Recreation Ground	1.249	£10,384.06	£12,972.80
N	B	Whitley Gardens	2.399	£3,299.38	£7,915.21
N	B/SP	Walton Hall Park\ Walton Soccer Centre	55.360	£3,621.26	£200,472.94
N	C	Alt Park	2.553	£5,239.35	£13,376.06
N	C	Altcourse POS (Brookfield Drive)	2.888	£961.47	£2,776.92
N	C	Birchfield Park	0.247	£19,555.76	£4,834.18
N	C	Cantril Farm Park	2.155	£4,181.07	£9,011.04
N	C	Croxteth Sports Centre	0.670	£12,093.62	£8,102.73
N	C	Fazakerley Fields	0.000	£0.00	£515.03
N	C	Fazakerley Woods	11.300	£51.94	£586.90
N	C	Grant Gardens	1.655	£3,076.60	£5,090.55
N	C	Hawksmoor Park	2.555	£2,546.57	£6,505.47
N	C	Lester Gardens	1.185	£5,778.72	£6,848.36
N	C	Norwood Grove POS	2.061	£2,395.58	£4,937.05
N	C	Peter Lloyd Sports Centre	0.721	£7,073.77	£5,102.31
N	C	Seeds Lane Park	3.907	£6,203.13	£24,237.48
N	C	St Martin's Recreation Ground	0.642	£12,167.97	£7,813.05
N	C	Walton (Cherry Lane) Recreation Ground	1.598	£6,376.64	£10,187.95
N	C	William Cliffe Recreation Ground	1.157	£4,170.82	£4,825.64
N	PLAY	Alf Langly (Crocus Street) Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46
N	PLAY	Everton Park (China Street)	0.000	£0.00	£2,310.91
N	PLAY	Everton Terrace Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46

N	PLAY	Midghall Street Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46
N	PLAY	Muirhead Avenue Gardens Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46
N	PLAY	Pythian Park (MUGA)	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46
N	PLAY	Radcliffe POS Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46
N	PLAY	Richmond Park Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46
N	PLAY	Thirlmere POS Playground	0.031	£82,954.14	£2,588.17
			444.054	£3,980.47	£1,767,541.13

Area	Category	Site	Hectares	Cost per Hectare	Annual Cost
S	CEM	Allerton Cemetery - Jewish & Springwood (Maintenance)	6.890	£5,885.56	£40,551.48
S	CEM	Allerton Cemetery (Maintenance)	21.730	£8,026.14	£174,408.12
S	CEM	Toxteth Cemetery - Maintenance	18.600	£3,321.10	£61,772.55
S	CREM	Springwood Crematorium	2.847	£27,053.67	£77,016.40
S	CCY	Holy Trinity Church	0.966	£4,998.70	£4,827.25
S	SP	Barnham Drive Playing Field	6.792	£2,286.84	£15,532.70
S	SP	Caldway Drive Recreation Ground	5.450	£3,332.68	£18,163.11
S	SP	Garston Recreation Ground (Long Lane)	12.280	£5,090.73	£62,514.12
S	SP	Greenbank D.P.F.	2.161	£4,510.34	£9,748.20
S	SP	Holt Recreation Ground	6.503	£2,090.40	£13,594.48
S	SP	Jericho Lane Playing Fields (Boys)	4.787	£5,220.97	£24,992.24
S	SP	Jericho Lane Playing Fields (Girls)	3.418	£2,878.47	£9,837.45
S	SP	Little Heath D.P.F.	2.601	£3,147.40	£8,186.38
S	SP	Mersey Road Playing Fields	4.324	£3,238.24	£14,002.14
S	SP	Sandown Park Playing Field	2.945	£2,679.07	£7,889.88
S	SP	Shorefields Comp D.P.F.	3.359	£2,077.05	£6,976.18
S	SP	Springwood Recreation Ground	2.432	£8,484.83	£20,634.25
S	SP	Wavertree Playground (The Mystery)	34.160	£3,130.15	£106,927.11
S	SP	Wood Lane Recreation Ground	14.887	£1,622.20	£24,149.28
S	GF	Sefton Park	50.100	£3,885.14	£194,646.19
S	GF	Palm House (Sefton Park) (Supply of Summer Bedding Only)	0.000	£0.00	£2,407.82
S	A	Calderstones Park	48.470	£3,228.63	£156,491.55
S	A	Faulkner Square Park	0.650	£29,598.40	£19,236.00

Area	Category	Site	Hectares	Cost per Hectare	Annual Cost
S	A	Greenbank Park	3.761	£15,038.14	£56,559.95
S	A	Otterspool Promenade	18.431	£4,573.82	£84,301.40
S	A	Princes Park	15.911	£4,776.15	£75,994.73
S	A	Reynolds Park	4.123	£23,225.02	£95,749.77
S	A	St James Church	0.390	£18,989.20	£7,405.79
S	A	St Johns Gardens	1.262	£28,613.00	£36,109.61
S	A	St Nicholas Church Gardens	0.241	£52,965.80	£12,754.17
S	A	Sudley Estate	80.540	£553.90	£44,611.44
S	A	Woolton Wood & Camphill	19.427	£6,116.67	£118,829.17
S	B	Allerton Towers	8.530	£7,093.31	£60,505.97
S	B	Belle Vale Park	4.984	£6,995.87	£34,866.03
S	B	Botanic Gardens/Wavertree Park	19.653	£6,204.07	£121,928.50
S	B	Clarke Gardens	14.270	£3,724.07	£53,142.42
S	B	Otterspool Park	12.210	£2,699.98	£32,966.74
S	B	Roscoe Gardens	0.083	£43,276.45	£3,587.62
S	B	St James Mount	0.490	£24,464.29	£11,997.29
S	B	St Lukes Church	0.424	£34,080.67	£14,457.02
S	C	Aigburth Vale Playground	0.321	£26,369.42	£8,454.04
S	C	Banks Road Recreation Ground	1.577	£9,172.12	£14,459.85
S	C	Black Wood	0.000	£0.00	£3,739.03
S	C	Blackrod Avenue Recreation Ground	0.920	£10,871.80	£9,998.79
S	C	Childwall Woods & Fields	3.923	£1,161.29	£4,555.15
S	C	Crown Street POS	2.980	£5,244.55	£15,627.70
S	C	Dingle Recreation Ground	0.863	£6,277.40	£5,418.65
S	C	Dutch Farm Recreation Ground	0.655	£5,462.29	£3,579.98
S	C	Gateacre Recreation Ground	1.682	£3,615.13	£6,081.73
S	C	Great George Square	0.443	£19,730.55	£8,730.77
S	C	King George V Playing Fields	3.980	£915.82	£3,644.98
S	C	Lyndene Recreation Ground	3.871	£2,509.38	£9,713.83
S	C	Millwood/Alder Plantation	0.000	£0.00	£2,345.58
S	C	Netherley Park	9.498	£2,214.26	£21,031.26
S	C	Northway Recreation Ground	3.349	£4,301.89	£14,407.05

Area	Category	Site	Hectares	Cost per Hectare	Annual Cost
S	C	Park Road Sports Centre	0.593	£11,271.11	£6,683.77
S	C	Priory Wood	0.541	£9,871.57	£5,336.57
S	C	Quarry Street Playground	0.388	£22,105.72	£8,583.65
S	C	Rathbone Recreation Ground	2.330	£2,314.18	£5,392.04
S	C	Riverside Promenade (Green Space)	4.160	£4,569.54	£19,009.27
S	C	Sandon Street Garden	0.140	£16,669.70	£2,332.09
S	C	Score Lane Gardens	3.850	£5,250.56	£20,212.02
S	C	St James Gardens	0.802	£12,152.62	£9,743.97
S	C	Stapleton Avenue Open Space	2.924	£3,978.62	£11,632.30
S	PLAY	Childwall POS Playground (Valley Rec)	0.000	£0.00	£1,295.27
S	PLAY	Lyon Street Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,155.46
S	PLAY	Parkhill Playground	0.000	£0.00	£1,416.07
S	PLAY	Picton Playground (Mill Lane)	0.578	£14,929.62	£8,633.80
S	PLAY	St Agnes Playground	0.000	£0.00	£3,002.45
S	PLAY	The Venny Playground (Speke Adventure Playground)	0.000	£0.00	£2,311.00
S	PLAY	Upper Hill Street Playground	0.000	£0.00	£3,399.17
			511.448	£4,266.71	£2,182,199.77

Area		Service	Qty (No./Hect)	Cost Per No./Hect	Annual Cost
CITY		Citywide Interments (6 Cemeteries)	2000.000	£286.11	£572,228.00
CITY		Tree Provison	955.502	£51.81	£49,500.00
CITY		Playgrounds Repairs - Labour & Materials	85	£820.94	£69,780.00
CITY		Infrastructure Repairs - Labour & Materials	955.502	£81.15	£77,540.00
CITY		City Wide Astro Turf - Synthetic Pitches	22.000	£1,365.54	£30,041.87
					£799,089.87

Total Hectareage	Average Cost	Total Cost Per Hectare
955.502	£4,969.99	£4,748,830.78

Parks & Open Spaces APSE Benchmarking

No.	Performance Indicator	Output/Score	Comments	Highest	Average	Lowest
PI 30	Hectares of maintained public open space per 1,000 head of population	2.03	Population based on 470,780 and the total Heactarage of 955.502	7.41	4.5	1.56
PI 12	Number of hectares maintained per FTE frontline employee	9.75 hect	FTE employees based on 60 Permanent Employees, 17 Apprentices and 21 Fixed Term Seasonal Employees (Pro Rata 36 Employees on 30 week contract)	19.01	10.83	4.87
PI 18b	All playgrounds per 1,000 children	1.08	Populations of Children based on 78,783 with 85no specific playgrounds (Please note that some sites may have more than 1no type of playground)	8.14	3.66	1.87
PI 02	Cost of overall service per hectare of maintained land	£4,969.99	Cost of service based on £4,748,830 and the total Hectareage of 955.502	£10,826	£6,289	£2,667
PI 17	Cost of overall service per 1,000 head of population	£10,087.15	Cost of service based on £4,748,830 and a population of 470,780.	£39,575	£22,077	£8,857

Target Operating Model - Landscap Maintenance Rates

Summary of measurements by features	M2	No/LM	Value	Annual Rate	Comments
Grass - Cemetery Amenity	1,369,068.00		£298,756.00	£0.22	Grass cutting frequencies range from 18 cuts per year to 10 cuts per year; Cemeteries (12); Crem Lawns (18); Other Lawns (16); Playing fields & Park Amenity (13/14) and Lower Category Green Open Spaces (10).
Grass - Park Amenity	4393951		£532,542.00	£0.12	
Grass - Playing Fields	1235740		£104,312.00	£0.08	
Grass - Lawns	81616		£53,119.00	£0.65	
Grass - Semi Rough/Ecological	397288		£10,898.00	£0.03	
Total	7,477,663.00		£ 999,627.00	£1.10	
Hedges		55290	£115,600.00	£2.09	Combination of Side Arm Flail and Hand Cut/ Hedgecutters being cut once or twice per year.
Tree Provision	9555016		£49,500.00	£0.01	Based on 792 hours of Re-active tree work per year.
Mixed Shrubs/Roses/Herb	232140		£485,741.00	£2.09	Maintenance regimes vary dependant upon standard of Park/Green Open Space.
Seasonal Bedding (Spring/Summer)	4916		£193,202.00	£39.30	Based on supply, Plant & Maintain two seasons all year round.
Football Pitch Provision		135	£365,106.00	£2,704.49	All 140 football pitches based on a standard maintenance regime (Not level 4 standard). This includes Grass Cutting, Marking Out/Overmark, Dismantle/Erect/Paint Goal Posts and End of Football Season Rennovation works.
Walton Soccer Centre		5	£42,172.00	£8,434.40	
Total		140	£407,278.00	£11,138.89	
Litter/Cleansing	9236190		£1,225,805.00	£0.13	Maintenance regimes vary dependant upon standard of Park/Green Open Space.
Hard Surfacing	991954		£141,615.00	£0.14	
Leaf Clearance	5394526		£194,660.00	£0.04	
Total	15622670		£1,562,080.00	£0.31	