

Report to Cabinet for 10 January 2013.

Subject: Green Space Strategy & Executive Summary 2012 - 17

Date: 10 January 2013

Author: Service Manager, Parks and Street Care

Wards Affected

Borough-wide

Purpose

To adopt the Gedling Borough Green Space Strategy 2012 – 2017 and the Executive Summary

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Background

1 Between 2002 and 2004 Gedling Borough Council produced six audits and strategies related to the development of parks and open spaces in the borough. These included:

- Allotments Strategy (2004)
- Burial Space Audit (2004)
- Children's Play Area Strategy (2004)
- Golf Facility Provision Audit (2002)
- Playing Pitch Strategy (2003)
- Recreation Open Space Strategy (2003)

All of these strategies are now out of date and in need of revision and therefore it was decided to produce an all encompassing document for the Borough's Green Spaces.

Unlike Green Infrastructure Strategies which cover both privately and publically owned land and go beyond the site specific, considering also the 'big picture' – landscape context, hinterland and setting, as well as strategic links of sub regional scale and beyond.

Green Space strategies work within the typology of public recreational, amenity and open spaces identified by *PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)*.

They evaluate publicly accessible open space provision within set typologies at the local authority scale, noting issues in relation to condition, quality and access, this

information informs the strategy and action plan that sets out future management and regeneration policies.

PPG17 has been used to provide a framework ensuring there is a robust evidence base to enable Section 106 (S106) monies to be used to improve a wider range of green spaces. It has also enabled standards to be set allowing for the monitoring of parks and open spaces over time.

The scope of the Green Space Strategy covers eight types of publicly accessible green space described in PPG17 as;

- Parks and Gardens
- Amenity Green Space
- Provision for children and young people (fixed play areas)
- Natural and semi natural urban green spaces
- Outdoor Sports Facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned)
- Allotments, Community Gardens
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Green Corridors.

Audits of each based on quality, quantity and accessibility have been undertaken.

Standards have been set based on:

- a) An audit of the number and size of green spaces in the borough.
- b) Where possible site visits to assess the quality of each site.
- c) Community consultation to establish local views on the adequacy of what is provided at present.

In addition to this, the strategy sets out a vision for the Borough's Green Spaces and objectives and an action plan in terms of its delivery. It will also allow future work to be effectively prioritised.

Proposal

- 2 To approve the strategy and its action plan, instructing the Parks and Street Care Service Area to ensure the strategy is promoted and delivered. A full copy of the strategy is attached at Appendix 2.

Alternative Options

- 3 (a) Not to adopt the Green Space Strategy and manage green spaces in an ad-hoc manner

Advantage: Cost savings made.

Disadvantage: The Borough's Green Space infrastructure deteriorates over time, through lack of investment and development.

(b) Do nothing.

Advantage: Cost savings made.

Disadvantage: The Borough's Green Space infrastructure deteriorates rapidly, through lack of investment and development.

Financial Implications

- 4 The implementation of the strategy will be supported by the Council and by partners involved in the delivery of the Action Plan using funding provided by Section 106 (S106) commuted sums from developers and via the new Community Infrastructure Levy. Such funds will be used to enhance and improve existing and create new, open spaces and play areas

Due to the economic down turn there will be limited resource available over the next few years to deliver the strategy so efficiencies will have to be made. In light of this a review of the Parks and Street Care Section (PASC) staffing structure has recently taken place and some structural changes are shortly to be carried out. Existing revenue funding has been identified for a permanent 'Parks Development' Intern post to support the 'Parks Development' Officer to enable this strategy to be effectively delivered.

Entrepreneurial skills will be required in the future in order to determine available external community funding pots such as Environmental Grants and Notts County Council Local Improvement Scheme Funding via working with 'Friends of' and other 'community groups' to identify funding streams.

The strategies aspiration to install 'Green Gateways' as welcoming and inviting entrances to the Borough will require additional capital resources and these will be sought at the appropriate time.

Appendices

- 5 Appendix 1 Gedling Borough Council Executive Summary of the Green Space Strategy.

Appendix 2 Gedling Borough Council Green Space Strategy (Including the PPG17 Audit)

Background Papers

- None identified.

Recommendation

THAT:

The Cabinet approve the Green Space Strategy for Gedling 2012-2017 as set out in Appendix 2 and as summarised in the Executive Summary Appendix 1.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 7 To provide a future strategic frame work against which to evidence, prioritise, consult upon and deliver Green Space improvements and developments in Gedling Borough